

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, July 4

Pool Hours: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
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

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

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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**



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Lucy's Knees

In 1974 in Ethiopia's Awash Valley, a 3.2 million year-old skeleton of an ape was discovered that was different than other ape skeletons. The knee bone shape, along with pelvic architecture, indicated that this ape walked upright. As the Beatles music "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" was playing in the background, archeologists speculated that this could be the long sought link between apes and humans, and the upright walking individual was famously nicknamed "Lucy." Her brain was small and ape-like but she walked upright.

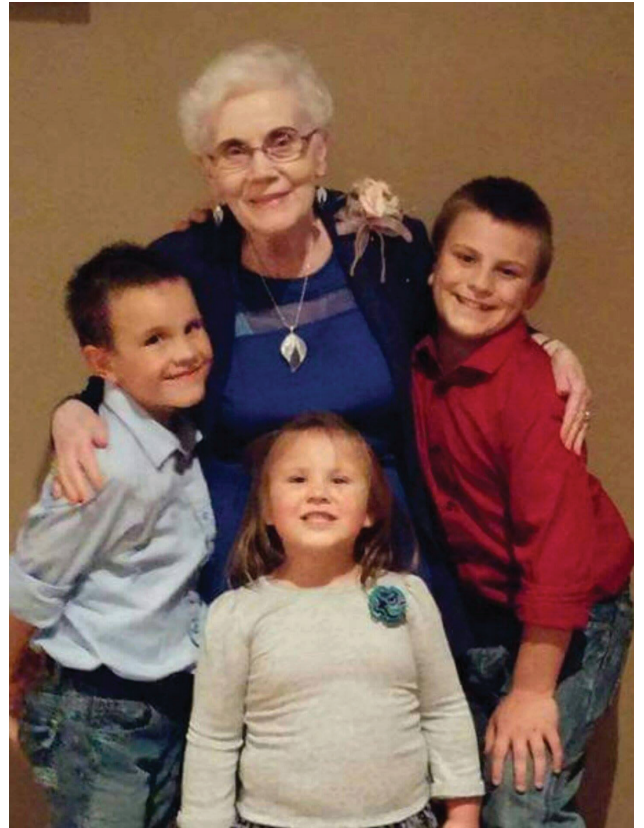
This was evidence that the upright position might have come first. They speculated that standing tall allowed for the evolutionary advantage of having a better view of approaching enemy or mate and all the rest followed. Could it be that the special design of an upright knee allowed for the first big step toward the evolution of humanity? And what is so special about this design?

The knee is a hinge joint mostly held together with four ligaments. The two "collateral" ligaments run along the inner and outer sides of the knee keeping our legs from bending inward (knock-kneed) or outward (bowlegged).

The more noteworthy structures however are the two tough fibrous ribbon ligaments, which cross each other, front to back, on the inside of the knee forming an "X." This explains why they are called the cruciate or cross-like ligaments.

The anterior cruciate ligament or ACL starts at the back of the thighbone or femur above, crosses to connect at the front of the shinbone or tibia below, and keeps the lower leg from sliding forward. The posterior cruciate ligament or PCL starts at the front of the thighbone, crosses to the back of the shinbone, and keeps the lower leg from sliding backward.

What is so ingenious is how these crossing ribbons provide for such stability, and yet at the same time, allow for the bending of the knee. So it is as Gerard Manley Hopkins the Priest poet said: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God."



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.

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NSU awards WolfPACT Scholarships for 2016-17

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., announces its WolfPACT Scholarship winners for 2016-17.

The WolfPACT is the largest guaranteed, four-year scholarship in South Dakota. Students entering their freshman year at NSU are eligible for various funding amounts based on their ACT scores.

\$12,000 (President's Meritorious Scholarship):

Groton, S.D.

Megan Unzen, Groton Area High School; Jake and Tiffany Unzen; special education

\$7,000:

Groton, S.D.

Kelsey Iverson, Groton Area High School; Karry and the late John Iverson; secondary education

Jasmine Schaller, Groton Area High School; Steven Schaller and Julie Schaller; psychology

\$5,000:

Groton, S.D.

Kari Hanson, Groton Area High School; Lars and Kelli Hanson; music education

Aldous Ulvog, Central High School; Eric Ulvog and Kelly Knispel; music

Carly Wheeting, Groton Area High School; John and Chris Wheeting; elementary education/special education

Langford, S.D.

Jordan Carson, Langford High School; Dave and Lisa Carson; education/secondary math/coaching

Alcohol Sales Policy Set for State Universities

MADISON, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents has adopted a new policy regulating sale of beer and wine on public university campuses, but only at campuses that elect to do so, and even then, only at certain events as authorized by the board's policy.

The board took final action approving the policy, which comes into play once a new state law takes effect Friday (July 1). Earlier this year, state lawmakers approved Senate Bill 102 to allow alcohol sales in limited circumstances subject to regents' policies. Under that law, periodic sales may be authorized for occasional, scheduled, or special events involving the performing arts, intercollegiate athletics, fundraising, receptions, or conferences.

"This new policy allows, but does not require, public universities to permit the sale of beer and wine at certain events in restricted spaces with controlled access," said Mike Rush, the regents' executive director and CEO. In the case of student athletic events, Rush said beer and wine may only be sold in specially designated box seat or loge areas and not in the general admission areas. Restrictions also are in place for any sales at pre-game events, such as tailgating venues.

An institution that decides to allow sale of beer and wine at certain events must develop its own policy providing for an institutional permit process, Rush said. That process could apply more restrictive terms and conditions before a permit is issued. The new policy also requires each university to submit an annual report to the Board of Regents describing what events were permitted on campus.

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This Fourth of July is a Time to Reflect on What's Important

Jean and I are blessed to have all eight of our grandkids nearby. They all live within a few minutes of our home in Ft. Pierre and we are fortunate to spend time with them most weekends. Among many other blessings they bring, they are also a constant reminder that the policy decisions being made today determine the kind of future we will leave for them.

With election season underway and near-constant media coverage of presidential politics, it can often be frustrating when the focus seems to be on hair or pantsuits, rather than the policy issues that will lead to a more prosperous future. Even my young grandchildren are put off by the tone, and thankfully they prefer riding around on the lawnmower or "four wheeling" on the golf cart with me. The reality is, we are facing serious issues and the important discussions need to be prioritized. We ought to be talking about the problems we face, and more importantly, the solutions that need to be pursued.

Independence Day is a good time to reflect on these issues. On July 4, 2026, just 10 years away, America turns 250 years old. As Americans, we will celebrate a historic time in the greatest country in the world. At the same time, our 250th birthday brings to bear a dangerous situation that we can forecast today. In 2026, it is projected that 99 percent of our taxpayer dollars will be spent on two categories: entitlement spending and interest on the national debt. That begs the important question: where will we get the money to spend on other critical items like national defense, roads and bridges, education or medical research? The crisis is not ten years down the road - it is right now. If we begin focusing on these problems today, we can address these challenges together. If we kick the can down the road, 2026 will be historic, but not in a good way.

Some in Congress are consistent in promoting higher taxes and more "free stuff." Those plans inflate an already bloated federal bureaucracy, add to the federal debt and stifle job growth. Conversely, others in Congress simply support lowering taxes. Economically speaking, the solution is more complex.

We need tax reform that will provide an environment where businesses want to invest in America, rather than create jobs overseas and keep profits overseas. We need to limit the federal rule-making process that unfairly punishes job creators and restricts capital. Congress must regain its role as the lawmaking body--not D.C. bureaucrats. We need the courage to address entitlement reform so that we can save important programs like Social Security. We need to recognize that the best decisions are made at the local level of government, not in Washington, D.C. Lastly, we need to reduce the size of the federal government, and streamline it through strategic reductions.

Small victories are important and we're seeing some success in the U.S. Senate. We're moving more legislation through the committees than we have in the past eight years. We're making progress, but we have a long way to go. In the meantime, we all need to keep our focus on the problems facing America so we can work together to find solutions. We'll have a new president next year, and the leadership philosophy he or she brings will greatly impact what America looks like on our 250th birthday. I think all of us can agree on one thing: we want to leave this country better for our kids and grandkids.

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Laura Ingalls Wilder's The Long Winter Pageant At De Smet

"Something's queer. Not a goose or a duck on the lake. Not one on the slough. None in sight. They are flying high above the clouds, flying fast. Caroline, every kind of bird is flying south as fast and as high as they can," Charles Pa Ingalls reported to Ma and the girls in the book *The Long Winter*.

In October of 1879, the winter that would last through April was about to begin. The Long Winter is a description of survival, of making do, sharing and being thankful for simple things. There is a happy ending which makes this an enjoyable true story that Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of *The Long Winter* lived.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant is set on the open prairie just southeast of De Smet. On a nearby hill, the cottonwoods that Pa planted rattle their leaves in the evening breeze. A meadowlark often sings its song perched on a nearby wire fence. Horse-drawn wagons give visitors rides around the pageant grounds.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant is 45 years old and is presented by a volunteer cast and crew. It takes dedication and many volunteers to put the pageant on the stage year after year.

This year's director is a local girl, Laurie (Cramer) Husmann, now of Houston, Texas. She is a pageant veteran who has filled various roles, including Laura. Husman is a South Dakota State University and a University of South Dakota graduate who is employed in theater at Houston.

This year's pageant is scheduled July 8-10, July 15-17 and July 22-24. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. There is lots of bench seating, but you are welcome to bring lawn chairs. Don't forget a jacket.

For more information, email desmetpageant@gmail.com or call 800-776-3594 or 800-880-3383.

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Fri., July 8, 10-3

Sat., July 9, 10-3



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TODAY I DECLARE MY FREEDOM
IN CHRIST FROM ANYTHING
THAT HAS BOUND OR LIMITED ME.

H
B
M



This past Sunday at Heaven Bound Ministires in Pierpont, I had selected various scripture readings about freedom in Christ. The response to the readings was very positive, so in tribute to the Fourth of July and about our Freedom in Christ, I am sharing these readings with you. Enjoy and have a Christ-filled day.

Paul Irvin Kosel, Pastor, HBM

Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-26: Freedom in Christ

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithful-

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ness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Reading 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

¹² Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. ¹³ We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. ¹⁶ But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Third Reading: Philippians 3:1-2, 15-21

¹ Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Just a Pinch

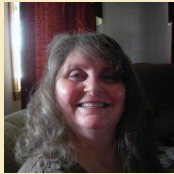


Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe

Festive Strawberry Shortcake Red, White & Blue Bites

“Pop into your mouth and enjoy!”



Catherine Thompson Floyd
Burlington, MI (pop. 261)

Need a dessert for July 4th? Try Catherine Thompson Floyd's easy Strawberry Shortcake Red, White & Blue Bites. These sweet little bites made my taste buds happy and I'm sure your friends will love them too. Sponge cake and strawberries combine to make one tasty filling. Plus, they're no bake! A perfect summertime dessert.

See step-by-step photos of Catherine's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at:

www.justapinch.com/shortcakebites

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...

-Janet

Strawberry Shortcake Bites



What You Need

- 18-24 large strawberries
- 1 c ready made strawberry shortcake sponge cake, more or less
- 1 can whipped cream (or fresh whipped cream, if desired)
- 18-24 blueberries, fresh

Directions

- Clean strawberries and blueberries.
- Set blueberries aside.
- Pare off stem tops of strawberries.
- Using a paring knife or melon baller, scoop out inside flesh of the strawberries.
- Put in strawberry flesh into bowl.

- Dice or shred cakes into small bits and add to strawberry flesh in bowl. Stir.
- Stuff the strawberries with cake mixture.
- Top with whipped cream and add a blueberry.
- Enjoy!

Submitted by: Catherine Thompson Floyd, Burlington, MI (pop. 261)

www.justapinch.com/shortcakebites

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- 2 (5 oz.) Filet Mignons
- 2 (5 oz.) Top Sirloins
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- 2 Boneless Chicken Breasts (.5 lb. pkg.)
- 4 (3 oz.) Kielbasa Sausages
- 2 (4.5 oz.) Stuffed Sole with Scallops & Crabmeat
- 12 oz. pkg. All-Beef Meatballs
- 4 (3 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet
- 46191FJT

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Today in Weather History

July 4, 1936: Several record highs were seen on this day, including; 113 degrees 4NW of Gann Valley; 111 in Murdo; 107 in Castlewood; 106 in Clark and Highmore; 105 near Onida; 104 in Faulkton and Miller; 103 degrees 6SE of McIntosh; 101 in Pollock.

July 4, 1988: Several record highs were set on this day, including; 103 degrees in Ipswich and Britton; 102 in Webster; 101 in Summit and Artichoke Lake, MN; 99 in Leola; 98 degrees in Clear Lake and Waubay.

1776 - Thomas Jefferson paid for his first thermometer, and signed the Declaration of Independence. According to his weather memorandum book, at 2 PM it was cloudy and 76 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1911 - The northeastern U.S. experienced sweltering 100 degree heat. The temperature soared to 105 degrees at Vernon, VT, and North Bridgton ME, and to 106 degrees at Nashua NH, to establish all-time records for those three states. Afternoon highs of 104 at Boston, MA, 104 at Albany, NY, and 103 at Portland, ME, were all-time records for those three cities. (The Weather Channel)

1956 - A world record for the most rain in one minute was set at Unionville, MD, with a downpour of 1.23 inches. (The Weather Channel) (The National Severe Storms Forecast Center)

1987 - Thunderstorms around the country provided extra fireworks for Independence Day. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 82 mph at Clearwater, KS, eight inches of rain in four hours at Menno SD, and three inches of rain in just fifteen minutes at Austin, KY. Morning thunderstorms drenched Oneonta AL with 8.6 inches of rain, their greatest 24 hour total in thirty years of records. The heavy rain caused mudslides and serious flooding, claiming two lives. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain over the Central Gulf Coast Region for the second day in a row. Monroe, LA, was deluged with 3.75 inches in two hours. Aberdeen and Rapid City, SD, reported record high temperatures for the date, with readings of 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Independence Day was hot as a firecracker across parts of the country. Nineteen cities, mostly in the north central U.S., reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston ND with a reading of 107 degrees. In the southwestern U.S., highs of 93 at Alamosa, CO, 114 at Tucson, AZ, and 118 at Phoenix, AZ, equalled all-time records for those locations. (The National Weather Summary)

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Independence
Day



Hot

High: 92 °F

Tonight



Scattered
T-storms

Low: 64 °F

Tuesday



Scattered
T-storms

High: 86 °F

Tuesday
Night



Slight Chance
T-storms

Low: 61 °F

Wednesday



Chance
Showers

High: 84 °F

Wednesday
Night



Chance
T-storms

Low: 62 °F

Thursday



Chance
T-storms

High: 80 °F

Happy 4th of July!



Highs in the 90s

A few late afternoon
thunderstorms possible



weather.gov/Aberdeen

Issued: July 4, 2016 4:45 am

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

Isolated evening thunderstorms

possible over mainly
northeastern SD and west
central MN



**WHEN THUNDER ROARS
GO INDOORS!**

lightningsafety.noaa.gov

Published on: 07/04/2016 at 5:07AM

Happy 4th of July! It will be a warm one, with highs in the 90s. A few late afternoon thunderstorms will be possible. Isolated strong to possibly severe thunderstorms will be possible over the area this tonight, especially across northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota this evening. As a reminder, When Thunder Roars Go Indoors! If out viewing fireworks, and a sturdy fully-enclosed building is not available, a vehicle will be a safe shelter from lightning strikes. Keep up to date on the latest forecast, and know where you would go if a strong or severe thunderstorm develops later this afternoon or tonight.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 82.7 F at 4:14 PM

Heat Index: 83.0 at 4:14 PM

Low Outside Temp: 53.4 F at 5:58 AM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 1:52 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1988

Record Low: 40 in 1967

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.42

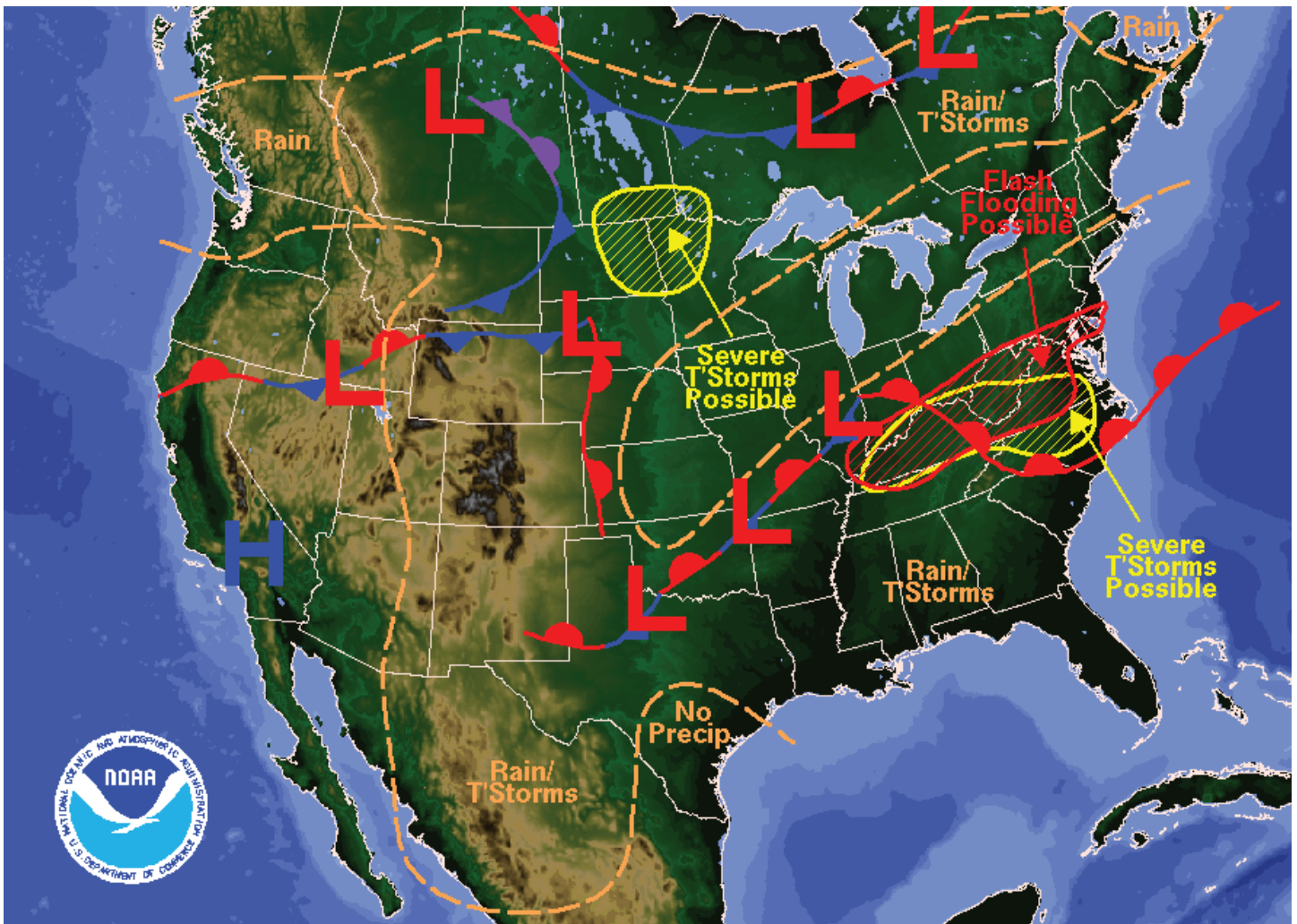
Precip to date in July: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 11.26

Precip Year to Date: 6.66

Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Jul 04, 2016, issued 4:26 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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COURAGE!

Anne Lindbergh was a highly respected author as well as an aviator. Once, while visiting with a Japanese friend, she remarked "I understand that the Japanese honor the bamboo for prosperity and the pine for long life. But why is the plum honored for courage?"

"Because," replied her friend, "the plum puts forth blossoms while the snow is on the ground. That takes courage."

Courage is not the absence of fear - it is the willingness to face fear. It is not avoiding danger and hardship because we do not want what may come from them - but the determination to face danger and hardship with confidence and resolution. Courage is our willingness to accept new surroundings and situations knowing that God is with us, will protect us and provide for our safety and security if we go forward in His strength.

Think of Joshua. He was responsible to lead two million people into a strange new land and conquer it. The words strange and new are enough of a warning to frighten most of us and cause us to withdraw from a situation in fear. But that was not an option for him. Many tasks God calls us to do are challenging, frightening and appear overwhelming. But God will not put us in any situation without giving us the strength and skills to succeed. When God calls us to battle He equips us to win.

Prayer: Give us the faith and trust, Heavenly Father, to know that You love us too much to abandon us or will neglect to prepare us for every challenge we face. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Joshua 1:6

News from the Associated Press

No spots left for annual 109-mile Mickelson Trail Trek

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Biking enthusiasts who haven't already signed up for the annual 109-mile Mickelson Trail Trek are out of luck.

All spots for the three-day event that's scheduled to begin Sept. 16 have been taken.

The trek highlights the George S. Mickelson Trail as it winds through the heart of the Black Hills from Edgemont to Lead-Deadwood. The annual event began as a celebration of the completion of the rails-to-trails project and continues as a way to introduce new riders to the trail.

The trail, which was completed in 1998, is 109 miles long and contains more than 100 converted railroad bridges and 4 rock tunnels.

Firefighters contain half of Crow Peak blaze

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Firefighters have contained about half of blaze that has consumed nearly 3,000 acres in the Black Hills National Forest.

A June 24 lightning strike started the blaze on Crow Peak west of Spearfish. As of Sunday morning it had consumed 2,733 acres but no structures had been lost. Firefighters had contained about 50 percent of the fire and expected to achieve complete containment by midnight. Officials say 407 people are battling the fire and 51 firefighters have been treated for poison ivy.

Crow Peak is a key landmark in the Northern Black Hills and has a popular hiking trail. Officials say area businesses, campgrounds and recreation sites in the Northern Black Hills remain open for the Fourth of July holiday weekend, but Crow Peak is still closed.

Man gets more than 19 years in prison for meth ring

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A convicted felon has been sentenced to more than 19 years in prison for possessing a gun and distributing methamphetamine in South Dakota.

The 53-year-old Martin Purdom, of Ephrata, Washington, has been sentenced in federal court in Rapid City after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute meth and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

The office of South Dakota's U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Purdom was involved in distributing more than 500 grams — over 17 ounces — of methamphetamine in the state between July 2014 and April 2015.

Authorities say Purdom was also found in possession of a pistol in March 2015 even though he was banned from having a weapon because of a previous felony conviction.

Purdom is under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Wind Cave National Park ranger marks 50th season this summer

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. (AP) — A Wind Cave National Park ranger is marking his 50th season with the Park Service this summer.

Ranger Don Frankfort has worked 49 summers at Wind Cave National Park and a winter season at the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. He got an offer for his first summer job at Wind Cave via telegram in 1967.

The National Park Service estimates that Frankfort has led around 5,200 tours through the cave guiding more than 100,000 people.

The New York City resident says he still enjoys “making the experience exciting, fun, and memorable” for visitors.

The cave in western South Dakota is one of the longest and most complex in the world. The park is home to bison, elk and other wildlife.

Kevin Durant announces he will join Golden State Warriors

CLIFF BRUNT, AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant is joining All-Stars Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson with the Golden State Warriors.

Durant made the decision public on The Players’ Tribune Monday morning. He can’t officially sign until July 7.

His decision has been the most highly anticipated move of the summer. The 2014 MVP and four-time scoring champion led the Oklahoma City Thunder to the NBA Finals in 2012, and to the Western Conference finals in four of the past six years — and he’s only 27. He recovered from a broken bone in his right foot that cost him much of last season to post one of the best years of his career.

Durant met with the Thunder, Warriors, Los Angeles Clippers, Boston Celtics, San Antonio Spurs and Miami Heat.

Iraq: Death toll from IS-claimed bombing climbs to 157

SINAN SALAHEDDIN, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The death toll from the truck bombing at a bustling Baghdad commercial street rose to 157 on Monday, Iraqi authorities said, as Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered new security measures in the capital.

The attack early Sunday, claimed by the Islamic State group, was one of the worst single bombings in Iraq over more than a decade of war and insurgency. It underscored the IS group’s ability to strike the Iraqi capital despite a string of battlefield losses elsewhere in the country and fueled public anger toward the government.

The suicide bomber blew up his explosives-laden vehicle in Baghdad’s mostly Shiite Karada district, a favorite destination for shoppers — especially during the holy month of Ramadan. The streets and sidewalks were filled with young people and families after they had broken their daylight fast.

Police and health officials said Monday the toll reached 157 but that it was likely to increase even further as rescuers are still looking for missing people. Officials said at least twelve people are confirmed missing. At least 190 people were wounded, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

A string of smaller bombings elsewhere in Baghdad on Monday killed 10 people and wounded 31, the officials said.

In a statement issued Sunday evening, al-Abadi ordered security forces to stop using a repeatedly-discredited hand-held bomb detection device. He also ordered the reopening of an investigation on the procurement of the British-made electronic wands, called ADE 651s.

In 2010, British authorities arrested the director of the British company ATSC Ltd. on fraud charges, prompting Iraqis to open their own investigation into alleged corruption. Iraqi authorities made some arrests, but the investigation went nowhere and the device remained in use.

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On Monday evening, Associated Press reporters saw a number of the devices still being used at checkpoints around the capital.

Al-Abadi also ordered that X-ray systems be installed at the entrances of provinces. He demanded the upgrade of the capital's security belt, increased aerial scanning and stepped-up intelligence efforts.

Iraqi and foreign officials have linked the recent increase in IS attacks — especially large-scale suicide bombings — with the string of battlefield losses the extremist group has faced over the past year.

Iraqi security forces, supported by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, have retaken the cities of Tikrit, Ramadi and Fallujah.

At the height of the extremist group's power in 2014, IS had deprived the government of control of nearly one third of Iraqi territory. Now the militants are estimated to control only 14 percent, according to the prime minister's office. IS still controls Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city.

Some former hostages being questioned over Bangladesh attack

NEW DELHI (AP) — Some of the hostages rescued from the weekend attack on an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital were questioned Monday by investigators searching for clues about the possible masterminds behind the gruesome attack that left 28 dead, including many foreigners.

Authorities were still holding five of the 13 hostages rescued when commandos stormed the restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone Saturday morning, killing six of the attackers and capturing one, according to officials.

Bangladesh police chief A.K.M. Shahidul Haque said authorities would be interrogating two men, including a suspected militant, who were detained during Saturday's operation. He would not say whether either had been among those counted as hostages, only that they were being treated in a hospital for unspecified injuries.

A second official said the five former hostages still being held included a Canadian citizen of Bangladeshi origin and a Bangladesh-born British citizen. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorized to speak to the media about the ongoing investigation. The official said authorities were looking into the backgrounds of the five people and questioning their families and friends.

It was not clear if all five were suspects, or if they were being held and questioned simply because authorities thought they might offer useful information in tracing the origins of the attack.

The official confirmed investigators were also speaking with a third man described by local media as a Bangladeshi who was trapped inside the restaurant along with his wife and two children. The man, a teacher at a private university in Dhaka, had returned to Bangladesh recently after living nearly 20 years in Britain.

Some photographs and several crude videos taken from an apartment near the Holey Artisan Bakery show the man talking to someone while attackers allowed him to leave before paramilitary forces launched the rescue operation on Saturday. The man's friends and police also said the one of the attackers was a student in the same department at the university where the man teaches.

The brutality of the attack — the worst convulsion of violence yet in the recent series of deadly attacks to hit Bangladesh — has stunned the traditionally moderate Muslim nation and raised global concerns about whether it can cope with increasingly strident Islamist militants.

That the attackers targeted a popular restaurant in the heart of the diplomatic quarter of Bangladesh's capital signaled a shift in militant tactics. Previously, most attacks were carried out by gangs of young men wielding cleavers and machetes and hacking individual victims before fleeing.

The Daily Star newspaper on Monday said the bloody hostage crisis had left "the nation shattered and with a sense of extreme unease." The editorial also criticized authorities' consistent denial of the pres-

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ence of any international terrorist groups, even as the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack and released gruesome photographs that apparently depicted the torture of hostages.

"The methods employed and the savagery with which the killings were carried out are hallmarks of international terrorist outfits like ISIS and al-Qaida. This is clear," the newspaper said. "What is not clear is whether, after such overwhelming evidence of their presence, the official line will be one of denial?"

Bangladesh police have said they are investigating whether the attackers had links to the Islamic State group, though the home minister insisted IS had no presence in Bangladesh and could not have guided the attack. The government has blamed the restaurant attack and other recent killings on domestic militants bent on imposing Islamic rule.

The Italian Foreign Ministry, after nine Italians were killed in the restaurant, posted travel advisories saying it could not exclude the possibility of further attacks in Bangladesh. The advisory urged people to exercise the "utmost prudence," particularly in places frequented by foreigners, and to limit their activities to only what was necessary.

Also, Indian police were checking vehicles crossing the border that five Indian states share with Bangladesh in case any militants were trying to flee, according to the head of India's Border Security Force.

On Monday, surrounded by tearful family members and a heavy security detail, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and diplomats from Italy, Japan and other countries laid flower wreaths beside the coffins holding the three Bangladeshi victims.

The coffins were draped in the Bangladeshi flag — a red disc on a green background. That of Emory University student Abinta Kabir, a Miami resident whose family confirmed she was a U.S. citizen, was also partially covered with a U.S. flag.

Two police officers and 17 other hostages — nine Italians, seven Japanese and one Indian — were killed. Those bodies were to be flown back to their home countries on Monday.

Family and friends of 19-year-old Tarishi Jain gathered in the New Delhi suburb of Gurgaon as her body arrived for a ceremonial cremation.

The stadium vigil was visited by hundreds of Dhaka residents, paying their respects to the victims.

The Italian ambassador and more than 100 other people attended a Catholic Mass in memory of the victims on Monday evening. Islamic prayer sessions and a candlelight vigil were to be held later in the evening.

Stocks dip in Europe amid thin trading, US shut for holiday

JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — European stock markets slipped Monday, despite gains earlier in Asia, as investors awaited more clarity on Britain's future outside the European Union and a U.S. holiday kept trading volumes thin.

KEEPING SCORE: Germany's DAX lost 0.5 percent to 9,726 and France's CAC 40 shed 0.7 percent to 4,242. Britain's FTSE 100 was down 0.7 percent at 6,533. While Wall Street was closed for the Fourth of July holiday, the Shanghai Composite Index rose 1.9 percent to 2,988.60 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.3 percent to 21,059.20. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.6 percent to 15,775.80 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.7 percent to 5,281.80.

POST-BREXIT STIMULUS: Investor sentiment was boosted last week by expectations the Bank of England and European Central Bank might provide monetary stimulus to shore up growth following Britain's vote and the U.S. Federal Reserve might postpone a rate hike. The top British central banker, Mark Carney, said that some form of stimulus "will likely be required over the summer" because the

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economic outlook has deteriorated.

EUROPEAN JITTERS: But the momentum in stock markets did not last in Europe, as the prospect of low interest rates for longer has hurt financial stocks. Banks take a hit to their earnings when interest rates are low, because they cannot lend money at higher, more profitable rates. Shares in Italian banks in particular are suffering because of concern about their ability to handle bad loans. There are also concerns about longer-term growth rates in Europe as uncertainty about Britain's exit lingers.

ANALYST QUOTE: "The recession we now expect in the U.K. will create an external demand shock for the euro area through trade linkages in goods and services," said Ruben Segura-Cayuela and Gilles Moec, economists at Bank of American Merrill Lynch. They expect "uncertainty spillovers" from the U.K. exit, mainly through lower business investment.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS: Close election results left Australia with the possibility of a hung Parliament. Vote counting was due to resume Tuesday and political analysts said it could be two weeks or more before a result is announced. "Markets will be concerned by the potential for a period of policy paralysis when it comes to budget and economic reform," Ric Spooner of CMC Markets said in a report.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude shed 1 cent to \$48.98 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 66 cents on Friday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dropped 6 cents to \$50.29 in London. It rose 64 cents the previous session.

CURRENCY: The dollar edged up to 102.61 yen from Friday's 102.49 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1135 from \$1.1139, and the pound was flat at \$1.3282.

4 Palestinian youths wounded in clash with Israeli troops

MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Four Palestinian youths were wounded in clashes early Monday with Israeli forces who were demolishing the West Bank homes of two assailants' families, a Palestinian health official said.

One of the four was seriously wounded, Ramallah hospital director Ahmad Bitawi said.

The Israeli military said troops were in the Qalandiya refugee camp demolishing the homes of the families of two Palestinians who stabbed and killed an Israeli near Jerusalem's Old City in December. The assailants in the December attack were shot and killed by Israeli guards, and a second Israeli died after apparently being shot mistakenly by police in the confusion.

During Monday's demolitions, Palestinian demonstrators opened fire on soldiers, the army said. Soldiers tried to disperse the crowd using stun grenades and rubber bullets, then opened fire toward the "main instigators," it said.

The clash came after a few days of increased violence. On Friday, a Palestinian gunman ambushed a family traveling in a car in the southern West Bank, killing an Israeli man and wounding his wife and two teenage children. The day before, a Palestinian teen stabbed a 13-year-old Israeli-American girl to death as she slept in her bedroom in a West Bank settlement.

The attacks prompted Israel to send hundreds of troops to the area and impose a closure on the Hebron district, where many of the recent attacks have originated. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also said Israel will reduce the amount of tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinians each month, saying it would offset money Palestinian officials give to families of attackers.

Also Monday, Israel's Shin Bet security agency said it has arrested two Palestinians who helped two Palestinian gunmen carry out a deadly shooting attack at a Tel Aviv cafe last month. The Shin Bet said the gunmen drew inspiration from the Islamic State group, but were not recruited to IS and did not receive training from it. Four Israelis were killed in the attack and others were wounded.

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Over the past nine months, Palestinians have carried out dozens of stabbings, shootings and attacks using cars against civilians and security forces, killing 34 Israelis and two visiting Americans. During the same period, Israeli troops as well as some armed civilians have killed about 200 Palestinians — most of them said by Israel to be attackers.

Israel says the violence is fueled by a Palestinian campaign of incitement, and a glorification of attacks by Palestinians on social media. Palestinians say the violence stems from frustration at nearly five decades of Israeli rule in territory they claim for a state.

Aide to China's former leader gets life in prison for bribes

DIDI TANG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A former top presidential aide and consummate Chinese political insider was sentenced Monday to life in prison for taking bribes, illegally obtaining state secrets and abusing his power in a downfall set off by an alleged cover-up of his son's death in a speeding Ferrari.

A court in the northern port city of Tianjin delivered the verdict against Ling Jihua nearly one month after the trial, which was held behind closed doors because the case involved state secrets, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Ling told the court he would not appeal, Xinhua said.

"I accept all charges and the verdict," Ling told the court in comments broadcast on China's main evening news. "I will not appeal the judgment pronounced by the chief judge."

Ling headed the ruling Communist Party's General Office under former President Hu Jintao, a position comparable to chief of staff for the U.S. president.

His fall has been a blow to the Youth League bloc within the party, which had centered around Hu and is seen as a contending force for Hu's successor, Xi Jinping. Members of the bloc in the top leadership have seen their powers diminished since Xi took over, said Willy Lam, an expert on Chinese elite politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

After the verdict, Ling made a "humble apology to the party and the authorities that have handled my case," according to video from the courtroom broadcast by state-run China Central Television.

He was shown expressing his gratitude to the court for "offering humanitarian care" of him. Chinese courts are controlled by the Communist Party.

Ling fell out of political favor in 2012, just ahead of a once-in-a-decade power transition, when he was allegedly involved in the cover-up of his son's death in a speeding Ferrari with two nude or half-dressed women as passengers.

In September of that year, shortly before Xi Jinping replaced Hu as party chief, Ling was transferred to the party's United Front Work Department in what was widely seen as a demotion.

Soon afterward, Ling lost his remaining positions within the party's upper echelon. In 2013 he was made a vice chairman of the powerless advisory body to China's ceremonial parliament.

While working at the United Front Work Department and on the parliament's advisory body, Ling obtained a large amount of state secrets through his contacts at the General Office, violating China's rules on state secrets, Xinhua said.

The Xinhua report on the verdict made no mention of Ling's brother, Ling Wancheng, who is believed to have fled to the United States with sensitive information about China's leadership and could deliver an intelligence windfall should he defect.

The New York Times reported that the Obama administration has rebuffed Chinese requests for Ling Wancheng's repatriation and has warned China about covert agents seeking his whereabouts on U.S. soil.

Lam, the political analyst, said Ling Jihua apparently had cooperated with the authorities and might have promised not to further divulge the secrets he obtained, since he was given only five years for illegally obtaining state secrets.

"The lenient treatment is in return for his cooperation not to divulge state secrets he might have given to Ling Wancheng," Lam said.

Ling was sentenced to life imprisonment for taking \$11.57 million in bribes, either directly or through his wife and son, Xinhua said. Those who bribed Ling included provincial party chiefs and prominent businesspeople.

Ling also was given four years in prison for having used his powers to obtain favors, such as job changes, promotions, and property purchases, for his associates, Xinhua said.

He came under investigation in late 2014 and was formally arrested in July 2015. He was indicted in May.

Israel's Netanyahu to be feted in Uganda during Africa tour

RODNEY MUHUMUZA, Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected in Uganda Monday for what is expected to be an emotional visit to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1976 Israeli military raid in which his brother was killed.

Netanyahu will be welcomed at Uganda's Entebbe Airport, a lakeside facility whose old terminal is where his brother, Yonatan, was struck by a bullet as he led Israeli commandos in a daring rescue mission to rescue hijacked Israeli passengers. Israel's success in the raid humiliated then-Ugandan President Idi Amin.

Four decades later, Uganda has good relations with Israel, which is courting allies to counter Palestine's rising influence at the United Nations. Also on his one-day visit to Uganda Netanyahu will attend a security-themed summit of regional leaders, including those from Kenya and Tanzania, said Don Wanyama, a spokesman for Uganda's president.

At Entebbe, there will be a formal ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of the Israeli rescue mission and Netanyahu will be given a tour of the airport's control tower, according to a draft schedule released by Uganda's government. In the evening there will be a state dinner honoring Netanyahu, before he leaves for Kenya.

Although the July 1976 rescue mission breached Uganda's territorial integrity, Amin, who had taken power by force and ruled as a dictator, had become an increasingly isolated figure and would soon be forced out of power with the help of Tanzanian forces. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni himself led one of several exile groups that waged a guerrilla war against Amin.

A lingering loathing of Amin, who was accused of many human rights atrocities and who died in Saudi Arabia in 2003, is one reason why many Ugandans today do not see the success of the Israeli raid — in which many Ugandan soldiers were killed and military equipment destroyed — as a disaster for Uganda. Yonatan was shot dead as he was helping the Israeli hostages who had been held inside the airport's old terminal back onto the plane. His death made Yonatan an Israeli hero, and thrust Netanyahu toward public life.

Still, some Ugandans say Netanyahu's historic visit should be a moment to mourn the Ugandan victims of the operation. Moses Ali, Uganda's deputy prime minister who served as a government minister under Amin, told Uganda's Daily Monitor newspaper that the rescue mission should not be celebrated by Ugandans.

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"If you are siding with Israelis, then you can celebrate because it was their victory," he said. "If you are not, then you should be mourning our dead ones."

Netanyahu will also be visiting Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia this week.

In exchange for its expertise in security and other fields, Israel wants African states to side with it at the U.N., where the General Assembly overwhelmingly recognized Palestine as a nonmember observer state in 2012. The Palestinians have used their upgraded status to launch a diplomatic offensive against Israel and its occupation of lands where the Palestinians hope to establish a future state.

"Israel has been on a mission to repair its image globally and more specifically within the U.N. where the Africa group has for decades now supported the Palestinian cause, and vote in general towards that end," said Angelo Izama, a Ugandan analyst who runs a think tank called Fana Kwawote.

As a key U.S. ally on regional security, especially in violence-prone Somalia, Uganda is an attractive ally for Israel as well, according to Izama.

"Washington views the Museveni administration as a regional hegemon, a key to the security of the wider region. Uganda's involvement in counter-terrorism in Somalia ... and its significant expenditure on security goods, including arms and technology, are another reason" for Netanyahu's visit, he said.

Putin says he hopes US-Russia ties will get back on track

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin says in a July 4 message to President Barack Obama that he hopes that the ties between the two countries will get back on track.

Relations between Moscow and Washington hit a post-Cold War low in 2014 when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and threw its weight behind separatists in eastern Ukraine. The Kremlin, however, has recently sought to seek rapprochement with the United States.

In the Independence Day message released Monday by the Kremlin, Putin recalled the history of Russia-U.S. ties, saying that at one time the two countries were able to solve "the most difficult international problems to the benefit of both our nations and all humankind." Putin expressed hope that this experience will help the two countries to get back working together.

After IS defeat, Fallujah victory takes on sectarian tones

SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — A highway overpass in Fallujah is plastered with Shiite banners, graffiti and posters of militia leaders, a virtual shrine to victory over the Islamic State group in this majority Sunni Muslim city.

The fight to wrest Fallujah from IS control appears to have inflicted considerably less damage to the city's infrastructure than past battles. But scenes like this have the potential to undermine the military's success and hamper the broader fight against IS by reigniting the sectarian tensions that helped fuel the militant group's rise in Iraq.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, Fallujah, once a town made wealthy by trade and industry, became the epicenter of an insurgency against U.S. forces and the militant opposition to the Shiite-dominated central government. When it fell under IS control, Iraqi officials repeatedly pointed to Fallujah as a source of the car bombs and other explosives used to attack Baghdad and other areas from the front-line fight.

On Sunday, a week after Fallujah was declared "fully liberated" from the Islamic State, a massive suicide truck bombing claimed by IS struck a bustling commercial street in downtown Baghdad, killing at least 142 people, the single deadliest bombing in Baghdad in years.

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The operation to retake Fallujah, which had been held by IS since 2014, was announced in late May. In a bid to reduce sectarian conflict and prevent abuses, Iraq's military said the government-sanctioned Shiite militias participating in the fight would not enter the center of Fallujah. But days later, Shiite militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, or Hashed, were seen walking openly in the streets.

The special forces commander overseeing the Fallujah operation, Lt. Gen. Abdul Wahab al-Saadi, declined to comment on these sightings. But he said the symbolic value of the city for both Iraqis and IS militants made the liberation of Fallujah an especially sensitive operation.

The highway overpass, in particular, has become emblematic of Fallujah's turbulent recent history. A year ago, it was the scene of the brutal killing of an Iraqi soldier by IS. Images released by the militants show Mustafa a-Athari, a Shiite from Sadr City, being paraded through town before he was hanged from the overpass as crowds of residents cheered.

Al-Athari was quickly upheld as a martyr, and Iraqi militia leaders pledged to avenge his death, calling on the government to allow them to launch an operation to retake Fallujah. The powerful Iraqi Shiite militia, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, pledged to "crush the skulls" of those responsible.

The event echoed an incident more than 10 years earlier, when an angry mob hanged four American security contractors from a bridge just half a mile (about one kilometer) from the site of al-Athari's murder. The 2004 public killing of the Americans became an iconic image that changed the U.S. public's perception of the Iraq war and preceded a brutal U.S. military response. Thousands of Iraqis and 153 American troops were killed and large parts of Fallujah were virtually leveled.

"This is the city in which some of the worst crimes against humanity have occurred," said al-Saadi, the special forces commander. "It began with the killing of the Americans and continued with the murder of al-Athari."

Small groups of Shiite militiamen fought under the banner of the federal police, but once the operation was declared complete, the militia fighters began raising their own flags. Some Iraqi commanders — speaking anonymously, because they are not authorized to discuss the operation — said the militiamen set fire to houses in the city. The special forces commander said that IS militants set homes alight before their retreat.

The alleged misconduct in Fallujah was small in scale compared to the destruction carried out by Shiite militia participating in the battle for the Sunni-majority city of Tikrit, north of Baghdad.

A spokesman for Asaib Ahl al-Haq, the powerful militia, denied that Shiite militiamen had entered the center of Fallujah and rejected claims that they could destabilize the city.

"We are here for the sake of stability" said Jawad al-Talabawi, who repeated that Shiite groups remained on the city's outskirts. "We gave the blood of our martyrs for the liberation of Fallujah, but do not have any further ambitions."

Yet at the highway overpass — located to the west of the center — fighters were snapping selfies and shouting Shiite slogans. From a nearby pick-up truck blasting music and bearing a Hashed flag, cold water and yoghurt drinks were distributed to a group of soldiers.

"The country of Imam Ali forever! The country of Imam Ali forever!" they shouted, a popular chant in support of the revered Shiite holy man.

One Fallujah resident, Sheikh Hadi Muhamad Abdullah, who had returned home for the first time in two years, said he was shocked to see militiamen and Shiite graffiti in the city center, describing them as a personal insult.

"It's not a good sign," he said, arguing that the Shiite presence demonstrates that the government isn't serious about reconciliation with Iraq's Sunnis.

The government in Baghdad "believes that Fallujah is the center of terrorism in Iraq," Abdullah said.

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"But for us it's the center of resistance. The resistance started as pure, but others like Daesh corrupted it," he said, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Although the military campaign in Fallujah is largely over, the special forces commander al-Saadi conceded that what comes next in the city could be equally important in containing IS.

"No kind of military solution alone will ever succeed in ending terrorism in Iraq," al-Saadi said. "You have to fight their mentality, the entire system."

Maj. Ali Hanoon, one of al-Saadi's deputies, fought in Fallujah alongside American troops in the mid-2000s. He remembers the day the contractors were hanged, and the brutal crackdown that followed.

He said that a decade ago, U.S. forces discovered that the greater the hardship inflicted on the community, the more local support for militants grew.

He wasn't surprised when Fallujah fell to IS in 2014, he said, and he won't be surprised if the militants return.

"We'll be back again," Hanoon said. "Daesh will return, just under a new name and stronger."

Britain plans to cut corporation tax to hold onto business

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Treasury chief plans to cut U.K. corporation tax to less than 15 percent to encourage companies to invest and ease business concerns about the country's vote to leave the European Union.

Treasury chief George Osborne says the cut is meant to underscore that Britain is "still open for business," despite the referendum results. A cut of about 5 percentage points brings Britain in line with Ireland's 12.5 percent rate.

Osborne told the Financial Times it was time to "make the most of the hand we've been dealt." He is urging the Bank of England to use its powers to avoid "a contraction of credit in the economy."

Some businesses based in London are considering leaving for other cities like Dublin, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris to benefit from the large EU common market.

Russia's unlikely advocate: California Republican

MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When several members of Congress accused Vladimir Putin's Russia of human rights abuses and aggression toward its neighbors, a veteran California congressman stood virtually alone in urging a more cautionary stance.

For 69-year-old Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a self-described "surfer Republican," this wasn't a totally unexpected position: he's long been virtually the lone pro-Russian voice on Capitol Hill.

"Right from the beginning we've had this incredible hostility," Rohrabacher, who has defended President Vladimir Putin and urged a dialogue with the Kremlin, lamented at a recent congressional hearing. He urged both Russia and the United States at the time to "take a deep breath and a step back."

This past spring, Rohrabacher's position drew support from Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, who advocates giving relations with Moscow another chance. "Common sense says this cycle of hostility must end," Trump said in a speech in April.

A former speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan, the 14-term Rohrabacher takes pride in having worked to weaken "our major global enemy at that time, the Soviet Union." A large photo in his office shows him in the hills of Afghanistan in the 1980s, where, he told The Associated Press in an interview, he launched rockets at Soviet positions as a volunteer fighter.

Rohrabacher's view changed when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, and Russia emerged as a dif-

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ferent country. Although he acknowledges that opposition leaders face repression in Russia, he also says the country allows religious freedom and is generally more open than its predecessor.

In the mid-1990s, Rohrabacher got a taste of Russian politics, he says, when he welcomed a delegation of young Russian political leaders, which included Putin, who then worked for the mayor of St. Petersburg. After a friendly football match, the group went to a nearby pub and started arguing over whether the Soviet Union lost the Cold War. The debate turned into an arm-wrestling match between Putin and Rohrabacher, which Putin won.

"I ended up with Putin, and he beat me just like that," Rohrabacher said, snapping his fingers.

Now Rohrabacher says he believes policymakers in Washington misunderstand Russia and treat it unfairly. Instead of fighting another Cold War, Russia and the United States should focus on defeating Islamic extremism. "We should not be in a hostile relationship; it's not to the benefit of their people or our people to do this," Rohrabacher told The AP.

John E. Herbst, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine disagrees, citing Russia's war with Georgia, its annexation of Crimea and its involvement in the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine.

"He has been a consistent voice in Congress for weak policies towards an aggressive Kremlin," Herbst said of Rohrabacher. "I have no reason to question his integrity; I have lots of reason to question his judgment."

The lawmaker's critics, however, are unconvinced of his intentions, saying that Rohrabacher isn't just advocating for world peace but is instead pushing an agenda that benefits the Russian government.

A major sore point in U.S.-Russian relations is a 2012 law imposing travel bans and asset freezes on 39 Russian officials deemed implicated in the jailhouse death of Russian whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky. Magnitsky was arrested soon after he accused Russian officials of stealing some \$230 million of government money in a tax fraud scheme; the Russian presidential council on human rights concluded he was beaten and denied medical treatment in jail.

Magnitsky worked for British-American financier William Browder, who ran Russia's largest investment fund before being expelled from the country in 2005. Browder, who lobbied for the law that became known as the Magnitsky Act, has traced the missing money to accounts linked to Russian officials in various countries and has sought to freeze the assets. A New York court is currently examining the case of a Russian-owned holding company called Prevezon, whose \$14 million worth of assets have been frozen by the U.S. government in connection with the fraud.

The Magnitsky Act infuriated officials in Moscow, many of whom like to travel, buy property and educate their children in the West. Russia retaliated by banning American families from adopting Russian orphans.

This spring, Rohrabacher met with Russian officials while on a trip to Moscow and then sat down with a Prevezon representative in Washington.

In May, Rohrabacher tried unsuccessfully to persuade the House Foreign Affairs Committee to drop Magnitsky from the name of a bill extending sanctions to human rights abusers from other nations. During the vote, he suggested that Browder might have been involved in the tax fraud himself. "I would like to say that it's possible ... but we don't know enough," he said.

Browder accused Rohrabacher of spreading disinformation. Magnitsky's abuse in jail is well-documented; the Justice Department named Browder's company "a victim, not a perpetrator" of the fraud, according to court filings.

"He is knowingly putting out a narrative on the Magnitsky case which is contradicted by evidence from Russia and a large amount of analysis by independent bodies, including the U.S. government," Browder told the AP of Rohrabacher.

Under fire as usual, Clinton ramps up her trust campaign

LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton trust campaign is turning to powerful advocates, chief among them President Barack Obama, to vouch for the Democratic candidate shadowed by an FBI investigation on the brink of her presidential nomination.

Clinton herself acknowledges that she has “work to do” to earn the trust of voters after nearly four decades in public life as she faces Republican Donald Trump in the general election. And she’s called in help from advocates to attest to her “good heart,” as Sen. Elizabeth Warren put it — whatever the results of the FBI probe into Clinton’s private email server while she was secretary of state.

On Sunday’s news shows, Sen. Sherrod Brown, R-Ohio, and Labor Secretary Tom Perez — both potential running mates for the Democratic ticket — explicitly talked about Clinton and trust.

On Tuesday, Obama is set to join Clinton in a campaign event in battleground North Carolina meant to personalize the “I trust Hillary” theme. It’s the president’s first appearance with his former secretary of state during the 2016 campaign. Vice President Joe Biden will reinforce the message Friday in his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania, with Clinton at his side.

“Trust” is on the lips of Democrats because it’s a remarkable vulnerability that persists for Clinton, despite and because of her decades of public life. And the timing of her credibility campaign is no accident.

Her husband, former president Bill Clinton, met last Monday with the FBI’s boss, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, on the tarmac in Phoenix in a session both say was innocent but regrettable. Then, five days later, the FBI interviewed Hillary Clinton for more than three hours about whether she exposed government secrets by blending personal and official business on a home email server.

She immediately gave an interview with NBC’s “Meet the Press” in which she denied wrongdoing and repeated an acknowledgment she had slipped into a speech last week on the same day Warren vouched for her.

Clinton told NBC she will do “everything I can to earn the trust of the voters of our country” and added: “I know that’s something that I’m going to keep working on, and I think that’s, you know, a clear priority for me.”

After Warren had endorsed her, Clinton acknowledged she’d “made mistakes. I don’t know anyone who hasn’t.”

And she defended her sometimes too-cautious style.

“The reason I sometimes sound careful with my words is not that I’m hiding something. It’s just that I’m careful with my words,” she said at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition’s event in Chicago.

Questions about Clinton’s ethics have dogged her from her days as first lady of Arkansas and later the United States during Bill Clinton’s governorship and presidency, through her service a senator from New York, her failed 2008 presidential campaign and as Obama’s secretary of state. So pervasive has the image been that her opponents have only to utter buzzwords like “Whitewater” — the name of the Clintons’ failed land deal in which neither was implicated in wrongdoing — to invoke the image of what Trump terms, “Crooked Hillary.”

Not helping the trust campaign: the Bill Clinton-Loretta Lynch meeting. “I learned about it in the news,” Hillary Clinton told NBC on Saturday just hours after the FBI session. “They did not discuss the Department of Justice’s review.”

Was the visit inappropriate, she was asked?

“Well, I think, you know, hindsight is 20/20.”

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Clinton's supporters leapt in with defenses of her overall character.

"I trust Hillary Clinton in part, because, for a whole lot of reasons," Brown said on "This Week" on ABC. "I know how she started her career advocating for the Children's Defense Fund. She didn't go off to Manhattan or to Washington to make a lot of money."

Perez repeated Clinton's own reasoning that in the quarter century since her husband was first elected president, some accusations against her have stuck, rightly or wrongly.

"The Hillary Clinton that I've gotten to know well and the Hillary Clinton that the voters of New York got to kick the tires on very well, they have always said and consistently said that we trust her," Perez, another vice presidential possibility, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

He urged voters to look at the public service work Clinton has done during her career. "That really gives me, and I think the American people, a window into her moral compass. And her moral compass is about helping those who are in the shadows."

Added Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., another potential vice presidential pick: "The secretary has made it very clear she understands she's got to earn people's trust. She's going to work very, very hard to do that. And I give her credit for saying she's made some mistakes," he said on "Fox News Sunday." "She's going to try to show the American people that she's going to work hard, especially for working families in America, to earn their trust."

NASA's Juno spacecraft prepares for cosmic date with Jupiter

ALICIA CHANG, AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A solar-powered spacecraft is spinning toward Jupiter for the closest encounter with the biggest planet in our solar system.

NASA's Juno spacecraft fires its main rocket engine late Monday to slow itself down from a speed of 150,000 mph (250,000 kph) and slip into orbit around Jupiter.

With Juno on autopilot, the delicately choreographed move comes without any help from ground controllers.

Juno is traveling through a hostile radiation environment, "but it should be able to withstand it," said Kenny Starnes, program manager for Lockheed Martin, which built the spacecraft.

Juno's camera and other instruments were switched off for the arrival so there won't be any pictures at the moment the spacecraft reaches its destination. Scientists have promised close-up views of Jupiter when Juno skims the cloud tops during the 20-month, \$1.1 billion mission.

The fifth rock from the sun and the heftiest planet in the solar system, Jupiter is what's known as a gas giant — a ball of hydrogen and helium — unlike rocky Earth and Mars. With its billowy clouds and colorful stripes, Jupiter is an extreme world that likely formed first, shortly after the sun. Unlocking its history may hold clues to understanding how Earth and the rest of the solar system developed.

Named after Jupiter's cloud-piercing wife, Juno is only the second mission designed to spend time at Jupiter. Galileo, launched in 1989, circled Jupiter for 14 years, beaming back splendid views of the planet and its numerous moons. It uncovered signs of an ocean beneath the icy surface of Europa, considered a top target in the search for life outside Earth.

Juno's mission: To peer through Jupiter's cloud-socked atmosphere and map the interior from a unique vantage point above the poles. Among the lingering questions: How much water exists? Is there a solid core? Why are Jupiter's southern and northern lights the brightest in the solar system?

There's also the mystery of its Great Red Spot. Recent observations by the Hubble Space Telescope revealed the centuries-old monster storm in Jupiter's atmosphere is shrinking.

The trek to Jupiter, spanning nearly five years and 1.8 billion miles (2.8 billion kilometers), took Juno

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on a tour of the inner solar system followed by a swing past Earth that catapulted it beyond the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Along the way, Juno became the first spacecraft to cruise this far out powered by the sun, beating Europe's comet-chasing Rosetta spacecraft. A trio of massive solar wings sticks out from Juno like blades from a windmill, generating 500 watts of power to run its nine instruments.

Plans called for Juno to swoop within 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) of Jupiter's clouds — closer than previous missions — to map the planet's gravity and magnetic fields.

Juno is an armored spacecraft — its computer and electronics are locked in a titanium vault to shield them from harmful radiation. Even so, Juno is expected to get blasted with radiation equal to more than 100 million dental X-rays during the mission.

Like Galileo before it, Juno meets its demise in 2018 when it deliberately dives into Jupiter's atmosphere and disintegrates — a necessary sacrifice to prevent any chance of accidentally crashing into the planet's potentially habitable moons.

Wimbledon Lookahead: Federer back to work after 2 days off

HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — While every other man left in the Wimbledon draw was busy playing over the weekend, Roger Federer got a two-day break.

He'll get back to work on Monday.

Federer, whose record 17 Grand Slam titles include seven at the All England Club, faces 29th-ranked Steve Johnson of the U.S., as all 16 men's and women's fourth-round matches are on the Day 8 schedule. Thanks to putting matches on court on the middle Sunday for the first time since 2004, and fourth time ever, the tournament is finally back on track after a rainy Week 1.

Back on Friday, Federer was the first man to get through the third round, helped by getting to play each of his matches on Centre Court, Wimbledon's only arena with a retractable roof.

Nine others advanced Saturday.

And six more men had to win Sunday, including four — No. 7 Richard Gasquet, No. 12 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, No. 15 Nick Kyrgios and No. 32 Lucas Pouille — whose matches began the day before. So that quartet will be in action for a third day in a row Monday.

Don't expect much sympathy from Federer for those who might be weary.

"Credit to myself for maybe winning as much as I did here in previous years that I do get put on either Centre Court or (No. 1 Court). Maybe (I've) got to go on Court 1 next week. Maybe have to play four days straight. Who knows?" Federer said. "Yeah, things have gone well for me in the first week. We'll see how they go in the second week."

First up is Johnson in what shapes up as quite a mismatch.

Federer is trying to reach his 48th Grand Slam quarterfinal, Johnson his first.

At 26, Johnson is 8 years younger than Federer, and is not shy about saying the Swiss star "was one of my idols growing up."

"It's going to be a great experience," Johnson said after playing Saturday. "I'm going to go out there thinking I'm going to be the winner. I have no fear out there. I'm going to go out there and try and play my best tennis, and hopefully my plan works."

He can take some inspiration from his pal and doubles partner, Sam Querrey, who ended No. 1 Novak Djokovic's 30-match Grand Slam winning streak on Saturday.

"Gives everybody confidence," Johnson said.

Here's what else to look for on Monday at Wimbledon:

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QUERREY'S FOLLOW-UP: Querrey, an American seeded 28th, now faces a much less heralded opponent than Djokovic, 51st-ranked Nicolas Mahut. But consider this: Mahut, who has reached No. 1 in doubles, has won both previous matchups against Querrey, including last month on a grass court in the Netherlands.

FRENCH FOURSOME: Mahut joins Gasquet, Tsonga and Pouille in giving France four men in Wimbledon's round of 16 for the first time in 87 years. Gasquet and Tsonga face each other, while Pouille plays No. 19 Bernard Tomic of Australia.

GET YOUR POPCORN: Possibly the most entertaining men's match will be the day's last on Centre Court: No. 2 Andy Murray against No. 15 Nick Kyrgios. Murray is a two-time major champion from Britain who will hear plenty of home-crowd support. Kyrgios is as polarizing as they come, a 21-year-old Australian who will hit a flashy between-the-legs shot on one point, then scream something someone finds offensive on the next. They're pals, and Murray has been one of Kyrgios' staunchest defenders.

WOMEN'S MATCHES: The two oldest women left are 36-year-old Venus Williams and her 34-year-old sister Serena. They also have combined for 11 Wimbledon trophies — or 11 more than the other 14 players still in the draw put together. Fourth-rounders are No. 1 Serena vs. No. 13 Svetlana Kuznetsova; No. 8 Venus vs. No. 12 Carla Suarez Navarro; No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska vs. No. 19 Dominika Cibulkova; No. 4 Angelique Kerber vs. Misaki Doi; No. 5 Simona Halep vs. No. 9 Madison Keys; No. 21 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova vs. No. 27 CoCo Vandeweghe; No. 28 Lucie Safarova vs. Yaroslava Shvedova; Ekaterina Makarova vs. Elena Vesnina.

Police: Central Park firework probably an 'experiment'

NEW YORK (AP) — A firework that exploded and seriously injured the foot of a 19-year-old who stepped on it in Central Park probably was created by someone with a basic knowledge of chemistry, but not designed to intentionally hurt people, police said.

The homemade explosive that went off Sunday probably was designed to "make a large noise, maybe make a flash," said Lt. Mark Torre, commanding officer of the New York Police Department's bomb squad. It was like an "explosive experiment" put together by someone with some knowledge of chemistry, he said.

The injured man, who police did not identify, was walking in the park with two friends when he stepped on a rock covering the explosive. He was to undergo surgery to his left foot at a hospital and was in stable condition, fire officials said.

The 11 a.m. blast on the east side of Central Park could be heard for blocks, leaving some with the belief that it was part of a July Fourth celebration.

Investigators don't believe the man who stepped on the firework or his friends were responsible for creating the explosive and officials asked that anyone with information about it contact the police.

There was no evidence that the explosion was related to terrorism and there were no specific, credible threats on New York over the July Fourth weekend, authorities said.

"We've seen a lot of experimentation with homemade fireworks," said Torre, adding the Central Park explosive may have been designed to go off at an earlier time, even a day before, but for whatever reason did not.

Tourist John Murphy, visiting the city from Connecticut, stayed with the injured man until emergency responders arrived and placed a tourniquet on his leg.

"His left leg was severely damaged, all bone and muscle," said Murphy.

Mayor Bill de Blasio sent out a tweet reminding people to stay safe around fireworks.

"Fireworks are fun — but let's leave them to the professionals," the mayor tweeted.

Clinton, Obama, stand-ins emphasize her trustworthiness

LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton and her high-powered campaign stand-ins are talking about trust everywhere they speak these days, and for good reason.

The FBI is probing her use of a private email server. Husband Bill Clinton met with Attorney General Loretta Lynch in a session both say was innocent but they regret. And the Democratic Party is poised to nominate Clinton for president.

On Sunday's news shows, Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Labor Secretary Tom Perez explicitly talked about Clinton and trust. And the candidate herself acknowledged that she has "work to do" to earn the trust of voters in her likely general election matchup against Republican Donald Trump, who suffers from a public trust deficit of a different sort, stemming from political inexperience and an impulsive style.

This week, President Barack Obama will personalize the "I trust Hillary" theme during his first appearance with his former secretary of state in battleground North Carolina. And Vice President Joe Biden will reinforce the message Friday in his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania, with Clinton at his side.

It's all evidence of a remarkable vulnerability that persists both despite and because of Clinton's decades of public life. But the timing of the trust campaign is no accident.

Bill Clinton, the former president, met last Monday with the FBI's boss, Lynch, on the tarmac in Phoenix in a session the drew widespread criticism. The FBI interviewed Clinton for more than three hours on Saturday about whether she exposed government secrets by blending personal and official business on a home email server. Clinton immediately gave a television interview in which she denied wrongdoing and repeated an acknowledgment she had slipped into a speech last week on the same day Sen. Elizabeth Warren vouched for her.

Clinton said she will do "everything I can to earn the trust of the voters of our country," remarks aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "I know that's something that I'm going to keep working on, and I think that's, you know, a clear priority for me."

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Not helping make the case for trust: the Bill Clinton-Loretta Lynch meeting. "I learned about it in the news," Hillary Clinton said in the NBC interview taped hours after the FBI session Saturday. "They did not discuss the Department of Justice's review."

Was the visit inappropriate, she was asked?

"Well, I think, you know, hindsight is 20/20."

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"I trust Hillary Clinton in part because for a whole lot of reasons," Brown, a potential vice presidential

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"The Hillary Clinton that I've gotten to know well and the Hillary Clinton that the voters of New York got to kick the tires on very well, they have always said and consistently said that we trust her," Perez, another vice presidential possibility, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." He urged voters to look at the public service work Clinton has done during her career. "That really gives me, and I think the American people, a window into her moral compass. And her moral compass is about helping those who are in the shadows."

Added Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., a third potential vice presidential pick: "The secretary has made it very clear she understands she's got to earn people's trust. She's going to work very, very hard to do that. And I give her credit for saying she's made some mistakes," he said on "Fox News Sunday." "She's going to try to show the American people that she's going to work hard, especially for working families in America to earn their trust."

Time trials: Felix, Gatlin, Merritt book trips to Olympics

EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — The numbers were as telling as the names.

America's Olympic mainstays, Allyson Felix, LaShawn Merritt and Justin Gatlin, are all on their way to Rio de Janeiro. With the best times in the world this year to boot.

Gatlin's 100-meter run in 9.8 seconds at U.S. Olympic Trials on Sunday will certainly turn the most heads.

It's the same time he posted last year at world championships in Beijing, where Usain Bolt nudged him out by a hundredth. Bolt pulled out of this week's Jamaican national championships and his form will be a mystery for at least the next few weeks.

Nobody needs wonder about where Gatlin stands.

"When the competition shows and the competition rises, I've got to rise to the occasion with it," he declared.

Even so, he's destined to head to his third Olympics as an underdog to Bolt, The World's Fastest Man. Ashton Eaton will be a favorite.

The defending Olympic decathlon champion's score of 8,750 was nearly 300 short of his world record. A bit frustrating for Eaton, but the score was still notable because it was one point better than the personal best of anyone who can qualify for the event in Rio. And besides, there's no such thing as perfect over a 10-event endurance test.

"As a decathlete, if you don't leave with something (frustrating), then you should quit," he said.

Besides Eaton, nobody has carried the flag more nobly for the USA's track team of late than Felix, who has been to three Olympics and picked up six medals, including 200-meter gold in London.

Her quest at Olympics No. 4 is to become the first woman to win gold in both the 200 and 400 meters. That mission landed on shaky ground when she hurt her right ankle this spring while working out. It's been a brutal comeback, she said, though the performance Sunday hardly showed it.

Pulling away late, she finished the 400-meter final in 49.68 seconds for a .26-second win over Phyllis Francis, then collapsed in exhaustion and relief.

"Two months ago, I couldn't even walk," Felix said. "To be here and have everything still come together, I don't know quite how it happened."

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Merritt certainly does.

Fists pumping high down the stretch, he burst down the last 50 meters of the straightaway to finish in 43.97 — a .76-second romp over Gil Roberts. It was a clinic, reminiscent of Merritt's .99-second blowout over rival Jeremy Wariner in the 2008 Olympics.

"People always say they look at my film to tell their athletes, 'This is how you're supposed to run the last part of the race,'" Merritt said. "They haven't been looking at it lately. I had to give them something to look at."

Merritt said he feels good enough to give it a go at 200 meters, where he also holds the world's best time of the year.

Yet another world-best mark came from Chaunte Lowe in the high jump. Her jump of 6 feet, 7 inches beat Vashti Cunningham, daughter of former NFL quarterback Randall, by 1 1/2 inches.

Lowe is on the way to her fourth Olympics, seeking the medal that has always eluded her there. Stoked by her performance, and the others she saw on this breezy, sunshine-filled day in Eugene, she was thinking bigger.

Fitting on a day such as this.

"It felt so easy," Lowe said. "I think I'll be ready. Just keep training, fine-tuning. I think we could see a sweep of the podium."

Other happenings on Day 3 at track trials:

GARDNER IS A GO: English Gardner ran a personal best 10.74 seconds in the 100 to put herself on a list of Olympic track-and-field newcomers that now numbers 25. She edged out Tianna Bartoletta, who will be going for a sprint-long jump double, and another first-timer, Tori Bowie, the bronze medalist at last year's world championships. Bartoletta and Bowie both finished in 10.78 and, according to a stat-keeper for the IAAF, this was the first wind-legal women's 100 with three times of under 10.8.

BACK TO CAMP: Marquise Goodwin's dream of skipping training camp with the Buffalo Bills is over. The receiver/long jumper finished seventh and didn't qualify for the Olympics. He said he strained his hamstring during qualifications Saturday and couldn't recover in time for the final. Now, he takes a few days off and gets ready for camp. "Just a switch. Got to hit it," he said about the quick changeover.

THIRD TIME IS A CHARM?: Tyson Gay's chances of making a third Olympics now rest in either the 200 meters or a slot as part of the relay pool. Both Gay and Mike Rodgers got beat for the third spot in the 100 by Marvin Bracy, a three-time national indoor champ at 60 meters who also used to be a wide receiver at Florida State. Bracy is an Olympic newcomer, as is second-place finisher Trayvon Bromell, who finished second to Gatlin in 9.84.

PUNCHING TICKETS: Qualifying for long jump were 2014 national champion Jeff Henderson and Jarion Lawson. Will Claye, the bronze medalist at the London Games, finished third but did not have a non-wind-aided Olympic qualifying standard. The other two will make their Olympic debuts. Finishing in the two spots behind Eaton were Jeremy Taiwo and Zack Ziemek.

QUOTABLE: "The one thing I love about the athletes I coach, they love running for the United States. She wants to make this Olympic team. That was something that, like you saw, she was willing to pull every muscle in her body." —Allyson Felix's coach, Bob Kersee

Fireworks, franks, festivities: Americans mark July Fourth

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — From fireworks soaring above the Washington Monument to hot dogs being downed in New York City's famed frank-eating contest, Americans aren't shy about celebrating their

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nation's birthday. Many places are rolling out long-established Independence Day traditions on Monday (even if some of those traditions aren't as long-established as they sound). Some communities are trying new things to mark the holiday, even as others are paring back. Some Fourth of July highlights from around the country:

IN THE NATION'S BIRTHPLACE, A PARADE AND A PARKWAY PARTY

In Philadelphia — where the founding fathers approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 — the national birthday party runs all day.

It kicks off at 10 a.m. with a reading of the document and an event honoring everyday heroes, with celebrity guest Leslie Odom Jr., a Philadelphia native who plays Aaron Burr in the Broadway musical "Hamilton." Then comes the holiday parade, which includes Miss America 2016 Betty Cantrell.

Next up is a five-hour party with free entertainment on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The celebration continues with a five-hour concert with performers including Odom and singer-songwriter Leon Bridges. Fireworks close out the day.

A FINAL WHITE HOUSE FOURTH FOR THE PRESIDENT

It's the last Fourth of July at the White House for President Barack Obama and his family, and they're having some people over: military families and two of the president's favorite performers, singer-songwriter Janelle Monae and rapper Kendrick Lamar.

The Democratic president and his wife, Michelle, invite military families each year for a barbecue, concert and view of the fireworks on the National Mall.

This year, they'll also hear Lamar — Obama said his favorite song of 2015 was the rapper's "How Much a Dollar Cost" — and Monae, who was a guest at a White House state dinner in May.

NEW YORK: FRANKS AND FIREWORKS

American as apple pie? Fuhgeddaboutit. The frankfurter rules the Fourth in New York City, where the annual Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest marks its centennial this year — well, not really. Nathan's itself dates to 1916, but showmen behind the hot dog competition have acknowledged they made up a long-told story about the contest beginning that year, too. It actually started in the 1970s.

Joey "Jaws" Chestnut set the world record in 2013 when he polished off 69 dogs in 10 minutes. His run of eight straight victories ended last year when he lost the Mustard Yellow International Belt to Matt "The Megatoad" Stonie. They and others will face off on the Coney Island boardwalk, with the chowdown showdown televised on ESPN3.

Later Monday, Macy's is promising its biggest Fourth of July fireworks display since the millennium show of 2000. The show over the East River features more than 56,000 pyrotechnic shells, 22 different hues and the New York debut of "pyro-writing" in the sky, all synchronized to patriotic tunes performed by the United States Air Force Band. The fireworks are televised on NBC, along with performances by country singer Kenny Chesney, pop band 5 Seconds of Summer, pop singer Meghan Trainor and others.

BOSTON'S BLOWOUT

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to line the banks of Boston's Charles River to watch the fireworks there, with millions more across the country watching live on CBS.

The celebration features pop stars Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato, country group Little Big Town and, as always, the Boston Pops Orchestra, which drives home the climactic fireworks finale to Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

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ONE CONNECTICUT CITY'S NEW CELEBRATION; ANOTHER CANCELS ITS OWN

New Haven's newly renovated Q Bridge will be illuminated in red, white and blue at night, becoming Connecticut's first bridge to feature commemorative lighting.

The lights are capable of projecting six miles in a clear night sky over what's formally called the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge. It's among the most heavily traveled segments of the northeast corridor between New York and Boston.

Meanwhile, the state capital of Hartford canceled its July Fourth festival and fireworks show, which is billed as Connecticut's largest Independence Day celebration, though usually held a week after the holiday. The mayors of Hartford and neighboring East Hartford said they couldn't justify the roughly \$100,000 expense while facing painful spending cuts.

JULY FOURTH, CALIFORNIA-STYLE

There's a something-for-everyone approach to fireworks in Los Angeles, where displays are planned at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Hollywood Bowl, Grand Park near City Hall and the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, among other places around the massive metro area. San Francisco holds a large fireworks display over the San Francisco Bay.