

### Egypt Government Targets Group

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's military-backed interim government declared the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization Wednesday, intensifying its campaign of arrests and prosecutions targeting its members and tightening the noose on the group's network of charities and businesses.

The unprecedented executive decision likely ends any chance of reconciliation between the government and the 85-year-old Brotherhood, still Egypt's most organized political group. It marks a stunning reversal of fortunes for the long-outlawed organization that saw member Mohammed Morsi reach Egypt's highest office in the country's first democratic election, only to be ousted in a popularly backed military coup in July. And it takes a step that not even autocrat Hosni Mubarak took in his nearly 30-year rule.

Hossam Eissa, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education, read the government's declaration, saying the decision was in response to Tuesday's deadly bombing in the Nile Delta city of Mansoura which killed 16 people and wounded more than 100. It was the deadliest militant bombing since Morsi's ouster and showed growing reach of the country's Islamic insurgency, previously concentrated in the northern Sinai.

Although Eissa and the government offered no proof of the Brotherhood's involvement, the accusation instilled in the public mind the image of the group as being behind the surge in violent attacks.

The Brotherhood has denied being responsible for the Mansoura attack. Earlier Wednesday, an al-Qaida-inspired group called Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, or the Champions of Jerusalem, said it was behind the suicide bombing to avenge the "shedding of innocent Muslim blood" at the hands of Egypt's "apostate regime" — a reference to the security forces' crackdown on Islamists following the coup.

### Health Insurance: Patience Needed

CHICAGO (AP) — The deadline has passed, and so too the surprise grace period, for signing up for health insurance as part of the nation's health care law.

Now what? For those who were able to navigate the glitch-prone and often overwhelmed Health-Care.gov website, there's still work to be done to make sure success online leads to actual coverage come the new year.

The first step experts recommend is to call your insurance company and double-check they received your payment.

What if you missed the Christmas Eve deadline and still want insurance in 2014, as the health law requires of most Americans? You may be without health insurance for a month, but you can still sign up for coverage that will start in February.

### Are UN Workers Being Targeted?

BAGHDAD (AP) — The shadowy leader of a powerful al-Qaida group fighting in Syria sought to kidnap United Nations workers and scrawled out plans for his aides to take over in the event of his death, according to excerpts of letters obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Iraqi intelligence officials offered the AP the letters, as well as the first known photograph of the Nusra Front leader, Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the head of one of the most powerful bands of radicals fighting the Syrian government in the country's civil war.

The officials said they obtained the information about al-Golani after they captured members of another al-Qaida group in September. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to journalists.

"I was told by a soldier that he observed some of the workers of the U.N. and he will kidnap them. I ask God for his success," read an excerpt of a letter given by officials from Iraq's Falcon Intelligence Cell, an anti-terrorism unit that works under Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

The officials said other letters planned the kidnapping and killing of other foreigners, and Syrian and Iraqi civilians.

### GOP Aims To Settle Health Care Split

ATLANTA (AP) — Republicans see the 2014 midterm elections as a chance to capitalize on voter frustration with the problem-plagued health care overhaul, but the GOP first must settle a slate of Senate primaries where conservatives are arguing over the best way to oppose President Barack Obama's signature law.

In intraparty skirmishes from Georgia to Nebraska, the GOP's most strident candidates and activists are insisting on a no-holds-barred approach. They accuse fellow Republicans — including several incumbent senators — of being too soft in their opposition to the Affordable Care Act and to the president in general.

The outcomes will help determine just how conservative the Senate Republican caucus will be during Obama's final two years. And they could influence which party controls the chamber, with Democrats hoping that the most uncompromising Republican standard-bearers will emerge from the primaries and fare as poorly in general elections as their counterparts did in several 2012 Senate races. Republicans need to gain six seats for a majority.

### Christmas 2013

# Pope Offers Wish For Better World

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO  
Associated Press



Francis

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis offered a Christmas wish Wednesday for a better world, praying for protection for Christians under attack, battered women and trafficked children, peace in the Middle East and Africa, and dignity for refugees fleeing misery and conflict around the globe.

Francis delivered the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" (Latin for "to the city and to the world") speech from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to 70,000 cheering tourists, pilgrims and Romans in the square below. He said he was joining all those hoping "for a better world."

In his first Christmas message since being elected pontiff in March, he asked for all to share in the song of Christmas angels, "for every man or woman ... who hopes for a better

world, who cares for others," humbly.

Among places ravaged by conflict, Francis singled out Syria, which saw its third Christmas during civil war; South Sudan; the Central African Republic; Nigeria; and Iraq.

In Iraq on Wednesday, militants targeted Christians in two attacks, including a bomb that exploded near a church during Christmas Mass in Baghdad. The separate bombings killed dozens of people.

The Vatican has been trying to raise concern in the world for persecution and attacks on Christians in parts of the Middle East and Africa.

"Lord of life, protect all who are persecuted in your name," Francis said.

The pope also prayed that God

"bless the land where you chose to come into the world and grant a favorable outcome to the peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians."

Francis then explained his concept of peace.

"True peace is not a balancing of opposing forces. It's not a lovely facade which conceals conflicts and divisions," the pope said. "Peace calls for daily commitment," Francis said, reading the pages of his speech as they were ruffled by a chilly wind.

Francis also spoke about the lives of everyday people, especially those struggling for a better life.

Recalling the hundreds of migrants who have drowned this year while trying to reach European shores, including many close to the Italian island of Lampedusa, Francis prayed that refugees receive hope, consolation and assistance.

He added that "our thoughts turn

to those children who are the most vulnerable victims of wars, but we think, too, of the elderly, of battered women" and others.

The 77-year-old pope kept to the simple style he has set for his papacy. Wearing a plain white cassock, Francis presented a sharp contrast in appearance when compared to the pope who stood on the same balcony on Christmas exactly a year ago. Then Benedict XVI, who was soon to stun the world by retiring last winter, read his Christmas speech while dressed in a crimson, ermine-trimmed cape. Benedict lives on the Vatican grounds, and Francis paid a holiday call on him earlier this week.

In the Mideast, pilgrims celebrated Christmas in the ancient Bethlehem church where tradition holds Jesus was born, as candles illuminated the sacred site and the joyous sound of prayer filled its overflowing halls.

## Thousands Left Without Power Across US, Canada

LITCHFIELD, Maine (AP) — Utility crews from Maine to Michigan and into Canada worked Wednesday to restore power to more than half a million homes left in the dark by last weekend's ice storm, and people slowly trickled out of shelters to spend Christmas Day at their finally warm homes.

But not everyone was so lucky, including Ashley Walter, who was forced to spend Christmas at a shelter in a school in Litchfield with her husband, Jacob Walter, and their month-old daughter, Leah.

The family lost power Saturday, got

it back temporarily then lost it again Sunday and has been without since. Ashley Walter and Leah stay warm at the shelter while Jacob Walter makes frequent trips home to check on their cats and water pipes.

"It's definitely kind of strange, but we're hanging in there," she said Wednesday of the challenge of being forced out of their home at Christmas. "We did our Christmas together last night. I packed little stockings and gave them to my husband, sisters and my daughter."

The frigid temperatures that cloaked

a region from the Great Lakes to New England meant that ice remained on power lines and tree limbs. Officials worried that wind gusts of more than 20 mph could bring down more branches and that 2 to 6 inches of snow in places on Thursday would hamper line crews trying to get to remote spots.

"We've had two beautiful, sunny days in Maine, and the ice isn't going anywhere," Maine Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Lynette Miller said. "They're very concerned about more weight coming down on trees that are already compromised by ice."

The ice storm last weekend was one of the worst to hit during a Christmas week, and repair crews were working around the clock to restore service. States that weren't hit were sending crews to help.

Authorities blamed the storm for 17 deaths in the U.S. and 10 in Canada. Five people in Canada died from carbon monoxide poisoning from emergency generators powering their homes, while two people in Michigan, a man in Maine and a man in Vermont also died from the poisonous fumes.

## Out On The Town

**DEC. 27, 28, 29**  
HELD OVER—  
**WALKING WITH DINOSAURS**  
Fri. 7:30 PM • Sat. 7:30 PM • Sun. 4 PM  
Students \*2.00 Adults \*5.00  
**Idle Hour Theatre**  
Tripp, SD

**RESTAURANT** Like us on f  
**DAILY SPECIALS** \$6.95  
11am-2pm  
**Yesterday's Cafe**  
23rd & Broadway • Yankton • 665-4383

**New Year's Eve**  
**Dinner & Dance \$24**  
**Dinner Only \$17.00 (Prime Rib)**  
**Dance Only \$9.00 (Outback)**  
**Please Make Reservations**  
by Dec. 26, 665-3562 after 3pm  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**VFW Post 791** 209 Cedar, Yankton

### Joe's Substation

Rural Lesterville  
605-364-7414

**We Will Be Closing at 2pm on Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve.**

**We Will Be Closed on Christmas Day**

**Merry Christmas!**

### Ring in the New Year at The Argo

CROFTON, NE

\$2 Spiced Apple Rum Shots all Night Long!

Dinner served from 6-9 pm  
Live Music in the Dining Room  
Karaoke in the Speakeasy Lounge

Make Your Reservations Now - Space is Limited!  
402-388-2400 or online at [theargohotel.com](http://theargohotel.com)

Great Food - Good Friends - Guaranteed Fun

### New Year's Eve PARTY

Tuesday, December 31  
7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Live entertainment featuring **The Bumble Bees**  
Wine - \$4.00 • Beer - \$3.00  
Serving: Ham sandwiches, chips and cookies

Advance Tickets:  
\$6 Members • \$9 Non Members  
At the Door:  
\$7 Members • \$10 Non Members

900 Whiting • 665-4685  
Sponsored by Avera Sacred Heart Hospital and Home Federal Bank

Don't Miss Our **All-You-Can-Eat Broasted Chicken & Pollock Buffet With Salad Bar**

**No Chicken Buffet on Dec. 25 & Jan. 1 Merry Christmas from all of us at:**

### Joe's Substation

Rural Lesterville  
605-364-7414

### Feliz Año Nuevo

Book your Holiday Reservations Now!

**EL TAPATIO** Gift Certificates Available

2502 Fox Run Parkway, Yankton  
Just North of Wendy's  
(605) 260-1701  
www.eltapatio-sd.com

### MOOSTASH JOE TOURS

#### GEORGIA & THE CAROLINAS IN SPRING

11 DAYS • MARCH 14-24, 2014

Dbl Occ **\$1399** Per person double occupancy from OMAHA, LINCOLN, NORFOLK & FREMONT  
Single Occupancy \$1,759

TOUR INCLUDES: •Deluxe Motorcoach • 18 Delicious Meals • 10 Nights • See the Beautiful Blue Ridge & Great Smoky Mtns • Tour of the Biltmore Estate • Guided Tour of Historic Charleston, SC • Historic Tour of Yorktown Museum in Charleston, SC • Guided Tour of Savannah, GA • Guided Tour of Atlanta, GA • Evening Dinner Cruise • Professionally Escorted & A Lot More!

**COUPON** Coupon must be redeemed by Feb. 10, 2014  
SENIOR CITIZEN COUPON (55 & Over) March 14-24, 2014  
**\$100 OFF** tour price of \$1349 with \$100 discount you pay only **\$1299!**  
One \$100 coupon can be used for up to 4 people. Single Occ only \$1659

For more info. write to: MOOSTASH JOE TOURS,  
PO Box 969, Fremont, NE 68026-0969 or call 402-721-7944  
**1-800-806-7944 OR [www.mjstours.com](http://www.mjstours.com)**

### VFW Post 791 209 Cedar

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**Wednesday & Sunday**  
5-7pm Cooks Choice

**Thursday**  
5-7pm - Domestic Beers \$1.50  
5-7pm - Hamburger/ Pizza Burger & Fries \$5.00

**Friday**  
Chicken Fried Steak  
Serving 5:30-8:00

**Saturday Entertainment**  
No Band  
Regular Menu  
5:30-8:00

**Bingo Wed. at 7:00pm**  
**Sunday at 6:30pm**  
Happy Hour M-F  
4:30-7:30

Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

### EARN DOUBLE ENTRIES EVERY SATURDAY

## The Perfect TAILGATER Giveaway

WIN A 2013 FORD F150 FX4 **MOODY** MSRP: \$45,435  
PLAY TO EARN ENTRIES SEPT 29-DEC 28

DECEMBER 25  
**\$30 PAYS \$150** Christmas Bingo!  
WARM UP: 3PM | START: 3:30PM

DECEMBER 28  
**\$30 PAYS \$150** Holiday Bingo!  
WARM UP: 6:30PM | START: 7PM

JANUARY 1  
**\$25 PAYS \$100** New Year's Bingo!  
WARM UP: 3PM | START: 3:30PM

**ALL-DAY CHRISTMAS BUFFET \$19.99 BEGINNING AT 11AM**  
PLUS the first 100 guests will receive \$10 Free Play!

### Ohya CASINO • RESORT

7 MILES EAST OF NIOBRARA, NE  
402.857.3860 • OHYACASINO.COM

## NEW YEAR'S EVE COMEDY!

### JAMES JOHANN LIVE

#### TWO GREAT SHOWS!

**DINNER & A SHOW**  
\$35 (6pm, Social Hour & Dinner / 7:30pm, Show)

**SHOW ONLY**  
\$25 (9:30pm, Doors Open / 10pm, Show)  
\*SHOWS WILL GO ON SNOW OR SHINE\*

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT MINERVAS OR ONLINE AT [WWW.ETIX.COM](http://WWW.ETIX.COM)**

### Minervas

1607 East Hwy 50 Yankton, SD 57078 605.664.2244