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Wednesday, June 22

Birthdays: Angela Dobbins, Wade Nyberg, Jerrie Vedvei.

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

6:00pm: Junior Teeners at Sisseton (DH)

6:00pm: NESDU8 in Britton (Groton Blue vs. Britton Black and Groton Red vs. Britton Red)

6:00pm: T-Ball Black hosts Columbia

7:00pm: NESDU8 in Britton (Groton Blue vs. Britton Red and Groton Red vs. Britton Black)

Thursday, June 23

Anniversary: Henry & Vera Musil.

Birthdays: Twila Ruden, Kaycie Hawkins, Shaylee Peterson, Alyssa Sippel, Sarah Sippel, Megan Baule, Madeline Fliehs, Branden Abeln.

4:00pm: Groton Transit Fundraiser

6:00pm: NESDU10 in Britton (Groton Blue vs. Britton in double header)

Manager Wanted

Part Time Apartment Manager wanted. Responsible for showing apartments, handing out applications, overseeing maintenance and other duties as needed. Up to \$25 per hour. Previous sale experience a plus. Send email of interest to Grotnmnger@gmail.com

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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The Sherri Profeta yard at 507 N 3rd St., Groton, has been chosen as this week's Yard of the Week. The Yard of the Week is sponsored and selected by the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Corey Harder was getting the soccer field set up for a girls soccer camp that is being held in the evenings this week. Harder said he had 17 sign up for the camp, with an average attendance of 13. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Death Notice: Reta Washnok

Reta Washnok, 100, of Groton fell asleep June 21, 2016 at Avera Mother Joseph Manor in Aberdeen. Services are pending for Saturday with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.



From left to right

Front: Sebastian Walter, Scott Hughes, Zachary Bowser, Garrett Schultz, Logan Warrington, Garrett Crawford, Dillon Browning, Emma Bowser, Max Podoll, Isaiah Sharp

Middle: Axel Warrington, Anari Kallenberger, Faith Flihs, Travis Townsend, Carter Moen, Colby Sylte, Anna Johnson

Back: Cadin Kallenberger, Andrew Artz, Tucker Delzer, Taylor Dinger, Travis Sharp, Jessemy Sharp

Not Pictured: Zanrick Wiedebush, Levi Wiedebush, Colin Frey, Dylan Frey, Jamesen Stange

BROWN COUNTY 4-H SMALL ENGINE CONTEST

By: Ashley Farrand, Summer Assistant

The 2016 Brown County 4-H Small Engine Contest made its debut on Friday, June 17th. The contest was held at the Brown County Fairgrounds, with 28 participants. This event served as a means to educate youth on the working of small engines, as well as small engine safety. The participants started out the day, by learning about safety when working with small engines. Then they moved on to learn about the different parts of small engines. Following the informational morning, participants were able to compete in the forms of written tests, parts identification, lawn mower starting, garden tractor driving, and tractor driving.

RESULTS:

Beginners: 1, Faith Flihs; 2, Garrett Crawford; 3, Axel Warrington.

Juniors: 1, Jamesen Stange; 2, Colin Fey; 3, Levi Wiedebush.

Seniors: 1, Dylan Frey; 2, Tucker Delzer; 3, Travis Sharp.

Not Time to Treat Ash Trees for EAB—Yet

PIERRE, S.D. – The recent find of the emerald ash borer (EAB) in Omaha, Neb., has renewed interest in the invasive insect. However, the borer has still not been found in South Dakota and residents are advised to hold off on treating their ash trees.

“Our foresters are receiving inquiries from tree owners and tree companies about starting to treat their trees for the emerald ash borer,” says Greg Josten, state forester for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture. “While the insect was recently found in a tree within 100 miles of our state, treatments for South Dakota trees are still premature.”

South Dakota Department of Agriculture forest health specialist Dr. John Ball advises that standard protocol is not to begin treatments, sprays or injections until the insect has been detected within 15 miles of your tree. “It may be several years or more before people need to consider protecting their ash trees.”

There are many insecticides and treatment methods that provide excellent protection from the borer and can even be used to kill an existing infestation in a tree. Lists of treatment options will be made available to the public and commercial applicators when EAB is detected in a South Dakota county or a county adjacent to the state.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s mission is to promote, protect, preserve and improve this industry for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Manage Mosquitoes While Enjoying the Great Outdoors

By Melinda Myers

Don't let disease-carrying mosquitoes keep you indoors this summer. Instead, employ these eight tips to protect yourself and manage these pests in your yard.

Do a bit of yard and garden clean up. Remove weeds, manage neglected gardens and keep the lawn properly mowed to reduce resting spaces for adult mosquitoes.

Eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed. Drain water that collects in buckets, kids toys, tarps, pool covers, clogged gutters and downspouts. Clear the gutters and downspouts so water can drain freely. Store items that tend to collect water in a shed or garage.

Evaluate drainage patterns in your landscape. Improve drainage by amending the soil with organic matter. Install French drains, drain tiles and other drainage systems if needed. Or turn it into a water feature. Consult your municipality first for any relevant guidelines and restrictions.

Manage water in birdbaths, fountains, ponds and rain barrels. Change water weekly in birdbaths and wading pools. Add a pump to keep water moving and prevent breeding. Or use an organic mosquito control like Mosquito Dunks and Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and water features. The Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population, while the Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control. They are both safe for pets, fish, wildlife and children.

Add a fan to your outdoor décor. The gentle breeze keeps these weak flying insects away. Consider taking one to the garden when weeding.

Provide short-term relief when entertaining outdoors with the help of citronella oil or scented candles. Scatter lots of these throughout the area and within a few feet of your guests.

Cover as much of your skin as possible with loose fitting, light colored clothing. Mosquitoes are less attracted to the lighter colors and can't readily reach your skin through loose clothing.

Further protect yourself from disease-carrying mosquitoes by using a personal repellent. For those looking to avoid DEET, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has also approved products with the active ingredient picaridin, IR3535, and the synthetic oil of lemon and eucalyptus. Avoid products that contain both sunscreen and insect repellents as you need to apply the sunscreen more often than the repellent.

Implement some of these strategies and then get ready to enjoy the outdoors mosquito-free all season long.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening and the Midwest Gardener's Handbook. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything: Food Gardening For Everyone" DVD set and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit Responsible Solutions for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.melindamyers.com.



Special interest license plates available July 1 for qualifying vehicles

PIERRE, S.D.—Beginning July 1, 2016, some South Dakota motor vehicles will be eligible to display South Dakota's new rear only specialty plate.

The new plate, which is being implemented as a result of 2016's House Bill 1164, will be available to qualifying special interest vehicles. To qualify for the new plate, these vehicles must be used only for recreational use, while accumulating less than 6,000 miles per year.

"The special interest license plate allows car enthusiasts to display a rear plate only, while also being ambassadors for the State of South Dakota," said Lisa Weyer, Division of Motor Vehicles director. "The design was a collaborative effort by the DOR Division of Motor Vehicles and the car club representatives."

Those who receive the special interest vehicle plate will still have regular registration fees along with an annual fee of \$25.

Like the rest of South Dakota's specialty plates, these new plates will be available through South Dakota's plate on-demand program. The plate on-demand program allows South Dakotans to order specialty plates either online at <http://mysdcars.sd.gov> or at one of the 10 self-service terminals located around the state.

For more information on all of South Dakota's specialty license plates, visit http://dor.sd.gov/Motor_Vehicles/License_Plates/Special_Plates.aspx.

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Today in Weather History

1947 - Twelve inches of rain fell in forty-two minutes at Holt, MO, establishing a world rainfall record. That record was tied on January 24-25, 1956, at the Kilauea Sugar Plantation in Hawaii, as their state record was established with 38 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Hurricane Agnes deluged Pennsylvania and New York State with torrential rains resulting in the most costly flood in U.S. history. In the Middle Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania, 24 hour rainfall amounts were generally 8 to 12 inches, with up to 19 inches in extreme southwestern Schuylkill County. At Wilkes-Barre, PA, the dike was breached destroying much of the town. Flooding resulted in 117 deaths and 3.1 billion dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1981 - A young woman from Lubbock, TX, was struck by lightning. The bolt of lightning struck just above her right shoulder near her neck, and passed right to left through her body, tearing her warm-ups, causing her tennis shoes to explode, and lifting her two feet into the air. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southern Texas produced wind gusts to 116 mph near Quemado. Thunderstorms in New York State produced 5.01 inches of rain in 24 hours at Buffalo, an all-time record for that location, and produced an inch of rain at Bath, PA. The temperature at Fairbanks AK soared to 92 degrees, establishing a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Sixty-five cities in twenty-four states reported record high temperatures for the date. Tucson AZ reported an all-time record high of 114 degrees, surpassing the previous record of 112 degrees established a day earlier. Highs of 98 degrees at Pittsburgh, PA, and 100 degrees at Baltimore, MD, tied records for the month of June. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Record cold temperatures were reported in the High Plains Region. Rapid City, SD, reported a record low of 39 degrees, in sharp contrast to their record high of 102 degrees two days earlier, on the 20th. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance T-storms
High: 83 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 94 °F	Low: 72 °F	High: 84 °F

Warm and Dry for the rest of the Week

Today

Decreasing Clouds and Breezy
Highs in the 80s

Thursday:

Mostly Sunny
Highs in the 80s

Friday:

Breezy and Hot
Highs in the 90s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 6/22/2016 5:30 AM Central

Published on: 06/22/2016 at 5:31AM

Behind departing showers this morning, the rest of the work week looks warm and dry. Highs on Friday will be in the 90s over much of South Dakota before a cold front moves through at the beginning of the weekend.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 86.3 F at 4:39 PM

Heat Index: 86.0 F at 3:30 PM

Low Outside Temp: 52.0 F at 5:03 AM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 10:50 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1911

Record Low: 39 in 1905

Average High: 80°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in June: 2.71

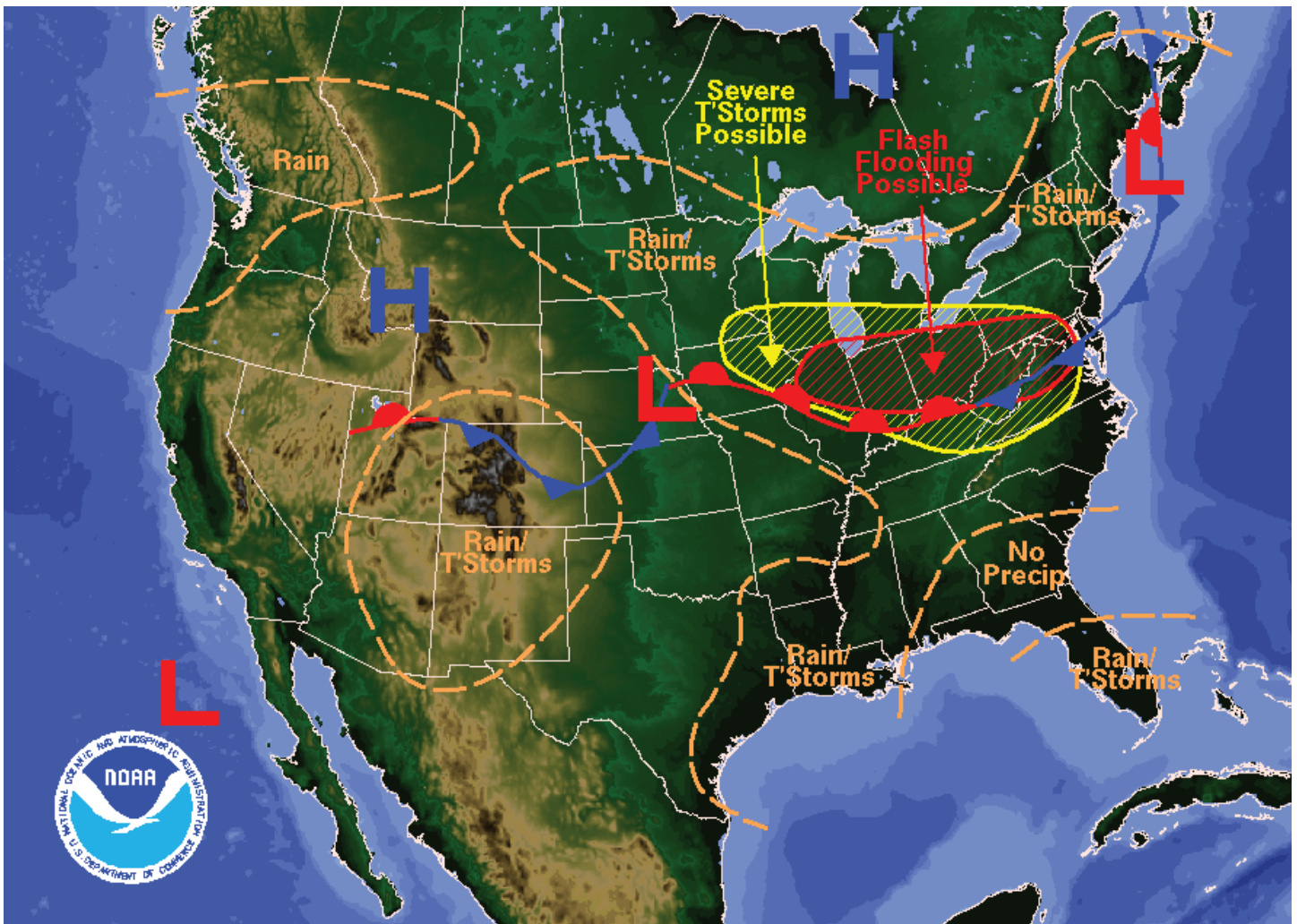
Precip to date in June: 1.67

Average Precip to date: 9.85

Precip Year to Date: 6.66

Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, Jun 22, 2016, issued 4:36 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



OLD ENOUGH TO DO AS I PLEASE

Tommy came home from school with a question mark all over his face. He and his friends had an intense discussion about decisions and life styles. As the family sat around the dinner table that evening he looked at his Dad and asked, "How soon will I be old enough to do what I please?"

"I don't know," came the response. "Nobody has ever lived that long yet."

Freedom for the Christian is not doing as one pleases. It is freedom in Christ who gives us the power to do what pleases God. It is in Him and through Him and because of Him that we have the freedom to live a life free from sin and no longer be slaves to things that would destroy us or the guilt that would enslave us.

Think of it this way: A train pulling a long line of freight or passenger cars is only free as long as it remains on the tracks. Once it leaves the tracks it is no longer free because it has lost its path – the structure provided by the rails – that securely guides it.

So it is with Christians. As long as we stay in the Word – God's tracks – to keep us safely moving toward our destination – life with Him, is safe.

Prayer: We thank You for Your Word, Father, that provides us the safety, security and structure that we need to live a life of freedom from sin. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Romans 6:12-18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Pierre residents to vote in November on \$14.5M event center

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Residents of Pierre will vote in November on whether the capital city should build a \$14.5 million recreation and event center.

The City Commission on Tuesday voted unanimously to put the matter to a public vote. If approved, the facility would open in early 2019, replacing the old City Auditorium that closed in 2010 due to structural issues and was demolished in 2014.

Architects designing the center have said it would seat 4,000 people and would be similar to the Swiftel Center in Brookings.

Pierre Mayor Laurie Gill said officials have been working on the idea for three years. It became public last fall when Gill announced a local couple was donating 16 acres of land for a center. The city then held three community meetings to gather public input.

Drunken driver goes on wild ride through Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a drunken driver was arrested after a wild ride through the city.

Authorities say the driver about 1 a.m. Wednesday hit an unoccupied vehicle, three phone and cable utility boxes, two satellite dishes, a fence and a tree.

The vehicle after leaving the roadway went through a business lot, several lawns and a hay field.

The 34-year-old male driver eventually was arrested for drunken driving and failing to report accidents.

No injuries were reported.

Spink County will not host nuclear waste suitability test

REDFIELD, S.D. (AP) — Organizers of a federal effort to assess whether nuclear waste can be stored in 3-mile-deep holes have abandoned Spink County as a potential site because of resistance from local officials, a project spokesman said Tuesday.

County officials made it clear they were against hosting the experiment before organizers formally applied to move forward with it, said T.R. Massey, a spokesman for Battelle, the nonprofit managing the project. It's not the first time they've been rebuffed: earlier this year, officials in Pierce County, North Dakota, voted to formally oppose allowing the experiment there.

The U.S. Energy Department project is meant to help determine whether deep rock is suitable for nuclear waste disposal, but backers repeatedly said it would not involve any actual waste. Spink County, home to about 6,500 people, would not be good for storing nuclear waste because the proximity of subsurface water makes it an unattractive site, according to organizers.

The contractor also touted a multimillion-dollar estimated state and local economic impact in South Dakota.

But Dave Albrecht, chairman of the county's board of commissioners, said there's been "overwhelming opposition" to the plan from the beginning. Some residents offered concerns at public meetings that the deep borehole field test would have led to waste storage in the future.

"We didn't want to take the risk that it might come back to Spink County," Albrecht said.

Battelle and the Energy Department sent a letter to Spink County commissioners earlier this month

saying organizers were disappointed the board wouldn't support the experiment, but respected their decision. They reiterated in the letter that the test wouldn't involve radioactive waste.

"It was a good spot to try and do our science experiment, so we're disappointed we couldn't work something out with them," Massey said. "But we understand."

He said there are alternative sites, but declined to reveal where they are located.

Fire marshal: Be safe, have fun when using fireworks

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State Fire Marshal Paul Merriman is urging people who celebrate the Fourth of July with fireworks to be safe.

Fireworks sales in South Dakota are legal from June 27 until July 5. Merriman says fire officials want people to have fun while also exercising caution.

Hot weather has increased fire danger in some areas of South Dakota. He says fireworks cause a few injuries and unintentional fires every year.

Merriman says people should follow the instructions on the product, avoid using fireworks in areas where a fire could start and keep a source of water nearby. He adds children should only use sparkers with adult supervision.

State advising residents to hold off on treating ash trees

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Agriculture officials in South Dakota are advising residents to hold off on treating their ash trees.

The recommendation comes less than two weeks after officials announced the discovery of the emerald ash borer in Omaha, Nebraska.

State forester Greg Josten says treatments for trees in South Dakota "are still premature."

State forest health specialist John Ball says standard protocol calls for no treatments, sprays or injections until the insect has been detected within 15 miles of a given tree.

The emerald ash borer moves between communities in firewood, and it is found in more than twenty states. State officials encourage residents to buy firewood locally or get wood other than ash.

Harrisburg man accused of exposing himself to woman

HARRISBURG, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have arrested a Harrisburg man accused of exposing himself to a woman from a neighboring apartment building.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office said Tuesday that 29-year-old Anthony Steuck faces charges including indecent exposure, stalking and marijuana possession.

He was arrested after authorities investigated a report of a man exposing himself outside of an apartment building. It wasn't immediately clear if Steuck has an attorney.

Police: 3 handguns stolen from unlocked cars in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say three handguns have been taken from unlocked vehicles at different locations in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens says a handgun was stolen from a Jeep, a truck and a car in an open garage. The Argus Leader reports the thefts happened Sunday night.

KELO-TV reports that Clemens says people should remove valuables, especially guns, from their vehicles and lock them. He says police don't want people to get guns without any checks.

Uber files paperwork to begin operating in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Uber has filed paperwork to begin ride-hailing services in South Dakota's largest city.

A subsidiary of the transportation network company submitted an application to the Sioux Falls licensing office last week, along with a \$1,500 annual license fee, according to the city attorney's office.

City Council members last November approved rules to enable app-based driver-for-hire services such as Uber to operate in the Sioux Falls, despite grumbling from taxicab and limousine drivers who worried about what they say will be unfair competition. The city rules require background checks for drivers and basic insurance requirements.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard in March signed a bill allowing drivers with services such as Uber to operate in South Dakota without commercial license plates and driver's licenses. The new law takes effect July 1 — the earliest that Uber can begin operating in Sioux Falls.

Uber spokeswoman Carla Jacobs declined to immediately comment to the Argus Leader newspaper about when operations will begin. She said more information might be released in about a week.

Uber must also obtain a state sales tax license before it can begin operations, according to KSFY-TV.

State Rep. Mark Willadsen, R-Sioux Falls, who introduced the Uber rules in the Legislature, said South Dakota is embracing an evolving market.

"People that come from out of state to Sioux Falls, and we don't have Uber, are surprised by it," he told the Argus Leader. "They're taking a step back in time."

2 Mitchell teenagers arrested on theft, gun charges

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say two 16-year-old Mitchell girls face theft and gun charges for allegedly breaking into a Mitchell home and stealing an AR-15 rifle, a handgun and other items.

Mitchell police say the two suspects entered the residence Monday through an unlocked window. The owner allegedly saw them running away with the rifle and other possessions.

Police say law enforcement arrested the two juveniles Monday near a softball field without incident. Authorities say they recovered many of the stolen items, including the guns.

The teenagers have also been charged with burglary, possession of a pistol by a minor and marijuana and drug paraphernalia possession. The investigation remains ongoing.

Woman no longer sought by police in Rapid City death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say they're no longer looking for one of two people identified earlier as suspects in a Rapid City death.

Authorities say 23-year-old Kiawe Walker of Rapid City died after a Friday shooting. On Monday they said they were looking for a man and a woman, but early Tuesday announced they were no longer looking for the woman.

Police say Walker walked into a Burger King restaurant with a bullet wound on Friday and asked employees for help. Emergency workers unsuccessfully tried to save him, and he died at the scene.

His death has been classified as a homicide.

AP names Sarah Rafi as Central region deputy editor

CHICAGO (AP) — Sarah Rafi, a veteran editor who has helped lead Associated Press coverage of such stories as the massive tornado that devastated Joplin, Missouri, and the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, has been promoted to deputy editor for the U.S. Central Region.

The region oversees AP journalism in 14 states from the Canadian border to Texas. The appointment

was announced Tuesday by Central Region Editor Tom Berman.

"Rafi is a smart, creative and relentless journalist," Berman said. "The AP has been out front on countless stories thanks to her methodical planning and aggressive pursuit of news."

Rafi has been an editor on the AP's Central Regional Desk since its inception in 2009. The Chicago-based office oversees, coordinates and edits coverage in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

In 2014, she was promoted to assistant editor, a role that includes oversight of the editing operation in Chicago.

Rafi, 36, began her AP career in 2001 as a temporary reporter in Cleveland. She joined the full-time AP staff in 2002, as a desk supervisor in the Detroit bureau, and after three years moved to the Chicago bureau in a similar role. In that position, she played an instrumental role in the bureau's reporting on the arrest and resignation of Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the coverage of Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

Rafi is a graduate of Northwestern University, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism.

Borrowers on high-interest loans to share \$9M in refunds

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina residents who obtained very high-interest loans with some out-of-state lenders will share about \$9 million in refunds.

Attorney General Roy Cooper announced Tuesday a court judgment involving Western Sky Financial, CashCall and related companies stemming from a 2013 lawsuit by Cooper and the state banking commissioner.

South Dakota-based Western Sky contended it was an affiliated with an American Indian tribe, so North Carolina's usury laws didn't apply to the firms. The state disagreed, and pointed out annual interest rates from about 90 percent to more than 340 percent were being charged.

The refunds will be disbursed based on what the lender would have been able to collect had loans originated at 16 percent interest. The companies also are barred from offering loans in the state.

Judge OKs gag order in Rapid City contract killing case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The judge overseeing a Rapid City contract killing case has agreed to limit what lawyers and others can say publicly.

The gag order approved by Seventh Circuit Judge Heidi Linngren on Monday was requested by one of the defense attorneys for Jonathon Klinetobe, 26, of Sturgis. He's one of three men facing murder and other charges in the May 2015 stabbing death of Jessica Rehfeld, Klinetobe's 22-year-old ex-girlfriend.

All three could face life in prison or a death sentence if convicted. They remain jailed on \$2 million bond apiece.

Authorities allege Klinetobe hired Rapid City residents David Schneider, 24, and Richard Hirth, 35, to kill Rehfeld. Her body was found in a remote grave near Rockerville last month.

The three suspects and two other men accused of being accessories all have pleaded not guilty.

Defense attorney Elizabeth Regalado said in her request for the gag order that she thinks news coverage of the case could taint opinions of people in the community and damage fair trials for her client and his fellow defendants.

"At this point in the case, it is unclear whether the reported information is undisputed evidence; however, this is the information that is being provided as facts to potential jurors," she wrote.

The state's attorney's office said it did not oppose a gag order as long as it didn't hinder prosecutors or infringe on the rights of the media to report about the case. Linngren said her pending written order would reflect that, the Rapid City Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/28Ro2IU>).

"There will be no factual discussions about this case from here on out," State's Attorney Mark Vargo said.

Rescue flight leaves South Pole evacuating sick US worker

SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials say a small plane has left the South Pole with a sick worker in a daring rescue mission from the remote U.S. science outpost.

National Science Foundation spokesman Peter West said Wednesday that the Canadian Twin Otter turboprop plane started the 1,500-mile flight to Rothera, a British station on the Antarctic peninsula. From there, the patient will be flown off Antarctica for medical attention that could not be provided on the remote continent.

West said at least one worker had to be evacuated, but it could be two.

Normally planes don't use the polar outpost from February to October because of the dangers of flying in the pitch dark and cold. Wednesday it was minus 75 degrees at the South Pole (minus 60 Celsius).

Politicians make final appeals in EU vote campaigning

DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Campaigners on both sides of the crucial vote on whether or not Britain should remain in the European Union crisscrossed the country Wednesday, their last day to win support from the undecided.

Prime Minister David Cameron outlined his vision for a future with Britain retaining its place in the 28-nation bloc, bristling at the notion that the country would be headed in the wrong direction if it stayed in. He flatly rejected the charge that the institution is moribund.

"We are not shackled to a corpse," Cameron told the BBC. "You can see the European economy's recovery. It's the largest single market in the world."

The most notable figure in the "leave" campaign, former London Mayor Boris Johnson, kicked off a whirlwind tour of England as he pushed for a British exit — or Brexit. Touring the Billingsgate Fish Market, Johnson mugged for the cameras with fish in hand — a not-so-subtle reminder that this is an island nation — and one very proud of its independence and self-assurance.

"It's time to have a totally new relationship with our friends and partners across the Channel," Johnson said. "It's time to speak up for democracy, and hundreds of millions of people around Europe agree with us. It's time to break away from the failing and dysfunctional EU system."

Britain goes to the polls Thursday after a campaign that has been both heated and complicated. The reach of the EU into every aspect of life has meant that all sorts of groups — from scientists to CEOs — have registered opinions on whether to stay or go.

The stakes are high as the vote is final — unlike an election in which the results can be reversed in the next term. However, the vote is not legally binding, and Parliament would have to vote to repeal the law that brought Britain into the EU in the first place.

A vote to leave would invoke Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, which allows a member state to withdraw. The article has never been invoked and it would trigger a period of uncertainty during years of negotiations on the relationship between the EU and the U.K.

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Much of the debate has hinged on the economy. From the international banks in the skyscrapers of Canary Wharf to the traditional home of Britain's financial industry in the City of London, business has largely awaited the referendum with trepidation and caution. Many fear a vote to leave would undermine London's position as the world's pre-eminent financial center and damage an industry that underpins the British economy.

Leaders of about half of Britain's largest companies made a last-ditch appeal to their employees to vote for remaining in the European Union.

In a letter to the Times on the eve of Thursday's vote, some 1,285 business leaders — include representatives of half of the FTSE 100 businesses — argue that a vote to leave will hurt the British economy.

Similar letters have been released in the course of the acrimonious campaign. But Wednesday's letter is clearly meant to make the 1.75 million people employed by the signatories think twice about their vote.

"Britain leaving the EU would mean uncertainty for our firms, less trade with Europe and fewer jobs," the letter said. "Britain remaining in the EU would mean the opposite: more certainty, more trade and more jobs. EU membership is good for business and good for British jobs. That's why, on June 23, we back Britain remaining in the EU."

The companies represented include Barclays, Standard Life and Anglo-American.

Stock markets and the pound continued to rise, indicating that investors think the "remain" side will win. Markets are likely to be jittery, however, as the vote is expected to be tight and a vote to leave would create huge uncertainty. U.S. Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen warned Tuesday that the upcoming vote "could have significant economic repercussions."

The head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, also said the consequences of a vote to leave would be difficult to assess.

"This lack of precision from two of the most eminent central bankers in the world with respect to the global consequences of a vote to exit was a refreshing outbreak of honesty in contrast to the very precise warnings that the U.K. public has been bombarded with," said Michael Hewson, the chief market analyst of CMC markets, citing warnings from the International Monetary Fund, the Bank of England and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development — all of which signaled dire consequences if the country were to exit.

The betting markets solidly stood by the "remain" side. The Betfair exchange said remain is now at 76 percent probability. Some 80 percent of the 1 million pounds placed during and after a BBC debate on Tuesday was on "remain," the exchange said in a statement.

Stocks rise with 1 day to go before British vote on EU

TERESA CERJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Global stocks mostly rose Wednesday a day before Britain's vote on whether to remain in the European Union, and after U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said the central bank will remain cautious in raising interest rates.

KEEPING SCORE: Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.5 percent to 6,259 and Germany's DAX was 0.7 percent higher at 10,082. France's CAC 40 rose 0.5 percent to 4,388. U.S. futures indicated small gains on Wall Street, with S&P 500 and Dow futures each up 0.1 percent.

BRITAIN-EU: Campaigners on both sides of Thursday's crucial vote on whether Britain should remain in the EU began the final frantic day of campaigning. Polls indicate it will be a tight race but bookies are giving the "remain" camp a higher probability of winning. Many voters remain undecided and bookies and investors appear to be betting that they will settle for the status quo. International experts, includ-

ing Yellen, have said that a British exit would cause a lot of volatility in global markets and uncertainty for the world economy.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "With the 'undecided' vote still at a significant level, the swing factor to either side continues to remain a real possibility," said Nicholas Teo, trading strategist at KGI Fraser Securities. "With the outcome still too close to call, traders have taken big bets off the table, riding only on small positions leftover."

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 42 cents to \$48.95 a barrel in New York. On Tuesday, it fell 52 cents. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, was up 26 cents at \$51.51 a barrel in London. On Tuesday, it slipped 3 cents.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 104.62 yen from 104.76 yen the previous day. The euro rose to \$1.1298 from \$1.1251 on Tuesday. The pound continued to rise, to \$1.4687 from \$1.4650.

House Republicans offering proposals for health care changes

ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are unveiling new proposals to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's health care law, as Speaker Paul Ryan seeks to showcase a GOP governing agenda amid the tumult of the presidential campaign.

The plan, revealed Wednesday, relies on individual tax credits to allow people to buy coverage from private insurers, and includes other largely familiar GOP ideas such as medical liability reform and expanding access to health savings accounts. It proposes putting \$25 billion behind high-risk pools for people with pre-existing conditions and for others, and transforming the federal-state Medicaid program for the poor by turning it into state block grants or individual per-capita allotments to hold down spending.

But the 37-page white paper falls far short of a full-scale replacement proposal for "Obamacare" and leaves key questions unanswered, including the size of the tax credits, the overall price tag of the plan, and how many people would be covered. Republican aides said it's intended as an overall roadmap showing how the GOP would approach undoing and replacing Obama's health law with a Republican in the White House, and specific legislative details would be answered as the actual bills are written next year.

As such it is an aspirational document like the rest of Ryan's "Better Way" agenda, a six-topic blueprint that the speaker has been rolling out this month at carefully choreographed events that have been getting largely overshadowed by the latest Donald Trump campaign controversy. Ryan was to present his health care proposals alongside several House committee chairmen Wednesday afternoon at the American Enterprise Institute, and a tax plan was coming Friday.

"Obamacare set America on a path that leads to a larger government having a greater role in how health care decisions are made. Today we are proposing a new approach," the report's authors wrote. "This report is the beginning of the conversation, not the end."

The House GOP health care plan comes six years after the Affordable Care Act became law, requiring nearly all Americans to carry health insurance and employers to offer it. The law's mandates and tax increases have stoked endless controversy and opposition from the GOP, yet the number of uninsured people has dropped by about 20 million people to historic lows.

The numerous changes instituted by the law would be difficult to unwind, and the political consensus necessary for accomplishing it difficult to achieve. And despite near-universal agreement among Republicans on the need to undo the law and replace it with something better, the GOP has never united

behind, much less passed, a legislative proposal to do so.

The proposal represents one of the most comprehensive efforts to date. Details also include various ideas aimed at shoring up the Medicare health insurance program for seniors, including gradually increasing the retirement age and ultimately giving beneficiaries a choice of private plans to choose from in competition with the existing fee-for-service model.

Ryan agonized over endorsing Trump for weeks, finally doing so this month because he said Trump would be more likely to agree with the GOP agenda than Democrat Hillary Clinton. But at least publicly Trump has yet to sign onto Ryan's agenda.

North Korea makes apparent progress with midrange missile

FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea took a significant step Wednesday in the development of a powerful ballistic missile intended to reach U.S. bases in the Pacific, launching one of the weapons about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) high after five failed attempts in recent months.

The North's suspected Musudan tests worry Washington and its allies, Tokyo and Seoul, because the missile's potential 3,500-kilometer (2,180-mile) range puts much of Asia and the Pacific, including U.S. military bases there, within reach.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said the most recent launch demonstrated a "certain level of capability," and could lead to a further strengthening of North Korea's ballistic missile capabilities that can cover Japanese territory.

Each new test — apparently linked to a command from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — likely provides valuable insights to the North's scientists and military officials as they push toward their goal of a nuclear and missile program that can threaten the U.S. mainland. Pyongyang earlier this year conducted a nuclear test, its fourth, and launched a long-range rocket that outsiders say was a cover for a test of banned missile technology.

A statement from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said a suspected first Musudan launch from the east coast city of Wonsan failed. It didn't elaborate, but Japan's Defense Ministry said the missile fragmented and pieces fell into waters off the Korean Peninsula's east coast.

Later Wednesday, the South's military said the North fired another suspected Musudan, which flew about 400 kilometers (245 miles). Seoul didn't immediately classify this launch as either a success or failure.

Japan's Defense Ministry said that its radar analysis found that the missile reached an altitude exceeding 1,000 kilometers (620 miles), which suggests it was a Musudan missile.

"We have to see it as a success," Lee Choon Geun, an analyst at South Korea's state-funded Science and Technology Policy Institute, said of the second launch. "No other (previous) missiles fired by North Korea have ever flown that high."

The U.S. Strategic Command in Hawaii said its systems detected and tracked two suspected North Korean Musudan missiles that fell into the Sea of Japan. They didn't pose a threat to North America, it said.

In April, North Korea attempted unsuccessfully to launch three suspected Musudan missiles, but all exploded midair or crashed, according to South Korean defense officials. Earlier this month, North Korea had another suspected Musudan failure, South Korean officials said.

Before April's launches, North Korea had never flight-tested a Musudan missile, although one was displayed during a military parade in 2010 in Pyongyang.

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The launches appear to stem from Kim Jong Un's order in March for more nuclear and ballistic missile tests. The order was an apparent response to springtime U.S.-South Korean military drills, which North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.

Since the end of those military drills, Pyongyang has repeatedly called for the resumption of talks with Seoul, even as it pursues new missile development, but the South has rejected the overtures. Seoul wants the North to first take steps toward nuclear disarmament. Pyongyang says its rivals must negotiate with it as an established nuclear power, something Washington and Seoul refuse to do.

The string of recent launch attempts shows the North is pushing hard to upgrade its missile capability in defiance of U.S.-led international pressure. The North was slapped with the strongest U.N. sanctions in two decades after its nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year.

"These provocations only serve to increase the international community's resolve to counter (North Korea's) prohibited activities, including through implementing existing U.N. Security Council sanctions," State Department spokesman John Kirby said. "We intend to raise our concerns at the U.N. to bolster international resolve in holding (North Korea) accountable for these provocative actions."

South Korea's Unification Ministry called the launches a "clear provocation." In Tokyo, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was also critical, saying, "We find it utterly unforgivable."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that Beijing didn't consider the missile launches to be an act of defiance against China, North Korea's long-time ally with whom its relations have cooled substantially in recent years.

"To say such an act taken by North Korea shows disapproval against China is reading too much into it," Hua said at a press briefing.

North Korea has recently claimed a series of breakthroughs in its push to build a long-range nuclear missile that can strike the American mainland. But South Korean officials have said the North doesn't yet possess such a weapon.

The North, however, has already deployed a variety of missiles that can reach most targets in South Korea and Japan, including American military bases in the countries.

The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 U.S. soldiers are stationed in South Korea to deter possible aggression from North Korea; tens of thousands more are stationed in Japan.

10 Things to Know for Today The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. HOW TRUMP IS AIMING TO PORTRAY CLINTON

The likely Republican presidential nominee will lambaste his Democratic rival as a failed secretary of state who is out of step with Americans on trade and immigration.

2. LONDON IS MOST PRO-EU PLACE IN BRITAIN — AND LEAST

The divide between the cosmopolitan business districts of the City and Canary Wharf and working-class Havering reveal the uncertainties and complexities of the upcoming vote.

3. PYONGYANG MAKING MISSILE PROGRESS

North Korea takes a significant step in the development of a powerful ballistic missile intended to reach U.S. bases in the Pacific, launching one of the weapons about 620 miles high after five failed attempts in recent months.

4. IN LEBANON, THE OTHER WAR

Lebanese troops have been making steady progress in fighting against Islamic extremists holed up in the mountains along the Syria border.

5. DARING RESCUE UNDERWAY IN SOUTH POLE

After flying through dangerous dark and cold, a rescue plane lands at the polar outpost to evacuate a sick worker from a remote U.S. science station.

6. FOR-PROFIT MED SCHOOLS POPPING UP AROUND US

The schools promise to create new family doctors for underserved rural regions, but critics question whether companies keeping an eye on profits can properly train the next crop of physicians.

7. HOUSE REPUBLICANS OFFERING PROPOSALS FOR HEALTH CARE CHANGES

GOP initiatives to repeal and replace "Obamacare" are being unveiled amid the tumult of the presidential campaign.

8. AMERICANS STILL WANT TO OWN HOMES

But student debt, rising rents and the leftover wreckage from the nearly decade-old housing bust are restraining people's ability to buy, a study finds.

9. WHO IS IN RUNNING FOR TOP DOG

The pumi, a high-energy Hungarian herding canine, is the latest new breed headed to the Westminster Kennel Club and many other U.S. dog shows.

10. TOP GOLFER PULLS OUT OF RIO GAMES

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy says concerns about the Zika virus make competing in the Brazil Olympics not worth the risk.

Pro-EU or no EU? Diverse London contains extremes of opinion

JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — When Britain decides on Thursday whether to leave the European Union, London's voice may prove decisive. But for which side?

Britain's capital, home to almost 9 million people, encompasses some of the most pro-EU places in the country — and the least.

In the cosmopolitan City financial district, where almost half a million people from around the globe work in Europe's biggest financial center, pro-EU sentiment predominates. But just a few miles away the borough of Havering, stronghold of working-class East Enders, topped a national survey of the most anti-EU places in Britain.

The two districts represent the opposing views at the heart of Britain's EU debate. One sees the bloc's free flow of people and money as a benefit. The other sees it as a threat.

Fishmonger David Crosbie, working on a drizzly morning in Havering's outdoor Romford Market, is an emphatic "leave" supporter. For Crosbie, the decision has a lot to do with borders, on land and sea. He says he is tired of European fishermen trawling waters around Britain under the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

"French, Portuguese, Swedish, Dutch — whatever. They can all come. They go right up on the beach," he said. "Plus there's no immigration control. Anybody can come over here, skilled or unskilled."

Immigration has become the most emotive issue of the campaign leading up to Thursday's referendum, stirring fears of instability among voters and drawing allegations of xenophobia from "remain" supporters.

The EU is built on the principle that citizens can live and work in any of the 28 member states. Since

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the bloc expanded to include former communist countries in eastern Europe more than a decade ago, hundreds of thousands of people have moved west to Britain and other wealthier EU nations.

The perception that EU migrants come to take jobs — and, somewhat paradoxically, to live on welfare benefits — is driving “leave” sentiment in Havering and other Euroskeptic areas.

But 15 miles (24 kilometers) to the southwest in the historic heart of financial London, policy chief Mark Boleat argues that thousands of jobs, and London’s standing as a financial center, depend on the EU.

“The European Union has been good for the country generally, very good for financial services,” said Boleat, who heads the policy committee at the City of London Corporation, which runs the financial quarter. “Many jobs depend on it, and we think that leaving the European Union will be taking a significant risk.”

That view is backed by the Economist Intelligence Unit, which said last week that leaving the EU would endanger London’s status as a global financial hub, “almost certainly depriving U.K.-based financial firms of their passport to conduct business anywhere in the EU.”

Boleat said that in the City, “we accept we’re part of a global community and we benefit from it. But that view is not shared everywhere.”

Built on the ruins of Roman and medieval London, the City radiates solidity and wealth, with its glass office blocks and imposing brick and stone buildings, including the huge, 18th-century Bank of England.

Havering — a chunk of suburban Essex county absorbed into Greater London in 1965 — is a workaday place of 20th-century houses and strips of shops on busy roads. Many residents are Cockneys who moved out of London’s East End in search of more space and quiet, or their children.

It’s not the poorest part of London but it is one of the least ethnically diverse — 83 percent of people identify themselves as “white British,” compared to 45 percent in London as a whole. Almost 90 percent of Havering residents were born in Britain, compared to 63 percent for all of London.

Like other local authorities, Havering Council has had its central government funding slashed under austerity programs aimed at reducing the national deficit. Services such as meals-on-wheels, child care and garbage collection have suffered cuts. Meanwhile, rising property prices and rents mean that many struggle to find good housing, and subsidized public housing is in short supply.

“We’ve been told there is austerity, we must cut back,” said Lawrence Webb, a Havering councilor for the anti-EU U.K. Independence Party. “The two budgets that haven’t been cut are our membership fee of the EU and foreign aid. Our view is that money should be spent here. So stop giving Brussels a single penny until we sort our own economy out.”

“Remain” campaigners say government austerity is rooted in the 2008 financial crisis and in British politicians’ choices, not the EU.

And the origins of London’s housing crisis stretch back decades, to 1980s reforms that gave public-housing tenants the right to buy their properties. Many council-owned houses and apartments passed into private hands, and few have been built to replace them.

Nonetheless, migrants and the EU often take the blame in Havering, where many people say they don’t see the benefits of immigration.

“They say (immigrants) contribute toward the economy,” said Jackie Duvall, a market researcher. “I don’t doubt that, but at the end of the day, where is the money going? Where are all the extra taxes going? Is it going to hospitals? No. Education, the prison service? It’s going nowhere. So it’s a con trick.”

That view is less common in central London — and not just in the financial district. In multiethnic inner-city areas such as Camden and Islington, it’s rare to spot a “leave” sign.

Amy Wilson, a 27-year-old technology consultant in the City who is “strongly ‘remain,’” said “leave” supporters, who tend to be older, are motivated by an unrealistic sense of nostalgia.

“I think the younger generations know that things can’t go back the way they were,” she said. “Because we live in a very interconnected world now, and we can’t live in silos.”

Gap between US and world elites evident in loss to Argentina

KRISTIE RIEKEN, AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — There certainly were plenty of things the United States wishes it had done better or differently in Tuesday’s Copa America semifinal against Argentina.

However, it’s entirely possible there was nothing these players could have done to neutralize Lionel Messi in a 4-0 loss that illustrated just how wide the gap is between U.S. soccer and the world’s elite.

“He’s one of the — you could say the best player in the world,” defender Geoff Cameron said. “We didn’t do ourselves any favors. Yeah, you can pat ourselves on the back and be happy we got here in the semifinals. Obviously it’s a massive achievement. But saying that, we didn’t perform as well as we should have or could have, and we’ll look back and be disappointed for sure.”

The five-time world player of the year set up Ezequiel Lavezzi’s opening goal in the third minute, then scored on a free kick to break Argentina’s career scoring record and assisted on the final goal to put La Albiceleste into the Copa America final against defending champion Chile or Colombia.

“This was the goal when we got here, to play another final, and we made it,” Messi said. “We’ve been spectacular from day one and we deserved this”

After Messi doubled the lead in the 32nd minute with his 55th international goal, his fifth of the tournament, Gonzalo Higuain quickly ended U.S. comeback hopes when he put the rebound of his initial shot past goalkeeper Brad Guzan in the 50th. Higuain scored off Messi’s pass in the 86th, his fourth goal of the tournament.

“There will be always a step backwards and then we will go two more forward,” U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. “That is a part of our process. I told the guys heads up and just swallow it. It’s a special team, Argentina.”

Special, indeed. With no one more extraordinary than Messi, whose free kick wowed the crowd and sent social media afire. Argentina was up 1-0 when Kyle Beckerman slipped and Chris Wondolowski took down Messi, earning a yellow card. Klinsmann screamed at Paraguayan referee Eduardo Cardozo as Messi placed the ball about 26 yards out, a few yards closer to the goal than the foul. After the U.S. set up its wall, Messi bent a beautiful curving drive that went just over Guzan’s outstretched left palm and into the upper corner.

“It was perfect,” Cameron said. “You can’t do anything better than that.”

Although that goal was undoubtedly the wow moment, the U.S. was already done in after going down so quickly.

“At this stage it’s all mental, and that’s when you already lost your mental battle,” Klinsmann said. “It’s just clear that — once they have a lead, they’re not giving that lead away anymore. They know exactly how to kind of organize themselves behind the ball quickly.”

Klinsmann was forced to shuffle his lineup with midfielders Jermaine Jones and Alejandro Bedoya and forward Bobby Wood serving suspensions. He used Wondolowski, Beckerman and Graham Zusi in their spots.

“We couldn’t compensate the fact that we missed those three guys,” Klinsmann said.

The U.S. has a spot in the third-place game on Saturday in Glendale, Arizona. That gives it only a few

days to regroup and shake off its most lopsided competitive loss since a 5-0 defeat by Mexico in the 2009 CONCACAF Gold Cup final.

"We always knew it was going to be difficult," Guzan said. "These are good teams from down in South America so it was going to be a big test for us. So to get to the semifinal of the Copa America, it's a good accomplishment but at the same time we wanted to win tonight. That wasn't the case. We'll now look to go to Phoenix and finish on a high."

Wildfires rage across Western US, but homes mostly spared

JOHN ANTCZAK, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For days, wildfires have raged amid spiking heat across Southern California and much of the West, driving hundreds of people from their homes.

Yet homes have overwhelmingly remained safe so far, after aggressive and strategic firefighting and a dose of luck.

In the foothill suburbs northeast of Los Angeles, a major wildfire gave a major scare to homeowners when it broke out within feet of residential streets.

But a day later, firefighters had stopped its progress with bombardment from helicopters and crews hiking into the hills to douse it and cut fire lines.

"They are working so hard, it's excruciating with the heat, and up and down these hills, they're steep," LA County fire Capt. Mike McCormick said.

Homeowner Gordon Witby said Tuesday he couldn't believe how close the flames had been to his house in Duarte a day earlier, and how calm the scene was now.

"The flames were so high. And so fierce," Witby told KABC-TV,

The blaze, along with a neighboring one that broke out shortly before, were 10 percent contained on Tuesday night after burning about 7½ square miles, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Nathan Judy said.

Still, no one was being allowed back yet to the 770 homes in Duarte that were under evacuation orders.

"We're looking at another night at least," Judy said. "We understand the stress it puts on families if you displace them from their homes, and we want to get them back as soon as we can."

Near the U.S.-Mexico border southeast of San Diego, a two-day-old, 9-square-mile wildfire has forced the evacuation of about 600 homes and more than 1,500 people in Lake Morena Village. It was also 10 percent contained.

Elsewhere, crews made progress against a week-old blaze that has charred more than 12 square miles in rugged coastal mountains west of Santa Barbara, boosting containment to 82 percent.

Most evacuees from that fire were set to be allowed to return on Wednesday morning.

In Utah, officials have evacuated about 100 homes from a mountain near a town in the southwest section of the state as a wildfire less than a mile away moved down a rocky slope toward the community of Pine Valley. The blaze is about a square mile, but it is moving dangerously close to homes in difficult terrain, officials said.

In eastern Arizona, a fire doubled to nearly 42 square miles and led officials to warn a community of 300 residents to prepare to evacuate. The blaze on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation was not moving quickly toward the community of Cedar Creek because of sparse vegetation and shifting winds.

Gov. Doug Ducey declared a state of emergency to free up state funds to help in the fire area.

New Mexico is one place where homes were not spared, with about two dozen destroyed last week in the mountains south of Albuquerque. That blaze was showing signs of slowing by Tuesday night, when authorities said it was 61 percent contained. Higher humidity helped crews strengthen fire lines, and

evacuees prepared to return home.

Goal of owning home still strong, and 8 other housing trends

JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans still want to own homes — if they can afford to. That's the finding of a report being released Wednesday by the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies.

The pressures of student debt, rising rents and the leftover wreckage from the nearly decade-old housing bust have restrained people's ability to buy, even though the dream remains alive. The report sees reasons for both optimism (more millennials are poised to leave the nest) and concern (rising numbers of renters face extreme costs).

Those factors could determine whether the share of Americans who are renting keeps rising or whether the nation's home ownership rate can rebound from a near 48-year low of 63.5 percent.

Here are eight other major trends documented in the report:

MORE HOUSEHOLD FORMATION

Americans formed 1.3 million new households in 2015, a return to normal pace of growth. Household formation had floundered during the Great Recession and amounted to a paltry 653,000 in 2013. Much of last year's increase reflected an aging population in which more households consist of adults older than 65. But the Harvard analysis says the increase in households should continue because of the influx of millennials, which it defines as those born between 1985 and 2004.

During the recession and the sluggish recovery, many millennials returned to their childhood homes or lived with roommates, a trend that limited household formation. But as the largest generation in U.S. history, millennials are reaching an age when more of them will move out on their own. Millennial household formation is expected to average more than 2 million annually over the next several years, a surge that will likely further raise demand for rental units.

LARGER HOUSES, SMALLER APARTMENTS

Some people might love those tiny houses built on tractor trailers. But most yearn for extra space. The median size of a newly built single-family house was a record-setting 2,467 square feet last year. By contrast, the median unit in a new multifamily building has shrunk to 1,074 square feet from a peak of nearly 1,200 square feet in 2007. This decline likely reflects a shift in multifamily buildings away from condominiums toward rental apartments.

HOME BUILDING UP BUT STILL LOW

Homebuilders broke ground on 1.1 million properties last year, a healthy 10.8 percent annual increase from the depths of the recession. The problem is that figure still ranks among the worst years in the past half century. "In the long sweep of time, it's still a pretty small number," said Chris Herbert, managing director at the Harvard center.

Before 2016, apartment buildings, more than single-family houses, drove much of the increase in construction. But even as developers are stepping up single-family construction, they're focused less on increasing the number of homes and more on catering to a smaller pool of affluent buyers who can generate more profit per house.

HIGH RENT

The government considers renters who spend more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing to be "cost-burdened." Renters who spend more than 50 percent are considered "severely" burdened. The

number of renter households that pay at least half their income reached a record 11.4 million in 2014, rising by 2.1 million from 2008 even as the economy began pulling out of the recession.

POOR DWELLERS CAN'T AFFORD FOOD

Compared with those who can find affordable housing, the poorest 25 percent of cost-burdened households spend on average 41 percent less each month on food. These same people also spend less on health care, not to mention retirement savings.

HOUSING AID ELUDES THE NEEDIEST

Just one fourth of income-eligible renters receive any kind of public assistance. The shortfall is the result of inadequate government support, Herbert said. It's true that the government can cut its housing expenditures by limiting its financial aid. But when people can't afford rent, it creates an unstable situation where evictions become more common.

Housing instability can often increase people's dependence on other social programs that raise costs for taxpayers in the long haul, Herbert said. It becomes harder to keep a job or learn in school when shelter is a constant uncertainty and increases dependence on other forms of welfare, he said.

"We can spend a little now, and in the end it's going to create people who are much more financially stable on their own," Herbert said.

CLUSTERS OF THE POOR

Between 2000 and 2014, the population in neighborhoods with poverty rates of at least 40 percent more than doubled to 13.7 million. That poverty overlaps with racial segregation. About 25 percent of poor blacks and 18 percent of poor Hispanics live in these high-poverty neighborhoods, compared with only 6 percent of whites.

AGING CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

The layoffs after the housing bust left builders with older construction crews. The share of building trades workers older than 55 rose to 16 percent from 10 percent in 2007. Just 13 percent of newly hired construction workers were under 25. Vocational training and immigration could help ease the coming labor shortage as older workers retire. So could opening up the industry to women, who make up less than 3 percent of construction workers.

Singer Judith Hill recalls Prince plane emergency landing

NEW YORK (AP) — Singer and Prince protege Judith Hill says she was on a plane with Prince when it made an emergency landing in Illinois after the superstar lost consciousness less than a week before his death.

Hill told The New York Times (<http://nyti.ms/28NJCRf>) for a story posted online Tuesday that she was "very freaked out" when Prince lost consciousness in the middle of a conversation. She said his eyes fixed before he nodded off.

"Thankfully, I happened to be looking into his face," she said, adding that she might have thought he had simply fallen asleep if she hadn't been looking at him.

Hill told the newspaper that she shook Prince and called his name while the plane descended to Moline, Illinois.

"We knew it was only a matter of time; we had to get down," Hill said. "We didn't have anything on the plane to help him."

She said he was awake and talking by the time they arrived at a hospital. She said it was the first time she'd ever seen him in distress.

Prince "was quick on his feet," she said. "Never said anything, that this is hurting, never a sign of struggle. That's why it's all very shocking."

She said Prince was like his old self in the hospital room after the incident.

"He wasn't dreary or drowsy, or anything," she said.

Prince died of an accidental overdose of the painkiller fentanyl six days later. Hill said she woke up to texts from friends that day.

"That was definitely the worst day of my life," she said.

Hill has declined interview requests from The Associated Press.

In speech, Trump to ramp up critique of Clinton as failure

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Seeking to refocus his presidential campaign, Donald Trump will lambaste Democratic rival Hillary Clinton as a failed secretary of state who is out of step with Americans on trade and immigration.

Trump's address Wednesday morning at his hotel in New York's SoHo neighborhood marks his official opening salvo against Clinton, the prospective Democratic presidential nominee, in the general election. It comes as Trump faces growing questions about his readiness not just for the presidency, but for the campaign he will need to run to get there.

The Trump campaign is hoping the speech can quiet those concerns and rally Republicans around their shared opposition to Clinton. The billionaire businessman plans to focus in particular on Clinton's tenure at the State Department, arguing that her foreign policy is in part responsible for the creation of the Islamic State militant group.

"Hillary Clinton had a four-year tryout for the presidency as secretary of state," said Stephen Miller, a Trump policy adviser. "She ran the State Department and the world went up in flames. Everything took a nosedive, except for Hillary Clinton's bank account — which swelled to new highs."

Trump is also expected to cite Clinton's past support for trade deals and her willingness, along with her husband, former President Bill Clinton, to accept speaking fees and contributions to their foundation from countries with poor human rights records. However, Trump is not expected to target the former president's personal infidelities, as he did earlier in the campaign.

Clinton has been harshly critical of Trump, particularly since she wrapped up her lengthy Democratic primary battle. On Monday, she warned that the businessman would send the U.S. economy back into recession and said his "reckless" approach would hurt workers still trying to recover from the 2008 economic turbulence.

"Every day we see how reckless and careless Trump is. He's proud of it," Clinton said. "Well, that's his choice. Except when he's asking to be our president. Then it's our choice."

Trump had planned to deliver his address on Clinton last week, but he postponed the event because of the nightclub shootings in Orlando, Florida.

The Republican's response to the attack was panned by many in his own party, who bristled as he took credit for "being right" about terrorism and suggested that President Barack Obama was sympathetic to militant groups. The Orlando gunman identified himself as an Islamic soldier in calls with authorities during his rampage.

On Monday, Trump fired his campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, hours before a new fundraising

report showed that the billionaire's campaign had just \$1.3 million in the bank at the start of June.

Trump allies cast Lewandowski's firing this week as the start of a new phase for the campaign. Paul Manafort, the campaign chairman and Lewandowski's internal rival, signaled on a conference call with aides that a rapid staffing expansion would be coming soon.

Tennessee Republican Sen. Bob Corker, who has been seen as a potential vice presidential pick, said he was "pretty excited" to learn of the changes.

"I think that what appears to be occurring over the last 24 hours is a movement in a direction that I think could be very, very positive," Corker said.

While Manafort, a longtime Republican operative, is believed to be in charge now, the campaign has not fully clarified who is running the operation.

"It's not been written down anywhere, but you have to assume," Ed Brookover, the campaign's liaison to the Republican National Committee, said of Manafort.

As with everything involving Trump, the billionaire appears to be the only one truly in charge.

"I think I want to be who I am. I don't want to be a phony like Hillary Clinton," he told NBC's "Today." He added: "I want to be what I am."

Dump Trump movement preparing fight at GOP convention

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The "dump Trump" movement is gaining followers among delegates to next month's Republican National Convention, an effort that could tarnish Donald Trump's coronation even if it ultimately fails.

Several hundred Republican delegates are organizing to oppose Trump at the convention. That's not enough delegates to topple Trump. But it's more than enough to create turmoil at an event that is typically used to bring a political party together in support of a presidential candidate.

"If Trump is the nominee, we truly believe it's the end of our party," said Kendal Unruh, a Colorado delegate who is leading the effort to dump Trump. "We're trying to save the party."

There could be floor fights over convention rules and the party's platform. And instead of a coronation, the roll call to nominate Trump could be an opportunity for delegates to voice their displeasure on national television.

"What's worse for the Republican Party — this is the calculation — one week of absolute chaos and all sorts of recriminations or four and a half months of this looming, rolling catastrophe?" conservative Milwaukee radio host Charlie Sykes said on his Tuesday show.

Some delegates are appalled that their party would endorse a candidate who has publicly insulted women and a reporter with disabilities. Many were alarmed by his incendiary remarks following the Orlando massacre, and some were distressed by his assertion this month that a Mexican-American judge couldn't fairly preside over a Trump civil case.

When asked about her objections to Trump, Unruh said: "You mean besides the fact that he's not a Republican? He's progressive populist protectionist."

Trump dismisses attempts to deny him the nomination, noting he will have more than enough support at the convention to win the nomination and control the proceedings.

He has noted correctly that he received far more votes, won many more states, and collected nearly three times as many delegates as his closest rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

The dump Trump group faces another obstacle: It has no candidate to challenge Trump.

"I have zero clue who is going to do this," said Unruh, who supported Cruz.

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Some veteran Republican strategists and Republican National Committee members expressed resignation about the effort and predicted it will factor little in the convention proceedings.

"I expect the whole thing to fizzle before the convention," said Charlie Black, an adviser to John McCain in 2008 and other GOP nominees.

Toppling Trump is a longshot effort, according to the math.

Unruh said she has the support of at 400 delegates, including some who are alternates. There will be 2,472 delegates at the convention. It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination for president.

Trump has 1,542 delegates, including 1,447 who are required by party rules to vote for him on the first ballot at the convention, according to the Associated Press count.

People in the Cruz camp say there is no organized effort on their part to encourage delegates loyal to the senator to oust Trump. But they aren't discouraging a delegate revolt, either.

"You've got (House Speaker) Paul Ryan saying over the weekend that they should be allowed to vote their conscience — that's a pretty big deal," said Chris Wilson, who led polling and data operations for Cruz. "If they somehow end up becoming unbound, I don't know. All bets are off there."

Unruh said she and her supporters will work to adopt rules that allow delegates to support the candidate of their choice. They are busy trying to contact members of the influential rules committee, which will meet the week before the convention.

The entire convention will vote on the rules adopted by the 112-member rules committee. It would take 28 votes by committee members to issue a minority report, which would also get a vote on the convention floor.

"I can confidently say that I will have a minority report," said Unruh, who sits on the rules committee. "We're saving the party and (GOP Chairman) Reince Priebus will send me flowers, I'm sure."

Former Illinois Republican Party Chairman Pat Brady's job is rounding up anti-Trump delegates in the Midwest. He acknowledged it's a longshot campaign, but said there's little to lose.

"Can I see it falling into place, given how poorly his campaign has gone? Yes," Brady said.

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker said Tuesday that delegates should be free to vote their conscience at the convention.

"I think historically, not just this year, delegates are and should be able to vote the way they see fit," Walker said. "We'll see how things go between now and the convention as to what the next steps are. I'm not going to speculate now only because you all know the situation may change by this afternoon, let alone between now and the convention."

Walker has endorsed Trump.

Putin heads to China to cement ties, but obstacles remain

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — With President Vladimir Putin heading to China this weekend, officials in both countries extoll a blossoming "strategic partnership" between the two former communist rivals.

But despite Moscow's push to strengthen ties with Beijing amid a bitter strain in relations with the West, Russia-China trade has shrunk sharply and a slew of ambitious projects have remained largely on paper. Observers attribute the slow progress to Beijing's hard-nosed bargaining position and the Kremlin's deep-seated suspicions about the growing power of its mighty partner.

A shared desire to counter perceived U.S. global domination and strong personal ties between Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who are to meet Saturday in Beijing, appear to be the main driving

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forces behind Russia-China cooperation.

The renewed push to bolster relations with China came after the United States and the European Union imposed an array of crippling sanctions on Russia over its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in March 2014, cutting its access to world financial markets and blocking the transfer of modern technologies. Moscow was also purged from the Group of Eight leading industrialized nations.

In a bid to show the West that the ties with China could offer a viable alternative, Putin visited Beijing in May 2014, presiding over the signing of numerous deals, including a mammoth 30-year natural gas contract worth \$400 billion.

A later deal saw a branch of Chinese state-owned energy company CNPC buying a stake in a project to build a giant liquefied natural gas plant on the Yamal Peninsula in the Arctic. Last December, Chinese company Sinopec bought a stake in the Russia's Sibur energy company.

China also promised to offer multibillion dollar loans to help build a high-speed rail link between Moscow and the Volga River city of Kazan.

Other ambitious deals have been expected, but most of them have floundered amid Russia's economic uncertainty.

A key factor behind Russia-China trade dropping from nearly \$100 billion a year in 2014 to just over \$60 billion last year has been the sharp devaluation of the Russian currency under the double impact of low global oil prices and Western sanctions. With energy resources accounting for two-thirds of Russian exports to China, trade volumes have shrunk as oil prices fell.

The devaluation of the ruble has spooked Chinese investors, and low energy prices made some prospective energy projects unfeasible. Plans to tap new oil and gas fields in Siberia and build more China-bound pipelines, which require massive investment, have stalled.

Chinese companies and banks also have been cautious about developing their business in Russia, fearing that it could adversely affect their operations elsewhere due to the spiraling Russia-West tensions and Western sanctions.

Plans for Chinese companies to invest in the giant Vankor oil and gas fields in eastern Siberia have bogged down over pricing disputes, Russia's hopes of using China as an alternative to European financial markets have failed and a prospective transport corridor between China and the European Union has remained mired in uncertainty.

Beijing's ambitious Silk Road Economic Belt project, intended to encourage infrastructure development in formerly Soviet Central Asia which Russia sees as its home turf, has caused unease in Moscow. China has promised to coordinate the project with the Russia-dominated Eurasian Economic Union, but clearly has put an emphasis on bilateral deals with Kazakhstan and other members of the bloc.

"Moscow can't preserve its economic domination in Central Asia," Alexander Gabuyev of the Carnegie Moscow Center wrote in a commentary.

At a recent Russia-China forum in Moscow, officials hailed an "unprecedented" closeness, but businessmen and experts pointed at numerous problems.

Russian tycoon Viktor Vekselberg deplored what he described as a "catastrophically low" level of Russia-China cooperation in the high-tech sector, saying that Chinese companies have shown little interest in investing in Russian industries.

While ambitious hopes for closer economic cooperation haven't materialized, Russia and China have bolstered their military ties, which have included joint war games and contacts on missile defense. Russian weapons exports to China, which peaked in the 1990s and fell dramatically in the following decade, have received a new boost recently.

"We have common interests, especially now, when the United States has put pressure on both Rus-

sia and China," said Li Fenglin, a former Chinese ambassador to Moscow who heads a government-sponsored think tank. He urged Moscow to cooperate more closely with Beijing, noting that some in Russia still fear China and seek to counterbalance its influence.

Some Russian military and political insiders view China's growing power with unease, fearing that the giant eastern neighbor could one day try to dictate its terms.

The prospect of potential Chinese expansion long has worried residents of Russia's sparsely populated far eastern regions, where many growled about the Kremlin's decision to surrender significant slices of land along the 4,200-kilometer (2,600-mile) border to China in a 2005 demarcation deal.

Reflecting such fears, Russia's state television recently aired a program hosted by famous film director Nikita Mikhalkov that included a video describing a hypothetical Chinese invasion. The video ended with China quickly overrunning all of Russia's Far East and Siberia and drawing a new border along the Urals, the mountain range that traditionally serves as the boundary between Europe and Asia.

Many in Russia also have been appalled by Chinese farmers leasing Russia's agricultural lands, seeing them as both a vanguard of potential expansion and an environmental scourge because of aggressive use of toxic fertilizers.

"Chinese farmers have poisoned our land," ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy ranted during recent debates in parliament. "Nothing grows after them!"

New for-profit medical schools springing up across US

REBECCA BOONE, Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — For-profit medical schools are starting to pop up around the country, promising to create new family doctors for underserved rural regions.

Rural states like Idaho need more general practitioners, with the baby boom generation aging and expanded insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act making health care more accessible. But critics of the new schools question whether companies can properly train the nation's next crop of doctors.

"On face value, it looks like a pretty good deal" because for-profit schools promise to bring benefits without relying on taxpayer dollars, said Dr. Ted Epperly, who runs a family practice residency program in Boise, where a new for-profit school plans to start accepting students in 2018. "But it's a little bit like Wal-Mart moving into a small community with mom-and-pop shops — it damages the existing workforce producers."

Proponents contend challenges the new schools face are surmountable, and any stigma about for-profit medical training is born of fear, not fact. Dr. Robert Hasty, dean of the newly created Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine, notes for-profit hospitals also were once stigmatized but now make up about a quarter of all U.S. hospitals.

"We have such a need for doctors, and if we have to make this investment, it's worthwhile," Hasty said.

Thirty-one new medical schools opened in the country between 2002 and 2014, according to an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Most were nonprofit or public.

For decades, for-profit medical schools were relegated to foreign shores, with U.S.-based companies like DeVry launching medical schools in the Caribbean. But that changed in 2007 when Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine opened in Parker, Colorado.

Several for-profit medical schools have opened in the years since, including California Northstate University School of Medicine and the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in New Mexico. Rocky Vista recently announced plans to expand into Utah.

Justin Rose was part of the first group of students to graduate from Rocky Vista in Colorado. Though

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the Idaho native applied to several schools in the West, he wasn't accepted to any state-run programs.

"The for-profit part never played a part in it," Rose said of his decision to attend Rocky Vista. "The biggest concern was I'm going to a new med school that had no background affiliation or anything."

In retrospect, he said, it was the best choice because the school was under pressure to prove its first crop of graduates would succeed.

"It made them especially motivated," he said.

After completing an emergency medicine residency and an ultrasound fellowship at the University of Kentucky, Rose is preparing to begin his career as a doctor in Boise. He said the job will allow him to continue chipping away at his \$350,000 in student loan debt.

That's nearly double the average debt carried by medical school graduates, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. And because Rose attended a for-profit program, he's not eligible for many federal loan-forgiveness programs.

Even with the high debt load, the for-profit med school was worth it, Rose said.

Opening state programs is costly, and for-profit schools are a good answer for America's rural health care shortage, Rose said. His one concern is that the number of schools will grow faster than the number of residency programs.

Like their public and nonprofit counterparts, for-profit med schools face pressure to ensure their graduates get the valuable residency positions. At least 98 percent of grads from an osteopathic school must be placed in a residency or equivalent program or the school risks losing accreditation, Hasty said.

Medical schools must make their residency placement numbers available to the public. That accountability — and the fact that would-be doctors must pass medical board exams and meet state requirements before they can start practicing — should help hopeful medical school students make good choices about where to attend, said Claudia Goldin, a Harvard economics professor who has studied for-profit education models.

"If they're not providing the requisite training and hands-on work, then it's going to be public information that these students didn't pass those exams," Goldin said. "It's sort of a good thing to have some external review."

The differences between for- and nonprofit schools aren't always apparent, Goldin said. Salaries for staff at nonprofits and public schools often are higher than for-profits, for instance. And regulators have stepped in to stop some nonprofit schools from taking steps deemed undesirable, such as when Yale was told to stop plans for an online physician's assistant school.

"I've always tried to think about for-profits without the jaundiced view of them that we all now seem to have," she said. "I always try to enter this with the notion that there are good training programs all over the place, and the nonprofits have some pretty lousy places."

The for-profit schools are not without risk. Dade Medical College in Florida abruptly closed last year amid major financial troubles, its 2,000 health care students arriving on campus to find doors locked. The school received more than \$100 million in taxpayer-funded Pell grants and student loans since it opened in 1999, according to the Miami Herald.

Investors are looking for a return on their investment, said Hasty, dean of the new Idaho school. But the ultimate goal is to create safe, competent physicians.

He sees Idaho, Montana and other rural states in the region as the epicenter of a nationwide family physician shortage.

"It's not a donation — I mean, I'd love for them to donate lots of money for our scholarships," Hasty said. "This is really part of a social mission."

American Kennel Club's newest breed: Meet the lively pumi

JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A high-energy Hungarian herding dog is the latest new breed headed to the Westminster Kennel Club and many other U.S. dog shows.

The American Kennel Club is announcing Wednesday that it is recognizing the pumi, the 190th breed to join the roster of the nation's oldest purebred dog registry. That means the pumi can vie for best of breed at Westminster for the first time next February.

With coats of corkscrew curls and ears that flop at the tips, the pumi (pronounced POOM'-ee) has a whimsical expression that belies its strong work ethic, fanciers say. The 20-to-30-pound breed goes back centuries in Hungary, where it herded cattle, sheep, and swine. It's related to the puli, a breed already recognized by the AKC and known for its coat of long cords.

Like many herding dogs, pumis — the proper plural is actually "pumik" — are alert and active.

"They're not for somebody who's going to sit and watch TV all day long," said Chris Levy, president of the Hungarian Pumi Club of America. But if provided with enough exercise and stimulation, "the pumi can chill out."

Considered quick learners, pumis have done well at agility and other canine sports. Some in the U.S. also herd rabbits, chickens, goats and even cats in a cattery, said Levy, who breeds the dogs in Salem, Oregon. She and others have been working to build up the breed in the U.S. for two decades, but it's still quite rare.

AKC recognition requires having at least 300 dogs of the breed nationwide, among other criteria. Two other new breeds, the American hairless terrier and an ancient North African hound called the sloughi, were recognized this past January and will also be eligible for Westminster for the first time next year.

Some animal-rights advocates say dog breeding is too appearance-focused and irresponsible when many mixed-breed animals need adoption. The AKC says conscientious breeding helps people and pets make happy matches by making the animals' characteristics somewhat more predictable.

Asian shares mostly up as investors await more Brexit polls

TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Wednesday, with investors focused on Thursday's vote on Britain's possible withdrawal from the European Union and after relief over U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's statement that the Fed would remain cautious in raising interest rates.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 was down 1 percent to 16,002.60 while China's Shanghai Composite Index was up 0.4 percent to 2,891.03. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was up 0.3 percent to 20,730.25. Australia's S&P ASX 200 edged up 0.1 percent at 5,281.60. South Korea's KOSPI was up 0.4 percent at 1,990.07. Southeast Asian markets were mostly up.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "We still have three polls on UK referendum before the vote, and another shift back to 'Brexit' will see risk appetite disappear in a jiffy," said Bernard Aw, IG market strategist, as the polls showed "remain" with a slight lead over "leave" sentiment. "Despite a positive performance in the overnight markets, Asia will continue to trade cautiously."

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks rose Tuesday as investors were relieved to hear Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen say the Fed would remain cautious in raising interest rates. Stocks hardly budged for most of the day as investors were occupied by Yellen's Congressional appearance and the looming vote on Britain's possible withdrawal from the European Union. For the second day in a row, stocks traded

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higher and bond prices fell as investors felt a bit surer that Britain will stay in the EU. The Dow Jones industrial average picked up 24.86 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,829.73. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.65 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,088.90. The Nasdaq composite added 6.55 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,843.76.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 19 cents to \$50.04 a barrel in New York. On Tuesday, it fell 52 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$48.85 a barrel. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, was also up 15 cents to \$50.77 a barrel in London. On Tuesday, it slipped 3 cents to \$50.62 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 104.45 yen from 104.76 yen the previous day. The euro rose to \$1.1271 from \$1.1251 on Tuesday.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 22, the 174th day of 2016. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 22, 1941, during World War II, Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa, a massive invasion of the Soviet Union.

On this date:

In 1611, English explorer Henry Hudson, his son and several other people were set adrift in present-day Hudson Bay by mutineers aboard the *Discovery*.

In 1870, the United States Department of Justice was created.

In 1911, Britain's King George V was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In 1937, Joe Louis began his reign as world heavyweight boxing champion by knocking out Jim Braddock in the eighth round of their fight in Chicago. (A year later on this date, Louis knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round of their rematch at Yankee Stadium.)

In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

In 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa ended with an Allied victory.

In 1959, the Swedish film "Wild Strawberries," written and directed by Ingmar Bergman, opened in New York.

In 1969, singer-actress Judy Garland died in London at age 47.

In 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. Attorney General to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up. (He was released 19 months later.)

In 1987, actor-dancer Fred Astaire died in Los Angeles at age 88.

In 1993, former first lady Pat Nixon died in Park Ridge, New Jersey, at age 81.

Ten years ago: During a visit to Hungary to commemorate the 1956 revolt against communism, President George W. Bush said war-weary Iraqis could learn from the Hungarians' long and bloody struggle against tyranny. The Bush administration confirmed it had gained access to international banking records as part of a classified program to choke off financial support for terrorism. The Red Cross admitted Israel as a member and allowed it to use a Star of David as its symbol.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama announced in a White House address that he would pull home 33,000 troops from Afghanistan by the following summer. James "Whitey" Bulger, the longtime

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fugitive Boston crime boss and fixture on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, was arrested in Santa Monica, California.

One year ago: The Obama administration released a report on global warming that said failure to act on climate change could cause an estimated 57,000 deaths a year in the United States from poor air quality by 2100. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said the Confederate flag should be removed from the grounds of the state capitol, reversing her position on the divisive symbol amid growing calls for it to be removed. Oscar-winning film composer James Horner, 61, was killed in the crash of his plane in Los Padres National Forest. Italian actress Laura Antonelli, 73, died in Rome.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Prunella Scales (TV: "Fawlty Towers") is 84. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is 83. Singer-actor Kris Kristofferson is 80. Movie director John Korty is 80. Actor Michael Lerner is 75. Actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is 73. Fox News analyst Brit Hume is 73. Singer Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) is 72. Actor David L. Lander is 69. Singer Howard "Eddie" Kaylan is 69. Singer-musician Todd Rundgren is 68. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., is 67. Actress Meryl Streep is 67. Actress Lindsay Wagner is 67. Singer Alan Osmond is 67. Actor Murphy Cross is 66. Actor Graham Greene is 64. Pop singer Cyndi Lauper is 63. Actor Chris Lemmon is 62. Rock musician Derek Forbes is 60. Actor Tim Russ is 60. Rock musician Garry Beers (INXS) is 59. Actor-producer-writer Bruce Campbell is 58. Rock musician Alan Anton (Cowboy Junkies) is 57. Actress Tracy Pollan is 56. Environmental activist Erin Brockovich is 56. Rock singer-musician Jimmy Somerville is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler is 54. Actress Amy Brenneman is 52. Author Dan Brown is 52. Rock singer-musician Mike Edwards (Jesus Jones) is 52. Rock singer Steven Page is 46. Actor Michael Trucco is 46. Actress Mary Lynn Rajs kub (RYS'-kub) is 45. TV personality Carson Daly is 43. Rock musician Chris Traynor is 43. Country musician Jimmy Wallace is 43. Actor Donald Faison (FAY'-zahn) is 42. Actress Alicia Goranson is 42. Actor-comedian Mike O'Brien (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 40. TV personality/actor Jai Rodriguez is 37. Americana singer-songwriter John Moreland is 31. Actress Lindsay Ridgeway is 31. Pop singer Dina Hansen (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 19.

Thought for Today: "There is only one reason for an individual to side-step to the useless side: the fear of a defeat on the useful side." — Alfred Adler, Australian psychotherapist (1870-1937).