

## SC May Remove Confederate Flag

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The South Carolina Senate voted Monday to pull the Confederate flag off the Capitol grounds, clearing the way for a historic measure that could remove the banner more than five decades after it was first flown above the Statehouse to protest integration.

A second vote will be needed Tuesday to send the proposal to the House, where it faces a less certain future. But Monday's 37-3 vote was well over the two-thirds majority needed to advance the bill.

If the House passes the same measure, the flag and flagpole could be removed as soon as Gov. Nikki Haley signs the papers. The flag would be lowered for the last time and shipped off to the state's Confederate Relic Room, near where the last Confederate flag to fly over the Statehouse dome is stored.

The vote came at the end of a day of debate in which several white senators said they had come to understand why their black colleagues felt the flag no longer represented the valor of Southern soldiers but the racism that led the South to separate from the United States more than 150 years ago.

As the senators spoke, the desk of their slain colleague, Clementa Pinckney, was still draped in black cloth. Pinckney and eight other black people were fatally shot June 17 during Bible study at a historic African-American church in Charleston. Authorities have charged a gunman who posed for pictures with the rebel banner. Police say he was driven by racial hatred.

## Iran Pressing For An End To Embargo

VIENNA (AP) — As negotiators braced for yet another possible extension of nuclear talks, Iran demanded on Monday that any deal should include the end to a U.N. arms embargo as well — a condition backed by Russia but opposed by the United States as it seeks to limit Tehran's Mideast influence.

Late last month, Iran and six world powers gave themselves an extra week past June 30 after it became clear that that original deadline could not be met. The sides now are trying to work out a deal that would limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the easing of tens of billions of dollars in economic penalties on the Islamic Republic.

But disagreements persisted as the sides moved close to the new Tuesday deadline, and White House spokesman Josh Earnest said another extension was "certainly possible."

Negotiators had previously mentioned the mechanics of curbing Iran's nuclear programs and the time and pacing of economic sanctions relief as the most contentious problems. But an Iranian official — briefing reporters on condition of anonymity — said Monday that ending the arms embargo was an important part of the deal.

The Iranian decision to publicly bring that issue into the mix suggested that disputes ran deeper than just over the most widely aired issues.

## 'Sanctuary' Policies Criticized

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The killing of a woman at a sightseeing pier has brought criticism down on this liberal city because the Mexican man under arrest was in the U.S. illegally, had been deported five times and was out on the streets after San Francisco officials disregarded a request from immigration authorities to keep him locked up.

San Francisco is one of dozens of cities and counties across the country that do not fully cooperate with federal immigration authorities. The city goes so far as to promote itself as a "sanctuary" for people in the country illegally.

In a jailhouse interview with a TV station, Francisco Sanchez, the 45-year-old repeat drug offender arrested in the shooting Wednesday of Kathryn Steinle, appeared to confirm that he came to the city because of its status as a sanctuary.

The case has prompted a flurry of criticism from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, politicians and commenters on social media, all of whom portrayed the slaying as a preventable tragedy.

"Most of the blame should fall squarely on the shoulders of the San Francisco sheriff, because his department had custody of him and made the choice to let him go without notifying ICE," said Jessica Vaughan, director of policy studies at the Washington-based Center for Immigration Studies, which wants tougher immigration enforcement.

# Greeks United, Proud Of Their Defiance

BY GREGORY KATZ

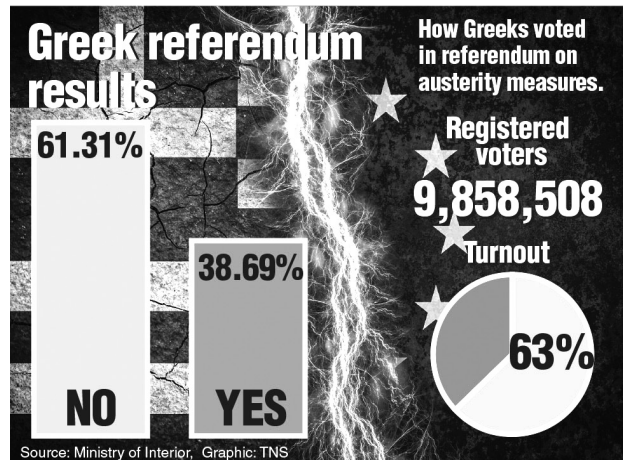
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Nicky Zachary closed her family's shoe store just a few hours after opening it Monday after the few customers who had strolled in hadn't bought a thing. But she was not discouraged — she thinks a landmark "no" vote in a nationwide referendum has bonded Greeks together.

"We can live with very little and we can live through difficult situations," said Zachary, 50. "I think, after the referendum, the Greek people are united in this situation. I don't want to lose the dream for a better Greece. I want to have hope for a better deal."

Across the country Monday, Greek banks remained closed, access to cash was severely limited and it was far from clear when or if a fresh bailout deal with international creditors could be reached for this deeply indebted nation.

Yet there was pride and defiance in Athens after a lopsided referendum victory Sunday for those who want the Greek government to re-



ject the demands of European creditors for more austerity, including further cuts to pensions. Greeks know full well they are whisper-close to financial ruin but many feel they have at least reclaimed their dignity.

"Something happened last night with the Greek people," said George Papadokostakis, 34, who runs the Due coffee shop in west Athens. "I'm very happy. We were in a dead-end situation (but) with the 'no' vote we believe there may be something better. I thought we were dead, now

we have a small hope."

He thinks the "no" vote will help Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' government get a better deal from its European creditors. Indeed, three Greek opposition parties signed a declaration of support Monday for Tsipras in future bailout talks, adding to the backing he has from his governing Syriza party and junior partner the Independent Greeks.

Still, these good feelings do not mean that business — or life — is good. The bank closures, now in their second

week, are having a devastating impact as Greeks hold tightly onto what cash they have, fearing the banks might even run dry. Cash machines are limited to dispensing 60 euros (\$66) per customer each day. No one has access to their safe deposit boxes either, where some Greeks are thought to have stashed cash savings.

Small business operators can't use credit cards or money from bank accounts to replenish their stock — they have to rely on the cash generated from customer purchases, which are few and far between.

These restrictions are creating unease that is undercutting the morning-after glow of saying "no" to creditors.

Papadokostakis said the storm generated by the brief yet furious referendum campaign has been replaced with a calm feeling of satisfaction. But he knows the crisis is far from solved.

"I'm afraid this quiet situation will become very anxious and dangerous," he said. "We hope other people don't have to live like us. It's not good to be under this stress."

## Obama

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comments today reveal the disturbing degree of self-delusion that characterizes the administration's campaign against ISIL," McCain said.

Although the president said there were "no current plans" to send more U.S. troops to Iraq, he did not rule out that possibility in the future. Obama

has vowed to keep American service members out of direct combat, but has sent more than 3,000 U.S. troops to advise and assist the beleaguered Iraqi military — including the deployment of 450 additional service members announced last month.

Efforts to train local forces in Iraq and Syria, however, have been slow to take shape. Last month, Obama acknowledged that the U.S. lacks a "complete strategy" for training Iraqi troops to carry out ground missions. And in Syria, fewer than 100 rebels are being trained

by the U.S., far fewer than the goal of producing 5,400 fighters a year.

At the Pentagon, Obama also walked a fine line on whether he'll sign a massive defense policy bill favored by Republicans. The White House has threatened to veto the bill, arguing that it uses gimmickry to increase defense spending without increasing domestic spending by an equal amount, as Obama has insisted. Some Republicans have questioned, however, whether Obama would really veto the bill should it come to his desk.

## Poet

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poetry, won several writing awards and is currently working on a fourth book about the Fukushima disaster that occurred in Japan in 2011.

Being a second-generation Japanese American plays a large role in Roripaugh's work.

"I write a lot about identity, tensions and challenges of growing up with a mixed race identity," she said. "My last book, 'Dandariens,' was about language and the way it is learned. I use these word portrayals to show how words were mis-transmitted from my non-English speaking mother in a way that

became very real to me and took on their own symbolic weight."

Roripaugh's first event as the official South Dakota poet laureate is the South Dakota Festival of Books at Deadwood and Rapid City in September, where she will be on a panel with the former state poet laureate and the poet laureate finalists.

Roripaugh's primary duty as the state's poet laureate is to foster the poetry community. Her plans include traveling throughout the state to give poetry readings, head writing workshops and officiate literary events.

"I think of the Japanese poet Basho, who traveled throughout Japan and collaborated on poems wherever he went," Roripaugh said. "I like to think of that as a model for my time as South Dakota poet laureate."

"I'm looking forward to meeting people and getting a sense of all the different poetry communities in the state and getting to work with them," she added.

Asian-American poets have been a huge influence on Roripaugh, mainly due to their familiarity.

"When I first began writing, I wasn't accustomed to seeing myself represented in literature," she said. "So being able to read from these authors, particularly poets, gave me a sense that my experiences were representable."

Roripaugh hopes to give this same sense of inspiration to poets throughout the state.

"I am really honored, thrilled and excited by the opportunities of being the South Dakota poet laureate," she said.

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