

Groton Daily Independent

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Bus Driver Needed

The Groton Area School District has an opening for a morning bus route driver for the 2016-17 school year. Interested persons should contact Superintendent Joe Schwan at 397-2351.

Manager Wanted

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

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Saturday, July 16

Birthdays: Linda Thurston • Richard Voss • June Ackman • Linda Stearns
10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 17

Birthdays: Rosemary Belden • Kevin Krueger
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran worship with communion
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship at Golden Living Center (WELCA Serves)

Monday, July 18

Couples Golf Night at Olive Grove
Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.
Anniv: Josh & Merrie Atherton • Joey & Shonna Harry
Birthdays: Kaitlin O'Neil • Irene Belden • Kevin Pray
6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
6:00pm: U12 Softball at Sisseton (DH)
6:00pm: U8 Softball at Sisseton

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

Dr. Geoffrey Rath - Optometrist

Eye Exams Glaucoma Tests Rx's Filled
- All Types Contact Lenses -

Doctor here Mondays Only - Office open Thursdays.
701-349-3223 to make appointments & adjustments

Hours at Ellendale, N.D. are:
Monday 9 - 12 & 1 - 5 Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

July 18, 2016 - 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) Delinquent Utility Customers
- 2) Minutes
- 3) Bills
- 4) Soccer Lease
- 5) Donation of Water Truck
- 6) Rate Studies
- 7) Meeting Reports
 - a) Heartland
 - b) DOT
 - c) Noem representative
- 8) Exe Session – Legal & Personnel - SDCL 1-25-2 (3) & (4)



For Sale

OPEN HOUSE
July 17 1:00-3:00
805 N 3rd St
Groton
More info on
Zillow.com or
call 605-380-3750

Nature's Air Conditioners

If you have ever escaped from blazing hot sun in a shady spot under a tree, you know how these natural air conditioners can make you feel more comfortable. A mature shade tree can block up to 90 percent of solar radiation, which could translate to a significant reduction in your home cooling cost. A Pennsylvania study found that air conditioning needs could be reduced by up to 75 percent by shading a house with trees!

Computer models devised by the U.S. Department of Energy predict that the proper placement of as few as three shade trees will save an average household \$100 to \$250 in energy costs each year - and that study was done before energy costs soared!

Reduce energy use

On hot days, some large trees can pull hundreds of gallons of water through their leaves. This water evaporates, keeping the tree and its immediate surroundings cool. With the less-than-efficient use of fossil fuels for heating and cooling our buildings, it only makes good sense to take advantage of the following principles.

"Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of a building," advises Tchukki Andersen, BCMA, CTSP* staff arborist with the Tree Care Industry Association. "Those are the sides where the sun's rays are most intense. Since deciduous trees lose their leaves in winter, they offer shade during summer but permit the winter sun to provide warmth," adds Andersen. "Where there isn't room for trees, shrubs and vines can provide similar benefits."

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns can be planted to the south of your home to provide maximum summertime roof shading. Trees with branches lower to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles. Trees should not be planted on the southern sides of homes in cold climates because the branches of these trees will block some winter sun.

"Although a slow-growing tree may require many years of growth before it shades your roof, it will generally live longer than a fast-growing tree," notes Andersen. Also, because slow-growing trees often have deeper roots and stronger branches, they are less prone to fail during windstorms or heavy snowstorms. Slow-growing trees can also be more drought resistant than fast-growing trees.

Trees, shrubs and groundcover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the home. This reduces heat radiation and cools the air before it reaches your home's walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area.

Shrubs planted close to the house will fill in rapidly and begin shading walls and windows within a few years. However, avoid allowing dense foliage to grow immediately next to a home where wetness or continual humidity can be a problem.

Enhance property values

Beyond energy savings and beauty, homeowners who take care of their trees find the value of their properties increase. A number of studies have shown that real estate agents and home buyers assign between 10 and 23 percent of the value of a residence to the trees on the property.

What can you do?

Many arborists have training in ecosystem services, including energy efficient landscapes, which is a growing branch of tree appraisal. A professional arborist can assess your landscape, provide information regarding the value potential of your trees and work with you to determine the best trees and shrubs to plant for your existing landscape. Contact the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), a public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture since 1938. It has more than 2,300 member tree care firms and affiliated companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards and who are required to carry liability insurance. TCIA has the nation's only Accreditation program that helps consumers find tree care companies that have been inspected and accredited based on: adherence to industry standards for quality and safety; maintenance of trained, professional staff; and dedication to ethics and quality in business practices. An easy way to find a tree care service provider in your area is to use the "Locate Your Local TCIA Member Companies" program. You can use this service by calling 1-800-733-2622 or by doing a ZIP Code search on www.treecaretips.org.

*Board Certified Master Arborist, Certified Treecare Safety Professional

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Groton Area School District 06-6			
2016-17 Administrator Salaries		2016-17 Auxiliary Staff Salaries	
Schwan, Anna ^	69,500.00	Activity Bus Drivers	10.00/hr
Schwan, Brett ^ *	61,500.00	Auxiliary Adult Subs	10.50/hr
Schwan, Joseph ^	94,000.00	Auxiliary Student Subs	9.00/hr
Weber, Michael ^	68,500.00	Bahr, Loren ^	35,700.00
		Bartell, Karin	16,012.50
2016-17 Teacher Salaries		Becker, Mike *	2,415.00
		Bisbee, Amanda	13,658.75
Anderson, Kristi	49,730.00	Bury, Kathryn ^ (.5)	20,475.00
Dennert Cara	46,130.00	Clocksene, Brandon	7,317.19
Donley, Don *	61,090.00	Cox, Lena	21,322.50
Donley, Don (bus driving)	11,590.00	Dix, Ryan	16,170.00
Eichler, Emily	45,030.00	Donley, Joann ^ *	22,201.88
Erdmann, Julie	48,330.00	Duncan, William	16,012.50
Erickson, Meri *	51,075.00	Farmen, Clayton Jr. ^	32,302.40
Erickson, Rebecca *	52,040.00	Farmen, Clayton Jr (.5 bus driving)	5,795.00
Fadness, Cindy	51,330.00	Fliehs, Duane ^	11,707.80
Fjeldheim, Susan	41,380.00	Foertsch, Teri	14,437.50
Fordham, Austin *	37,950.00	Graf, Purnell ^	24,856.00
Franken, Adam ^ *	51,597.22	Gravatt, Brian	12,150.00
Gibbs, Ann	45,480.00	Groeblinghoff, Joni	13,658.76
Gonsoir, Kristen *	57,345.00	Gustafson, Beth ^	30,687.50
Grieve, Lynette *	53,670.00	Hanson, Chelsea *	3,795.00
Guthmiller, Joel *	47,145.00	Hanson, Justin *	4,140.00
Hanten, Sarah	43,830.00	Harder, Cory *	2,415.00
Harry, Janene	49,440.00	Harry, Kathy	19,334.00
Hawkins, Lance *	52,155.00	Hjermstad, Randy	18,925.00
Helvig, Aaron ^ *	52,332.50	Hoffman, Jan	17,444.00
Helvig, Jill	42,130.00	Kjelden, Carla ^	15,863.63
Hendrickson, Shelby	38,080.00	Krueger, Heidi ^	20,090.00
Honerman, Sarah *	39,805.00	Krueger, Jill	13,720.00
Johnson, Darlyne	44,930.00	Krueger, Lois	19,093.00
Johnson, Mary	44,380.00	Kyar, Gail	16,590.01
Johnson, Nicole	41,730.00	LaMee, Erna	7,353.94
Kjellsen, Greg *	53,880.00	Leshner, Darcey	14,516.25
Kjellsen, Jordan *	39,275.00	Lewandowski, Rebecca	14,516.25
Krause, Kayla	41,830.00	Lipp, Kami	15,916.25
Kroll, Jane	50,330.00	Lowary, John	5,228.13
Kurth, Travis *	50,695.00	Lutz, Vonnie	13,720.00
Kurtz, Diane	50,730.00	Madsen, Brenda ^	16,129.13
Lingbeck, Brooke *	38,005.00	McInerney, Linda	16,255.00
Lone, Janel	48,030.00	Mitchell, Jamie	13,658.75
Milbrandt, Julie *	44,342.50	Morehouse, Amanda ^	23,192.00
Miller, Katie	44,630.00	Morton, Darlene	6,273.75
Schimmel, Bondell	54,130.00	Nehls, Mike ^	42,262.50
Schuring, Brian *	56,985.00	Padfield, Chuck ^	39,823.50
Seeklander, Ashley	43,180.00	Pigors, Tom ^	32,302.40
Seibel, Jan *	46,125.00	Raap, LaVonne	7,353.94
Sombke, Kiersten	47,330.00	Reder, Dorothy ^	25,688.00
Sternhagen, Jodi ^	55,021.33	Riggenberg, Molly	13,658.75
Swanson, Cody *	40,075.00	Schuring, Alexa *	18,787.50
Swisher, Renee	50,730.00	Sippel, Sandi *	776.25
Thorson, Scott *	47,845.00	Teacher Subs	100.00/day
Tietz, Lindsey *	45,155.00	Tietz, Deb	15,440.00
Wanner, Shaun *	55,640.00	Tollifson, Deb	15,553.13
Winburn, Debra	51,180.00	Wattier, Sue ^	23,906.40
Yeigh, Desiree *	42,710.00	Weber, Kim ^	23,068.77
Zoellner, Anne	45,030.00	Weismantel, Kandi	13,658.76
		Wimmer, Bertha	24,232.00
Certified Staff-180 days, unless noted		Auxiliary Staff-175 days, unless noted	
^ Indicates additional contract days		^ Indicates additional contract days	
* Indicates additional extra-curricular		* Indicates additional extra-curricular	

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Groton School Board Minutes - July 11, 2016

UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 06-6

REGULAR MEETING

July 11, 2016

President Steve Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Conference Room. Members present: Hanson, Harder, Kjelden, Nelson, Rix, Smith and Weismantel. Others present were Supt. J. Schwan, Principals A. Schwan and B. Schwan and Business Manager Weber.

Moved by Harder, second Rix to approve the agenda with the following changes: under Consent Agenda Item #1a – add June 13 minutes for approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Nelson, second Weismantel to approve the District minutes of June 13 and 27 and North Central Special Education Coop agenda items. Motion carried.

Members of the public were allowed five minutes to address the board on any topic of their choice. With no public members present to speak, the board proceeded with their remaining agenda items.

Moved by Kjelden, second Nelson to approve June financials, agency accounts and investments. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to approve June school lunch report. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to approve June transportation report. Motion carried.

Weber presented the 2016-17 District Budget for discussion. The board acknowledged review of the budget. No action was taken.

No board committee reports were given.

The following items were discussed in administrative reports: ASBSD/SASD Joint Convention, board training opportunities, State Superintendent's Conference, facility maintenance progress, Johnson Controls Agreement, athletics meeting, fall in-service and community engagement meetings.

With no further old or continuing business remaining it was moved by Rix, second Weismantel to adjourn the final 2015-16 school board meeting at 8:07 pm. Motion carried.

At 8:10 pm, Weber called to order the first meeting of school year 2016-17 and read the school board Oath of Office to install Clint Fjelstad, Deborah Gengerke and Merle Harder for three-year terms as school board members.

Weber took nominations for 2016-17 school board president. Moved by Harder, second Rix to nominate Smith. Hearing no further nominations, it was moved by Weismantel, seconded by Kjelden to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Smith. Motion carried.

President Smith opened the floor for vice-president nominations. Moved by Weismantel, second Rix to nominate Kjelden. Hearing no further nominations it was moved by Harder, seconded by Gengerke to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kjelden. Motion carried.

Moved by Kjelden, second Weismantel to approve the agenda with the following additions: under Reorganized Business Item #2a – add approve agenda and under Consent Agenda Items #20 – add approve open enrollment #17-14. Motion carried.

Smith appointed the following committee assignments: Fjelstad, Weismantel and Harder to Building, Grounds & Transportation; Rix and Gengerke to Personnel, Policy and Curriculum and Kjelden and Smith to Negotiations.

Conflict disclosure documents were read by Smith in accordance with SDCL Ch. 3-23. Moved by Gengerke, second Rix to approve conflict disclosures from Weber, J. Schwan and B. Schwan. Motion carried. Moved by Rix, second Kjelden to approve conflict disclosure from Weismantel. Motion carried 6-0 with Weismantel abstaining. Moved by Weismantel, second Fjelstad to approve conflict disclosures from Harder, Kjelden and Gengerke. Motion carried 4-0 with Harder, Kjelden and Gengerke abstaining. Motion carried.

Moved by Harder, second Kjelden to approve the following consent agenda items: July 2016 District bills; Rodney Freeman, Jr. and his associates of Huron as official school attorney; designate Groton Independent as official newspaper; designate Weber as custodian of all district accounts; authorize Weber to continue

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existing funds, establish new accounts and continue to invest and reinvest in local institutions which serve the greatest advantage to the District; designate First State Bank – Groton as official bank depository; adopt Groton Area School District Policy Manual with such revisions as previously approved; adopt Special Education Comprehensive Plan; authorize office personnel to administer Agency and Federal Lunch Funds with oversight by Weber; authorize J. Schwan to administer or direct federal programs with Consolidated Applications for Title Programs and related ESSA compliance issues assigned to the building principals; authorize J. Schwan to act as Asbestos Compliance Officer; authorize J. Schwan or his designee to close school in emergency situations or inclement weather; authorize J. Schwan or designee to institute NSLP and School Breakfast Agreement; Adopt Food Safety Plan, HACCP-Based Standard Operating Procedures; authorize J. Schwan or designee to institute ASBSD school bus mutual assistance pact; authorize Weber to transfer petty cash and incidental payment funds in accordance with SDCL 13-18-16 & 17; and approve peripheral sports and other volunteer school workers such as chain gang, line judges, Booster Club/PAC workers, assistant coaches, volunteer coaches, volunteer drivers, school board members etc., to be included in the school's worker's compensation insurance coverage; approve Open Enrollment #17-12 with one student in grade 1 from the Aberdeen School District; approve Open Enrollment #17-13 with one student in grade 1 from the Aberdeen School District and approve Open Enrollment #17-14 with one student in grade 10 from the Aberdeen School District. Motion carried 6-0 with Weismantel abstaining.

GENERAL FUND: Net Salary – 400,065.02; FIT – 44,279.83; Medicare – 15,165.56; FICA – 64,845.62; American Funds Service Co. – 2,293.50; Washington National – 98.40; SD Retirement – 68,227.42; First National Bank HSAs – 100.00; Waddell & Reed – 2,765.04; Horace Mann – 1,617.63; Thrivent – 679.50; AFLAC – 5,101.87; Delta Dental – 10,540.22; SD Supplemental Retirement – 1,854.53; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield – 151,443.00; Reliastar Life – 1,459.04; Amplify Education – online subscriptions, 10,107.45; ASB Worker's Comp. Fund – wk comp premium, 24,077.02; ASBSD – dues, 1,245.85; Awarddecals.com – fb decals, 353.05; Bristol Community Center – rent, 100.00; Business Radio Licensing – FCC renewal, 95.00; Carson-Dellosa Publishing – supplies, 138.81; City of Groton – utilities, 9,222.32; Cole Papers – paper, supplies, 695.87; Dependable Sanitation – garbage service, 1,238.00; Ellison Educational Equipment – supplies, 69.00; Expressway Suites – lodging, 224.85; Follett School Solutions – online services, 1,633.34; B. Gravatt – physical fee, 95.00; Great American Media Services – subscription, 19.95; Groton Chiropractic – physicals, 475.00; Groton Dakota Press – ads, 42.00; Hauff Mid-America Sports – letters, 1,114.20; Impact Applications – injury testing, 600.00; Innovations Associates – subscriptions, 139.00; Interstate All Battery Center – battery, 47.99; JW Pepper – music, 40.20; James Valley Telecomm. – phone serv, 874.94; Mid-American Research Chemical – supplies, 5,030.30; Nasco – supplies, 1,042.60; Northside Implement – repairs, 1,235.42; Northwestern Energy – utilities, 12.04; Oriental Trading – supplies, 118.94; QQP/Midstates – paper, 26.09; Roy L. Hall American Legion Post – rent, 75.00; rSchoolToday – calendar renewal, 75.00; S&S Lumber – supplies, 1,265.74; SASD – memberships, 1,811.00; Scholastic – class magazines, 1,531.88; School Specialty – supplies, 112.89; SD Federal Property Agency – supplies, 25.00; Sewer Saver – services, 319.50; Software Unlimited – support fees, 3,450.00; Supreme School Supply – supplies, 132.37; C. Swanson – wkshop fee, 90.00; Taylor Music – reeds, 34.98; Teacher Direct – supplies, 625.53; TIE – membership, 1,470.00; US Postal Service – box rent, 198.00; West Interactive Services – notification service, 1,053.00.

Total General Fund - \$842,920.30.

CAPITAL OUTLAY: Gopher – equipment, 435.87; Hauff Mid-America – weights, 1,432.14; Locke Electric – services, 23,475.00; Marco – copier leases, 1,978.17; Nasco – equipment, 1,064.66; Northland Financial – computer leases, 40,524.00; Pioneer Drama – texts, 39.50; RDO Equipment – mower, 3,000.00; School Specialty – dictionaries, 168.90; School Specialty/Classroom Direct – supplies, 36.11; Teacher Direct – equipment, 184.44. Total Capital Outlay - \$72,338.79.

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Net Salary – 70,422.25; FIT – 6,859.55; Medicare – 2,702.82; FICA – 11,557.32; SD Retirement – 12,526.82; Waddell & Reed – 750.00; AFLAC – 1,887.36; Delta Dental – 2,535.66; SD Supplemental Retirement – 600.00; Wellmark BCBS – 37,156.08; Reliastar Life – 621.78; ASB Worker's Comp Fund – wk comp premium, 5,718.29; NCS Pearson – forms, 108.50; Northern Speech Services – supplies,

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138.04; Schwab Audiology – services, 70.00. Total Special Education – \$153,654.47.

ENTERPRISE FUND: Fund 51: Net Salary – 6,160.14; FIT – 306.99; Medicare – 215.46; FICA – 921.34; SD Retirement – 788.80; AFLAC – 54.22; Wellmark BCBS – 3,020.00; Reliastar Life – 2.60; ASB Worker's Comp Fund – wk comp premium, 2,407.70; Nardini Fire Equipment – inspections, 199.00. Total Fund 51 – \$14,076.25.

Fund 53: Net Salary – 8,489.85; FIT – 584.90; Medicare – 298.08; FICA – 1,274.46; SD Retirement – 833.52; AFLAC – 407.94; Wellmark BCBS – 1,992.00; Reliastar Life – 1.95; ASB Worker's Comp Fund – wk comp premium, 300.99; Bahr's Jungle Lanes – services, 187.66; Groton Ford – repairs, 438.73; Menards – supplies, 54.45; S&S Lumber – supplies, 53.88. Total Fund 53: \$14,918.41. Total Enterprise Funds - \$28,994.66.

AGENCY FUND: Total -- \$26,555.72.

RECEIPTS: Local Source, Taxes – 679,902.73; Other Local Sources – 77,833.95; County Sources – 4,691.93; State Sources – 2,224.05; Federal Sources – 36,976.50. Total Receipts – \$801,629.16.

Mike Hubbard of Foster, Jacobs and Johnson was present with updated building design diagrams and a report on the power point presentation given to the teaching staff on Monday morning. The staff meeting was well attended and many staff questions were answered. No action was taken by the board.

J. Schwan presented a lease agreement from the City of Groton to propose shared costs in maintaining the soccer field. The board questioned the expense line of \$150 per hour for mowing. No action was taken and J. Schwan will take it back to the city for further negotiations.

Moved by Kjelden, second Weismantel to set time and date for regular school board meetings on the second Monday of each month and the fourth Monday for the months of September, March, April and June only, to be held in GHS Conference Room at 7:00 pm, with consideration to reschedule meeting dates, times and places when deemed necessary or appropriate. Motion carried.

President Smith appointed Rix to serve as voting member and chairman of the North Central Special Education Governing Board for the 2016-17 school year.

Moved by Weismantel, second Kjelden to set board member salaries at \$50 per meeting and board president salary at \$75 per meeting, with mileage if applicable. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Kjelden to set pay rate of substitute teachers at \$100/day. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Kjelden to set pay rate for substitute bus drivers at \$60/day. Motion carried 6-0 with Harder abstaining.

Moved by Weismantel, second Gengerke to approve admission & lunch prices for 2016-17: Admission – Adults \$5, \$6 for doubleheader, \$45 for 10-punch ticket, \$75 for all-season pass, Grades 1 through 12, \$4; Activity Tickets – Grades 6 through 12, \$30, Grades 1 through 5, \$25; Breakfast – Adults, \$2.75, Grades 6 through 12, \$2.50, Grades JrK through 5, \$2.00; Lunch – Adults, \$4.00, Grades 6 through 12, \$3.25, Grades JrK through 5 \$2.75; Orange Juice – Jr. K through Grade 5, \$7.00/month, \$28.00/semester or \$56.00/ year and Milk – JrK through 5, \$5.90/month, \$23.60/semester or \$47.20/year. Motion carried 6-1 with Harder voting no.

Moved by Kjelden, second Rix to leave OST rates unchanged at \$2.50/hour, \$25/week and \$100/month. Motion carried.

Moved by Kjelden, second Harder to approve price quotes for 2016-17 bakery products from Bimbo Bakery. Motion carried.

Moved by Weismantel, second Kjelden to approve price quotes for 2016-17 dairy products from Dean Foods. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Weismantel to approve SDCL 13-29-4 request from Webster Area School District to pick up students in Bristol for 2016-17. Motion carried.

Moved by Rix, second Harder to approve educational lane change for Jodi Sternhagen from MS+30 to MS+45 for 2016-17, with salary to be published in July. Motion carried.

Moved by Gengerke, second Kjelden to approve educational lane change for Janel Lone from BS+30 to BS+45 for 2016-17, with salary to be published in July. Motion carried.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Herd immunity for pneumonia

The word pneumonia was said by Hippocrates himself to have been "named by the ancients" before him. As old as it is, pneumonia is still a cause of great human suffering, but we now have better weapons to fight it.

In a small percentage of cases, especially in the immunocompromised, a bacterial lung infection can follow several

days after a common cold. Symptoms then would change from a dry cough into a productive cough, creamy-sometimes-rusty-sputum, shaking chills and sweats, and chest pain. It's important to note that antibiotics for the common cold DO NOT prevent a secondary bacterial pneumonia, but antibiotics started after the bacteria grab ahold can be life-saving. It's all about the timing.

About 50 percent of pneumonia is due to the pneumococcus bacteria, now named *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Sir William Osler said in the late 1800s that pneumonia is "the captain of the men of death." Prior to antibiotics, more than 30% of all those hospitalized for a bacterial infection of the lung would die. With antibiotics, that number dropped precipitously, but still people do die of pneumonia. Mostly they are very young or very old, related of course to their undeveloped or weakened immune systems.

This July, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported since 2000 there has been a huge drop in hospitalizations for pneumonia, with 12,000 fewer deaths every year especially in those older than 85. What's most amazing is it happened since the advent of routine childhood *Streptococcus pneumoniae* vaccination also called PREVNAR.

Although a similar and effective pneumonia vaccine, PNEUMOVAX, is available and highly recommended for those older than 65, or younger with lung disease or diabetes, it has not become routine. The authors of the study claim that it is the routine vaccination in children that's responsible for most of the reduction of pneumonia in the elderly. They call it herd immunity. Children vaccinated against pneumonia certainly are benefited, but also it profoundly protects the immune deficient adults around them.

Take home message: it is wise to have children and adults vaccinated against the dreaded Strep pneumoniae. Indeed, the "captain of the men of death" has been demoted by antibiotics and vaccinations; both modern developments of science fighting against an ancient disease.

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Today in Weather History

1920 - A severe hailstorm over parts of Antelope and Boone counties in Nebraska stripped trees of bark and foliage, ruined roofs, and broke nearly every window facing north. (The Weather Channel)

1946 - The temperature at Medford, OR, soared to an all-time high of 115 degrees to begin a two week heat wave. During that Oregon heat wave the mercury hit 100 degrees at Sexton Summit for the only time in forty years of records. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1975 - An early afternoon thunderstorm raked the east side of Tucson, AZ, with gale force winds, heavy rain, and numerous lightning strikes. A thirteen year old boy was swept through a forty foot long culvert by raging waters before being rescued. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Showers and thundestorms in the southwestern U.S. ended a record string of thirty-nine consecutive days of 100 degree heat at Tucson, AZ. A thunderstorm at Bullhead City, AZ, produced wind gusts to 70 mph reducing the visibility to near zero in blowing dust. Southerly winds gusting to 40 mph pushed temperature readings above 100 degrees in the Northern Plains. Rapid City, SD, reported a record high of 106 degrees, following a record low of 39 degrees just three days earlier. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1988 - Thirty-seven cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 96 degrees at Bluefield, WV, and 104 degrees at Charleston WV were all-time records, and afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Binghamton, NY, 99 degrees at Elkins, WV, and 103 degrees at Pittsburgh PA, tied all- time records. Highs of 104 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and 105 degrees at Parkersburg WV were records for July, and Beckley, WV, equalled their record for July with a high of 94 degrees. Martinsburg, WV, was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 107 degrees. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms raked the northeastern U.S. with large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms developing along a stationary front drenched the Middle Atlantic Coast States with heavy rain, causing flooding in some areas. More than five inches of rain was reported near Madison and Ferncliff, VA. Hot weather prevailed in Texas. San Angelo reported a record high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)


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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
40%	80% → 50%	10%				
Severe Thunderstorms	Severe Thunderstorms then Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 81 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 89 °F



Widespread Severe Storm Risk This Afternoon & Evening






Highlighted Area: South Dakota
Last Updated: Jul 16 2016 1250 AM CDT
Valid Until: Jul 17 2016 0700 AM CDT

**Severe Weather Outlook
Saturday, July 16, 2016**

Risk Matrix

Hail	
Low	High
▲	
Wind	
Low	High
▲	
Tornado	
Low	High
▲	


weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NationalWeatherServiceAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)

Published on: 07/16/2016 at 5:24AM

A low pressure system will move into western South Dakota today with a warm front extending to the northeast. We also are watching a convective complex moving along the North Dakota state line. Both the warm front and outflows from this system could provide the focus for thunderstorms this afternoon. Storms will track to the east/southeast through the afternoon, evening and overnight hours. The initial threat includes large hail, strong winds, and the potential for a tornado or two. This system will likely evolve into a broader area of convection with mainly a hail and wind threat overnight. Heavy rain is also possible however storms should move fast enough that the threat from flooding is low.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80.1 F at 4:08 PM

Low Outside Temp: 49.5 F at 4:45 AM

High Gust: 7.0 Mph at 11:21 AM

Precip:

Today's Info

Record High: 112° in 1936

Record Low: 42 in 1976

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 1.68

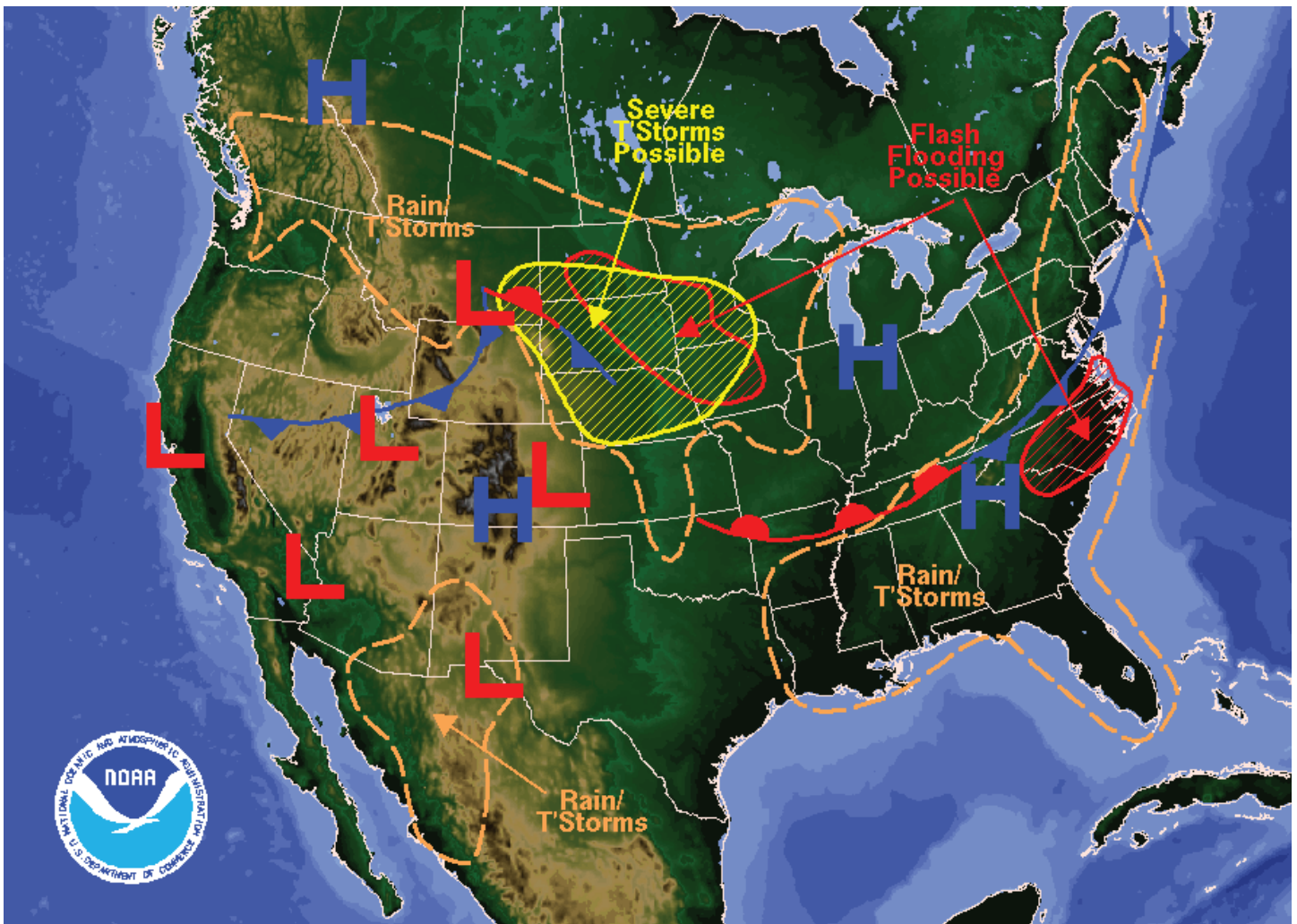
Precip to date in July: 2.74

Average Precip to date: 12.52

Precip Year to Date: 9.40

Sunset Tonight: 9:17 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:02 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jul 16, 2016, issued 4:25 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Krekeler based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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NO LIMITS LOVE!

Four-year-old Martha was just beginning to understand numbers. Trying to put her new knowledge to work, she said, "Mommy, I love you ten times! No, I love you a hundred and ten times. No. That's not right, Mommy. I love you more than all the numbers in the world!"

That mother's heart must have jumped with joy!

Numbers have become an important part of everyone's life. It seems as though we try to measure everything in one way or another. Whether it is household budgets, interest rates, unemployment numbers, political polls or retirement accounts - to name a few - we attach a number to everything.

But there is one item that cannot be measured. It is impossible to assign a number to the love of God. It is immeasurable, incalculable, and actually beyond our reason to comprehend. God set the pattern or the standard for true, selfless, self-sacrificing love in the gift of His one and only begotten Son.

God paid a price we cannot comprehend when He gave His Son to pay the price of our sins. And we must also add to that love the love of Jesus who willingly and unhesitatingly gave His life on the cross for our salvation.

When we combine the love of God with the love of Jesus, we come to Martha's conclusion: it's more than all the numbers in the world! And then some!

Prayer: Father, we do not understand the love that You have for us. It is beyond our ability to grasp. We do know, however, that Your love made salvation possible. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

News from the Associated Press

Accident at scenic overlook kills 1, seriously injures 2

KADOKA, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say one person was killed and two others seriously injured when a semitrailer tipped over slid into a parked car at a scenic overlook in western South Dakota.

The accident happened Friday morning off Interstate 94, about 22 miles west of Kadoka. Authorities say the semi tipped over after hitting a curb and slid into a parked Toyota Corolla.

Nobody was in the car, but two women standing in grassy area suffered life-threatening injuries when they were struck by the car. The women were airlifted to a Rapid City hospital. The semi driver was transported to a Philip hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Names of the victims have not been released.

Health Department launching campaign to get people to walk

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Health wants South Dakota residents to walk more over the summer.

The agency said Friday that the Nutrition and Physical Activity Program is launching a campaign to encourage walking.

Kiley Hump is chronic disease prevention and health promotion administrator for the Department of Health. Hump says regular physical activity reduces the risk of chronic diseases including stroke, diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure.

Winners of photo contests will get walking shoes or physical activity trackers. Hump says the campaign's goal is to encourage residents to add some more physical activity to their routines.

Dry conditions threaten crop yields, boost fire danger

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dry conditions and drought are threatening crop yields and boosting fire danger in South Dakota. Here's a look at the dry conditions, their effects across the state and what officials are doing about it:

LAY OF THE LAND

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows parched conditions in western South Dakota, with pockets of severe to extreme drought in the Black Hills region. Areas in the central, southwestern and northeastern parts of the state are also experiencing abnormally dry conditions. Recent rains in northeastern South Dakota have eased the situation, but "they're not out of the woods with this heat," said Dennis Todey, a former state climatologist who now works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Drought Monitor estimates that over 188,000 people in South Dakota are in drought areas.

FIRE

Drought has exacerbated fire conditions in western South Dakota, which is in a region "right in the bullseye of the nation" for potential blazes over the next 30 days, said Jim Strain, deputy director of the Division of Wildland Fire at the South Dakota Department of Agriculture.

"We are very concerned for the potential of large fire growth and the occurrence of many fires due to continuing drought and dryness conditions in western South Dakota," Strain said.

Drought contributes to fire occurrence and explosive fire growth in prairie and forest areas by drying out potential fuels such as dead grasses and logs.

South Dakota has seen several large fires since the start of the year, including the Cold Fire in the Pringle area and the Crow Peak wildfire sparked by lightning on June 24 that torched more than 2,700 acres, or

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over 4 square miles. A smaller wildfire in Rapid City burned this week.

STATE ACTION

Gov. Dennis Daugaard this week activated the state Drought Task Force for the first time since July 2012 to keep an eye on thirsty conditions and share information among government agencies and other organizations.

The governor also issued an emergency fire declaration for 13 drought-affected counties in western and central South Dakota, making a single engine air tanker plane to be based in Pierre available to respond to fires with the state bearing nearly all the cost.

David Bright, a pilot with Montana-based New Frontier Aviation, will fly the firefighting airplane. Typically, at an optimal drop height of 120 feet, a trigger on the flight stick opens a clamshell gate reminiscent of an older bomb bay, releasing retardant from the tanker plane to contain the blaze so people on the ground can put it out, he said.

Bright said it's hard to know how this job will compare with the others over the years.

"Sometimes we've sat there for 30 days and not turned a prop," he said. "Sometimes you go like a son-of-a-gun for two weeks."

FARMING AND RANCHING

The dry circumstances in western South Dakota have caused reduced productivity in pasture and rangeland for feeding cattle, Todey said.

Mark Hollenbeck, a rancher near Edgemont, said pastures are getting short quickly. He's already sold cows and is sending cattle to Nebraska, where there is forage available — for a price.

Hollenbeck said he's also noticed neighbors moving livestock out of the area.

"I don't know how many thousands of dollars, but it will be a significant impact," Hollenbeck said. "I'm basically paying somebody else to do what I should be doing."

Recent rain in the dry northeast was crucial for rescuing area farmers, said Matt Brandenburger, operations manager for the Wheaton-Dumont Co-op Elevator.

"This rain is why we're predicting our yields will be average," he said. "This rain was the savior. Without this rain we were going to have no crop."

But farmers will still need sustaining precipitation or a significant downpour by the middle of August to avert a "disaster," Brandenburger said.

CRYSTAL BALL

According to the National Weather Service's latest seasonal drought outlook, drought conditions are expected to persist in a pocket of far-western South Dakota through Sept. 30.

Todey said South Dakota is likely to experience hotter temperatures over the next couple of weeks, and the western part of the state tends not to get significant precipitation at this time of year. That means it's difficult for the situation to improve right now.

"What you hope for is that it doesn't get too much worse," he said.

Wildfire burning in Rapid City at 80 percent containment

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Crews battling a wildfire in Rapid City have mostly contained the blaze.

The 13 ½-acre fire on what is known as M Hill is about 80 percent contained. KEVN-TV reports that only about 20 personnel remaining on scene to handle mop-up work. No one has been hurt and no structures have been threatened.

KOTA-TV reports that residents of an apartment complex just hundreds of yards away from the flames turned out to watch the fire Thursday, prompting police at one point to block off streets in the area.

The fire that started Wednesday night shut down a popular hiking spot and a park and sent smoke over the city. Officials suspect it was human-caused, but the exact cause isn't yet known.

Lawrence County residents to vote on controversial quarry

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — Residents of Lawrence County will get the chance to vote on a proposed rock quarry that has run into opposition.

County commissioners last month narrowly approved a permit for Rapid City-based Mountain View Ranches LLC, which is planning a 192-acre sand, gravel and rock quarry off Crook City Road. The 3-2 vote on June 9 to approve the project with dozens of conditions aimed at limiting the quarry's impacts on the surrounding area came after a public hearing that lasted three hours.

Some area residents worry the operation will jeopardize historic trails and lead to other problems including noise, dust and road damage. They gathered enough petition signatures to bring the matter to a public vote.

"We just want to bring awareness to everybody that it could happen in their backyard, or in their front yard," Kevin Farmer, director of the opposition group Save Centennial Valley, told KOTA-TV.

Mountain View Ranches maintains that the area is appropriate for a quarry. The company has said only 10 acres would be operated at a time, and that land would be reclaimed as the work progressed.

The petition to let the public decide on the permit included more than 1,100 signatures. County Auditor Connie Atkinson told the Black Hills Pioneer that 820 valid signatures were required and verified. The special election is scheduled Aug. 30.

Methodists elect 1st openly gay bishop in defiance of ban

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP) — The Western district of the Methodist church has elected an openly gay bishop despite the denomination's ban on same-sex relationships.

The Rev. Karen Oliveto was elected late Friday night at a meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, of the church's Western Jurisdiction. Oliveto is pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco. She is the first openly gay bishop in the 12.7 million-member denomination.

The United Methodist Church is deeply divided over LGBT rights. Church law says same-gender relationships are "incompatible with Christian teaching." But several regional districts are openly defying the prohibition by appointing gay clergy and allowing same-sex weddings in churches. Some instances have led to trials under the church legal system.

Oliveto's election could draw complaints that will prompt a review under church law.

Amazon's Jeff Bezos gets cameo in new 'Star Trek' film

RYAN PEARSON, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Amazon founder Jeff Bezos got to live out every Trekkie's fantasy by playing an alien in the new "Star Trek" movie.

Bezos is listed in the credits for "Star Trek Beyond," the third installment of the rebooted sci-fi franchise. In interviews Friday, producer J.J. Abrams and director Justin Lin confirmed his appearance in the movie.

Lin said the billionaire CEO arrived with plentiful security for a day of filming and waited patiently for crews to shoot the single tracking shot that includes his character.

"He was awesome," Lin said. "It was like a president was visiting, you know? He had a big entourage! But it didn't matter because he was so into it. He had to wait around all day because it was one day we were shooting like three different scenes and, it was also credit to Jeff because ... he just nailed it every time."

Bezos has spoken in interviews of his passion for "Star Trek" and said his childhood dreams of space led him to found his private space travel company, named Blue Origin.

His cameo in the latest movie comes after several musicians and actors made unbilled appearances in

Abrams' "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," including Daniel Craig as a Stormtrooper.

"Listen — you can't keep people away," Abrams said, laughing. "I saw it, I thought it was funny."

Even for Hollywood actors accustomed to the red-carpet glitz, Bezos caused a stir with his appearance on set.

"I was there for the bit with his like nine bodyguards and three limos. It was really intense," said Chris Pine, who stars in the film as Capt. James T. Kirk. "I had no idea who he was. Not a clue. But he was obviously very important."

Islamic State group claims Nice attacker as a 'soldier'

COLLEEN BARRY, Associated Press

NICE, France (AP) — The Islamic State group claimed Saturday that the Tunisian man who barreled his truck into a crowd in the French resort city of Nice was a "soldier" of the group. It's the first claim of responsibility for an attack that claimed 84 lives at a July 14 fireworks display for France's national holiday.

The claim — circulated on social media by a news outlet affiliated with the group — didn't name Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, the 31-year-old Tunisian who authorities say was behind the wheel as a truck crashed into revelers Thursday night. But the statement quoting an IS security member said the man was following calls from the group to target citizens of countries fighting it.

The veracity of the group's claim couldn't immediately be determined, but French officials didn't dispute it.

What is known publicly about Bouhlel so far suggests a troubled, angry man with little interest in the group's ultra-puritanical brand of Islam. But, in a statement to reporters, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve hinted that Bouhlel may have had a last-minute adoption of a more extremist worldview.

"It seems he was radicalized very quickly," Cazeneuve said following a ministerial meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

It's also unclear whether or not Bouhlel, who was shot dead by police that night, had been acting alone.

The Paris prosecutor's office said Saturday that five people are in custody following the attack. The identities of most of those taken into custody were not clear. But neighbors in the Nice neighborhood where the Bouhlel used to live told The Associated Press that his estranged wife had been taken away Friday by police.

The claim of responsibility came as French security chiefs met in Paris and as Nice's seaside boulevard, the famous Promenade des Anglais, was slowly coming back to life. A makeshift memorial of bouquets, candles and messages had been set up near one end of the expansive avenue.

"It's satisfying to see life coming back," lawmaker Eric Ciotti told France's iTele broadcaster from the promenade. "It's a sign that life is coming back even if, naturally, nothing will erase those images of horror. ... Never since World War II has Nice ever seen such horror."

The suffering is far from over. Two days after the atrocity, many families are still hunting for missing loved ones, going from hospital to hospital in an effort to find people who've disappeared in the chaos of the truck's rampage.

Officials said 202 people had been wounded in the attack, with 25 of them on life support as of late Friday.

France on Saturday began three days of national mourning in homage to the victims — although that hasn't stopped politicians from sniping at each other over who bore responsibility for the failing to stop the attack.

In an open letter published on the Nice Matin newspaper's website, regional council President Christian Estrosi — a member of France's opposition Republicans — described the country's current Socialist leadership as "incapable." He said he had requested that the police presence be reinforced in Nice ahead of the fireworks display but was told there was no need.

Cazeneuve, speaking at the Elysee, disagreed, saying that high security had been assured in the region — including at the Cannes Film Festival and the Nice Carnival. Government spokesman Stephane Le Foll warned against attempts to divide the country, calling for "unity and cohesion."

France is heading into elections next year, and the deeply unpopular President Francois Hollande is facing multiple challengers, from within his own Socialist Party, from the right-wing Republicans and from the far-right National Front.

Portman's Ohio campaign a sharp contrast to Trump's

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ohio Republican Sen. Rob Portman and his re-election team have been beating the bushes and sifting through reams of data for more than a year.

Donald Trump has visited the state once since clinching the GOP presidential nomination.

Republicans say Trump needs to take a page from Portman's playbook, and they worry that Trump's flyby approach to one of the most important states on the electoral map won't give him the edge he needs over Democrat Hillary Clinton, who already has a strong Ohio operation.

Portman narrowly leads his Democratic opponent, former Gov. Ted Strickland, while Trump and Clinton are deadlocked in Ohio. Some Republicans complain that Trump could be ahead if he were to make a more specialized effort in the state.

"If you can't speak to everybody, you can't win statewide," said Ohio Republican consultant Jai Chabria, until recently a top aide to GOP Gov. John Kasich.

Certainly Trump has more states than just Ohio on his mind. He has said he can win states traditionally carried by Democrats, such as New York and California. But he must win some places where 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney lost, and he has pointed to the upper Midwest, where his tough talk on trade resonates with some blue-collar workers.

Ohio, worth 18 electoral votes, has been carried by every winning candidate for president since 1964, and by a margin of less than 3 percentage points in the past four White House elections.

Trump came in second in the state's GOP primary to Kasich, and Kasich has yet to back Trump, citing his former rival's divisive rhetoric and positions.

It's a message Trump will have to fundamentally change if he hopes to appeal to more of Ohio's diverse electorate, beyond the working-class white voters in the southeast part of the state with whom his populist economic theme resonates most clearly, Chabria said. Trump lacks a large staff in the state focused exclusively on promoting him, relying instead on the roughly 50 Republican National Committee workers promoting the entire GOP ticket.

Of Clinton, by contrast, Chabria said: "They may have an older machine, but at least they have a machine."

It's understandable that Portman's future depends on Ohio. For Trump, it's still critical. Beating Clinton there and neighboring Michigan or Pennsylvania could offset a potential Clinton victory in Florida, worth 29 votes of the 270 needed to clinch the presidency.

By the end of the month, Portman is expected to have contacted 3 million voters. He has had a team on the ground for a year and a half, and has 15 paid employees staffing 10 offices. Portman visits at

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least one office every weekend, his campaign manager, Corry Bliss, said.

"The target of our grassroots campaign is identifying swing voters, identifying the issues they care about and communicating with them," Bliss said.

Portman has committed \$15 million from his campaign to television advertising, much of it addressing heroin addiction, a big concern for swing-voting suburban women, but also the ailing coal industry, a priority in the southeast part of the state.

Trump has spent no money in Ohio on advertising. The RNC staff is also promoting Portman and the rest of the GOP ticket. Just last month, he named an Ohio director, an experienced state operative, Bob Paduchik, who ran Portman's 2010 campaign.

State GOP Chairman Matt Borges touts the combined RNC and state party effort and contends Republicans who were in "mourning" over Kasich's drop from the race in May are beginning to coalesce around Trump.

"I just completely and utterly reject this notion that (Clinton is) ahead of us," Borges said.

Clinton has been to Ohio four times since effectively locking up the Democratic nomination. Her campaign also has spent an average of \$1 million per week on television advertising in Ohio since mid-June and has about 100 paid organizers in the state.

Michigan's neighbor and a major auto and parts manufacturer itself, Ohio was hit hard by deep job cuts in the industry, giving Trump's stance on trade some traction. Reports show dozens in Ohio dying of heroin overdoses every week in the suburbs of its numerous metro areas, and workers in Ohio's southeast worry about the future of the coal industry, in light of higher environmental standards.

Yet, Trump also shows no sign of tailoring his message to Ohio.

During his one visit to Ohio since clinching the nomination, Trump pledged to defeat the Islamic State group responsible for deadly attacks in the United States and abroad. He also promised to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an ambitious trade pact with Asian nations, which he told the audience "will do to you worse to you than NAFTA's done," referring to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

At no time during the rally near Cincinnati did he mention heroin or the coal industry. Instead, he spent much of the time accusing Clinton of lying about sending and receiving classified information on a private email server in her home when she was secretary of state.

"These are all lies. We say, lie, lie, lie. Dirty rotten liar," Trump said at campaign rally near Cincinnati on July 6.

8 years after hope and change, voters are angry, anxious

JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

ARVADA, Colorado (AP) — Eight years ago, Barbara Conley was one of the millions of Americans swept up in Barack Obama's promises of hope and change when he accepted the Democratic nomination at a packed football stadium a few miles from her home in the Denver suburbs.

But those optimistic days are almost unrecognizable to Conley now.

With Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton preparing for their own nominating conventions, the 68-year-old independent is filled with so much frustration at the candidates and the political system that propelled them to victory that she can't even imagine voting in November.

"I'm so mad about both of the candidates," said Conley, who finds Clinton too dishonest and Trump too unproven to be president. She paused while loading groceries into her car and declared, "It's depressing."

Less than four months before Election Day, that same sense of anger and anxiety runs deep with voters across the country. Trump and Clinton will each try to paint a rosy picture of life under their leader-

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ship during their back-to-back conventions, but it seems unlikely either can quickly shake Americans out of their bad mood.

A stunning 79 percent of Americans now believe the country is heading in the wrong direction, a 15-point spike in the past year, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. Voters are strikingly unhappy with the candidates who will be on the ballot this fall, with only 22 percent saying they would be proud to see Trump win and 27 percent to see Clinton.

Julie Defoe, a 51-year-old who works for a startup, said she feels backed into a corner by the nominees. A self-described conservative Democrat who voted for Republicans in the past two presidential elections, Defoe has considered simply not voting in November.

"Or can we rally for a box that says, can we get a do-over?" said Defoe, who lives in Lafayette, Colorado.

Kristie Boltz, a registered Republican from Black Lake, Ohio, said a choice between Clinton and Trump is so unappealing that she would rather Obama stay in office for a third term.

"And I didn't even vote for Obama. How crazy is that?" said Boltz, a 39-year-old who works in marketing.

By some measures, America's palpable pessimism can appear at odds with the country's economic and security standing.

The economy is growing, jobs are being created and unemployment is low. Tens of thousands of American troops have come home from dangerous war zones during Obama's presidency. Crime is down nationwide.

But the improving economy is no doubt a changing one, leaving some Americans without the skills they need for the jobs available. Terrorism fears have been heightened in the U.S. after a string of deadly incidents in the West, including Thursday night's attack in Nice, France, that killed more than 80 people during a Bastille Day celebration.

This summer in particular has seemed to bring a steady stream of gruesome news.

A mass shooting at an Orlando nightclub left 49 people dead, as well as a gunman who pledged his allegiance to the Islamic State group despite no formal ties to the group. Shootings by police of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota were captured on video, followed by the murder of five police officers in Dallas.

The incidents seemed to momentarily spark national soul searching about gun violence and race relations. But as Americans looked toward the presidential candidates and other political leaders, some saw little sign of readiness to meet a challenging time.

"I wish the candidates would get together and be a team to help each other and help the country, that's what I wish," said Lonila Duarte, a 71-year-old from Denver who plans to vote for Trump. "And stop acting like children."

Emilie Passow, a 68-year-old Democrat from Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, said her disgust extends beyond the presidential candidates to Congress as well. "There's so little attempt at conciliation and consensus," she said.

More than any other candidate in this election, Trump has latched onto the public's fears. He promises to "Make America Great Again," pledging to bring back manufacturing and mining jobs from areas where they've disappeared. With coded — and sometimes not so coded — language, he's cast aspersions on immigrants seeking to come to the United States and on Muslims already here.

"We're trying to be so nice, we're trying to be so civil. We're so weak," Trump said hours after the Nice attack. "The world has got to strengthen up, and we have to be very tight with our borders. It's now a different world."

While Trump supporters cheer those lines, they leave other voters on edge.

"It's humiliating as an American that we would actually entertain that, that there are people who actually support him," said Melissa Andreas, a 42-year-old dance instructor from Erie, Colorado. "I'm shocked."

Indeed, three-quarters of Americans consider Trump to be only slightly or not at all civil, and half say he's at least somewhat racist, according to the AP-GfK poll.

But three-quarters consider Clinton to be only slightly or not at all honest, and most think her use of a private email address and server while she was secretary of state broke the law, including 4 in 10 who think she did so intentionally.

Andreas has never voted before in a presidential election. She liked Obama, but felt his Republican rivals John McCain and Mitt Romney were palatable enough that she didn't see a need to cast a ballot in her swing state.

That's all changed in this election.

"This election actually has me chiming in," said Andreas, who plans to vote for Clinton. She said of the prospect of a Trump presidency: "I'm scared that our country is going to be in utter turmoil with him as our leader."

Seventy-six-year-old Mike Ryan shares many of those sentiments about Trump. But his view of Clinton isn't much better.

"I've always been a Democrat and always will be," Ryan said. "But it's going to be a toughy."

Like his fellow Coloradan Barbara Conley, some of Ryan's feelings stem in part from his frustrations with Obama's eight years in office. Though Ryan supports Obama, he's been irritated by the years of battle between the Democratic president and Republican lawmakers that have often ended in stalemate.

Asked whether he believes Clinton — or Trump — could do any better, Ryan said simply, "I'm disappointed with what we're left with."

Pakistani model killed after offending conservatives

MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani fashion model Qandeel Baloch, who recently stirred controversy by posting pictures of herself with a Muslim cleric on social media, was strangled to death by her brother, police said Saturday.

Her parents told police one of her six brothers strangled her to death as she slept in the family's home in Multan, police spokeswoman Nabila Ghazanfar told The Associated Press. She said police are searching for the suspect.

Baloch, whose real name was Fauzia Azeem, was little known until recently, when she offended many conservatives by posting pictures of herself with Mufti Qavi, a prominent cleric. She said the two of them enjoyed soft drinks and cigarettes together during the daylight hours in the holy month of Ramadan, when practicing Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.

The pictures and allegations caused a scandal in conservative Pakistan, and the government removed Qavi from the official moon-sighting committee that determines when Ramadan starts and ends in accordance with the Islamic lunar calendar.

Baloch had said Qavi told her he wanted to see her face before the committee met to determine the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan, which was observed earlier this month.

Qavi denied the allegations, saying he only met with her to discuss the teachings of Islam.

Earlier this month, Baloch sought protection from government, saying she was receiving anonymous

death threats.

Hundreds of Pakistani woman are murdered by family members each year in so-called honor killings, which are seen as punishment for violating conservative norms.

Bangladesh stops open defecation in just over a decade

JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press

BORMI, Bangladesh (AP) — Answering nature's call was once a nightmare for Rashida Begum, who had to creep around the jungle for a suitably private spot. Her home had no toilet, like the thousands of others in her crowded cluster of farming villages outside the capital.

In just over a decade, that's all changed, in her neighborhood and many others.

Through a dogged campaign to build toilets and educate Bangladeshis about the dangers of open defecation, the densely populated South Asian nation has managed to reduce the number of people who defecate in the open to just 1 percent of the 166 million population, according to the government — down from 42 percent in 2003.

"Once it was our habit to go to the fields or jungles. Now, it is shameful to us," Begum said in Bormi, a cluster of poor farming villages just outside Dhaka, the capital. "Even our children do not defecate openly anymore. We do not need to ask them; they do it on their own."

Bangladesh's success in sanitation — something so far unattained by its wealthier neighbor to the south, India — came from a dogged campaign supported by 25 percent of the country's overall development budget.

"The government has made a huge commitment," said Akramul Islam, director for water, sanitation and hygiene of the development NGO Brac. "The government decided that funds should go to the extreme poor who do not have latrines. So that basically gives a big push from the public sector for spending on sanitation."

The government's engineers also partnered with village councils and charities to spread the message on how toilets are key to better health. Rising incomes — moving from an average of \$1,154 in 2012-13 to \$1,314 in the last fiscal year, according to the World Bank — also helped to drive demand, Islam said.

Activists say small-scale surveys show that the campaign has improved public health, though there are not yet any government statistics to prove it more broadly.

"We see clearly that there is a decline in waterborne diseases and diarrheal diseases, so there is a clear link there," Islam said, while acknowledging that the improvement was something "we have to study."

Begum said her children have had no stomach illnesses since she installed an in-house toilet.

Open defecation is considered a major public health menace, causing childhood diarrhea, parasitic worm infections and other scourges that contribute to childhood stunting, malnutrition and tens of billions of dollars in lost productivity every year. Diarrheal diseases kill 700,000 children every year in India alone — most of which could have been prevented with better sanitation.

India has spent about \$3 billion since 1986 on campaigning and sanitation programs, but has not come close to Bangladesh's success. Two-thirds of India's 1.25 billion people still use the great outdoors as their public latrine. About half of Nepal's 30 million people and about 20 percent of Pakistan's 182 million also do not have facilities at home.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made public sanitation a hallmark of his "Clean India" drive, promising that every home would have a toilet by 2019 and setting aside hundreds of millions of dollars for the job. India has already built around 20 million toilets, but still has another 111 million to build

to reach its goal.

Bangladesh's sanitation victory didn't come easy. Millions of dollars from the government and charities were spent, and campaign volunteers said they worked hard to change public attitudes and habits.

Many villagers — particularly men — preferred going outdoors, where they could think in private, survey their lands or just feel the evening breeze or gaze at the sky. For women, however, having no toilet was both a nuisance and a danger, as many said they had to wait for nightfall for privacy.

"We had to cover our noses during rainy season because of the bad smell," said field campaigner Al Amin Akand of the charity Plan International, which works on community issues. "We had to work for years to motivate the villagers."

Back in 2008, most people in Bormi had no choice but to use the surrounding forests to defecate.

"We had to do fierce campaigning," going door-to-door for years, said Mohammed Badal Sarker, chairman of a local village council. The council even turned children into whistleblowers — literally.

"We provided schoolchildren with whistles to alert the villagers. It worked like magic," the chairman said. Children were encouraged to shout slogans like "Defecating in the open is the enemy of the people" and "No one will marry your daughter if you do not have a toilet at home."

The drive has even sparked a new industry in household sanitation, with small businesses cropping up across the country to sell the components for making inexpensive latrines. All it takes, they say, is an investment of \$12 to \$60 to buy two to three concrete rings and a concrete pan.

"Now you will not find a home without a sanitary latrine," Sarker said.

There is still cause for concern. Bangladesh's overpopulated urban areas are proving to be more of a challenge, mostly because the opportunity for contaminating the water supply is much greater.

"People might be using a toilet or a latrine, but then where does the human waste go from there?" said John Sauer, senior technical adviser of the Washington-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Population Services International (PSI). Waste water could be dumped on a field where children play, or where food is grown. "We must address where the human waste goes and how it is treated, disposed or reused."

Still, Sauer said, the achievement of virtually eradicating open defecation in just a decade is astonishing.

"Bangladesh has a lot to teach the rest of the developing world," he said.

Believe it or not: Fiction authors imagine Trump presidency

HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Imagine it's 2017 and Donald Trump is president. He's been informed by national security adviser Sean Hannity that Russia has launched a nuclear missile to Canada and war may be unavoidable.

Only a fellow celebrity can make it right — at least if you ask Richard Hine, author of the novella "Kim Kardashian Saves the World (After President Trump Nearly Ends It)."

"I've taken the idea of how ridiculous it would be to put a reality TV star in the realm of the presidency, and how you need a bigger TV reality star to step in," explains Hine, whose book is among a wave of fiction about the presumptive Republican nominee.

If Trump's political rise is proof that reality can outwit the most inventive minds, then some are trying to win back the narrative by jumping into the future. Thanks to the speed of digital technology, several authors have managed to complete and release Trump fiction in time for next week's GOP convention, with titles including "Operation Golden Mane: The Donald Trump Incident," "Donald Trump Builds a

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Wall: A Funny Story” and “Trumpocalypse Now: A Horror Satire.”

Last month, The New York Times published a short story by acclaimed fiction writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, whose “The Arrangements” views the campaign from the perspective of Trump’s wife, Melania.

“She sagged suddenly with terror, imagining what would happen if Donald actually won,” Adichie writes. “Everything would change. Her contentment would crack into pieces. The relentless intrusions into their lives; those horrible media people who never gave Donald any credit would get even worse.”

Andrew Shaffer is another Trump fiction author, a pro at parodies from “Fifty Shames of Earl Grey” or “How to Survive a Sharknado and Other Unnatural Disasters.” Shaffer’s “The Day of the Donald” is set in 2018, with a wall along the Mexican border under construction and a would-be Trump biographer mysteriously dead. Shaffer bills his story “A completely untrue, utterly unauthorized but not thoroughly impossible thriller.”

“Here’s a guy who’s a ready-made Bond villain — he’s rich, he’s eccentric, he’s always got a beautiful woman on his arm (whether it’s his wife or daughter),” Shaffer says. “Plus, look at that hair. You can just imagine him walking into a room where James Bond is tied up and then cackling maniacally.”

The books aim for laughs, but the authors say they want to address serious issues. Hine supposes in his novel that a Trump victory was made possible by voting restrictions that kept students, minorities and other presumed Democratic voters from the polls. He also critiques how candidates use the media.

“It’s so easy to make fun of Trump’s bombastic, arrogant and narcissistic style, pointing out the flaws in his statements and fact-free approach to his tweets,” says Hine, whose Twitter parody @RealDonaldDrumpf has more than 40,000 followers. “So I wanted to write something that comes out of a slightly different angle. I wanted to say something about celebrities and social media and how Trump has used social media and traditional media.”

Paul Bellow, the pseudonymous author of “Trump Drumpf: A Political Satire Novel,” said his book arose from conversations with friends about the election. The story takes us to 2023, when the country is being run by President Trump and Vice President Facebook and Detroit is in the arms of China.

“I joked about writing both a pro-Trump and anti-Trump book and profiting from both sides in true capitalist style,” he told The Associated Press. “However, the more I thought about it, the more I wanted to write a satire knocking not only Trump but also the media and some of the other current problems in America — i.e. education, private prisons, etc.”

“Buried under the candy-coated shell of this book, I’ve tried to shine light on a few HUGE problems that America will be facing in the near future.”

New 9/11 document reveals no smoking gun of Saudi complicity

DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saudi officials are hoping that the release of a top secret chapter of an early congressional inquiry into 9/11 will end accusations of Saudi complicity in the attacks — allegations that have never been substantiated. Those who pushed for its release say it’s only the beginning.

Congress on Friday disclosed the last chapter of a 2002 congressional report that has been kept under wraps for more than 13 years, stored in a secure room in the basement of the Capitol. Lawmakers and relatives of victims of the attacks who believe that Saudi links to the attackers were not thoroughly investigated had campaigned for years to get the pages released.

The document names individuals who knew the hijackers after they arrived in the United States and helped them get apartments, open bank accounts and connect with local mosques. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals and several had little experience living in the West.

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Several investigations into the attacks followed the congressional inquiry. The most well-known investigation was by the 9/11 Commission, which in 2004 stated that it found "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded" al-Qaida. "This conclusion does not exclude the likelihood that charities with significant Saudi government sponsorship diverted funds to al-Qaida."

Adel al-Jubier, foreign minister for Saudi Arabia, which has urged the release of the chapter since 2002, said the documents should finally put to rest questions about Saudi Arabia's suspected role in the Sept. 11 attack.

"That matter is now finished," al-Jubier said. "The surprise in the 28 pages is that there is no surprise."

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, and vice chairman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., urged the public to read the results of the subsequent investigations by the CIA and FBI that they say "debunk" many of the allegations in the congressional inquiry, and put conspiracy theories to rest.

But former Florida Sen. Bob Graham, the co-chairman of the congressional inquiry who pushed hard to get the pages released, remains convinced that the hijackers had an extensive Saudi support system with links to government officials while they were in the United States.

"The information in the 28 pages reinforces the belief that the 19 hijackers — most of whom spoke little English, had limited education and had never before visited the United States — did not act alone in perpetrating the sophisticated 9/11 plot," Graham said.

"I'm a little flabbergasted that some of the people who contributed to the 13 years that this was withheld are now saying it is not important," he told The Associated Press, without mentioning any names. "If so, why did they keep it from the public for so many years?"

Graham also said he hoped the release would pave the way for more documents to be disclosed.

"This is not the end," he said. "Most of what we know about 9/11 is from the investigations that were done in southern California and that's the primarily focus of the 28 pages. Ironically, two-thirds of the hijackers lived, most of the time they were in the U.S., in Florida and we know very little about their financing, who they associated with, or what assistance they may have received."

Graham said a federal judge in Florida is combing through 80,000 pages that include reports from the FBI's investigation into the hijackers' activities in Sarasota, Florida, to see if they should be released in a Freedom of Information Act suit brought by the corporate parent of Florida Bulldog, an investigative reporting organization.

Terry Strada, national chairwoman for 9/11 Families United For Justice Against Terrorism, also said she hoped Friday's release would help get other material disclosed.

"There is so much more on the Saudi connection to 9/11 and this is the tip of the iceberg, but you had to get this first," said Strada whose husband, Tom, died in the north tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11. "It's the beginning, but I don't think it's the end."

The document mentions scores of names that the congressional inquiry believed deserved more investigation. They included:

—Omar al-Bayoumi, a Saudi national who helped two of the hijackers in California, was suspected of being a Saudi intelligence officer. The newly released document says that according to FBI files, al-Bayoumi had "extensive contact with Saudi government establishments in the United States and received financial support from a Saudi company affiliated with the Saudi Ministry of Defense. ... That company reportedly had ties to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida," which orchestrated the attacks. The 9/11 Commission report, however, found him to be an "unlikely candidate for clandestine involvement"

with Islamic extremists.

—Osama Bassnan, who lived across the street from two of the hijackers in California. According to an FBI document, Bassnan told another individual that he met the hijackers through al-Bayoumi. Bassnan told an FBI asset that “he did more than al-Bayoumi did for the hijackers.”

The office of the Director of National Intelligence on Friday also released part of a 2005 FBI-CIA memo that said “there is no information to indicate that either (Bayoumi) or (Bassnan) materially supported the hijackers wittingly, were intelligence officers of the Saudi government or provided material support for the 11 September attacks, contrary to media speculation.”

The document also notes that U.S. and coalition forces retrieved the telephone book of Abu Zubaydah, the first high-profile al-Qaida terror suspect captured after the Sept. 11 attacks. The telephone book, obtained during his capture in Pakistan in March 2002, contained an unlisted number traced to ASPCOL Corp. in Aspen, Colorado, which the FBI field office in Denver determined “manages the affairs of the Colorado residence of Prince Bandar (bin Sultan),” who was the Saudi ambassador to the United States at the time.

The document, however, also stated that “CIA traces have revealed no ‘direct’ links between numbers found in Zubaydah’s phone book and numbers in the United States.”

Turkish president says he’s in control, coup faltering

SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

DOMINIQUE SOGUEL, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey’s president declared he was in control of the country early Saturday as government forces fought to squash a coup attempt during a night of explosions, air battles and gunfire that left dozens dead.

They arrested more than 750 soldiers across the country, fired colonels and generals and rescued the military chief in an operation at an air base in the outskirts of Ankara.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned coup supporters that “they will pay a heavy price for their treason to Turkey,” according to a transcript of his remarks provided by his office. “Those who stain the military’s reputation must leave. The process has started today, and it will continue just as we fight other terrorist groups.”

Turkey’s state-run news agency, Anadolou, says military chief of staff Gen. Hulusi Akar is taking over the command of the operation against the coup plotters, CNN-Turk said.

Fighting continued throughout the morning, with the sounds of huge blasts echoing across the capital, Ankara, and Istanbul, including at least one bomb that hit the parliament complex. Television footage showed images of destruction at the parliament, which according to a lawmaker was targeted by three bombs, with broken glass and other debris strewn across a lobby leading to the assembly hall.

Government officials said the coup appeared to have failed as Turks took to the streets overnight to confront troops attempting to take over the country.

The chaos capped a period of political turmoil in Turkey which critics blamed on Erdogan’s increasingly authoritarian rule, which has included a government shake-up, a crackdown on dissidents and opposition media and renewed conflict in the mainly Kurdish areas of the southeast.

Turkey, a NATO member, is a key partner in U.S.-led efforts to defeat the Islamic State group, and has allowed American jets to use its Incirlik air base to fly missions against the extremists in nearby Syria and Iraq. A coup against the democratically elected government could make it difficult for the United States to continue to cooperate with Turkey.

Addressing supporters outside Istanbul Ataturk Airport on Saturday morning, Erdogan told the crowd

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assembled there: "They have pointed the people's guns against the people. The president, whom 52 percent of the people brought to power, is in charge. This government brought to power by the people is in charge. They won't succeed as long as we stand against them by risking everything."

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said security forces have defeated coup plotters in several places, including police and government buildings, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

"There is no where they have they have proper control," Bozdag said. "God willing, they will be defeated in the remaining areas and those in the air will be brought down."

Turkey's Police Chief Celalettin Lekesiz says 16 coup plotters have been killed in clashes at Turkey's military police command. In comments carried by the state-run Anadolu Agency on Saturday, Lekesiz said 250 others in the military police command were arrested. The police chief said clashes at the command are continuing but "are about to come to an end."

An official in the president's office says at least 60 people have been killed and more than 330 people have been arrested. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

In images broadcast on CNN-Turk, dozens of soldiers walked among tanks with their hand held up, surrendering to government forces on Istanbul's Bosphorus Bridge. Discarded gear was strewn on the ground. People, some holding flags, climbed onto the tanks.

Anadolu reported that 754 members of Turkey's armed forces have been detained across the country. At the Etimesgut armored units training command, in the outskirts of Ankara, some soldiers who took part in the attempted coup were arrested by fellow officers or soldiers and handed over to police, the agency reported.

Erdogan, who said his general secretary had been abducted by the coup plotters, flew into Ataturk airport early Saturday and was greeted by large crowds. Hours earlier, as the coup attempt got underway, his office declined to say where he was, and he was forced to give an interview over FaceTime to a television station.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has called all legislators for an emergency meeting Saturday, Anadolu reported.

U.S. President Barack Obama urged all sides in Turkey to support the democratically elected government. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he spoke to Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and called for respect for democracy.

The coup attempt began late Friday, with a statement from the military saying it had seized control "to reinstall the constitutional order, democracy, human rights and freedoms, to ensure that the rule of law once again reigns in the country, for law and order to be reinstated."

Fighter jets buzzed overhead, gunfire erupted outside military headquarters and vehicles blocked two major bridges in Istanbul. Soldiers backed by tanks blocked entry to Istanbul's airport for a couple of hours before being overtaken by pro-government crowds carrying Turkish flags, according to footage broadcast by the Dogan news agency.

But the military did not appear unified, with top commanders taking to television to condemn the action and order troops back to their barracks.

"Those who are attempting a coup will not succeed. Our people should know that we will overcome this," Gen. Zekai Aksakalli, the commander of the military special forces, told the private NTV television by telephone.

Fighter jets under the control of loyalist forces were flying over the capital to strike at helicopters flown by coup supporters, the Anadolu news agency said. NTV reported that one helicopter was shot down. Gunfire and explosions rang out.

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Erdogan called on Turks to take to the streets across the country, and many did, marching through the streets of Izmir and Istanbul, waving Turkish flags and gathering in the main square in Ankara. The Dogan news agency reported that soldiers fired on a group of people trying to cross the Bosphorus bridge to protest the attempted coup, and that some people have been hurt. TV footage showed people running for cover amid gunfire.

Troops also fired in the air to disperse a growing crowd of government supporters at the Taksim monument in Istanbul as military helicopters flew overhead. A nearby mosque made an anti-coup announcement over its loudspeakers. Several blasts and the screech of fighter jets were heard in central Istanbul as dawn approached.

At least 42 people were killed in the capital, NTV quoted the prosecutor's office as saying. Parliament Speaker Ismail Kahraman said a bomb hit one corner of a public relations building inside the parliament complex, injuring some police officers. Turkish media broadcast images of plaster and debris strewn on the ground there.

Special forces police appear to be deployed in the grounds of the parliament complex, just across the street from the military headquarters.

In Istanbul, an official at Haydarpasa Numune Hospital said at least 150 people were admitted with wounds but would not comment on whether there were fatalities. NTV reported six dead had been brought to that hospital. An official at Istanbul's Sisli Hamidiye Etfal Training and Research Hospital said they had also received dead and wounded. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to comment publicly.

In his TV address, Erdogan blamed the attack on supporters of Fethullah Gulen.

Erdogan has long accused the cleric and his supporters of attempting to overthrow the government. The cleric lives in exile in Pennsylvania and promotes a philosophy that blends a mystical form of Islam with staunch advocacy of democracy, education, science and interfaith dialogue.

By Saturday morning, a top Turkish official said the coup attempt appeared to have been repelled. The senior official told The Associated Press that all government officials were in charge of their offices. The official requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

As the crisis unfolded, there were reports that access to popular social media sites like Twitter and Facebook had been blocked within the country. Facebook declined comment, but Twitter said it suspected "intentional" interference with its service.

Winds, low humidity continue to fuel fire near Grand Canyon

The Associated Press

A blaze is burning near the Grand Canyon, while firefighters in neighboring states are taking aim at wildfires that have destroyed homes or forced people to evacuate. Here's a look at fires in the U.S. West:

ARIZONA

Wind gusts and low humidity have refueled a 2-week-old wildfire near the highway that allows tourists to get to the lodge, restaurant and main campgrounds on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, officials said.

"We are utilizing existing roads and natural features where ever possible to halt the progress of the fire into sensitive areas," incident commander Alan Sinclair said in a statement Friday night. "However, firefighter and public safety remain our top priority."

State Route Highway 67 and the North Rim remain open, but the fire has closed access roads to two

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park viewpoints. A plume of smoke could be seen from the more popular South Rim amid the busy summer season.

About 500 personnel are fighting the fire, which has burned nearly 5 square miles of aspen and pine since lightning ignited it June 29.

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez has declared a state of emergency in response to a wildfire in Otero County.

Friday afternoon's declaration will enable the county to order and pay for additional resources needed to fight the wildfire in the southern New Mexico mountain village of Timberon.

The fire has destroyed 67 structures and numerous vehicles after charring about 260 acres. Homes account for at least 30 of the destroyed or damaged structures.

Fire incident commanders say approximately 30 vehicles have been destroyed or damaged, including 14 recreational vehicles.

Crews are constructing and improving fire lines and removing debris and dangerous trees in the burn area.

The fire started Wednesday in wooded, hilly terrain and its cause is under investigation.

COLORADO

A wildfire chased residents from 140 homes in a tiny Colorado town this week, and they may not be allowed back for another week or more.

A number of the evacuated homes in Coaldale, about 150 miles southwest of Denver, are near where firefighters are working to contain the 25-square-mile blaze. They could be slowed by an increase in fire activity.

Residents have been told it could be a week or two before they can return, said Kale Casey of the U.S. Forest Service. Many were briefly allowed back to check on their homes Friday.

People began evacuating Sunday after the fire flared up from a lightning strike several days earlier in the rugged Sangre de Cristo Wilderness.

Crews have contained other fires in the state, including one that destroyed eight homes in the mountains near Boulder. All evacuees were allowed to return late Thursday.

Pence wins Trump's vote; GOP team addresses America Saturday

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

BRIAN SLODYSKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After frenzied, final decision-making, Donald Trump announced Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate Friday, adding an experienced politician with deep Washington connections to the Republican presidential ticket.

Trump's pick was aimed in part at easing some Republicans' concerns about his temperament and lack of political experience. Pence spent 12 years in Congress before being elected governor and his demeanor is as calm as Trump's is fiery. While some conservatives are skeptical of Trump's political leanings, Pence has been a stalwart ally on social issues.

Yet Pence is largely unknown to many Americans. And his solidly conventional political background runs counter to Trump's anti-establishment mantra.

The two men scheduled a news conference for Saturday in New York to present themselves to America as the Republican team that will take on Hillary Clinton and her Democratic running mate in November.

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The duo will head to Cleveland next week for the Republican National Convention.

As Pence arrived for a private meeting with Trump Friday, he told reporters he "couldn't be more happy for the opportunity to run with and serve with the next president of the United States."

In choosing Pence, Trump appears to be looking past their numerous policy differences. The governor has been a longtime advocate of trade deals such as NAFTA and the Trans Pacific Partnership, both of which Trump aggressively opposes. Pence also has been critical of Trump's proposed temporary ban on foreign Muslims entering the United States, calling the idea "offensive and unconstitutional."

The reaction to the Pence choice from Republican officials was overwhelmingly positive — no small feat for Trump, given how polarizing he's been within his own party.

"It was a pick that clearly shows he is pivoting to the general election," said GOP chairman Reince Priebus, who was in the midst of an interview with The Associated Press when Trump announced his decision. "He is choosing a person who has the experience inside and outside Washington, Christian conservative, very different style that I think shows a lot of maturity."

Pence, a staunchly conservative 57-year-old, served six terms in Congress before being elected governor and could help Trump navigate Capitol Hill. He is well-regarded by evangelical Christians, particularly after signing a law that critics said would allow businesses to deny service to gay people for religious reasons.

Clinton's campaign moved quickly to paint him as the "most extreme pick in a generation."

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate," said John Podesta, Clinton's campaign chairman.

Clinton spent Friday holding meetings in Washington about her own vice presidential choice. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a favorite of liberals and one of the Democrats' most effective Trump critics, and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, were seen in separate cars that left Clinton's home. Housing Secretary Julian Castro also met with Clinton, according to a person familiar with the meeting who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private gathering.

Trump spent weeks weighing vice presidential contenders, including former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and only zeroed in on Pence in recent days. In fact, the selection process appeared on the verge of sliding out of control in the final hours before the announcement, sparking speculation that Trump might be changing his mind.

Word that Pence would be joining the Republican ticket began trickling out in news reports Thursday before Trump had made a final decision or called Pence to offer him the job, according to a Republican familiar with the situation. Trump was in California for fundraisers, separated from his closest aides, and was fuming about leaks that he viewed as an attempt to pressure him into the decision.

Still, Trump called Pence Thursday afternoon to offer him the job and ask him to fly to New York for a Friday morning news conference. Pence accepted and boarded a private plane, along with his wife.

A few hours later, a huge truck barreled through a crowded holiday celebration in Nice, France, killing more than 80 people. With Pence sitting in a New York hotel, Trump decided to postpone the announcement.

The billionaire businessman then went on Fox News to say he had not yet settled on his "final, final" choice. He also held a midnight conference call with his top aides to discuss the situation, according to two people with knowledge of the call.

By Friday, plans were back on track.

Trump sent out a Twitter message saying he was pleased to announce Pence as his running mate. Moments later, one of Pence's aides filed paperwork with the Indiana Secretary of State's office with-

drawing him from the governor's race.

Pence was up for re-election, and state law prohibits candidates from being on ballots in two contests. Trump's formal announcement came about an hour before Pence's noon Friday deadline for withdrawing.

Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign chairman, strongly rejected suggestions that the candidate considered changing his mind about Pence.

"Never waffled once he made his decision," Manafort wrote in an email.

Gingrich, one of the finalists for the vice presidential spot, said he was "very comfortable" with Trump's decision and praised Pence as someone who could help unite the party.

But as of Friday afternoon, Gingrich had yet to share his support with Trump himself. He told The Associated Press he had not received a call from Trump telling him he wasn't getting the job.

Meanwhile, Trump did speak with Christie, according to a person familiar with their conversation. Ironically, Christie travelled with Trump to Indiana in April to help introduce the candidate to Pence when Trump was trying to win his endorsement ahead of India's primary.

Pence endorsed Trump's rival Ted Cruz instead.

California certifies low primary turnout, Clinton victory

ALISON NOON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Secretary of State Alex Padilla certified Friday that more than 8.5 million people, or 47.7 percent of registered voters, participated in the June primary, and that Hillary Clinton decisively won the state's Democratic race.

Turnout just surpassed the 47.5 percent of California's 1992 primary — the lowest participation rate of the four presidential primaries without an incumbent in at least the last quarter century, according to the secretary of state's office.

The historically low participation didn't match record-high voter registration, but it beat forecasts of an even lower turnout. Still, election experts had held out hope that a contested Democratic primary, although winding down, would draw enough new voters in the liberal state to further exceed expectations.

"Considering all the election hype and media coverage and money and the fact that Clinton and Bernie Sanders had rallied across the state, you could have argued that we'd see more," said Mindy Romero, director of the California Civic Engagement Project at the University of California, Davis. She noted that the number only accounts for about 34 percent of California's eligible voters.

She and other experts said several factors could have played a role in turnout dropping ahead of election day.

Donald Trump secured the Republican nomination a month before California's primary. An Associated Press delegate count the day before the primary showed Clinton had clinched the Democratic nomination. And nonpartisan voters may have been ill-informed or confused about how to vote in the presidential race.

The report released Friday evening reflected a steady increase in the number of Californians who vote by mail. The 5 million people who cast vote-by-mail ballots, about 59 percent of those who participated, were greater in number than any previous California primary.

The data show few results changed in the weeks of vote-counting following the June 7 election in the nation's most populous state.

Clinton maintained her 53-to-46 percent win over Sanders in the Democratic primary. Although that

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margin closed from initial returns showing Clinton leading 56 percent to 43 percent, results have proved false Sanders' claim that absentee votes would indicate a tight race.

In the Republican presidential primary, Donald Trump won nearly 75 percent of California GOP votes. John Kasich placed second with 11 percent and Ted Cruz took third with 9.5 percent, even though they had already dropped out of the race.

The June primary also set up an intraparty battle between Democrats for the U.S. Senate seat. Attorney General Kamala Harris had a large margin over Democratic rival Rep. Loretta Sanchez, with 40 percent to 19 percent.

California gives county officials a full month to count votes and report election outcomes to the secretary of state. But a unique set of circumstances this year meant as many as 2.5 million ballots couldn't be counted immediately after the polls closed on election night.

Most of the late ballots arrived close to election day or were likely still in the mail. State law allows vote-by-mail ballots to be counted if they are received within three days of an election.

There were also hundreds of thousands of provisional ballots that require extra verification and take longer to record, many from voters not affiliated with either party who did not realize they had to specifically request a Democratic ballot to participate in the Democratic presidential primary.

"We don't know if this is the highest number we've ever seen in terms of unprocessed ballots, but for a primary this is very unusual," Romero said.

The respected Field Poll had forecast a turnout of 8 million, or 44.7 percent of the state's 17.9 million registered voters, before the election.

Clinton holds day of VP interviews at her home in Washington

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Clinton summoned at least three contenders vying to become her running mate to her Washington home on Friday as she closes in on a pick for vice president.

Clinton met separately with Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, according to a person familiar with the process. The person would speak only on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

Warren and Hickenlooper were seen in separate cars departing the former secretary of state's home Friday afternoon. It was unclear if other potential vice presidential candidates met with Clinton during the day. The meetings came a day after the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee campaigned alongside another potential vice presidential choice, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, in northern Virginia.

Clinton's meeting happened the same day Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump named Indiana Gov. Mike Pence to be on the GOP ticket. For Clinton, the Pence selection offered clarity on the composition of the Trump ticket and certainty of whom her eventual running mate will meet in a fall debate.

While the choice of a vice president has rarely had a dramatic impact on the outcome of a presidential race, the decision is among the most consequential for a presidential nominee and offers a window into the candidate's priorities and values.

A small group of Clinton campaign confidants have reviewed publicly available information about the potential contenders for more than a month. The in-person meetings come less than two weeks before Clinton formally accepts her party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

"On Friday, Secretary Clinton held a series of campaign-related meetings at her Washington home, including several about her vice presidential selection process," spokesman Brian Fallon said in a state-

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ment. Campaign chair John Podesta and vice chair Huma Abedin were among the Clinton aides who spent the day at her home.

Clinton has been assisted by veteran Democratic lawyer James Hamilton, who has overseen her selection process, along with longtime aide Cheryl Mills, who served as her chief of staff in the State Department.

Kaine, 58, a former mayor and governor from a key general-election battleground state, is considered to be a safe choice for Clinton, someone who could help her appeal to moderates who have been turned off by Trump's divisive rhetoric.

Warren, 67, spent about an hour at Clinton's home, her second visit in the past month. The senator is an economic populist and a favorite of liberals who would help Clinton connect with many of the progressives who backed Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders during the primaries. Warren would also help form an unprecedented all-female presidential ticket.

Hickenlooper, 64, is a relatively new name in the process and hails from another top battleground state. The second-term governor founded a brewpub in Denver in 1988 and later became the city's mayor and was instrumental in luring the 2008 Democratic National Convention to the Mile High City. He would bring a Western presence to the ticket and offer a small businessman's appeal to a candidate who frequently mentions her father's work as the owner of a small drapery business.

Castro is a 41-year-old former San Antonio mayor who delivered the keynote address at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. He was tapped by President Barack Obama two years later to lead the housing agency. If selected, he would be the first Latino on a presidential ticket.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 16, the 198th day of 2016. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

On this date:

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the United States government; the area became Washington, D.C.

In 1862, Flag Officer David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1912, New York gambler Herman Rosenthal, set to testify before a grand jury about police corruption, was gunned down by members of the Lennox Avenue Gang.

In 1935, the world's first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City.

In 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico; the same day, the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis left Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Marianas.

In 1951, the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater declared that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1970, Three Rivers Stadium, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pittsburgh Pirates, officially

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opened as the Pirates lost to the Cincinnati Reds 3-2. (The stadium was demolished in 2001.)

In 1979, Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq.

In 1980, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Detroit.

In 1981, singer Harry Chapin was killed when his car was struck by a tractor-trailer on New York's Long Island Expressway.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and other Group of Eight world leaders meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, urged Israel to show "utmost restraint" and blamed Hezbollah and Hamas for escalating violence in the Middle East. Claiming election fraud had robbed him of Mexico's presidency, leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (ahn-DRAYS' mahn-WEHL' LOH'-pez OH'-brah-dohr) led hundreds of thousands of marchers through the capital.

Five years ago: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez left his country for Cuba to begin chemotherapy, vowing to win his fight against cancer and calling for his political allies to stay united in his absence.

One year ago: A gunman unleashed a barrage of fire at a recruiting center and another U.S. military site a few miles apart in Chattanooga, Tennessee, killing four Marines and a sailor before he was shot to death by police; authorities identified the gunman as Kuwaiti-born Muhammad Youssef Abdulazeez, 24, of Hixson, Tennessee. A jury in Centennial, Colorado, convicted James Holmes of 165 counts of murder, attempted murder and other charges in the 2012 Aurora movie theater rampage that left 12 people dead. President Barack Obama visited the medium-security El Reno Federal Correctional Institution near Oklahoma City to press his case that the nation needed to reconsider the way crime was controlled and prisoners were rehabilitated.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh is 84. Soul singer Denise LaSalle is 82. Soul singer William Bell is 77. International Tennis Hall of Famer Margaret Court is 74. College Football Hall of Famer and football coach Jimmy Johnson is 73. Violinist Pinchas Zukerman is 68. Actor-singer Ruben Blades is 68. Rock composer-musician Stewart Copeland is 64. Playwright Tony Kushner is 60. Dancer Michael Flatley is 58. Actress Phoebe Cates is 53. Actor Paul Hipp is 53. Actor Daryl "Chill" Mitchell is 51. Actor-comedian Will Ferrell is 49. Actor Jonathan Adams is 49. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Barry Sanders is 48. Actress Rain Pryor is 47. Actor Corey Feldman is 45. Rock musician Ed Kowalczyk (Live) is 45. Rock singer Ryan McCombs (Drowning Pool) is 42. Actress Jayma Mays is 37. Actress AnnaLynne McCord is 29. Actor-singer James Maslow is 26. Actor Mark Indelicato is 22. Pop singer-musician Luke Hemmings (5 Seconds of Summer) is 20.

Thought for Today: "If sentiment doesn't ultimately make fibbers of some people, their natural abominable memories almost certainly will." — J.D. Salinger (1919-2010).