

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 1 of 33

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Dakota Brush Ad
- 1- Manager Wanted
- 1- Apts. for Rent
- 2- MZB and Asmus Farm Supply partner with Wheat Growers
- 2- Hannon's 80th Birthday
- 3- Drought Monitor
- 4- Changes to open meeting laws take effect
- 5- Cutting Edge Lawn Care Ad
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 5- Golden Living Center ad
- 6- Local Weather Forecast
- 7- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 7- Today's Weather Climate
- 7- National Weather map
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9 - AP News

Friday, July 1

Birthday: Loren Johnson, KaSandra Pappas

Saturday, July 2

Birthdays: Nathan Flemming, Deb Gengerke, Carrie Duncan Olson, Drew Fjeldheim
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 3

Birthdays: Janet Anderson, Sharolyn Jondahl, Wade Kluess
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran worship with communion
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, July 4

Independence Day
Birthdays: Seth Erickson, Michael Felkey, Joan Johnson, Alex May

Tuesday, July 5

Anniversary: Allen & Joyce Walter
Birthdays: Jasmine Schinkel, Karen Mettler, Paula Krueger, Trenton Duncan, Stephen Simon.
10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

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

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**

© 2016 Groton Daily Independent

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

Dakota Brush

Brooms, Brushes, Mops, Can Liners, Paper Products.

Get Ready for Spring With
Wash Brushes & Squeegees

397-9337

104 N. Main, Groton

Wheat Growers Announces MZB and Asmus Farm Supply Partnership

(Aberdeen, SD) --- Asmus Farm Supply (AFS) of Rake, Iowa, has signed an agreement to use the MZB Precision Farming System as their precision platform. AFS will be integrating the MZB platform into their five main locations in Rake, Estherville and Manly, Iowa, and Fulda and Okabena, Minnesota.

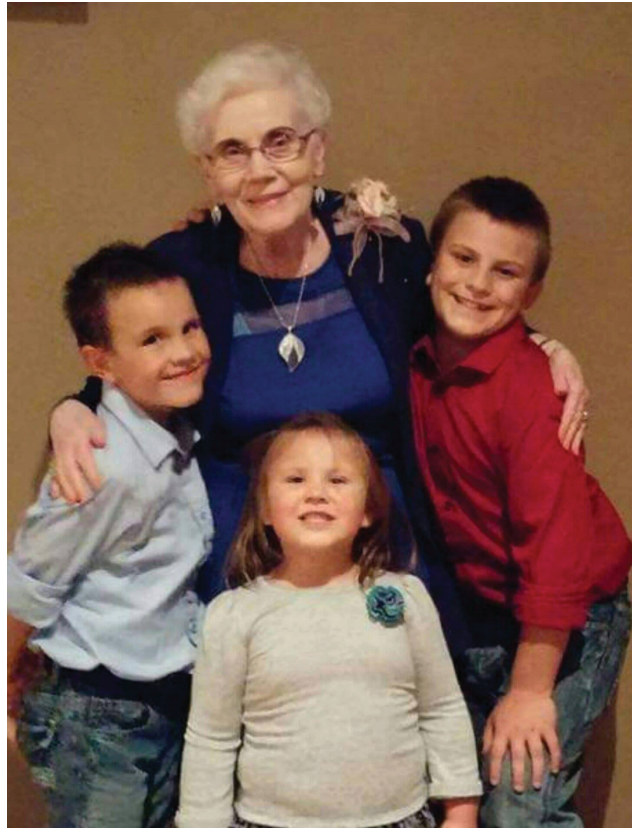
"AFS is a significant agronomic force in northwest Iowa, southwest Minnesota and west central Nebraska, and will be an excellent addition to our loyal MZB customer base in those areas," Brent Wiesenburger, Wheat Growers' Precision Ag Manager, said. "We know their growers will see the agronomic and economic benefit of MZB, and we're excited to work with AFS and their partners to help expand their business and increase their growers' productivity."

"MZB is a perfect fit with our current crop production capabilities," Nate Eitzmann, Agronomist, says. "The zone management concept will help us manage different zones in our customers' fields for seeding and fertility. Plus, it's easy for our professional Certified Crop Advisers to understand and use, and will help our growers see exactly what their needs are."

The MZB precision ag platform creates up to 12 management zones based on a combination of Veris EC information, RTK elevation readings and satellite imagery. The geo-referenced crop mapping provides exact nutrient requirements.

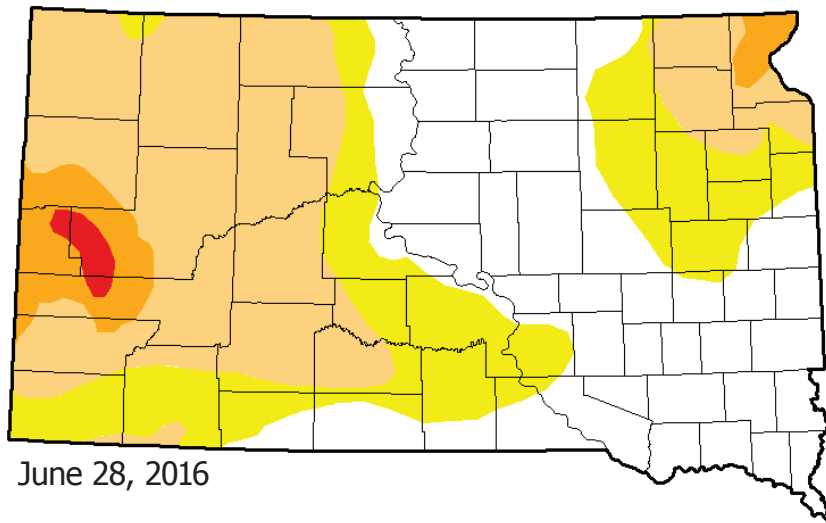
"AFS is another key partner as we develop MZB into an even more robust agronomy tool that will allow us continue to bring MZB to more markets," Wiesenburger added.

Asmus Farm Supply will be joining other area MZB partners, including BLB Ag Service in Harris, IA and J&J Ag in Estherville, IA.



Hannon's 80th Birthday

Happy 80th Birthday to Ida Hannon. We will be celebrating on Saturday, July 9th, from Noon to 6 pm at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites located at 3310 7th Ave SE, Aberdeen SD 57401. Cards and gifts are welcome. If unable to attend feel free to send to 1902 Prospect Ave Apt B2, Aberdeen SD 57401.



June 28, 2016

Drought Monitor

Northern Plains

Heat and dryness caused drought conditions to intensify locally. While showers were noted over northern-most portions of the region for a second consecutive week, drought intensified and expanded farther south. Areas hardest hit by the heat and dryness extend from northeastern Wyoming into western South Dakota. Severe Drought (D2) was expanded to encapsulate areas that have received less than 60 percent of normal (locally less than 50 percent) rainfall over the past 90 days. Furthermore, satellite-derived vegetation health imagery as well as rainfall data

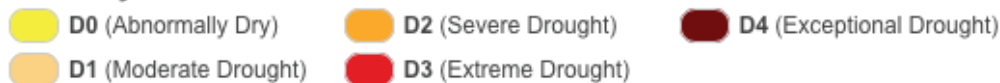
indicated conditions have rapidly worsened to Extreme Drought (D3) in a small area immediately adjacent to the Black Hills. Farther east, Abnormal Dryness (D0) also expanded across souther

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current 2016-06-28	38.52	61.48	38.91	5.81	0.81	0.00
Last Week 2016-06-21	53.03	46.97	19.17	2.79	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 2016-03-29	73.43	26.57	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 2015-12-29	89.43	10.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 2015-09-29	94.77	5.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 2015-06-30	84.40	15.60	2.51	0.00	0.00	0.00

Estimated Population in Drought Areas: **228,234**

[View More Statistics](#)

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

Author(s):

Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Changes to open meetings laws take effect today

Every July 1 means new laws in South Dakota and this year it includes the laws governing how public entities such as school boards, city councils and county commissions conduct their official meetings.

The Legislature this year approved three bills that amended what is commonly known as South Dakota's open meetings laws.

Most legislation approved by legislators and signed by the governor usually becomes law on July 1. Exceptions are bills that are specified to take effect on a different date. Such was the case this year with legislation that increased the state's sales tax by a half penny. That bill became law on June 1.

The three bills amending the state's open meetings laws are effective July 1.

The most significant open meetings law change includes two key components. First, the new law defines what is an official meeting of a public board or commission. Second, it expands the definition of teleconference in the open meetings laws beyond what has traditionally been understood to be meetings conducted by telephone or videoconferencing to now include the internet.

"The changes made in this new law clarify that a legal quorum of any public board discussing or deciding official business must adhere to the open meetings law, regardless of whether it's done in person, by telephone, by email or by any other electronic means," said David Bordewyk, general manager of South Dakota Newspaper Association, which lobbied for the new law.

Bordewyk said he hopes the new law will help public boards understand that discussing or deciding official business by email or text messaging is not appropriate unless the open meetings laws are followed.

The push to deal with the issue of public boards doing business by email originated with a 2012 open government task force appointed by the governor and attorney general. Legislation recommended by that task force failed in 2013 and 2015. A modified version was successful this year.

A second change to the open meetings laws that takes effect July 1 requires state boards and commissions such as the Board of Regents and Game, Fish and Parks Commission to post their meeting agendas with at least two intervening days before the start of the meeting.

The agenda-posting requirement will not apply to local boards such as cities, schools and counties. They will still be required to post agendas at least 24 hours in advance of their meetings.

Proponents for the agenda-posting change argued that because interested citizens may need to travel further to attend a meeting of a state board or commission, having more advance notice of the agenda will benefit the public.

A third change to the open meetings law clarifies that anyone may electronically record an official meeting of a public board so long as that person is not interfering with the conduct of the meeting or being disruptive.

"The changes to the open meetings laws this year demonstrate that open government is ongoing," Bordewyk said. "Open government is never a done deal. It requires constant attention to make sure we reflect what is happening in government and what the public expects for transparency and accountability."

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 5 of 33

Today in Weather History

July 1, 1928: A powerful, estimated F4 tornado moved southeast from 6 miles west of Miller, Hand County, destroying farms near the start of the path. All buildings were leveled to the ground, including two homes. A check book from one home was found 10 miles away. Estimated property damaged was set at \$50,000.

July 1, 1955: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast near Bowdle. Two barns were destroyed. A small girl and a pony were reportedly carried a quarter mile without injury. A tornado was also spotted in Emmons County in North Dakota, causing \$10,000 worth of damage.

July 1, 2005: Heavy rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in late June causing widespread flooding. The flood waters slowly receded through July 10th. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the homes were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs.

July 1, 2006: With continued little or no rainfall along with much above average temperatures, a drought expanded and intensified through July across central and north central South Dakota. Severe (D2) to extreme (D3) drought early in July worsened to extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) across all of the areas by the middle of July and remained there until the end of the month. Rainfall was 1.50 inches to 2.25 inches below normal for the month and from 7 to 8 inches below normal for the year. Soil moisture was 4 to 5 inches below normal and lake and river flows were well below normal. Crops and pastures were devastated due to the extreme dryness and burn bans were in effect across all of the area. Many ranchers had to sell off much of their cattle. Throughout July, periodic high winds, low relative humidity values, along with many lightning storms resulted in tens, if not over one hundred fires across central and north central South Dakota. Tens of thousands of acres of pastureland and cropland were burned as a result of the fires. Hundreds of firefighters worked throughout the month to contain the flames. The governor of South Dakota declared a statewide emergency and the United States Department of Agriculture declared all of the counties drought disasters. Swan Lake, in north central South Dakota between Lowry and Hoven, had completely dried up from the long period of dryness. The last time this happened to the lake was 30 years prior in 1976. Also, Lake Oahe at Pierre was four feet above its all-time low.

Now Doing Core Aeration
Mowing ~ Trimming
Edging ~ Fertilizing
Spring/Fall Cleanups
Travis Kurth, Licensed and Insured
Free Estimates ~ 605/397-7469
Cutting Edge Lawn Care
Quality Lawn Care At Affordable Prices











We now accept

for out patient therapy.
1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 6 of 33

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Independence Day
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 76 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 87 °F



www.weather.gov/Aberdeen
Issued: July 1, 2016 3:30 am
National Weather Service - Aberdeen, SD



Today:
Highs in the mid to upper 70s
Slight chance of afternoon thunderstorms west of the Missouri River

Holiday Weekend Outlook

Saturday: *low to mid 80s*

Sunday: *80s*

Monday: *mid 80s to low 90s*
Slight chance of thunderstorms over central SD



Published on: 07/01/2016 at 3:32AM

Expect another day with temperatures in the mid to upper 70s, as dry high pressure remains over the eastern Dakotas and Minnesota. While there is the possibility of isolated afternoon thunderstorms west of the Missouri River, much of the area will remain dry through the upcoming weekend. Look for a slow warming trend through Monday as high pressure exits to our southeast.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 7 of 33

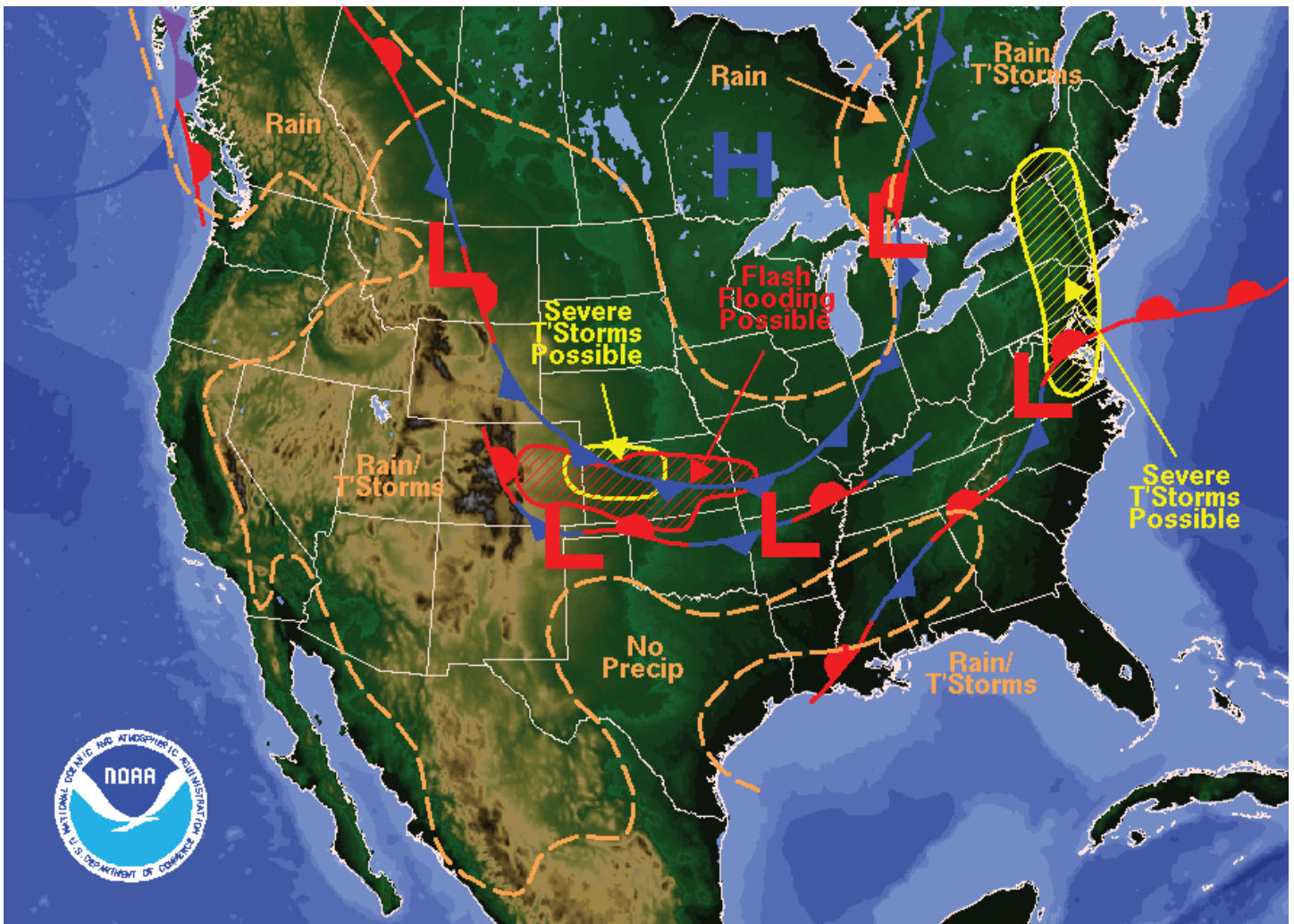
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 73.0 F at 2:35 PM
Low Outside Temp: 53.2 F at 11:58 PM
High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 9:29 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1974
Record Low: 41 in 1995
Average High: 82°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in July: 0.10
Precip to date in July: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 10.94
Precip Year to Date: 6.66
Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Jul 01, 2016, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



WHEN SILENCE IS GOLDEN

He was a new Christian. But it didn't matter: he wanted to be a witness for the Lord and let everyone know how grateful he was for his salvation.

On the final night of a revival meeting, he went to his pastor and asked if he could give his testimony. The pastor was pleased and said that he would call him to the platform when it was time for him to speak.

As the service progressed, George became rather nervous and fearful of standing before a group of people he did not know. But he smiled, asked God for strength and peace, and looked forward to the time to share his story.

Finally, his moment came. He walked boldly to the pulpit, placed his hands on each side as he had seen his pastor do on many occasions, and said, "Brethren."

And that was it. His fear overwhelmed him. Not able to remember what he was planning to say, the only thing he could utter was, "Will you please join me in three minutes of silence to honor our beloved Savior."

Our words of worship and witness need not be eloquent, only sincere. A genuine Christian is the best proof of genuine Christianity. Standing quietly to honor our beloved Savior may, at times, be the best thing we can do.

Prayer: Father, there are times when our lives speak so loudly that words are not necessary. May we realize, however, that in word or deed, we witness for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: ...And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ... Philippians 1:7-12

News from the Associated Press

McLaughlin man enters assault case plea; no trial date set

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A McLaughlin man accused of assaulting another man with shod feet has pleaded not guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon.

A trial date hasn't been set for 23-year-old Sinjin Cameron. If convicted, Cameron faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, plus three years of supervised release.

The charge stems from a May 2016 incident. Authorities say Cameron assaulted an adult man with shod feet.

An attorney for Cameron didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment. Cameron is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Midwest economic survey points toward slow growth

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Figures from a survey of supply managers in nine Midwest and Plains states have dropped slightly but still suggest economic growth ahead.

A report issued Friday says the Mid-American Business Conditions index hit 50.1 in June, compared with 52.1 in May.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says gains for nondurable-goods producers more than offset continuing losses for regional durable-goods manufacturers.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests economic growth. A score below that suggests decline. The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Board of Regents approves request on arts degree programs

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Regents has approved a request to move three arts degree programs at Black Hills State University to the bachelor of fine arts designation.

The university will now award BFA degrees in studio art, graphic design and photography. Black Hills State officials say careers in these fields increasingly require such degrees.

The BFA is recognized by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design as requiring more specialization in the subject area.

2.6-square-mile Crow Peak Fire at 15 percent containment

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire that has been burning on Crow Peak west of Spearfish for a week is now at 15 percent containment.

The blaze sparked by lightning Friday evening has torched 1,677 acres, or about 2.6 square miles. No homes have been lost, though voluntary evacuation notices are still in effect.

More than 500 people are fighting the fire on the ground and from the air.

Higgins Gulch Road remains closed to the public, with only resident traffic allowed. Black Hills National Forest officials have issued a temporary closure order for the fire area for public safety.

Wildlife officials asking for help from salmon anglers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Wildlife officials in South Dakota are asking salmon anglers for help.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department is encouraging anglers to turn in to wildlife officials the heads of tagged Chinook salmon caught on Lake Oahe and the Oahe tail waters. The tagged fish can be identified by the absence of a tiny fin on their back.

State fisheries biologist Robert Hanten says research projects are underway to evaluate salmon return to anglers. He says the public's help is "a crucial part of the research."

Anglers can turn in the fresh or frozen head of a tagged salmon at the department's office in Fort Pierre, Oahe Marina, Spring Creek Resort and Deep Water Marina, Carl's Bait Shop and West Whitlock Recreation Area.

Game, Fish and Parks: Don't forget safety while on the water

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department is reminding boaters ahead of the Fourth of July holiday about the importance of safety and responsible alcohol use while on the water.

Brandon Gust is a boating law administrator with the department. He says safety compliance by the boating public is good, but boating under the influence is a persistent issue.

The agency says boaters should reduce speed while other craft are near; watch for swimmers and other people enjoying the water; make sure boats have life jackets for passengers; and be courteous while docking, among other tips.

Gust says safety is the most important factor for a fun outing.

Historic District in Vermillion added to National Register

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The Bluff Historic District in Vermillion has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the list of properties that the federal government deems worthy of recognition and preservation.

The South Dakota State Historical Society says the Bluff Historic District is a pocket of homes located south of Vermillion's downtown. It was nominated to be included in the register because of its architectural significance.

The district includes a wide variety of architectural styles, including Queen Anne Victorian and Colonial Revival homes built in the 1890s as the university and commercial district grew rapidly. Craftsman and Ranch homes are also part of the district.

Board of Regents approves beer, wine sales regulations

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Regents has approved rules governing the sale of beer and wine at special events hosted at South Dakota's public universities.

The board took final action on the regulations Thursday.

The policy allows, but doesn't require potential sales. It also specifies that beer and wine access must be controlled and restricts the beverage sales to premium seating at student athletic events.

Mike Rush, the regents' executive director and CEO, says a university that decides to allow the sales has to create rules for an institutional permit process. The new regulations also require universities to report annually to the regents describing events where alcohol sales were allowed on campus.

Past state law didn't ban serving alcohol, but on-campus sales were prohibited until a measure allowing them was approved in the 2016 legislative session.

Toddler found safe in cornfield on farm near Dakotas border

ELLENDALE, N.D. (AP) — An 18-month old boy who was reported lost in a cornfield near the North Dakota and South Dakota border has been found unharmed.

Dickey County Emergency Management Director Charles Russell says the boy was found Thursday afternoon, about four hours after he went missing. Russell says the toddler, who was only wearing a diaper, is fine and "just got some sunburn."

The search for the toddler was challenging because the corn on the farm is about 6 feet tall. The search party included a drone from the sheriff's office in Brown County, South Dakota, and two civilian airplanes.

The farm is located south of Ellendale.

160 South Dakota National Guard soldiers going to Kuwait

HURON, S.D. (AP) — More than 160 soldiers with the South Dakota Army National Guard will begin a nine-month deployment to Kuwait in November.

The Guard on Thursday announced the deployment of the soldiers with the 153rd Engineer Battalion and its Forward Support Company.

The Huron-based 153rd Engineer Battalion is expected to "provide command and control for assigned or attached engineer units." The mission of the Huron- and Parkston-based Forward Support Company will be to provide logistics and maintenance support.

After training in Fort Bliss, Texas, for several weeks, it will be the second mobilization for the 153rd Engineer Battalion, which deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005. This is the first deployment for the Forward Support Company.

Abortion restrictions, school choice law set to take effect

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A slew of new laws that were passed during the 2016 legislative session go into effect Friday, including tighter restrictions on abortions and allowing beer and wine sales at universities. Here's a look at some of the new laws going into effect:

SCHOOL CHOICE

Insurance companies can get an 80 percent tax credit for contributions to a grant organization that will help lower-income students attend private schools. The credits can total up to \$2 million each budget year. The program was approved this year over the protests of public education advocates. Supporters established a nonprofit to dole out the scholarships when funds become available, and aim to award at least some scholarships for the fall.

ABORTION LAWS

Most abortions beyond 19 weeks of pregnancy will be banned, with exceptions for medical emergencies, but not for a claim or diagnosis that a woman intends to kill or harm herself. The law is based on the disputed premise that a fetus can feel pain at that stage.

Also, another new law requires doctors to inform women undergoing medical abortions, in which two

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 12 of 33

drugs are taken separately, that they may be able to discontinue the abortion if they don't take the second drug.

A third statute makes it a felony in South Dakota to sell fetal tissue.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

South Dakota's EB-5 and GEAR UP scandals prompted lawmakers to approve a measure that requires conflict of interest disclosure from officials serving on 22 state boards if they benefit from a state contract in their subject area. The law also applies to certain education organizations, such as educational cooperatives like the one involved in GEAR UP. If officials do not disclose conflicts, which also extend to a spouse, they could face a misdemeanor penalty.

ALCOHOL FUNDS

A share of alcohol tax revenue will be given to counties, where officials say they're spending more on court- and jail-related expenses, such as court-appointed attorneys. Supporters successfully argued that counties dealing with alcohol-related costs should get a quarter of the tax money from a state alcohol fund. Such collections totaled over \$14 million in budget year 2015.

UNIVERSITY BEER SALES

The Board of Regents is giving final consideration to rules governing the sale of beer and wine at special events hosted at South Dakota's public universities before the new law goes into effect.

Past state law didn't ban serving alcohol, but on-campus sales were prohibited until a measure allowing them was approved in the 2016 legislative session. Supporters say the changes are very narrow. The law specifies that beer and wine sales are limited to special events involving sports, performing arts and fundraising, among other occasions.

Farm Rescue adds more services, eyes geographical expansion

BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A farm aid nonprofit in the Northern Plains that has grown beyond its founder's dreams is expanding its services again, with an eye toward spreading geographically in a year or two.

Farm Rescue needs to boost its annual budget from \$750,000 to \$1 million to do that, and it's finding new ways to raise money, including selling downloads and CDs of a country music tune sung by a North Dakota farmer.

"My Field of Dreams" written by Billy Ray Cyrus' cousin, Bobby, and sung by Medina farmer-rancher Joe Schmidt is about American farming traditions, which include rural families helping one another. Farm Rescue has been doing that since 2005, with volunteers coming to the aid of farmers stricken by illness, injury or natural disaster.

"You never know who they're going to help next — it might be you," Schmidt said.

North Dakota farm boy and UPS pilot Bill Gross started Farm Rescue 10 years ago, to help North Dakota farmers in need with help planting crops. The organization has since branched out to South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and eastern Montana, with services expanding to include harvesting and haying. This year, the organization also is offering hay bale-hauling and grain-hauling services.

"We want to do more things with ranching," Gross said. "We're thinking in about a year doing some work with livestock, and this is a precursor."

Farm Rescue is offering the free hauling services to producers in need and making those services

available for hire to anyone, in another effort to generate more income.

Farm Rescue's base of volunteers has grown through the years to about 1,000 people from around the country, many of whom use vacation time from their regular jobs to help out. Playing a small role in the overall effort is inspiring and rewarding, Schmidt said.

"It says a lot when you've got 1,000 people waiting to get their hands dirty," he said. "It's fun to be part of something like that."

His single is available for download through several vendors, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to Farm Rescue, and a CD is available for order on the Farm Rescue website. Gross said it hasn't generated much money yet, but Schmidt said the song is starting to get air time on radio stations in the Dakotas and Nebraska.

Farm Rescue will this year help its 400th family, Gross said, underlining the organization's expansion at a pace "faster and larger than what I ever envisioned."

"To see that Farm Rescue has developed into this avenue of goodness, it's just a wonderful feeling," he said. "It's where our country started — helping farm families, people producing food for the entire nation and the world."

US congressman: Chechen extremist behind Istanbul attack

DOMINIQUE SOGUEL, Associated Press

SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — A Chechen extremist masterminded the triple suicide bombing at Istanbul's busiest airport that killed at least 44 people, a U.S. congressman said.

U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, told CNN that Akhmed Chatayev directed Tuesday night's attack at Ataturk Airport, one of the world's busiest, which also wounded more than 230.

Turkish and Swedish media have also identified Chatayev as the organizer, although Turkish authorities have not confirmed his involvement. Sabah newspaper, which is close to the government, said police had launched a manhunt to catch him.

McCaul said it is unclear where Chatayev is, but he is known to have served as a top lieutenant in the Islamic State group's war ministry.

Although no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, the Islamic State group is suspected, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan repeated Friday that IS was "most probably" behind it. The group has boasted of having cells in Turkey, among other countries.

"They have no connection to Islam. Their place is in hell," Erdogan said, speaking in Istanbul following Friday prayers. "These people were innocent; they were children, women, elderly ... They embarked on a journey unaware, and came face to face with death."

Authorities said the three suicide bombers in the attack — which echoed the carnage earlier this year at the Brussels airport — were from Russia and the Central Asian nations of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. They did not provide further details on their identities.

Thirteen people suspected of possible links to the attack were detained in raids in three Istanbul neighborhoods on Thursday, officials said. Haber Turk newspaper said 11 more suspects — all of them foreign nationals — were detained in a separate raid on a house in Istanbul early Friday. A government official in Istanbul could not immediately confirm the report.

The IS group, which has used Turkey to establish itself in neighboring Syria and Iraq, has repeatedly threatened Turkey in its propaganda, and NATO member Turkey has blamed IS for several major bomb-

ings in the past year in both Ankara and Istanbul.

Turkey's interior minister said the explosives used were a mix of RDX, TNT and PETN that were "manufactured," which chemist and explosives expert at University of Rhode Island, Jimmie Oxley, described as being military-grade, raising the question of how the attackers obtained the bombs.

Swedish authorities said Chatayev, the alleged organizer of the attack, was convicted of weapons smuggling in 2008.

The 35-year-old was sentenced to 16 months for smuggling an automatic weapon and two handguns with munition and silencers into Sweden in on March 3, 2008, according to the city court in the southern Sweden port city of Ystad.

Court documents obtained by The Associated Press on Friday show Chatayev had arrived by ferry boat from Germany. He and two others in the car said they were heading to Norway to go fishing and meet friends.

The documents show that he denied knowing about the guns hidden in a spare wheel in the trunk. A local paper says he was freed from prison in January 2009.

Turkey, a key partner in the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group, also faces security threats from Kurdish rebels who are demanding greater autonomy in Turkey's southeast region and from ultra-left radicals. Kurdish rebels have carried out numerous car bomb attacks in the past year, including an attack Feb. 17 in Ankara that killed 39 people, and another devastating bombing in the capital in March.

An official said Friday that security forces have killed the mastermind of the Feb. 17 attack.

Mehmet Sirin Kaya was killed in the town of Lice in the mainly Kurdish province of Diyarbakir, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations.

The attack against military personnel was claimed by an offshoot of the Kurdistan Worker's Party, or PKK, which Turkey considers a terrorist organization.

Hong Kong pro-democracy protest draws thousands

KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of Hong Kongers took to the streets for the southern Chinese city's annual pro-democracy protest march Friday, as tensions persisted over the high-profile case of a bookseller secretly detained in the mainland.

Protesters waved placards calling for Hong Kong's independence from China and signs with photos of the bookseller, Lam Wing-kee, whose revelations last month about his ordeal rekindled concerns about Beijing's tightening grip on the semiautonomous city.

Lam is one of five booksellers who went missing for months only to turn up later in police custody in mainland China.

Their disappearance sparked international concern that Beijing was eroding Hong Kong's considerable autonomy and rule of law.

Lam returned to Hong Kong last month on the condition he provide information to Chinese authorities about buyers of the gossipy tomes on China's Communist leadership that his company specialized in. But he defied the orders and instead spoke out about his ordeal of being detained secretly on the mainland.

He was scheduled to lead this year's procession but backed out hours before it began, organizers said.

Albert Ho, a pro-democracy lawmaker who has been assisting Lam, said the bookseller noticed he had been followed by strangers the last two days.

"He feels increasingly concerned about his own personal safety so he made up his mind and decided

not to attend," Ho said, adding police had been notified. He said the identities of the people following Lam were unclear.

Organizers expected 100,000 people to attend, although turnout appeared lower than in recent years. From Victoria Park, protesters set off in sultry heat through skyscraper-lined streets on a route lined with hundreds of police officers that ended at city government headquarters.

They called for Hong Kong's unpopular Beijing-backed leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-Ying, to step down and for the Chinese government to grant the semiautonomous city full democracy. These are longstanding demands of the protest, held on a holiday marking the day Beijing took control of Hong Kong in 1997 after more than a century and a half of British colonial rule.

Lam's revelations add to growing fears that Beijing is clamping down on Hong Kong's civil liberties such as freedom of speech and eroding the "one country, two systems" principle governing mainland China's relationship with the city.

In a speech in Beijing, Chinese President Xi Jinping said "no matter what difficulties and challenges we encounter, we are confident and determined that 'one country, two systems' will never be shaken."

Billy Leung, a charity worker, said it was important to join the protest to voice anger over Lam's case. "The fact that he and others were so blatantly made disappeared should be an alarm for everyone in Hong Kong. If you have a critical mind and you start criticizing what you think is not correct and not right It could very well be you next time," he said.

Heavy rains, landslides kill at least 18 in northern India

BISWAJEET BANERJEE, Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — Torrential rains triggered heavy floods and landslides that poured down hills in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, killing at least 18 people by Friday and destroying dozens of homes, officials said.

The worst-affected villages were in the remote mountainous districts of Pithoragarh and Chamoli. Many people were trapped under toppled houses and debris unleashed by the landslides, according to the state's top elected official, Chief Minister Harish Rawat.

"We are getting reports of 18 to 20 people killed, and this figure may go higher," Rawat said.

The Press Trust of India news agency quoting officials as saying at least 25 people were missing in seven villages in Pithoragarh, about 510 kilometers (320 miles) northeast of New Delhi.

Flood waters and mudslides have blocked roads at more than a dozen places, delaying the movement of rescue teams in the area. Helicopters were unable to fly rescue teams due to poor visibility in the area, said O.P. Singh, chief of the National Disaster Response Force.

Uttarakhand state has many Hindu temples which are popular destinations for pilgrims as well as tourists seeking to escape the summer heat further south. During the heavy rains, officials temporarily blocked pilgrimages to some temples as a safety precaution.

Uttarakhand was badly hit by monsoon flooding and landslides in 2013, when at least 1,000 people died in the state as it experienced its heaviest rains in nearly 80 years.

Monsoon season in India begins in June and ends in October.

Official: AG will accept prosecutor call on Clinton case

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Loretta Lynch intends to accept whatever recommendation career prosecutors and federal agents make in the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, a Justice Department official said Friday.

"The Attorney General expects to receive and accept the determinations and findings of the Department's career prosecutors and investigators, as well as the FBI Director," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing probe.

Lynch was expected to discuss the matter further at a summit Friday in Aspen, Colorado.

This revelation comes amid a controversy surrounding an impromptu private discussion that Lynch had aboard her plane on the tarmac at a Phoenix airport on Monday with Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton. That get-together has been criticized as inappropriate by Republicans and some Democrats at a time when the Justice Department has been investigating whether classified information was mishandled through Clinton's exclusive use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

Lynch told reporters that she did and Bill Clinton did not discuss the email investigation during the encounter.

The announcement also appeared intended to assuage concerns, particularly among Republicans, that Lynch — a Democratic appointee — might overrule recommendations from the agents and prosecutors who have worked on the case. Disputes on charging decisions between the FBI and the Justice Department are not uncommon, particularly in national security cases, though many legal experts see any criminal prosecution in this matter as exceedingly unlikely.

Decisions on whether to charge anyone in the case will be made by "career prosecutors and investigators who have been handling this matter since its inception" and reviewed by senior lawyers at the department and the FBI director, and Lynch will then accept whatever recommendation comes, the official said.

Federal officials have already interviewed top Clinton aides including Cheryl Mills and Huma Abedin. They have not yet spoken with Clinton herself.

It's not known when the investigation will conclude. FBI Director James Comey has repeatedly said that there is no specific timeline for wrapping it up.

PM hopeful Gove says UK leader must believe in Brexit

JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Political healing after Britain's vote to leave the European Union seemed a distant prospect Friday, as Justice Secretary Michael Gove ramped up his Conservative leadership bid but a senior colleague urged him to step aside.

Gove's surprise entry into the leadership race led former London Mayor Boris Johnson — his erstwhile ally in the EU "leave" campaign — to drop out on Thursday.

Spelling out his plans in a speech Friday, Gove said he should be the next prime minister because Britain needs to be led by someone who genuinely believes in leaving the European Union.

Gove said he had been advocating a British exit, or Brexit, for 20 years. Johnson was a recent convert to the cause, and Gove's leading rival for the leadership, Home Secretary Theresa May, backed the "remain" campaign.

"The best person to lead Britain out of the European Union is someone who argued to get Britain out

of the European Union," Gove said. "This country voted for change, and I am going to deliver it."

Gove is up against May and three others to succeed David Cameron as party leader. The winner of that contest automatically becomes Britain's next prime minister — and the person responsible for negotiating the country's historic yet tricky exit from the 28-nation EU.

Gove had been expected to back Johnson for the top job, and some Conservatives are furious at his betrayal.

Kenneth Clarke, a former justice secretary, said Friday that Gove "would all do us a favor if he stood down now and speed up the process" of finding a successor to Cameron, who announced his resignation after losing the referendum to keep Britain in the EU.

Clarke told the BBC "one of the first priorities for a leader of a party and certainly a prime minister is that you should have the trust, as far as possible, of your colleagues."

Casting himself as a reluctant candidate, Gove said "I did almost everything I could not to be a candidate for leadership of this party."

But he said while Johnson had campaigned "with passion and brio," he had concluded the flamboyant former mayor did not have what it took to be prime minister.

Several Cabinet ministers have announced their support for May, considered a tough politician capable of standing up to EU officials.

Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said "her track record shows that when Theresa arrives in Brussels, Europe's bosses sit up and listen."

Conservative lawmakers will whittle the field down to two before the final decision is made by party members. The winner will be announced Sept. 9.

The result of last week's referendum has rattled Britain's economy and divided the country — 52 percent of voters wanted to leave the EU, while 48 percent voted to remain. Scots in particular are upset, since they voted by a strong majority to remain in the EU but their voices were drowned out by the much larger number of English who wanted to leave.

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. TURKISH SECURITY FORCES KILL MASTERMIND OF PREVIOUS BOMBING

Ankara flexes its muscle as it presses ahead with a probe into this week's suicide attack in Istanbul.

2. HOW TESLA CRASH COULD HURT SENTIMENT ON DRIVERLESS CARS

The deadly crash of a Tesla car being operated on Autopilot "flies in the face" of the company's claims that its system is high tech, nimble and safe.

3. WHY JUDGE BLOCKS MISS. LAW ON OBJECTIONS TO GAY MARRIAGE

U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves rules the law unconstitutionally establishes preferred beliefs and creates unequal treatment for gay people.

4. CASINO WORKERS TO STRIKE AGAINST TRUMP TAJ MAHAL

The Atlantic City gaming employees are still seething from the cancellation of their health insurance and pension benefits nearly two years ago.

5. SOME QUESTION WHETHER US HAS LOWERED BAR ON LOWERING FLAG

As nation prepares to mark Independence Day, flag buffs note that the honor of flying the flag at half-staff has been extended more widely over time.

6. NOW ISOLATED, UK COMMEMORATES DEADLIEST BATTLE OF WORLD WAR I IN NORTHERN

FRANCE

Marking 100 years since the Battle of the Somme, Britain's leader and royals stand together with allies from the European Union it voted to leave one week ago.

7. WHO GETS NEW TRIAL AFTER 16 YEARS IN PRISON

A judge orders a new trial for Adnan Syed, whose lawyer didn't challenge expert testimony in the murder case that became the focus of a podcast entitled "Serial," which captivated millions of listeners.

8. PENTAGON ENDS ONE OF LAST BANS ON SERVICE IN ARMED FORCES

Transgender people will now be allowed to serve openly in U.S. military.

9. \$415M MEGA MILLIONS JACKPOT IS TENTH LARGEST

Friday's drawing will be the biggest prize since a \$430 million Powerball winnings collected by a New Jersey family May 7.

10. MAN KILLED BY GRIZZLY WAS FAMILIAR WITH MONTANA WILDS

But there was seemingly nothing that longtime U.S. Forest Service law-enforcement officer Brad Treat could do when he surprised the bear while riding his mountain bike.

Assad: Western nations quietly collaborating with Syria

SYDNEY (AP) — Western nations publicly critical of Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime have been quietly sending security officials to collaborate with his government, Assad said in an interview broadcast Friday.

In an interview with Australia's SBS news channel, the Syrian leader accused Western governments of hypocrisy for criticizing him while working with him behind the scenes.

"This is the double standard of the West in general: They attack us politically and they send us their officials to deal with us under the table, especially the security, including your government," Assad told SBS.

"They all do the same. They don't want to upset the United States. Actually, most of the Western officials, they only repeat what the United States wants them to say. This is the reality," he said.

President Barack Obama is opposed to armed intervention in Syria's civil war, which has left at least 250,000 people dead and contributed to a global refugee crisis. Though he blamed Assad for using chemical weapons in 2013 and threatened military strikes against Syrian forces, he has thus far only authorized strikes against the Islamic State movement and other U.S.-designated terror groups in Syria.

Assad said that while he had no dialogue directly with the U.S., there was indirect communication between the countries through back channels, including "businessmen going (and) traveling around the world and meeting with the officials in the United States and in Europe."

"But there's nothing serious," he said. "Because we don't think the administration, the American administration, is serious about solving the problem in Syria."

Assad said he was not opposed to working with the U.S., but criticized America for creating problems that it fails to solve.

"(Former President George W.) Bush invaded Iraq; in a few weeks, he could occupy Iraq. But then what's next? It's not about occupying. This is a great power. We're not a great power," Assad said.

"So, it's not about America occupying Syria. What's next? What do they want to achieve? They haven't achieved anything. They have failed in Libya, in Iraq, in Yemen, in Syria, everywhere. They only created chaos. So if the United States wants to create more chaos, it can ... but can they solve the problem? No."

Assad said he wasn't concerned about a recent internal memo from more than 50 U.S. State Depart-

ment officials urging U.S. military action against Syria's government. The diplomats who signed the "dissent channel cable" said that targeted U.S. attacks could increase leverage over Assad in diplomatic negotiations that have repeatedly failed.

"Warmongers in every American administration always exist," Assad said. "It's not something new."

AP source: Gingrich being vetted for Trump VP

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has begun formally vetting prospective vice presidential picks.

The New York billionaire is considering former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, among what he previously described as a short list of possible running mates. Their inclusion was confirmed by people with direct knowledge of the vetting process who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the situation publicly.

Trump begins the vetting process with less than three weeks before the start of the Republican National Convention, when he said he would publicly unveil his pick.

Gingrich and Christie, who both received vetting paperwork in the last 24 hours, emerged as prominent Trump allies in recent months, even as the presumptive nominee faced deep and sustained skepticism from many GOP leaders. Trump's relationship with other would-be running mates was badly strained in the bruising Republican primary season, leaving him with a small pool of willing and qualified candidates.

Trump on Thursday acknowledged Christie was under consideration.

"I'm certainly looking at him and I always will. Whether it's for that or something else," Trump told conservative radio host Howie Carr. He later described Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as "somebody we respect a lot."

Pence told Indiana reporters Thursday he hasn't spoken with Trump in several weeks and referred questions to the Trump campaign, which declined to comment further on the vice presidential search.

While formal vetting did not begin until this week, Trump told The Associated Press last month he'd narrowed his vice presidential list to "a very good list of five or six people."

His vice presidential pick could be crucial to easing the concerns of Republicans who worry about his lack of political experience, as well as his temperament to be commander in chief. Tapping a political insider would also be a way for Trump to signal a willingness to work with the party establishment he has thoroughly bashed even after emerging as the presumptive nominee.

Many have already been ruled out consideration, including Florida Gov. Rick Scott and primary rival Marco Rubio, a Florida senator seeking re-election.

"I have never sought, will not seek and do not want to be considered for vice president," Rubio wrote on Facebook.

Trump said last month, and has repeated in the weeks since, that he preferred someone with political experience to help him guide his agenda through Washington.

"I think that's good for a number of reasons. No. 1, if you win, which hopefully we will. I want help with — you know, I want a hand with legislation, getting things through. And if you bring a business person — we don't need another business person," Trump said.

Christie was vetted four years ago by 2012 nominee Mitt Romney's research team. The Christie administration's more recent involvement in the so-called "Bridgegate" political retribution scandal could

complicate his 2016 prospects.

Gingrich, who ran for president in 2012, served as House speaker from 1995 to 1999. He has political baggage as well, having been married three times and lived in Washington for decades.

Yet Trump has said he's looking for a running mate with a long history in the public eye to help with the vetting process.

"For the most part they've been vetted over the last 20 years. In other words, you people have gone to every dinner that they've ever attended, one way or another," Trump said. With a military or business person, he said, "the vetting is a whole different story. Whereas the politicians are, generally speaking, pretty well vetted."

Trump also said that he wants to announce his pick at the July GOP convention: "I do think I don't want to make a decision until the actual convention, not even before it. I mean until it."

Xi urges Chinese Communist Party to embrace Marxist roots

GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the 88-million-strong Communist Party to embrace its Marxist roots on Friday as he delivered an emphatic call for ideological discipline and a vigorous defense of party rule.

The televised speech on the party's 95th anniversary represented one of Xi's most pointed and lengthy addresses laying out his orthodox ideology, and again repudiated the belief held among some observers four years ago that Xi's ascent might usher in greater reform.

Xi said that history has proven correct the party's leadership of 1.3 billion people and that its stewardship remains essential for China to realize its "great rejuvenation," a central theme of his administration.

"History tells us the Chinese people's choice of the Communist Party to lead them toward the civilization's great rejuvenation been correct, and that the party's path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is also correct," Xi told his audience of cadres gathered in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

"Marxism must be the basic fundamental, guiding principle," he said, "or the party would lose its soul and direction."

Challenged by a slowing economy, Xi has made increasingly frequent appeals for ideological unity, a throwback approach that contrasts with recent Chinese leaders who emphasized delivering economic growth as continued justification for Communist rule.

Since taking power in 2012, Xi has repeatedly called on the party rank-and-file, from officials to academics to journalists, to study Marxism while urging universities to stave off the infiltration of harmful foreign ideas, such as Western liberal democracy.

Although he has been more guarded about his opinions on free-market economics or the role of the state in the market, Xi has assertively pushed his political vision of highly centralized power. He has tightened his grip over numerous aspects of Chinese society, attacking liberal thinking within the party, cracking down on public dissent and demanding far greater control over the media and academic institutions.

Despite quoting Deng Xiaoping, China's market-oriented reformer, in a brief passage about the importance of economic development, the Chinese leader did not delve extensively into how his Marxist ideology would influence economic policy at a time when the proper role and size of state enterprises remains one of the most hotly debated issues within official circles.

But in broad strokes larded with nationalism and soaring references to the blood and tears that the party had sacrificed for China, he said China would never abandon the communist struggle.

"We must never forget our original aspirations and continue forward," Xi said. "We must remember that from our party's founding our guiding principle was to struggle for socialism, for communism."

Victor Shih, a political science professor at the University of California, San Diego, said the speech underscored the dyed-in-the-wool politics of the Xi administration compared to his technocrat predecessors who more often dressed up economic reforms in Marxist language.

"The longer President Xi has ruled, the more he has revealed his orthodox Marxist-Leninist perspective," Shih said. "There's nothing like the previous administrations, like Jiang Zemin, with an emphasis on modernizing or reinterpreting Marxism — that was very flexible."

Drawing on the historical language of socialist-led utopia, the Chinese leader also said China would seek to help the international community but not seek spheres of influence. He called for an international order in which every nation would discuss matters "and not allow one side or a small group to dominate."

He won the biggest applause, however, when he warned foreign countries that China would never sacrifice its core interests, sovereignty, security or development plans.

Tesla crash could hurt sentiment on driverless cars

DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — It was the crash the auto industry knew was coming but still feared.

The death of a driver who was using Tesla Motors' semi-autonomous mode could add to the public's apprehension of driverless cars even before they reach the road in big numbers. Most major automakers and technology companies, including Google and Uber, are working on fully autonomous cars, and have worried that a highly publicized crash could hurt those efforts.

Joshua D. Brown, 40, of Canton, Ohio, died in the accident May 7 in Williston, Florida. According to a Tesla statement issued Thursday, the cameras on Brown's Tesla Model S failed to distinguish the white side of a turning tractor-trailer from a brightly lit sky and didn't automatically activate its brakes. Brown didn't take control and activate the brakes either, Tesla said.

Brown was an enthusiastic booster of his 2015 Tesla Model S and in an April video he posted online he credited its sophisticated Autopilot system for avoiding a crash when a commercial truck swerved into his lane on an interstate.

Automakers and analysts have said they need to be careful as they introduce more and more semi-autonomous features, from automatic braking to adaptive cruise control. People can quickly learn to rely on them, or assume they work better than they actually do. The possibility of a fatal accident was always a concern.

"For years people have been saying the technology is ready, and it's one of my pet peeves, because no it's not," said Bryant Walker Smith, a law professor at the University of South Carolina and an expert on autonomous driving issues.

Tesla stressed that its Autopilot system is new, noting that drivers must manually enable it and that they "must maintain control and responsibility for your vehicle" while using the system.

"Autopilot is getting better all the time, but it is not perfect and still requires the driver to remain alert," the Palo Alto, California-based company said in a statement.

Karl Brauer, a senior analyst with Kelley Blue Book, said the accident is a huge hit to Tesla's reputation. "They have been touting their safety and they have been touting their advanced technology," he said. "This situation flies in the face of both."

Tesla's shares dropped 3 percent in after-hours trading to \$206.25 after the government said it would investigate how Tesla's Autopilot system performed at the time of the crash.

But beyond Tesla, the accident could increase public skepticism about semi-autonomous and autonomous driving. In a survey released last month by the University of Michigan, two-thirds of drivers said they are moderately or very concerned about riding in a self-driving vehicle. Just 16 percent of the 618 drivers surveyed said they would rather ride in a self-driving car.

Walker Smith said it was inevitable that a semi-autonomous or autonomous car would crash. The Brown crash can help focus the discussion of regulators and others on driverless technology and its limitations, he said. It could also remind drivers that the technology isn't perfect and they need to stay alert.

But Walker Smith said it would be unfortunate if public sentiment swung so far against driverless cars that people would never benefit from their lifesaving potential. On the day the Tesla driver died, he said, approximately 100 other people died on U.S. roads. No one knows how many of those deaths could have been prevented by cars that could predict crashes before they happen and brake by themselves.

"Driving today is dangerous, and there is no panacea. Every solution creates its own set of problems," Smith said.

Taiwan misfires anti-ship missile, kills 1 fisherman

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's military said it mistakenly fired a supersonic anti-ship missile Friday that hit a fishing boat, killing one and injuring three people, on the day rival China was celebrating the Communist Party's anniversary.

The 500-ton patrol boat Chinchiang was undergoing an inspection inside a military base when the Hsiung Feng III missile was fired and landed about 40 nautical miles (75 kilometers) away in waters off the islands of Penghu near Taiwan, the official Central News Agency said.

The Defense Ministry said the missile penetrated a nearby Taiwanese fishing boat, killing its captain and injuring three crew members.

A preliminary investigation showed that missile operators likely failed to follow proper procedures, CNA said.

A full investigation was under way, while the navy sent a helicopter and boats to search for the missile, the report said.

The firing coincided with Beijing's celebrations of the 95th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Communist Party. Chinese President Xi Jinping, also the party's top leader, delivered a speech Friday calling for peaceful development of relations between Beijing and Taipei.

Tensions across the strait have escalated since Tsai Ing-wen of a pro-independence party was elected president earlier this year. Tsai has refused to endorse the concept of a single Chinese nation, and Beijing cut off contact with Taiwan's liaison office when she was inaugurated in May.

Beijing sees Taiwan as a renegade province after a civil war, although the island has functioned as an independent country and does not acknowledge Beijing's claim of authority over it.

Vietnam finds Taiwanese company responsible for fish deaths

TRAN VAN MINH, Associated Press

STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam's government said toxic discharges from a Taiwanese-owned steel plant were responsible for massive fish deaths that have decimated tourism and fishing in four provinces and highlighted the risks of rapid growth in foreign investment.

An estimated 70 tons of dead fish washed ashore along more than 200 kilometers (125 miles) of Vietnam's central coastline in early April, sparking rare protests across the country after the Taiwan company denied any wrongdoing.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 23 of 33

A government minister, Mai Tien Dung, told reporters on Thursday that Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corp., a subsidiary of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics Group, admitted it had caused the environmental disaster and has pledged \$500 million to clean up the environment and compensate affected people, including helping fishermen to find new jobs.

Dung said waste water containing toxins such as cyanide and carbolic acids was released into the sea during a test run of the plant.

Formosa's \$10.6 billion steel complex, which includes a steel plant, a power plant and a deep sea port, is one of the largest foreign investments in Vietnam. The country's authoritarian government, hoping to boost economic growth and reduce poverty, has overseen an influx of foreign investment deals amounting to at least \$70 billion in the past decade. But ordinary Vietnamese have become increasingly aware of and concerned by the environmental and human costs of such rapid development.

A Vietnamese fishing industry group said it was a positive that the government was holding Formosa to account, but said much more needs to be done to restore the health of the environment in the four affected provinces Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien Hue.

"There are no fish or shrimp for fishermen to catch, seafood farming is impossible and the tourism industry has also been affected," said Nguyen Tu Cuong of the Vietnam Fishery Association. He said most fishermen can't easily switch to another occupation as the only skill they know is fishing.

Since April, there have been anti-Formosa protests in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Tinh province, though they were swiftly broken up by authorities and many protesters were briefly detained.

Phan Thanh An, a fisherman from Quang Tri province, said that for 15 days after the dead fish began washing ashore, "I did not catch any live fish, only fish bones."

"I have never seen such massive amounts of dead fish like that before," he said.

An, who has been fishing since he was 13, said he hasn't taken his fishing boat out for two months but may try next week.

The chairman of Formosa Ha Tinh Steel, Chen Yuan-Cheng, apologized in a video shown at the news conference on Thursday.

"Our company takes full responsibility and sincerely apologizes to the Vietnamese people ... for causing the environmental disaster which seriously affected the livelihood, production and jobs of the people and the sea environment," he said.

The parent company, Formosa Plastics Group, is one of the world's biggest producers of poly vinyl chloride and has a patchy environmental record. Its U.S. subsidiaries agreed to pay millions of dollars in fines and remediation costs in 2009 after a long-running battle over air, water, and hazardous waste violations at two petrochemical plants in Texas and Louisiana.

Chen said the company was working to fix shortcomings at the steel plant's waste water treatment facility that were behind the disaster.

Separately, state media reported that the Vietnam Environment Administration had ordered inspections of a Chinese paper factory in the Mekong Delta province of Hau Giang because of concerns its waste water treatment system was discharging toxins that could pollute the Mekong River and kill fish.

Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Dang Huy Dong said that the government wants to attract foreign investment that is technologically advanced and friendly to the environment, and will not lure investment at any price.

"We will not trade the environment for foreign direct investment," he said.

The Formosa steel plant was the scene of deadly riots in May 2014 when China's placement of an oil rig in waters claimed by Vietnam sparked clashes between thousands of Vietnamese and Chinese workers.

War cry: Trump opening acts raise eyebrows, pump up crowds

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative radio host and columnist Howie Carr, opening for Donald Trump at a presidential campaign rally in Maine, brought up Hillary Clinton and her potential running mate, Sen. Elizabeth Warren.

"You know Elizabeth Warren, right?" Carr asked the crowd.

He then put his hand up to his mouth and mimicked a stereotypical Native American war cry — the same call that Trump supporters sometimes let fly when Trump mentions Warren at his events. That's because Trump regularly refers to Warren as "Pocahontas," for her claim that she is part Native American. The nickname and other Trump comments have been derided by some as offensive.

But Carr, in a column Thursday in the Boston Herald, said that Trump advised him off-stage: "Whatever you do, don't apologize."

"You never hear me apologize, do you?" Trump added, according to Carr. "That's what killed Jimmy the Greek way back. Remember? He was doing OK 'til he said he was sorry."

It was a reference to Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder, a sports commentator who was fired from CBS after saying that black athletes were "bred" to be better athletes than whites when they were slaves.

Carr's account is the latest example of controversy stirred by provocative Trump surrogates who go even further in their opening acts than the typically unguarded candidate. The goal is to rile up Trump's rowdy crowds at the events, which often are compared to rock concerts.

Trump's team typically invites local elected officials who have endorsed him to speak, and familiar faces often join the tour. South Carolina pastor Mark Burns delivers his sermon-like speeches in a full-throated shout. Senior aide Stephen Miller typically delivers the final speech before Trump takes the stage, offering a pointed take-down of Clinton.

But often, in their efforts to pump up the crowd, the speakers make inaccurate and eyebrow-raising remarks that, at least so far, appear to have drawn little pushback from the campaign.

"We are incredibly grateful for (Carr's) support, but as you know, he does not speak on behalf of the campaign," Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said via email.

Speaking at an event in Hickory, North Carolina, in March, Burns, the president of the Christian NOW Television Network, appeared to question the faith of Bernie Sanders, then Clinton's rival for the Democratic nomination.

"And Bernie Sanders, who doesn't believe in God, how in the world are we gonna let Bernie, I mean, really!" he said of the Vermont senator, who is Jewish.

"Listen, Bernie gotta get saved. He gotta meet Jesus, I don't know. He gotta, he gotta have a comin' to Jesus meeting," he said.

At a rally the next month in Tampa, Burns labeled Clinton a "racist," going further than Trump has himself.

"The thing that I truly despise about Hillary Clinton: She tries to call Donald Trump the racist. She's the racist. She's the racist," he said, accusing Clinton of trying to divide people.

At a news conference later that month, Trump said he was unaware of what Burns had said about Sanders.

"I didn't hear this. When did he say this?" he asked. "I didn't hear anything about it. ... Let me find out about it."

Burns, who has made numerous appearances on Trump's behalf since then, said he never heard anything about the comment from the campaign.

"The thing that I've said, I've tried to be as factual as possible and really to say things that millions are

saying privately but others don't say publicly," he said. "Usually I just echo the heartbeat of the people I speak to on a daily basis."

But Burns said the reaction to the Sanders comment was a wake-up call that the things he said on stage had consequences.

"To be honest that was the first time I really became conscious that the media was listening to what I said," he said, adding that the comment wasn't intended as a criticism of Judaism and "had nothing to do with his faith or religion or conversion to Christianity."

"The last thing that I would have ever done intentionally was to insult the Jewish faith," he said.

Carr, for his part, defended his comment. "As far as I know she's a white person until proven otherwise. And I'm a white person. So how could it be racist?" he said on his radio show.

Carr is also selling a "FAUXCAHONTAS Elizabeth Warren Graphic Tee" via his website. "Complete with bedraggled war bonnet - and high cheekbones. When you're wearing this shirt you won't need smoke signals to tell everyone that you've figured out this is one squaw who speaks with a forked tongue," reads the description. "Don't wait many moons, order today, before buffalo disappear from the prairie!"

He did not immediately respond to a request for comment via the site.

Judge blocks Mississippi law on objections to gay marriage

EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS, Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A federal judge blocked a Mississippi law on religious objections to same-sex marriage moments before it was set to take effect Friday, ruling it unconstitutionally establishes preferred beliefs and creates unequal treatment for gay people.

U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves wrote that the title, text and history of the law show it is "the state's attempt to put LGBT citizens back in their place" in response to last summer's Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage nationwide.

"In physics, every action has its equal and opposite reaction," Reeves wrote. "In politics, every action has its predictable overreaction."

State attorneys are expected to appeal his ruling, which came overnight in response to two lawsuits filed weeks ago by gay and straight plaintiffs.

The law sought to protect three beliefs: That marriage is only between a man and a woman; that sex should only take place in such a marriage; and that a person's gender is determined at birth and cannot be altered.

It would allow clerks to cite religious objections to recuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, and would protect merchants who refuse services to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people. It could affect adoptions and foster care, business practices and school bathroom policies.

"The state has put its thumb on the scale to favor some religious beliefs over others," Reeves wrote. He also wrote that it violates the Constitution's equal protection guarantee.

Republican Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed House Bill 1523 in April, winning praise from conservative Christian groups. The Family Research Council gave him a religious freedom award for signing the bill, and Bryant said the "secular, progressive world had decided they were going to pour their anger and their frustration" on him because of the bill.

Reeves wrote: "HB 1523 favors Southern Baptist over Unitarian doctrine, Catholic over Episcopalian doctrine, and Orthodox Judaism over Reform Judaism doctrine, to list just a few examples."

Brandilynne Magnum-Dear, minister of the Joshua Generation Metropolitan Community Church in Hattiesburg, is one of the plaintiffs who challenged the law.

"The passage of this bill signaled to our church, and to my wife and me, that our religious beliefs are less worthy of protection than those of others, and that the rights of gay, lesbian, and transgender people are not equal to the rights of others," Magnum-Dear said in a statement after Reeves' ruling.

Spokesmen for Gov. Bryant and Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood, who both defended the bill, did not immediately respond to Reeves' ruling.

More than 100 bills were filed in more than 20 state legislatures across the nation in response to the Supreme Court gay marriage ruling, UCLA law professor Douglas NeJaime testified before Reeves last week.

State attorneys argued that the Mississippi law provides reasonable accommodations for people with deeply held religious beliefs that gay marriage is wrong.

Roberta Kaplan, an attorney who filed one of the lawsuits challenging the law, said in a statement that Reeves "enforced the fundamental constitutional principle that the government cannot establish any religion."

"As a result, Mississippi will no longer be permitted to favor some 'religious beliefs' over others, and the civil rights of LGBT Mississippians will not be subordinated to the religious beliefs of only certain religious groups," said Kaplan, who represents Campaign for Southern Equality.

Reeves notes that one section of the bill specifies that the state could not punish any religious organization that refuses to solemnize a same-sex marriage.

"There is nothing new or controversial about that section," Reeves wrote. "Religious organizations already have that right under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment."

Hindu temple worker hacked to death in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A Hindu temple worker was hacked to death in southwest Bangladesh early Friday in the latest attack blamed on radical Islamists, police said.

At least three assailants on a motorbike fled after hacking Shyamonando Das with sharp weapons as he was plucking flowers for his morning prayers near the temple, local police chief Hasan Hafizur Rahman said.

The attack happened in Jhenaidah district, 210 kilometres (120 miles) southwest of Dhaka. The worker died on the spot, Rahman said.

Police had no immediate clues about who was behind the latest killing, but they suspected that Islamist militant groups could be responsible as the pattern of the attack fits previous ones. No group has claimed responsibility.

At least 18 people, including atheist bloggers, foreign aid workers and religious minorities, have been killed in attacks over the last two years. Police launched a crackdown that led to the arrests of some 12,000 people, mostly petty criminals and opposition supporters.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for some of the attacks, but authorities have denied it has a presence in the country.

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina says homegrown groups are responsible for the killings and want to create chaos in the country.

Meanwhile, police said Friday they have arrested the suspected mastermind of an attempted murder of a Hindu college teacher, Ripon Chakravarty, two weeks ago in Madaripur district.

Chakravarty was critically injured by sharp weapons, and residents chased the attackers and caught one of them. The suspect, Golam Faizullah Fahim, was later killed in the crossfire after he led police to a hideout of radical Islamists.

Police said Fahim, 18, was a member of the banned Islamic group Hizbut Tahrir. His parents said he went missing a few days before the attack and they didn't know that he was a member of the group.

Myanmar decries demotion on US human trafficking blacklist

ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar called sad and regrettable a move by the United States to place the country on a list of the world's worst human trafficking offenders, while rights groups welcomed it as long overdue.

The demotion came Thursday when the U.S. State Department released its closely watched annual Trafficking in Persons report, which examines 188 governments' efforts in combating modern-day slavery.

It placed Myanmar alongside countries like Iran, North Korea and Syria, and says the Southeast Asian country has failed to meet "the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking." It also removed Thailand from the blacklist despite what the State Department described as widespread forced labor in the country's seafood industry.

The downgrade for Myanmar appeared aimed at sending a message to the country's new democratically elected government, headed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, and its still-powerful military to curb use of forced labor, sex trafficking and the recruitment of children as soldiers into the armed forces.

Suu Kyi has been criticized for failing to address widespread persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority in the Buddhist country.

Her government criticized the demotion as failing to recognize the country's progress.

"We are very sad that we have not been recognized for making positive changes," said presidential spokesman Zaw Htay. "In their report, they didn't mention the progress and development we have made for our country."

Myanmar's Foreign Ministry called the downgrade "regrettable" and urged the U.S. not to impose restrictions that would hamper U.S.-Myanmar relations.

It also promised to step up efforts to combat trafficking measures. "The issue of human smuggling and trafficking will be addressed vigorously in close cooperation with international partners," it said.

President Barack Obama now has 90 days to determine whether to apply sanctions on so-called Tier 3 nations, including Myanmar. But the U.S. often chooses not to, based on its national security interests.

Myanmar had faced a mandatory move up or down the rankings after four years on the watch list.

Human rights groups applauded the downgrade, noting that Myanmar was evaluated mostly on the basis of what was done under the previous army-backed government. Suu Kyi's civilian administration took power in March.

"Myanmar's downgrade is overdue," said Matthew Smith of Thailand-based advocacy group Fortify Rights. "The military has long been one of Southeast Asia's worst perpetrators of human trafficking."

There was disappointment in Yangon, Myanmar's commercial center, since the U.S. action virtually precludes trade privileges that would help jumpstart economic growth after decades of ruinous military rule.

"The government and people have been trying hard for our country," said Win Aung, chairman of the Myanmar Chambers of Commerce. "We don't want anything that negatively affects our country's economy and our businesses. We are all putting so much energy in the country's transition period and we want encouragement instead of blame."

Rights groups also criticized the upgrade of Thailand, which was removed from the bottom-rung Tier 3 category and placed on the Tier 2 watch list.

Labor abuses in the Thai seafood industry gained in prominence around the globe after a two-year investigation by The Associated Press that led to the freeing of more than 2,000 slaves and the arrest of more than a dozen alleged traffickers. Several have been convicted.

"2015 was an historically bad year for human trafficking in Thailand," Fortify Rights said in its statement, calling the upgrade premature.

Thailand's Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai said the government was happy to see its efforts rewarded and planned to work harder.

"We are pleased today that all the efforts of the past year culminated into a certain degree of success," he told a news conference Friday. "I'm determined to work vigorously in order to rid the country of this modern slavery."

Investigators: US lab worker in Colorado faked test results

DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A worker at a federal laboratory in Colorado intentionally manipulated test results for years, possibly tainting research that includes toxic metals in the Everglades, uranium near the Grand Canyon and coal in Afghanistan, investigators say.

The falsified data from a U.S. Geological Survey lab may have affected 24 coal, water and environmental research projects costing a total of \$108 million, according to a report released recently by the Interior Department's inspector general.

USGS spokeswoman Anne-Berry Wade said Thursday the agency isn't sure why the employee falsified the results of chemical analyses but said it wasn't for personal gain or "any nefarious reason."

A notice on a USGS website said the manipulation was done in part to correct calibration failures in the instrument being used, a mass spectrometer.

Wade said USGS had taken action against the employee but declined to say what it was, citing privacy rules. She also declined to say whether the employee was still working for USGS or to release his name.

Wade said any request for a criminal investigation would be made by the inspector general's office. Officials in Washington and Denver didn't immediately return after-hours phone calls Thursday.

The manipulation occurred between 2008 and 2014 at the USGS Energy Geochemistry Laboratory in the Denver suburb of Lakewood, the inspector general said. The test samples were mostly coal and water.

The researchers whose test data may have been manipulated were notified, according to the report dated June 15. Wade said one USGS report that used the falsified data was retracted, revised and republished. A second USGS report was revised before it was published.

The laboratory is part of the USGS Energy Resources Program, which studies potential energy sources around the world. The program made headlines two weeks ago when it said western Colorado contained 40 times more natural gas than previously thought, making it the second-largest gas formation in the country. There was no indication that report relied on the falsified data.

Researchers around the world rely on USGS data, and it often shapes laws, regulations and policy. The inspector general's report said the bad data from the Colorado lab could erode confidence in the entire USGS.

Wade said the USGS doesn't believe the tainted data affected any decisions by lawmakers or regulators.

"We can only hope that this incident won't have a long-lasting effect on the agency's reputation," she said.

USGS managers halted all work at the laboratory when they discovered the manipulation in late 2014, Wade said. In February 2016 the agency permanently closed the section of the lab that was involved.

The inspector general's report raised questions about why the problem went undetected for so long, saying employees were suspicious of the lab's work for years. Wade said a new lab director took over in 2014 and decided to look into the suspicions.

Investigators previously found that mass spectrometer operators in the same lab violated standards between 1996 and 2008. Investigators said the operators were making excessive adjustments in instrument readings to compensate for calibration problems.

APNewsBreak: Union to strike against Trump Taj Mahal casino

WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Still seething from the cancellation of its members' health insurance and pension benefits nearly two years ago, Atlantic City's main casino workers union said early Friday it will go on strike against the Trump Taj Mahal casino.

Local 54 of the Unite-HERE union told The Associated Press that it was unable to reach agreement on a new contract with the Taj Mahal, which is owned by billionaire investor Carl Icahn. The walkout involving about 1,000 union members is scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. Friday.

"As a result, nearly a thousand cooks, housekeepers, bellmen and servers from the Trump Taj Mahal will walk off the job this morning ahead of the industry's biggest holiday weekend to fight for decent wages, basic benefits and the future of their middle class livelihoods," the union said in a statement issued early Friday.

The labor disruption comes on the critical July 4 weekend, among the busiest of the year for Atlantic City casinos. It was not immediately clear whether the Taj Mahal planned to press management into service, hire temporary replacement workers, or some combination of both.

The Taj Mahal was the only one of the five casinos targeted by the union that was unable to reach a new deal.

It enraged workers during its most recent spin through bankruptcy court in October 2014 when it got a judge to allow it to cancel health and pension benefits, deeming them unaffordable to the struggling casino.

The Taj Mahal was opened and once run by Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, but the bankruptcy filing and the benefit terminations happened five years after he had relinquished control of the casino and its parent company, Trump Entertainment Resorts, that both bore his name.

Aside from a 10 percent stake in the company for the use of his name that was wiped out in bankruptcy, Trump had no involvement with the company since 2009.

On Thursday, the union struck deals with three casinos owned by Caesars Entertainment (Bally's, Caesars, and Harrah's) as well as the Tropicana, which, like the Taj Mahal, is owned by Icahn.

Icahn kept the Taj Mahal afloat during its bankruptcy, and took it over in March. He repeatedly threatened to withdraw financial support for the casino and force it to close if he was forced to restore health and pension benefits.

The clash between Icahn and Local 54 leadership, particularly its president, Bob McDevitt, has grown

acrimonious and intensely personal. Icahn has likened McDevitt and the union to extortionists, while the union president has called Icahn "a cancer" that needs to be cut out of Atlantic City.

Icahn did not immediately respond to a request for comment early Friday.

The company gave union members a cash stipend to buy health care on the private market or through the government-run Affordable Care Act, but many say it does not come close to the actual cost of obtaining insurance.

Borgata, Golden Nugget and Resorts were not targeted by the union, and are not affected by the strike.

The union says it recouped a good portion of givebacks it handed the casinos in past negotiations when their financial condition was worse. In the aftermath of four of the 12 casinos shutting down in 2014, there is less competition for the surviving eight casinos, which are seeing their bottom lines begin to stabilize.

The last time Local 54 waged a strike, in 2004, the walkout lasted 34 days.

Are we overusing the tribute of flying flag at half-staff?

JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly every day, somewhere in the country, the Stars and Stripes was lowered to half-staff last year in one of the most significant official gestures of mourning and respect, an Associated Press analysis found.

The centuries-old practice can be a visible, public answer to extraordinary loss, as when more than four dozen people were killed last month at a gay nightclub in Florida. But as the nation marks Independence Day on Monday, flag buffs have noted that the honor has been extended more widely over time, including to celebrities and police dogs. And some have questioned whether the country has lowered the bar on the lowering of the flag.

"It can be a very powerful symbol, but it can also be overdone to the point that it loses its significance," said John Hartvigsen, president of the North American Vexillological Association, a flag aficionados' group. "You can't spell everything out about this in rules and regulations, because it has so much to do with emotion."

The U.S. Flag Code allows presidents and governors to lower flags for officials, military members and certain occasions, though some states have their own broader policies. And even as some states have moved to tighten their rules, others faced criticism for withholding the tribute.

The AP's analysis of proclamations from 50 state governors and the federal government found the Stars and Stripes were lowered at least someplace in the country on 328 days during 2015.

Eight states had orders lowering the U.S. flag in effect over more than 30 days; Massachusetts led all others, keeping the flag at half-staff for over a quarter of the year, including on the Fourth of July.

Among the hundreds honored were victims of extremist attacks, fallen soldiers, long-serving politicians and such celebrities as baseball legend Yogi Berra.

Those honored last year alone with a half-staff U.S. flag include five Georgia Southern University nursing students killed in a car wreck and a Downey, California, police officer shot in his car in a police parking lot in an alleged robbery attempt. Flags were lowered for a Missouri state official who was running for governor when he killed himself after a radio ad mocked his appearance, and for an Oklahoma state road worker who died helping to fill a sinkhole. One honoree was a police dog shot in Ohio.

Who gets honored, and when, can be controversial. Recent years saw tension over lowering flags nationwide for former South African President Nelson Mandela and in New Jersey for the Grammy-

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 31 of 33

winning Whitney Houston .

Seeing half-staff flags on July Fourth last year jarred Amherst, Massachusetts, resident Larry Kelley, who felt the tribute — part of a 13-day honor for a state senator — “sends the wrong message” on the nation’s birthday.

“It just seemed to me to take away from the whole idea of lowering the flag,” said Kelley, adding that he’d have felt differently if the state were mourning a line-of-duty death or major public trauma. He initially didn’t even realize what the occasion was, until a reader of his local-issues blog filled him in.

Concerned that lowering flags frequently muted the impact, Kentucky decided in 2008 to recognize fallen local military members only on their burial days. Colorado established rules a few years ago spelling out what categories of people are honored statewide, including military members, state officials and police and firefighters who die on duty.

“It’s such an honor and a recognition for people, you never want to say no. But you can’t always say yes,” said Kathy Green, a spokeswoman for Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper. “So we had to set some parameters.”

But setting limits can be thorny.

Even denying flag honors to a convicted felon didn’t fly in Rhode Island. Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo initially declined to lower flags this year for longtime former Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci, a Republican-turned-independent who’d been convicted of corruption. Amid an outcry from Cianci fans, Raimondo changed her mind “out of respect for the office he held for 20 years.”

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican, took heat for not lowering flags after three local Marines were killed in a March 2015 helicopter crash during training off Florida. State policy reserved the honor for those killed in combat, but after veterans’ groups complained, Snyder reversed course.

To Wayne Luznicky, a Vietnam War veteran who leads the Marine Corps League’s Grand Rapids detachment, the episode encapsulated muddled impulses about who gets honored and who doesn’t.

“Where are the priorities?” he asked.

Looking at the uneven landscape, the Pittsburgh-based National Flag Foundation plans to craft half-staff guidelines to circulate to governors.

Still, even experts say flag etiquette is, to some extent, a personal code.

“The way you honor the flag,” Hartvigsen said, “is the way you live as a citizen.”

Asian shares rise as low interest rates fuel buying

TERESA CERJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Asian shares mostly rose Friday with investors remaining in a buying mood amid low interest rates and after world markets recovered their losses from Britain’s vote to leave the European Union a week ago.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan’s Nikkei 225 rose 0.7 percent to 15,679.85. China’s Shanghai Composite index was up 0.3 percent to 2,939.20. Australia’s S&P ASX 200 index gained 0.5 percent to 5,261.80. South Korea’s KOSPI jumped 0.9 percent to 1,988.51. Southeast Asian markets were mostly up. The Hong Kong market was closed for holiday.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: “In a testimony to the influence of low interest rates, world share markets have recovered nearly all their Brexit losses,” said Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at CMC Markets. “Investors are willing to park money in equities and take the odds to potential risks that which may not emerge for several months or even years.”

WALL STREET GAINS: U.S. stocks finished higher for the third day in a row Thursday after the steep

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 32 of 33

slump that followed Britain's vote. While the rally suggests that traders' anxiety over Britain's departure from the EU have eased, a surge in U.S. bond prices Thursday signaled many investors remain cautious about the possible long-term implications. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 235.31 points, or 1.3 percent, to 17,929.99. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 28.09 points, or 1.4 percent, to 2,098.86. The Nasdaq composite added 63.43 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,842.67.

OIL: U.S. crude gained 30 cents at \$48.63 a barrel in electronic trading in the New York. On Thursday it fell \$1.55, closing at \$48.33 a barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, was up 36 cents at \$50.07, recovering from a 93 cents loss the previous day, when it closed at \$49.68 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 102.92 yen after closing at 103.11 yen on Thursday. The euro slipped to \$1.1102 from 1.1106 the previous day.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 1, the 183rd day of 2016. There are 183 days left in the year. This is Canada Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1966, the Medicare federal insurance program went into effect.

On this date:

In 1535, Sir Thomas More went on trial in England, charged with high treason for rejecting the Oath of Supremacy. (More was convicted, and executed.)

In 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

In 1916, during World War I, France and Britain launched the Somme Offensive against the German army; the 4 1/2-month battle resulted in heavy casualties and produced no clear winner. Dwight D. Eisenhower married Mary ("Mamie") Geneva Doud in Denver.

In 1934, Hollywood began enforcing its Production Code subjecting motion pictures to censorship review.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1961, Diana, the princess of Wales, was born in Sandringham, England. (She died in a 1997 car crash in Paris at age 36.)

In 1974, the president of Argentina, Juan Peron, died; he was succeeded by his wife, Isabel Martinez de Peron.

In 1980, "O Canada" was proclaimed the national anthem of Canada.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, beginning an ultimately successful confirmation process marked by allegations of sexual harassment. The Warsaw Pact formally disbanded. Actor Michael Landon, 54, died in Malibu, California.

In 1996, actress Margaux Hemingway was found dead in her Santa Monica, California, apartment; she was 42.

In 2004, actor Marlon Brando died in Los Angeles at age 80.

Ten years ago: Thunderstorms forced NASA to call off the launch of Discovery, delaying the first space shuttle flight in a year. (Discovery was launched three days later, on the Fourth of July.) A huge car

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July, 2016 ♦ Vol. 23 - No. 001 ♦ 33 of 33

bomb exploded at a bustling outdoor market in a Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) district of Baghdad, killing more than 60 people.

Five years ago: Leon Panetta took over as U.S. secretary of defense after 2½ years as director of the CIA. Six weeks after ex-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger revealed that he'd fathered a child with a member of his household staff, Maria Shriver filed divorce papers seeking to end their 25-year marriage. The Minnesota state government shut down after legislators could not agree on a budget; the shutdown lasted nearly three weeks. The NBA locked out its players, a long-expected move that put the 2011-12 season in jeopardy. (The lockout ended in Dec. 2011 with the adoption of a new collective bargaining agreement.)

One year ago: After more than a half-century of hostility, the United States and Cuba declared they would reopen embassies in each other's capitals, marking a historic full restoration of diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes. Episcopalians voted overwhelmingly at their General Convention in Salt Lake City to allow religious weddings for same-sex couples. San Francisco resident Kate Steinle, 32, was fatally shot in the back while walking along the city's popular waterfront; shooting suspect Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, a Mexican national who was in the U.S. illegally, pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in a case that rekindled the national debate over illegal immigration.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Olivia de Havilland is 100. Actress-dancer Leslie Caron is 85. Actress Jean Marsh is 82. Actor Jamie Farr is 82. Bluesman James Cotton is 81. Actor David Prowse is 81. Cook-iemaker Wally Amos is 80. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 75. Actress Genevieve Bujold is 74. Rock singer-actress Deborah Harry is 71. Movie-TV producer-director Michael Pressman is 66. Actor Daryl Anderson is 65. Actor Trevor Eve is 65. Actor Terrence Mann is 65. Rock singer Fred Schneider (B-52's) is 65. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 65. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 64. Actress Lorna Patterson is 60. Actor Alan Ruck is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 56. Olympic gold medal track star Carl Lewis is 55. Country singer Michelle Wright is 55. Actor Andre Braugher is 54. Actor Dominic Keating is 54. Actress Pamela Anderson is 49. Rock musician Mark Pirro is 46. Rock musician Fanny Griffiths (Space) is 46. Actor Henry Simmons is 46. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 45. Actress Julianne Nicholson is 45. Actress Melissa Peterman is 45. Rock musician Bryan Devendorf (The National) is 41. Actor Thomas Sadoski is 40. Actress Liv Tyler is 39. Bluegrass musician Adam Haynes (Dailey & Vincent) is 37. Actress Hilarie Burton is 34. Actress Lynsey Bartilson is 33. Actress Lea Seydoux (LEE'-uh say-DOO') is 31. Actor Evan Ellingson is 28. Actors Andrew and Steven Cavanaugh are 24.

Thought for Today: "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." — L.P. Hartley, British author (1895-1972).