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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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Tuesday, Aug. 2

National Ice Cream Sandwich Day

Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, green beans, grape juice, sour cream apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: David Strom • Marsha Wienk • Peggy Flihs • Jesse Nierman • Chris Wheeting • Jennifer Keimig • Erin Unzen • Dylan Graf • Spencer Kavanaugh • Morgan Rossow • Rebecca Blocker

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, Aug. 3

National Watermelon Day

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie.

Anniv: Lance & Kristie Hawkins

Birthdays: Mike Sundling • Michelle Kramer • Brad Hamilton

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

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

5:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Sarah Circle

Thursday, Aug. 4

U.S. Coast Guard Day

Senior Menu: Turkey chow mein, rice/chow mein noodles, broccoli, bread sticks, sour cream apple pie square.

Anniv: Craig & Kim Weber

Birthdays: Kristie Flihs • Allen McKiver • Tim Berndt • Lindsey Furman

2:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

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

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St.
Groton, SD 57445

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Pokémon GO causes Police Department to consider enforcing curfew

The Pokémon video game series has used real-world locations such as the Hokkaido and Kanto regions of Japan, New York, and Paris as inspiration for the fantasy settings in which its games take place. In Pokémon GO, the real world will be the setting!

According to the website pokemon.com, "Get on your feet and step outside to find and catch wild Pokémon. Explore cities and towns around where you live and even around the globe to capture as many Pokémon as you can. As you move around, your smartphone will vibrate to let you know you're near a Pokémon. Once you've encountered a Pokémon, take aim on your smartphone's touch screen and throw a Poké Ball to catch it. Be careful when you try to catch it, or it might run away! Also look for PokéStops located at interesting places, such as public art installations, historical markers, and monuments, where you can collect more Poké Balls and other items." According to Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou, Pokémon GO has arrived in Groton. As a result, it has raised safety concerns for local residents and he said at the council meeting Monday night that the department is looking at enforcing the curfew a little bit harder. "We have to look at the worst case scenero."

Mayou presented the council with the city ordinance on curfew, which is as follows:

Chapter 6-5 Minors

6-5-1 Curfew. It shall be unlawful for any boy or girl under the age of seventeen (17) years to be on the streets, alleys, or public grounds of the City of Groton between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., on Sunday - Monday, Monday - Tuesday, Tuesday - Wednesday, Wednesday - Thursday, or Thursday - Friday; and between the hours of 12:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Friday - Saturday or Saturday - Sunday unless accompanied by some person of majority age having lawful custody or control over said minor or unless on some errand by permission or direction of his or her parents, guardian, or employer. He or she while on such errand shall not loiter on the way or make any undue noise by shouting or yelling or otherwise disturbing the peace and quiet of the city.

6-5-2 Penalty. Any boy or girl who violates any of the provisions of section 6-5-1 shall be subject to arrest by any police officer or any citizen without process. Upon such arrest, he or she shall be taken and delivered into the hands of his or her parents or guardian. Upon a second or any subsequent arrest, such offender shall be taken by such police officer or person and presented to the circuit court of Brown County to be handled and punished as provided by law. Any parent or guardian or any person having lawful custody or control of any minor under the age of seventeen (17) years who shall allow, or permit said minor to violate the provisions of this chapter shall upon conviction thereof be subject to the penalties established in this ordinance (11-1-1).

Butch Farmen came before the council to discuss the intentions of his house. He said it needs to be torn down and plans to have it down within the next year. Mayor Scott Hanlon said the city was looking for something a little bit sooner, perhaps by summer's end. Councilman Mary Flihs said they should give him a year. He then proposed by May of 2017. The council agreed to give him until May 2017 and Farmen agreed to sign a contract that if was not torn down by May 1, 2017, the city would come in and remove it and bill it back to the property.

Kim Yarborough has a vehicle with expired plates in the back of her apartment. The council will give her two weeks as she is getting a duplicate title so she can donate it to a charity.

Police Chief Stacy Mayou reported that the new Tahoe had more repairs done to it. "We really need to start looking for a different vehicle," Mayou said. "I think we got one built Friday afternoon at the factory. We don't treat it any different than the other vehicles."

Kampa Construction bill for Sixth Street repair was \$3,000 higher than the estimate due to extra work

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that was done. Clark Engineering oversaw the project and they said the bill was fair.

The city used nearly 6 million gallons of water in July, compared to the normal 2 million to 3 million.

Sixth Street will be opened on Wednesday.

A motor in the Aspen Lift Station is going out and it will cost \$1,350 in parts and \$2,000 in labor. It is the main lift station that pumps the city's sanitary sewer to the lagoon.

There was a blink on the eastern part of Groton Monday morning due to excavators digging up a wire.

The end of the pool year was discussed. The last day of the pool will be September 4.

Councilman David Blackmun said that if there is a complaint, instead of having it listed as a concerned citizen, there should be a name associated with the complaint. "It gets away from anonymous complaining and sending the city to follow through," he said. "At least there will be accountability." The council will not adopt any new rules for public input at meetings, but will want names published on the agenda if there is a complaint.

The city will apply for a grant for playground equipment for the baseball field.

The council authorized Anita Lowary to attend the South Dakota Municipal League Conference October 4-7 in Rapid City.

Lowary was asked to be a board member on the South Dakota Public Assurance Alliance as there was a resignation on the board. The board meetings are in Pierre, Sioux Falls and Rapid City and one at a convention wherever that may be. The council decided to allow Lowary to serve on the board. The SDPAA board pays for the mileage and room.

The council will have a special meeting August 22nd to go over the 2017 budget.

A delinquent utility customer paid \$400 of his \$900 bill, which was suppose to be paid in full August 1. Lowary said that he had told her that he would have the other \$400 next week. "I know it's tough," said councilman Eddy Opp, "but we can't be going back and forth." Mayor Hanlon said, "I know that Ed is right, but we need to show a little compassion." The council agreed that the power needs to be shut off because he was unable to fulfill his promise.

Opp said that the police department should be taking notes on yards that need mowing and handing them in to city hall.



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605/397-2365**

Aug. 5 South Dakota Honor Choir at USD Draws Musicians From Around the State

VERMILLION, S.D. -- About 150 of South Dakota's best choral musicians will present the 43rd annual South Dakota Honor Choir on Friday, Aug. 5, on the University of South Dakota campus. Gabbie Kramer of Groton Area is one of the choir members.

The 7:30 p.m. concert at Aalfs Auditorium in Slagle Hall is presented by USD and the South Dakota American Choral Director's Association (SD-ACDA). The musicians are chosen by statewide audition and rehearse on campus five to seven hours a day for a week in preparation for the concert that will feature several classical and contemporary musical selections.

The guest conductor for this year's choir is Randolph Stenson of the St. Mary's International School in Tokyo, Japan. Susan Keith Gray, Ph.D., USD professor of music, will serve as accompanist for the performance.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission seating and will go on sale at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 5. For more information, contact the USD Department of Music at (605) 677-5274.

New Drought Website Unveiled

PIERRE, S.D. – An updated Governor's Drought Task Force website is now operational and is a resource for those looking for drought information.

The website, drought.sd.gov, went live on Friday of last week.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard activated the Governor's Drought Task Force earlier this month to monitor drought conditions across the state. Gov. Daugaard says the website will feature drought information.

"The website will include information such as the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, fire conditions, weather reports and agricultural information," said the Governor. "We know many people are impacted by the

dry conditions and we want to provide the best information we can."

Other features on the website include a map comparing this year's drought to the 2012 drought and a fire map showing the number of acres burned and the perimeter of the fires on state jurisdictional land.

While there has been recent rainfall in some areas, extremely dry conditions exist in other parts of the state. An emergency fire declaration earlier had been declared for 13 central and western South Dakota counties impacted by the drought conditions. Those counties are Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Perkins and Stanley.

The Governor's Drought Task Force consists of 12 state government agencies. Task Force members will coordinate the exchange of drought information among government agencies as well as agriculture, fire and water-supply organizations.

Next meeting for the Task Force is Aug. 15 in Pierre.



Lost Cat

Ruby belong to the Heupels at 407 N Broadway. If yousee Ruby, please give them a call at 397-8517

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As Summer Slides Away, So Do High Gas Prices

South Dakota average drops 14 cents in 30 days

August 1, 2016 – South Dakota is following much of the rest of the nation and offering drivers the lowest pump prices of the summer. The Rushmore State's average price for a gallon of regular gasoline today stands at \$2.218, according to GasPrices.AAA.com, down 30 cents since July 1 but still 57 cents above the low for the year of \$1.64 reached on Feb. 15.

	Today	Last Week	Change	27-Jun	Change	Last year
Aberdeen	\$2.234	\$2.259	-\$0.025	\$2.29	-\$0.059	\$2.685
Brookings	\$2.099	\$2.192	-\$0.093	\$2.41	-\$0.315	\$2.745
Huron	\$2.371	\$2.516	-\$0.145	\$2.27	\$0.102	\$2.704
Mitchell	\$2.290	\$2.308	-\$0.018	\$2.35	-\$0.061	\$2.766
Pierre	\$2.367	\$2.140	\$0.227	\$2.53	-\$0.162	\$3.072
Rapid City	\$2.380	\$2.398	-\$0.018	\$2.37	\$0.008	\$2.868
Sioux Falls	\$1.961	\$1.992	-\$0.031	\$2.19	-\$0.231	\$2.621
Vermillion	\$2.049	\$2.162	-\$0.113	\$2.22	-\$0.166	\$2.686
Watertown	\$2.232	\$2.309	-\$0.077	\$2.41	-\$0.182	\$2.690
Yankton	\$2.202	\$2.192	\$0.010	\$2.39	-\$0.190	\$2.981
South Dakota	\$2.218	\$2.251	-\$0.033	\$2.34	-\$0.120	\$2.773

National pump prices have fallen 50 of the past 51 days for a total of 25 cents per gallon. The national average price for regular unleaded gasoline has declined to \$2.13 per gallon, which is the lowest level in the past 100 days and the lowest price for this date since 2004. Today's price is three cents less than one week ago, 15 cents less than one month ago and 52 cents less than the same date last year.

"Gas prices across most of the country continue to slide due to abundant supplies," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "As of yesterday, more than 40 percent of gas stations nationwide were selling gasoline for \$2.00 per gallon or less, compared to just a handful on this same date last year. Less than one percent of stations nationwide are selling gasoline for more than \$3.00 per gallon, compared to 13 percent of stations one year ago."

With gasoline supplies high and oil prices low, pump prices are likely to remain relatively cheap through the remainder of the summer and into the fall. While a record number of American motorists have hit the road for summer travel, sharply lower gas prices have not triggered the sharply higher gasoline demand that many analysts had anticipated. This was evident in last week's Energy Information Administration report, which revised the mark for U.S. gasoline demand in May lower by 213,000 barrels per day to 9.436 million. While lower than first reported, this demand number was still the highest total on record for the month of May.

Quick Stats

- Gas prices in three more states have dropped below \$2.00 per gallon over the past week, bringing the total to fourteen states: South Carolina (\$1.84), Alabama (\$1.88), Tennessee (\$1.89), Mississippi (\$1.91), Arkansas (\$1.92), Oklahoma (\$1.92), Missouri (\$1.93), Virginia (\$1.93), New Jersey (\$1.93), Louisiana (\$1.95), Delaware (\$1.96), Kentucky (\$1.98), Texas (\$1.98), and Georgia (\$1.99).

- Gas prices are dropping on the West Coast, but it remains the most expensive market for gasoline, including the only four states where drivers are paying more than \$2.50 on average: Hawaii (\$2.76), California (\$2.73), Washington (\$2.62), and Alaska (\$2.62).

Oil Market Dynamics

The strengthening U.S. dollar coupled with ample domestic oil supplies have contributed to West Texas Intermediate crude oil prices testing lows not seen since Spring. WTI is priced in U.S. dollars, so as the dollar strengthens, the price of oil becomes relatively more expensive for those holding foreign currencies. This makes oil a less attractive investment and helps reduce prices. If this trend continues, WTI could drop below \$40 per barrel for the first time since April 18. At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI had recovered slightly from Thursday's multi-month low to settle 46 cents higher at \$41.60 per barrel.

Statement on South Dakota Health Insurance Rate Changes

Statement by Press Secretary Jonathan Gold on South Dakota health insurance rate changes:

"Consumers in South Dakota will continue to have affordable coverage options in 2017. Last year, the average monthly premium for people with Marketplace coverage getting tax credits decreased by \$20, from \$130 to \$110 per month, despite headlines suggesting double digit increases. People in South Dakota understand how the Marketplace works, and they know that they can shop around and find coverage that fits their needs and budget. In fact, last year more than 51 percent of them did exactly that by switching plans to save money. In addition, the vast majority of consumers in South Dakota qualify for tax credits that reduce the cost of coverage below the sticker price. Today's announcement is just the beginning of the rates process, and consumers will have the final word when they vote with their feet during Open Enrollment."

Background

Proposed rates aren't what consumers pay. While today's filings show an average rate increase in South Dakota, a report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services demonstrates that proposed premium changes from preliminary rate filings do not capture what Marketplace consumers actually pay. In South Dakota the average Marketplace premium among people with tax credits decreased by \$20, from \$130 to \$110 per month, despite headlines suggesting double digit increases.

Most people receive tax credits and can buy a plan for less than \$75 per month.

- 88 percent of Marketplace consumers in South Dakota receive tax credits, which are designed to protect consumers from premium increases and help make coverage affordable.

- Tax credits increase if the cost of the second lowest-cost silver, or benchmark, plan goes up. So if all premiums in a market go up by similar amounts, 88 percent of Marketplace consumers in that market will not necessarily pay more because their tax credits will go up to compensate. Average rate increases reported with the preliminary rate filings do not account for tax credits.

- For 2016 coverage, 67 percent of customers in South Dakota had the option of selecting a plan with a premium of \$75 or less per month after tax credits.

Shopping: The ACA Marketplace helps consumers shop around for the best deal.

- Prior to the ACA, it was nearly impossible for consumers to compare plans and shop around easily – and many Americans went uninsured because they couldn't afford insurance or had pre-existing conditions. Those who did have insurance in the individual market were often trapped in the plan they had, since people with even small health problems could be denied coverage or charged an exorbitant price if they tried to switch plans or issuers.

- Today, Marketplace consumers in South Dakota can purchase any available plan regardless of health conditions, and tools such as the doctor lookup and out-of-pocket cost calculator help them find the plan that meets their needs. Last year, 51 percent of returning Marketplace consumers in South Dakota switched plans. They saved an average of \$144 annually.

- Based on an examination of preliminary 2017 rate filings for nine states that released rates earlier this year, Avalere found that the average rate increase for lowest and second-lowest cost silver plans was 7-8%, about half the overall average rate increase in these states. That difference highlights how consumers can benefit from shopping around.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act, plans were typically inferior and excluded services like maternity care, or even routine services like prescription drugs. Plans also often charged a higher premium, or denied coverage altogether, to consumers due to a pre-existing condition. Now, all consumers have the option to purchase quality, affordable coverage.

- This is a big deal for as many as 346,000 people in South Dakota with a pre-existing condition.

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Preliminary rates aren't final rates. Preliminary rates often change significantly before being finalized. In particular, they are subject to rate review, which led to \$1.5 billion in savings for consumers in 2015. Last year, final rates in some states were below proposed rates.

Health insurance is clearly something people in South Dakota like, want, and need: 25,999 people signed up for 2016 coverage through the Marketplace.

Both Marketplace and non-Marketplace consumers continue to benefit from the low health care cost growth of recent years.

· Marketplace rates remain well below expectations when the law was passed. Marketplace rates for 2014 came in about 15% below Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projections in 2010. Better-than-expected Marketplace premiums are due in large part to lower-than-expected economy-wide health care cost growth and other efficiencies.

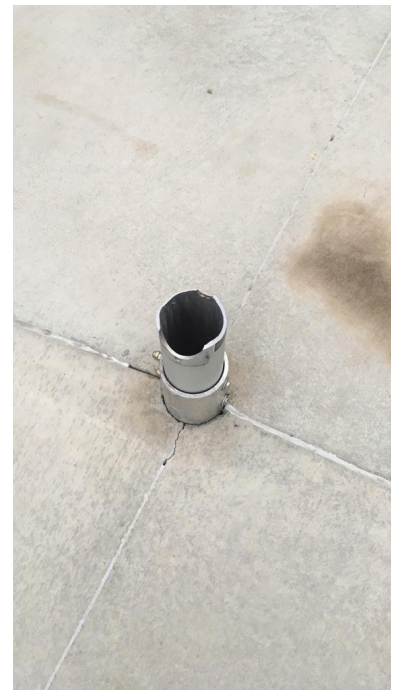
· For the half of Americans who obtain health insurance through an employer, premiums for family coverage grew by an average of 5% per year from 2010 to 2015 – compared with about 8% per year from 2000 to 2010. Premiums grew at an even slower 4.2% rate in 2015. If premium growth since 2010 had matched the average growth rate over the prior ten years, the average family premium would have been almost \$2,600 higher in 2015.



The old black and yellow baracades at the Groton Airport have been replaced with new cones. The cones were given to the city by the state through a grant.



These two photos by Kami Lipp show the basketball hoop that was bent over and the base of the umbrella where it snapped off from the storm last night. The basketball hoop was more than likely damaged from the flying umbrella. Part of the fence was also bent.



Storm blows through Groton

A severe storm blew through Groton last night around 11 p.m., bringing with it 55 mph wind gusts and torrential heavy rain that amounted to 1.35 inches in a short time. There are many branches down around town. One of the umbrellas at the pool was broken off at the base and the loungers were scattered all over. The basketball hoop in the shallow end was also damaged as was part of the fence.



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Today in Weather History

August 2, 1960: Hail the size of a hen egg caused from moderate damage to total loss to corn, soybean, and grain crops on 50 to 75 farms in Marshall, Roberts, and Grant Counties. High winds caused damage to buildings and uprooted trees in Britton.

1954 - Severe thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail for thirty minutes in north central Kansas. One drift measured 200 feet long, seventy feet wide and three feet deep. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Record heat gripped New England. Highs of 104 degrees at Providence, RI, and 107 degrees at Chester and New Bedford, MA, established state records. The heat along the coast of Maine was unprecedented, with afternoon highs of 101 degrees at Bar Harbor and 104 degrees at Jonesboro. (The Weather Channel)

1985: Strong and sudden wind gusts cause a plane crash at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport in Texas that kills 135 people. The rapid and unexpected formation of a supercell, an extremely violent form of thunderstorm, led to the tragedy.








1987 - Hot weather continued in the central U.S. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Concordia KS with a reading of 106 degrees, and Downtown Kansas City, MO, with a high of 105 degrees. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Ohio Valley and the north central U.S. Thunderstorms in South Dakota produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Philip, and hail two inches in diameter at Faulkton. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Searing heat continued from the Middle and Upper Mississippi Valley to the Middle and Northern Atlantic Coast States. Twenty-six cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Chicago IL reported a record seven days of 100 degree heat for the year. (The National Weather Summary)

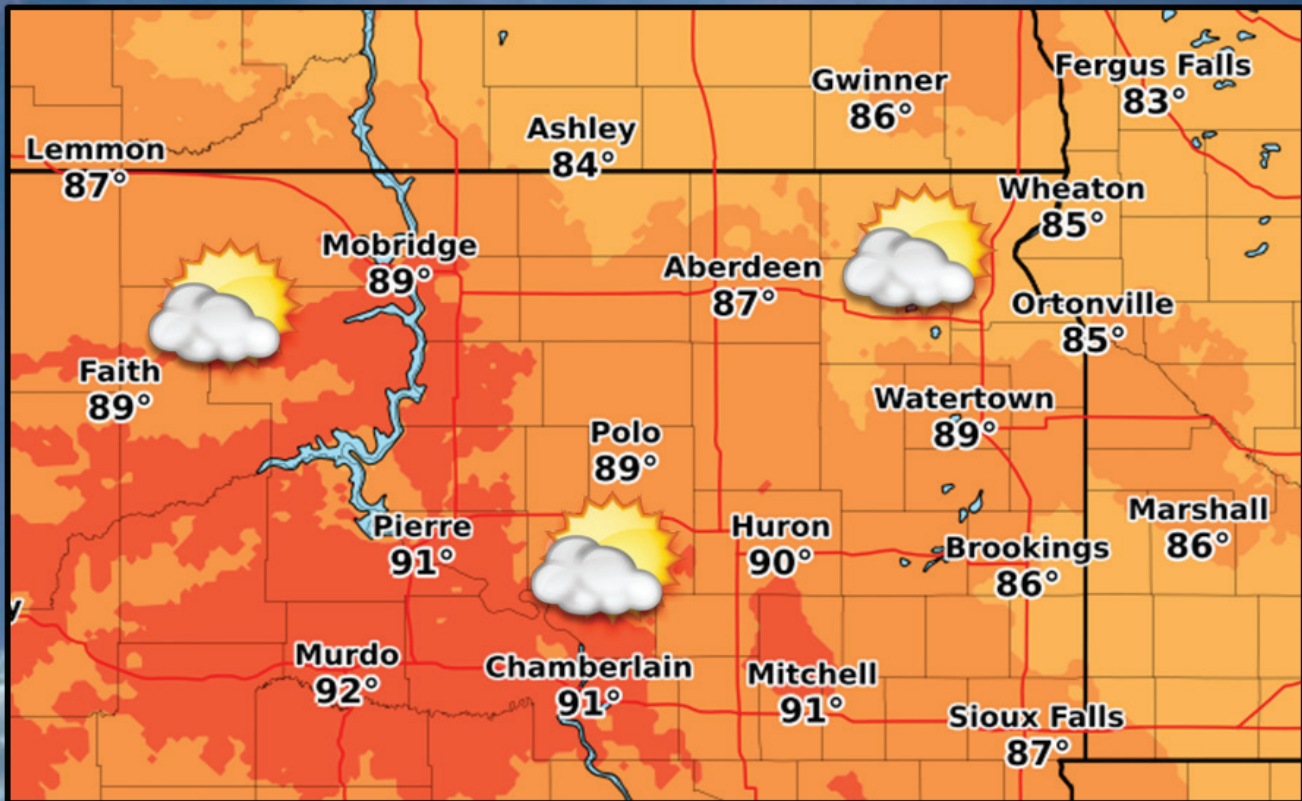
1989 - Low pressure representing the remains of Hurricane Chantal deluged north central Texas with heavy rain. Up to 6.50 inches drenched Stephens County, and Wichita Falls reported 2.22 inches of rain in just one hour. Bismarck, ND, reported a record warm morning low of 75 degrees, and record hot afternoon high of 101 degrees, and evening thunderstorms in North Dakota produced wind gusts to 78 mph at Lakota. Early evening thunderstorms in Florida produced high winds which downed trees at Christmas. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot	T-storms Likely	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 86 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 93 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 81 °F

Partly Sunny and Warm Today



 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 8/2/2016 5:00 AM Central

Published on: 08/02/2016 at 5:03AM

Today will feature partly sunny skies with high temperatures in the 80s and lower 90s. Low temperatures tonight will dip into the 60s. While most areas will see dry conditions tonight, locations in north central South Dakota could see an isolated thunderstorm.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 88.1 at 4:19 PM

Heat Index: 98.0 at 4:19 PM

Low Outside Temp: 69.7 at 6:22 AM

High Gust: 55 at 11:14 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1938

Record Low: 40 in 1971

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.16

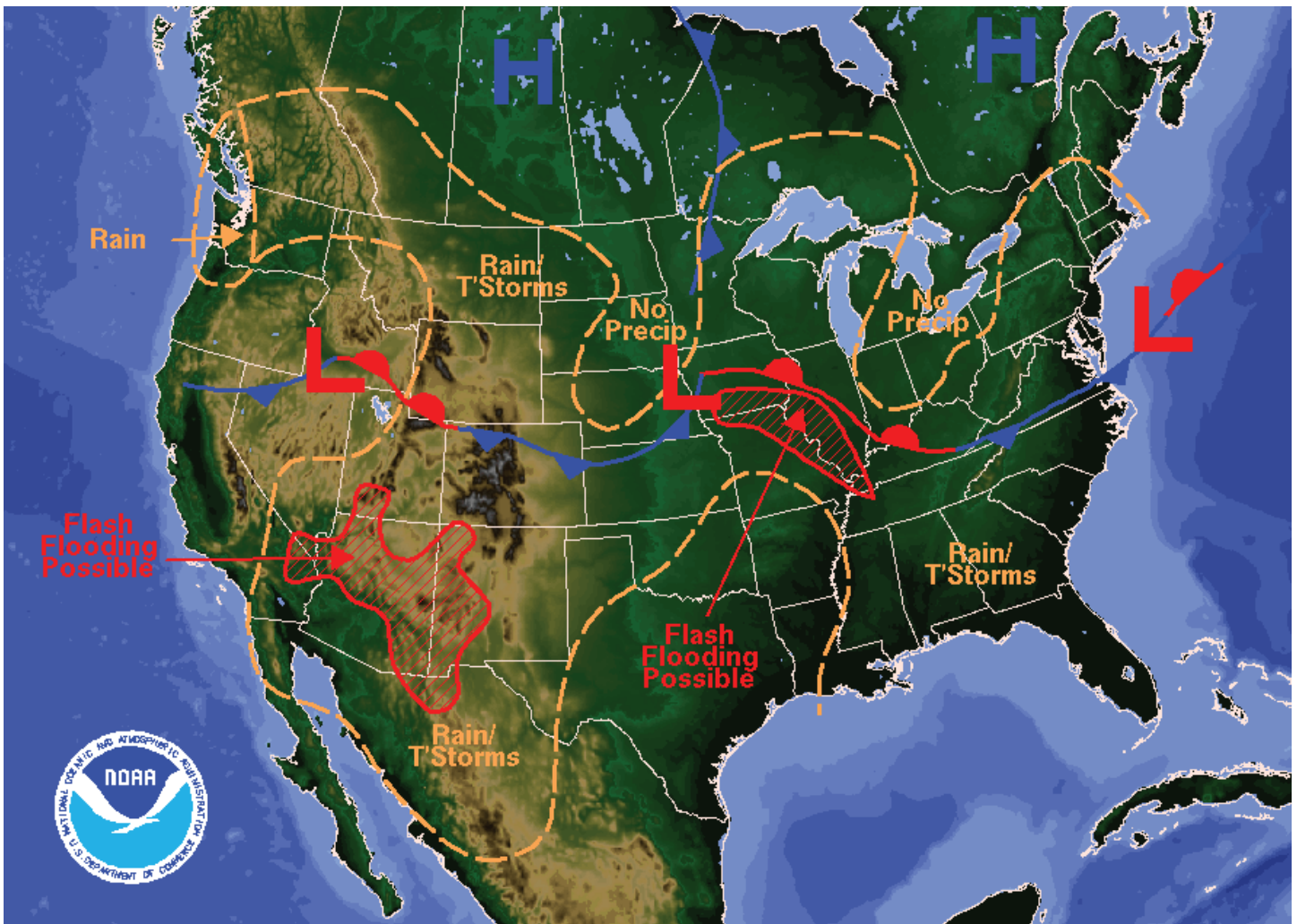
Precip to date in Aug: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.02

Precip Year to Date: 10.58

Sunset Tonight: 8:59 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:20 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, Aug 02, 2016, issued 4:53 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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A BETTER WORLD

One day the Abbotts were watching the morning news. After observing one tragic event after another, Jon turned to his wife and said, "You know, I could make a better world than this one."

Turning to him she politely said, "Why don't you?"

We read in Genesis that God "looked over all that He made, and He saw that it was excellent in every way." Every small detail that God brought into existence was the way He intended it to be – excellent. From placing light in the sky and fish in the sea; land for farmers to grow crops and people to enjoy; and the sun and moon and stars to govern days and nights and seasons; and fish and birds and animals for man's enjoyment, use and nourishment – even men and women were created without flaw. It was all perfect.

But then through man – the triumph of His creation – sin entered the world and all that was the way He wanted it to be was destroyed. When Satan entered God's creation he brought with him disappointment, destruction and death.

Any good in us or in the world is of God. He is the only source of light and life, grace and goodness, peace and purity. And it is only as we let God through Christ, Who is Lord, rule and reign in our lives that we can become good and do good for God and reclaim His work in His world.

Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Prayer: Help us, Father, do Your work in Your world as we surrender our lives to Your will. May we make the world better through Your Son, our Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Genesis 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

News from the Associated Press

\$32 million grain terminal opens for business at Britton

BRITTON, S.D. (AP) — A \$32 million grain terminal has opened for business at Britton.

A grand opening celebration was held Monday for the Wheat Dumont Britton Grain Terminal, with Gov. Dennis Daugaard on hand.

Construction of the facility began in April 2015, a few months after Daugaard announced \$11.5 million in upgrades to the state-owned rail line serving the elevator. The upgrades should be complete this month.

The new terminal can hold up to 7 million bushels of grain and is capable of loading 120-car trains. It will be serviced by both Canadian Pacific Railway and BNSF Railway.

City won't wade into dispute involving church, neighbors

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City Council is staying out of a dispute involving a church that's planning a motorcycle show as part of its ministry and nearby residents who don't want the event in their neighborhood.

The Dove Christian Center says the Aug. 20 show, which will involve motorcycle jumping, will be safe and won't damage or disrupt private property.

"We love our neighborhood and we appreciate our neighborhood," Pastor Timothy Stuen said. "Our goal is to reach out to people to love on them and give them the same chance to meet the Lord as we all did. And this is just our way of helping that happen."

Some neighbors worry that the show will be disruptive. A rodeo that the church held in 2013 resulted in a sheep getting loose and roaming the area for about a month before being caught.

"It's inappropriate where it's zoned, not necessarily an inappropriate idea," neighbor Dennis Halterman said. "This may be a great event for bringing people to Jesus, but it's in the wrong location."

Neighbors in July asked the city to clarify whether the church can legally hold such activities. Council members on Monday decided their hands were tied because of a vague conditional use permit granted to the church nearly 30 years ago.

"We don't have the authority to approve or disapprove of this event," Alderman Brad Estes said.

Mayor Steve Allender said the city could go to court, but added, "who wants to sue a church?"

Truck hits, damages overpass on Interstate 90 near Hartford

HARTFORD, S.D. (AP) — Motorists can expect disruptions on Interstate 90 in the Hartford area this week as crews repair damage to an overpass.

Officials say a truck hauling an excavator was too tall and hit the structure on Monday afternoon. No injuries were reported, but the crash resulted in the temporary shutdown of the overpass and one lane of the interstate.

State Transportation Department Area Engineer Travis Dressen says drivers can expect closures of one of the interstate's westbound lanes throughout the week as repairs are made.

Dressen tells the Argus Leader newspaper that a similar incident last year resulted in more than \$400,000 in damage to the overpass, and the damage from Monday's incident appears to be worse.

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AG Jackley kicks off statewide anti-methamphetamine campaign

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley is kicking off a statewide anti-methamphetamine campaign with a competition open to all colleges in South Dakota.

Jackley's office, law enforcement agencies and various organizations have partnered for the "No.Meth.Ever." campaign.

Students interested in participating in the first phase of the effort are being asked to submit public service announcements, viral video scripts and storyboards to be used in the campaign, which is trying to reach South Dakota residents between the ages of 15 and 25 and who may be at risk of doing illegal drugs.

Jackley's office says the students' proposals should help young people understand why it is important that stay away from meth, heroin and other drugs.

Jackley says meth use and arrest numbers have more than doubled over the past decade.

People looking for drought information can check out website

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — People in South Dakota looking for drought information can check out an updated Governor's Drought Task Force website.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard says the website will include the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, weather reports, fire conditions and agricultural information.

Daugaard says the state wants to provide the best information possible. Daugaard activated the drought task force in July to keep an eye on thirsty conditions and share information among government agencies and other organizations.

The governor has also issued an emergency fire declaration for 13 drought-affected counties in western and central South Dakota.

HUD leader to host Great Plains Conference on Indian Housing

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro is hosting the first Great Plains Conference on Indian Housing.

The event is Tuesday at the Ramada Inn in Bismarck, North Dakota. U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp is the keynote speaker. Castro visited Indian Country in North Dakota with Heitkamp in 2014.

The daylong conference will bring together federal, state, local and tribal leaders and will focus on housing challenges in Native American communities.

Man gets 17 years in prison in 2015 Pine Ridge murder

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man who admitted to participating in the murder of another man on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has been sentenced to more than 17 years in prison.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler on Monday announced the sentence against 21-year-old Allen resident Nile Paul Waters. Waters pleaded guilty in March to second-degree murder in the death of Theodore Red Cloud.

Federal authorities say Waters and Red Cloud got into a fight on July 6, 2015, in and outside a trailer home in Pine Ridge. Authorities say Red Cloud at one point during the fight fell to the ground and Waters hit him at least four times with a club-like weapon. At least one other person participated in the assault.

Waters also goes by the name of Nile Hollow Horn Bear. He is now under the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

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Pipeline construction equipment damage in suspected arson

DAVID PITT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Machinery located at three oil pipeline construction sites in central Iowa was found extensively damaged by fire Monday in what the company building the pipeline called a shameful act.

There's little doubt the fires were intentionally set along the Dakota Access pipeline, said Jasper County Sheriff John Halferty. Damage to a bulldozer and other large tracked equipment was estimated at \$1 million, he said.

The sheriff's office was alerted around 6 a.m. Monday to a fire in a farm field 4 ½ miles west of Newton. Later, deputies learned of a second pipeline equipment blaze about 2 ½ miles southeast of Reasnor and a third site where four machines were damaged north of Oskaloosa, the Newton Daily News (<http://bit.ly/2apGmwK>) reported.

In a statement, Texas-based Dakota Access said "it's a shameful act by a group of people trying to disrupt our energy security and independence."

"We have increased security along the route and are actively pursuing the situation with law enforcement. If caught, we will prosecute to the maximum extent allowed by law, both criminally and civilly," spokeswoman Lisa Dillinger said in a statement. "We will not tolerate this kind of activity."

Environmental, American Indian and landowner rights groups have vigorously fought approval of the pipeline and have vowed to continue protests and acts of civil disobedience.

"I've made lots of statements on this pipeline over the last two years and I've encouraged people to get ready for any nonviolent action possible but torching construction equipment was not on the list," said Ed Fallon, director of Bold Iowa, a group that promotes renewable energy and fights fossil-fuel expansion projects.

Dakota Access, a subsidiary of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, plans construction of a \$3.8 billion, 1,168-mile project that cuts through Illinois, North Dakota and South Dakota. It also crosses 18 Iowa counties diagonally from northwest to southeast.

40,000-pound concrete panel falls on construction worker

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A construction worker has been hospitalized after wind gusts caused a 40,000-pound concrete panel to fall on his legs.

Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Travis Thom says the incident happened at a construction site

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shortly after 11 a.m. Monday. The worker, who has not been publicly identified, was trapped from the waist down for about 45 minutes.

Sioux Falls Fire Rescue spokesman Brad Goodroad says the worker was conscious during the rescue effort. He says the worker's legs "were crushed pretty bad."

Thom says the gusts caused 32 pre-cast concrete panels to collapse at the construction site. One of them fell on the worker.

Ryan Companies operates the site. The company in a statement says the injured worker is a subcontractor.

Big drop in attendance expected at Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Officials are expecting a smaller and quieter Sturgis Motorcycle Rally than last year's 75th anniversary event, which drew record crowds.

The 76th rally in western South Dakota's Black Hills is Aug. 8-14. The biggest indicator of a potential big drop in attendance is the abundance of available motel rooms and campground spaces, the Rapid City Journal reported.

"There's room in the inn," said Susan Johnson with Black Hills Central Reservations of Deadwood. "Even during the 2015 rally, we could always find a room. But the difference this year is we've got rooms all over the Black Hills, campgrounds all over the Black Hills. We've got more private homes than we have ever had."

A record 739,000 people attended last year's event, which was a 67 percent more than in 2014. Rally Director Jerry Cole said this year's event is likely to be an average rally — but that would still mean a half-million people.

The decreased demand for hotel rooms and campground spaces could make this year's rally more affordable. Reservation rates typically go up during the rally, but "there are lodging partners that didn't even change their prices," Johnson said. "It's a buyer's market this year."

Rally activity has begun, with the event still a week away. Black Hills Harley-Davidson held its Pre-Rally Rollout event over the weekend, and transient vendors have started setting up shop, KEVN-TV reported. Zachary Shaw is one, coming from Florida a week early to set up his T-shirt business.

"Sturgis is something special to us," he said. "We've been coming 20-plus years, and we enjoy every year of it."

Chinese human rights activist gets suspended sentence

HELENE FRANCHINEAU, Associated Press

GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

TIANJIN, China (AP) — A Chinese court issued a suspended three-year prison sentence to a human rights activist charged with subversion of state power after a brief trial Tuesday, the first publicly acknowledged hearing in a secrecy-shrouded yearlong case involving hundreds of rights activists.

The official Xinhua News Agency said a court in the northern city of Tianjin issued the sentence to Zhai Yanmin, who was arrested in July last year as part of a nationwide government campaign against legal activists. About 300 lawyers and activists were initially seized and questioned before most were released.

Zhai's case is the first of four expected to be heard this week. Prosecutors announced in July they would try a lawyer, Zhou Shifeng of the Beijing law firm Fengrui that worked extensively on human rights cases, and three activists who worked with the firm, including Zhai. More than a dozen others remain jailed, their legal status uncertain.

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Xinhua said Zhai confessed in court that the group of lawyers, citizens and petitioners who believed in "pushing the wall" — a Chinese expression for overthrowing the government — methodically hyped politically sensitive cases. It quoted him as saying they organized popular rallies during controversial human rights cases to draw international attention and undermine the Chinese state — remarks that echoed previous government accusations toward the group.

Xinhua said the court was told that Zhai, 55, and the three others "conspired and plotted to subvert state power," and "established a systematic ideology, method and steps to achieve it."

In a video from the trial shown on state television and posted on government websites, Zhai read a statement saying he accepted all the charges against him, was "extremely regretful" of his actions and would not appeal his sentence.

Zhai said he would urge others not to be used by "hostile foreign forces" and domestic opportunists, or be blinded by "so-called democracy, human rights and justice."

"I hope the court will give me an opportunity to correct my mistakes and start life anew," Zhai said, standing in the defendant's box and flanked by two bailiffs.

The court permitted Hong Kong journalists to attend the session, although foreign diplomats were barred.

Zhai and his fellow activists worked alone or in affiliation with law firms to gather evidence of government abuses and lead clients and the disgruntled in protesting outside courts and government offices. Their actions were harshly denounced by the authorities as interference in the legal process.

Many wives of the detained activists say they and their retained lawyers have been denied access to the detainees for more than a year, receiving only occasional updates by word of mouth, while some family members seeking information have been briefly detained themselves.

Zhai's wife, Liu Ermin, was taken into custody on Sunday night and returned late Monday to her Beijing home, where she said she is effectively held under house arrest by security agents outside her door.

"It's unfair, it's too unfair," she said in a text message upon learning of Zhai's verdict.

She said she intends to appeal the verdict but does not know how to reach his government-appointed lawyer, whose identity has not been disclosed to relatives or in state media reports.

Zhai's three-year sentence was suspended for four years, meaning he will not go to prison but will have to live under considerable restrictions and supervision. He also will lose all political rights for the same period, making him ineligible to run for local councils or other offices. He can be sent to prison to serve his sentence if he disobeys the rules set for his release during the four-year period.

A three-year sentence is the minimum for people convicted of subversion, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

"It is an unprecedentedly light sentence ... almost a symbolic punishment," said Beijing political commentator Zhang Lifan.

That may be a deliberate move by the ruling Communist Party, which permits no political opposition, to demonstrate that those who cooperate can be treated leniently, while harsh penalties await those who refuse, Zhang said.

"The point is not whether you committed any crime, but whether you obeyed or not," Zhang said.

The trial also fits a pattern established under the administration of President Xi Jinping to use more sophisticated legal means to attack perceived opponents as it maintains pressure on activists and non-governmental organizations.

Police cordoned off the Tianjin No. 2 Intermediate People's Court on Tuesday, one day after protesters flanked by foreign diplomats demanded more information about the cases.

The trial was attended by five foreign media outlets invited by the court and other observers, according to Xinhua, in an apparent attempt to address criticism from the activists' supporters about a near-

total lack of transparency surrounding the cases.

It isn't clear whether Zhai will be allowed to immediately return home. A lawyer and legal assistant who were recently released have been videoed apparently recanting their actions, but their whereabouts remain unknown.

Pence defends military mom's right to criticize Trump

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — Republican vice presidential nominee Mike Pence defended a military mom's right to criticize Donald Trump's comments about the Muslim parents of a slain U.S. Army veteran during a campaign stop in Nevada, and then lashed out at the media's coverage of the controversy at the next.

Pence quieted a crowd that was booing a woman who asked Pence at a town hall meeting in Carson City Monday how he could tolerate Trump's disrespect for American servicemen. In Reno a few hours later, Pence said that both he and Trump have stated that "Capt. Humayun Khan is an American hero."

Pence said he understands and appreciates the attention given to Kahn's family. But he doesn't understand "why the media maligned and continues to ignore the moving mother of fallen Air Force veteran and diplomat Sean Smith."

Pence said much of the same media criticizing Trump earlier condemned Patricia Smith's speech at the GOP convention about the U.S. information officer killed in the 2012 attack in Benghazi.

"Let's demand the media listen to and honor all of the families of the fallen in this country," he said.

Zika outbreak prompts travel warning for area of Miami

KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

JOSH REPLOGLE, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — In a highly unusual travel warning, health officials advised pregnant women to avoid a part of Miami where mosquitoes are apparently transmitting Zika directly to humans.

Health officials last Friday announced that mosquitoes have apparently started spreading Zika on the U.S. mainland, citing four cases they strongly believe were caused by bites. Ten more cases were announced Monday, even though Florida authorities have yet to find any mosquitoes actually carrying the virus.

Of the 14 people infected, two are women and 12 are men. Eight patients showed symptoms of Zika, which can include fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes. The others had no symptoms. The disease is often so mild that most people don't know they are infected.

All 14 cases are thought to have occurred in Miami's Wynwood arts district, a trendy, fast-gentrifying neighborhood of warehouses, art galleries, restaurants and boutiques.

Rosemary LeBranch was doing laundry in Wynwood when health officials came to her house a few days ago and took urine samples from her, her daughter and her father. Her father, Gabriel Jean, tested positive for Zika, she said Monday.

He had already spoken with a doctor and was advised to wear long shirts and pants outdoors.

"He said nothing hurts; he doesn't have any pain. He doesn't feel anything," she said.

More than 1,650 cases of Zika have been reported in U.S. states. Nearly all have been the result of travel to a Zika-stricken country or sex with someone who was infected abroad, but now more than a dozen people have been infected in the U.S.

Florida health officials said they have tested more than 200 people in Miami-Dade and Broward counties since early July. An emergency response team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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will help Florida authorities investigate the outbreak, collect samples and control mosquitoes.

Scott asked for a CDC emergency team to help Florida combat Zika, which has been sweeping Latin America and the Caribbean in recent months and now may be gaining a long-dreaded foothold in the U.S. The White House said a team will be sent quickly.

"We will continue to keep our residents and visitors safe utilizing constant surveillance and aggressive strategies, such as increased mosquito spraying, that have allowed our state to fight similar viruses," Florida Gov. Rick Scott said in a statement Monday.

Government health officials warned pregnant women Monday to avoid the Zika-stricken part of Miami and told couples who have been there recently to put off having children for at least two months, after the number of people feared infected through mosquito bites in the U.S. climbed to 14.

The CDC also said expectant mothers should get tested for the virus if they have visited the neighborhood since mid-June.

Jordan Davison and Melissa Felix work for a cruise line and were enjoying their day off Monday looking at Wynwood's spray-painted murals.

"It's not like a big thing, right?" the 25-year-old Davidson said. "It's kind of freaky. There's so much going on we didn't know, didn't really think about it. ... I might wear bug spray going forward."

CDC officials said they could not remember another time in the 70-year history of the disease-fighting agency when it told members of the public not to travel someplace in the U.S.

Zika infections in pregnant women can cause severe brain-related birth defects, including extremely small skulls. The global outbreak has led to more than 1,800 serious defects.

The virus can linger in the blood and urine for weeks and has been found in sperm for months. As a result, the CDC said men and women who have recently been in the affected area should wait at least eight weeks before trying to conceive a child. And men who have had symptoms of Zika should wait at least six months, the CDC said.

The travel warning covers an area of about one square mile in Wynwood to the east of Interstate 95 and south of I-195. It's large enough, health officials said, to provide a buffer around the suspected hot zone. The tropical mosquito that spreads Zika travels less than 200 yards in its lifetime.

Dr. Peter Hotez, a tropical medicine expert at the Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, said the CDC should be more cautious and expand the travel advisory to all of Miami-Dade County.

"If you're pregnant or think you might be pregnant, avoid travel to Miami, and possibly elsewhere in South Florida," he said. "I'm guessing most women who are pregnant are doing that. I don't think they're sitting around waiting for the CDC to split hairs and fine-tune it to a specific area."

CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden said the narrowly drawn warning was dictated by science and not by any concern for Florida's crucial tourism industry. He said it was based on the nation's ability to contain previous outbreaks of other diseases carried by the same mosquito.

"There wouldn't be a technical or scientific basis to give a broader recommendation," Frieden said.

Bangladeshi struggles with son's fatal fall into militancy

NEW DELHI (AP) — He has seen the body, and authorities say the fingerprints match. But Towhid Rouf is having trouble believing that this skinny, bearded man — killed with eight other suspected Islamist militants in a Bangladesh police raid — could possibly be his smart, well-behaved son.

Shazad Rouf Orko, who once lived in the U.S. and held an American passport, was a fun-loving student and a member of a musically inclined family who played guitar, his father said. He disappeared

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early this year, and before his death he reportedly left behind an audio tape in which he denounced his own family as apostates.

"My one mind says he is my son, again another says most probably not," Rouf said Monday from Dhaka in a telephone interview. "Some features match, but I can't imagine he is my son ... (that) my son can be part of it."

Orko, 24, and the other suspected militants were killed July 26 when police raided an apartment in the Kalyanpur area of Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital. One suspect was captured by police when he tried to escape and he was being treated with bullet injuries.

Bangladesh's secular government has geared up its drive against militancy after several months of deadly attacks targeting foreigners, atheist bloggers and religious minorities in the Muslim-majority South Asian nation. The worst came July 1, when armed men killed 20 hostages, including 17 foreigners, at a Dhaka restaurant.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attacks but the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has rejected the claim, saying they belong to banned domestic group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh.

Orko disappeared in February while he was a first-semester MBA student at Dhaka's North South University. His father filed a complaint with a police station seeking his whereabouts.

Rouf, who supplies arms and other items to Bangladesh's security agencies as a local agent, said he and his wife raised Orko and two daughters in a liberal environment.

"I myself play drums, my wife was a singer, my one daughter learned Bharat Natyam (Indian classical dance) and another sings Bengali songs very well. And Orko used to play his guitar so well that. ... I can't believe he has joined any militant groups," he said. "It seems to me impossible."

Rouf, along with representatives of the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, saw Orko's body in a mortuary of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Authorities said Orko's fingerprint matched with his national identity card, but Rouf did not fully identify his son. Authorities say they will conduct DNA tests for all suspects.

"Again I have reasons to believe that he is my son. The fingerprint point is very important here. Maybe I will go to the hospital again and recheck and take responsibility," he said.

Rouf said his son had "a status in the U.S.," and that he brought him back to Bangladesh in 2009 after his mother was diagnosed with cancer.

"Currently I can't tell you about his citizenship status in the U.S. It has been seven years since he has left America. My two daughters live there, they are progressive and they live their life there peacefully. I don't want to jeopardize my daughters' lives."

Emails to the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka to confirm Orko's citizenship status remained unanswered. A spokesman at the U.S. State Department referred questions to Bangladesh authorities.

Orko's involvement in the militant group has been confirmed by police investigators, according to the country's leading English-language Daily Star newspaper.

The nine suspected militants killed in Tuesday's raid recorded messages one by one to call upon people to join their cause for establishing a caliphate.

Orko spoke in English and criticized his family and those who "support Sheikh Hasina" and everyone who does not support Sharia law, according to the report.

He said he gave everything up for jihad and citing a holy verse to justify his action, he said, "Either you kill (us) or get killed, paradise is for us."

"You guys support Sheikh Hasina ... you support democracy ... that is why I am happy to call my family all murtads (apostates) ... all kafirs (atheists). So repent ... before it's too late so that you can

be saved.

"We are getting instructions from Allah ... we are going to defeat you," he said.

Boston police add \$89,000 ice cream truck to patrol fleet

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Police Department has unveiled an \$89,000 ice cream truck as the newest addition to its patrol fleet.

The truck, adorned with balloons and Boston police decals, was introduced Monday at police headquarters in the city's Roxbury neighborhood. It will be used as part of "Operation Hoodsie Cup," a community policing initiative that has distributed roughly 120,000 free ice cream cups since 2010.

Commissioner William Evans says he would've called you crazy if you told him 30 years ago that the BPD would have an ice cream truck as part of its fleet, but the goodwill it generates is "undeniable."

The truck was purchased by the Boston Police Foundation. Local dairy company HP Hood has donated all of the ice cream for distribution.

Experts: Iranian link to attempted hack of Syrian dissident

RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Syrian opposition activist Noura Al-Ameer was combing through her emails late one night when a message caught her eye. The sender was "Assadcrimes" and he promised information about Iranian meddling in the Middle East. But the email seemed odd somehow.

Al-Ameer turned to her husband, cybersecurity trainer Bahr Abdul Razzak, in their small, book-cluttered cluttered home in the Turkish city of Gaziantep.

"Have you heard of this group before?" Al-Ameer asked.

"No," he said. "But let me check the email."

Abdul Razzak, a fellow at internet watchdog group Citizen Lab, quickly determined that the group was bogus. The email, sent on Oct. 3 last year, was an electronic trap — one of hundreds of malicious messages that have flown back and forth as rebels grapple with the government of Bashar Assad in Syria. This particular one had been aimed at snaring Al-Ameer in particular; the website registered by the hacker was in her name, suggesting an attempt to steal her identity.

Al-Ameer is a well-known opposition figure, and stealing her data or her identity could have been the jumping off point to attack other Syrians in and out of the country.

As Abdul Razzak and his colleagues tried to trace the hackers, they found a trail of digital clues leading to Iran. Their story — detailed in a report issued Tuesday by Citizen Lab, an interview with the couple and conversations with outside experts — raise the possibility that Iran has gone beyond sending men and materiel to tip the scale in Assad's favor.

The country's hackers may have joined the fray as well.

"It's not a shock," said Al-Ameer, a 29-year-old who spent six months in Syrian government detention before moving to Turkey in 2013. "They're fighting our people on the ground. I think it's normal for any side that fights you on the ground to fight you on the internet."

Evidence of an Iranian link is outlined in a 56-page report by Citizen Lab, which is based at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. The group has made a specialty of tracking the hackers who've dogged Syria's opposition, which lead author John Scott-Railton said had turned into "something of a petri dish for threat actors in the Middle East."

The report says those behind the "Assadcrimes" website appear to have inadvertently exposed their site's logs, showing evidence that its creators accessed it in part from the Iranian internet space. The

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site itself briefly hosted a Farsi-language mail service, and a string of data recovered from the malicious code used to target Al-Ameer appeared to refer to a developer who runs a malicious software site registered in the Iranian city of Shiraz.

The evidence “lets us think that perhaps looking at a group that’s operating from Iran,” Scott-Railton said. He cautioned that the evidence wasn’t conclusive and that it wasn’t possible to say much about the group’s potential sponsorship — government or otherwise.

Two outside experts who evaluated Citizen Lab’s report endorsed its work.

The botched cyberespionage attempt “is consistent with Iranian activity we’ve previous observed, in terms of operational security, social engineering, and technical sophistication,” said John Hulquist, a threat intelligence manager at FireEye.

The hackers in Al-Ameer’s case appear to have made some mistakes. But Scott-Railton said those who target Syria’s scattered opposition activists are only as sophisticated as they need to be. Many groups operating in the area, including the pro-Assad Syrian Electronic Army, have used very simple tools and persistent trickery to repeatedly compromise savvier targets.

“Not all hacking in a conflict looks like Stuxnet,” said Scott-Railton, referring to the complex computer bug widely suspected of being unleashed by the United States to sabotage Iran’s nuclear program. “What this shows is how powerful social engineering is.”

Al-Ameer said that, in a way, the hacking was scarier than the time she says she was arrested and tortured at the hands of Assad’s security forces.

“When they arrested me, I was careful just tell them what I wanted,” she said. “When they hack you, they will know everything without harming you physically. For our case, it’s more dangerous than arresting.

“Inside Syria or outside Syria, we’re not safe.”

10 Things to Know for Today The Associated Press

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

1. DELVING INTO TRUMP’S TRAP

His persistent criticism of a Muslim-American military family fits a familiar pattern: The Republican nominee can’t let go of a perceived slight, no matter the political risk.

2. SINGAPORE MARKS MILESTONE WITH US

The prime minister of the Southeast Asian city state joins Obama in Washington to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations and the contentious Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal will be high on the agenda.

3. SNAPPING UP CHEAP SPY TOOLS, NATIONS ‘MONITORING EVERYONE’

Governments known to stifle dissent are buying off-the-shelf surveillance software that can monitor the phone conversations and track the movements of thousands, an AP investigation finds.

4. CIRCUMCISION OF GIRLS A BATTLEGROUNDS IN TINY INDIAN MUSLIM SECT

At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of female genital cutting, according to the U.N. — 70 million more than in 2014 because of increases in both population and reporting.

5. FLOSSING BENEFITS DEBUNKED

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Despite years of study, the use of dental floss is not backed up by scientific proof. And after questioning by the AP, the federal government dropped its longtime guidance.

6. WHERE PREGNANT WOMEN NEED TO AVOID

The CDC advises expectant mothers to avoid a part of Miami where mosquitoes are apparently transmitting Zika directly to humans.

7. OVERSIGHT GAPS SEEN IN BALLOON INDUSTRY

If Skip Nichols, pilot of the hot air balloon that crashed in Texas, had been a commercial airplane pilot, he probably would have been grounded long ago.

8. PAID FAMILY LEAVE BENEFITS RISING

Despite the absence of a federal law mandating it, these perks are rising in some business sectors and regions thanks to company policy and state laws.

9. BILL WOULD END BIKE BAN IN US WILDERNESS

More than 100 million acres of America's most rugged landscapes designated as primitive spaces are off-limits to mountain bikers, but two Utah senators are trying to change that.

10. LOOK WHO'S BACK IN JAPAN

After a 12-year absence, Godzilla returns to its homeland and the AP notes four ways "Shin Godzilla," or "New Godzilla," breaks from its past, and other ways it is reassuringly familiar.

Pakistani militant group sending aid to Indian-held Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A Pakistani official says a charity belonging to a banned terror group has dispatched an aid convoy for Muslims in Indian-held Kashmir.

Deputy Commissioner Masood-ur-Rehman says the Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation plans a sit-in at the cease-fire line dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan if its convoy carrying ambulances, doctors, medicines and activists isn't allowed to cross the boundary on Tuesday.

The foundation is a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba, which India alleges was responsible for the killing of over 160 people in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack.

Washington has designated Lashkar-e-Taiba's founder, Hafiz Saeed, a terrorist and has a \$10 million bounty on him. He lives in Pakistan.

Recent clashes in Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region that is claimed in its entirety by both India and Pakistan, have killed at least 49 people.

Godzilla comes back to Japan, in ways fresh and familiar

YURI KAGEYAMA, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Godzilla is back in its homeland of Japan after a 12-year absence, still breathing fire and mercilessly stomping everything in its way. The Associated Press noted four ways the new film "Shin Godzilla," or "New Godzilla," breaks from its past, and other ways it is reassuringly familiar. It's now showing in theaters in Japan and is promised for the U.S. and other countries later this year.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT:

— The Americans: Japan's most important ally sends scientists and other advisers, their participation depicted at times as a nuisance. A Japanese-American special envoy, played impudently by Satomi Ishihara, asks where the nearest Zara store is, but mainly mediates between Japan and the U.S., which is worried Godzilla might reach its shores. She resists a U.S. proposal to nuke Godzilla. "Is Japan going to have the atomic bomb dropped for the third time?" she asks mournfully. Given that the 2014 Hollywood Godzilla helped Toho film studio decide to revive the series it originated, the U.S. has proved a

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true ally for Godzilla's silver screen survival.

— The man behind the monster: Godzilla is not a man wearing a rubber suit, like in the 1954 original. Toho used motion-capture technology based on the movements of Mansai Nomura, an actor in traditional Kyogen theater whose casting was a secret until opening day. The center of gravity is kept low during Kyogen moves, similar to Noh dance, except that Kyogen specializes in comedy. Nomura said he was honored to be chosen for the role, stressing that he hoped to communicate the spiritual and the ghostly in Godzilla. "I am thrilled that the DNA of Kyogen, which has more than 650 years of history, will now be part of the DNA of the pride of Japanese cinema — that life called Godzilla," he said in a statement.

— The 2011 Fukushima disaster: Godzilla is no longer a result of nuclear testing. Instead, the monster recalls the March 2011 quake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that devastated northeastern Japan. In the film, people measure the radiation around them and share information on social media, as they did five years ago. News conferences and meetings are filled with confusion and jargon, and government officials on screen even use the same word that was used to describe how unprepared Japan had been for the tsunami, "soteigai," or "beyond expectations." Scenes of people fleeing from torrents of water, and later huddled in gymnasiums, bring back heartbreaking memories of the 2011 disaster.

— Defending itself: Post-World War II Japan has repeatedly stressed it will abide by pacifism. When Godzilla crashes onto its shores, Japan debates how far it can go in defending itself. That reflects a modern debate over using Japan's military beyond its self-defense role. Bureaucrats try their best to find Japanese-based solutions, treating Godzilla as a crisis requiring military might and vowing the nation can be rebuilt from scratch — as it was after World War II. The original monster symbolized the tragedy of nuclear power and, through it, the ability of humankind to destroy itself. Now the threat we perceive could be anything, but is almost certainly a horror we brought on ourselves.

WHAT'S FAMILIAR:

— The monster: Godzilla at first looks like a snake or an eel slithering through the cityscape. Nearly an hour into the movie, it stands upright like the Godzilla we know, with protruding scales lining its back and a giant tail lashing uncontrollably. As it was, with the way the 1954 original was scripted, Godzilla is more about our anticipation, the nightmare that reflects our deepest fears. The new Godzilla glows red as though embers electrified by atomic power flicker beneath its jagged skin.

— The destruction: The new film is inspired by the storyline of the 1954 original, more than the rest of Toho's 28-film series that had Godzilla battling oversized moths, evil robots and other fantastic creatures. It smashes the same landmarks as all the other Godzillas, such as Tokyo Station, the Parliament building and the Wako department store with the clock tower. And all that the masses of people can do is run from it in sheer terror.

The sounds: That same eerie screech, created by scratching contrabass strings, is heard. And this film pays homage to the original music. When the credits roll, with Nomura's name closing the 329-strong actors' lineup, it's the same composition by Akira Ifukube that plays, a fitting ending for the Japanese comeback Godzilla.

Strategist's bolt from GOP a sign of Trump's impact of party

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — Less than four years ago, the Republican Party tapped a few respected party officials to help the GOP find its way forward. This week, one of them says she's leaving the party — driven out by Donald Trump.

While not a household name, Sally Bradshaw's decision to leave the GOP rocked those who make politics their profession. The longtime aide to former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was one of the five senior Republican strategists tasked with identifying the party's shortcomings and recommending ways it could win the White House after its losing 2012 presidential campaign.

Now, she says, she'll vote for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton if the race in her home state of Florida appears close come Election Day.

"Sally is representative of an important segment of our party, and that is college-educated women, where Donald Trump is losing by disastrous margins," said Ari Fleischer, who worked with Bradshaw on the GOP project and was a senior adviser to President George W. Bush. "Trump has moved in exactly the opposite direction from our recommendations on how to make the party more inclusive."

Fleischer still supports Trump over Clinton. But Bradshaw is among a group of top Republican operatives, messengers, national committee members and donors who continue to decry Trump's tactics, highlighting almost daily — with three months until Election Day — the rifts created by the billionaire and his takeover of the party.

This past weekend, the billionaire industrialist Charles Koch (coke) told hundreds of donors that make up his political network that Trump does not embrace, nor will he fight for, free market principles.

That's one reason Koch's network, which has the deepest pockets in conservative politics, is ignoring the presidential contest this year and focusing its fundraising wealth on races for Congress. Donors and elected officials gathering at a Koch event in Colorado said they accepted the Koch brothers' decision, even if it hurts the GOP's White House chances.

Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin, among the high-profile Republicans on hand, refused to endorse Trump and referenced now defunct political parties, such as the Whigs, when asked about the health of the modern-day GOP.

"The party is not really what matters. It's the principles," Bevin told The Associated Press.

Another of those in attendance, House Speaker Paul Ryan, didn't even mention his party's presidential nominee during his speech to the group. Yet he referenced an election he called "personality contest" devoid of specific goals or principles.

Liberals and those on the political left are hardly fully united around Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, whose convention was interrupted on occasion by supporters of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

But after beating Sanders in the primaries, Clinton took steps to win over Sanders and his supporters — including agreeing to changes to the party's platform. Trump has shown little such inclination, pushing ahead instead with the approach and policy proposals that proved successful in the GOP primary.

Among the key recommendations of the post-2014 report that Bradshaw helped write was for the party to be more inclusive to racial and ethnic minorities, specifically Latino voters. One of Trump's defining policies is his call to build a wall on the U.S. border with Mexico, and forcibly deport the millions of people — many of whom are Hispanic — living in the country illegally.

Bradshaw told The Associated Press her decision to change her voter registration in her home state of Florida was "a personal decision," with the tipping point being Trump's criticism of the Muslim mother of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq in 2004. In an email to CNN, Bradshaw wrote that the GOP was "at a crossroads and have nominated a total narcissist — a misogynist — a bigot."

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Her decision to leave the party isn't "a good sign, given the role she's played at the national level with the RNC and the high esteem in which she's held," said Virginia Republican Chris Jankowski, among the nation's leading GOP legislative campaign strategists.

Another member of the panel that examined Mitt Romney's 2012 loss is Henry Barbour, a Republican National Committee member from Mississippi.

In a message to the AP, he joined the many Republicans who called on Trump to apologize to the family of the late Capt. Humayun Khan, a suggestion the billionaire has rejected to date.

Like Fleischer, he does not plan to follow Bradshaw out of the party, but insisted that Trump must work harder to unify it.

"If we are to gain anything by this, Donald Trump must show he wants to unite Americans so he can win in November and the best way to do this would be to apologize," Barbour said. "There's no excuse, particularly for his comments about Mrs. Khan."

Senate Republicans on the spot over Trump comments on Khan

ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The uproar over Donald Trump's criticism of a bereaved Army family put vulnerable GOP senators in a tight spot, underscoring anew the political challenges created for Republicans by their newly minted presidential nominee. And with the general election campaign now squarely underway, the firestorm over Trump's attacks on the Khan family is likely just a taste of trials to come as Republicans negotiate how closely to align with their volatile nominee.

Senate Republicans running for re-election weighed in one after another Monday to condemn Trump's repeated attacks on the parents of slain U.S. Army Capt. Humayun Khan, with former prisoner of war Sen. John McCain of Arizona leading the charge.

McCain issued a lengthy statement insisting that Trump has no right "to defame those who are the best among us" and pleading: "I hope Americans understand that the remarks do not represent the views of our Republican Party, its officers, or candidates."

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa said Trump's comments "are not in line with my own beliefs about how the members of the military and their families should be treated."

Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina said that "Captain Khan is an American hero in every sense of the term and the Khans deserve our sincerest gratitude."

Said Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri: "My advice to Donald Trump has been and will continue to be to focus on jobs and national security and stop responding to every criticism whether it's from a grieving family or Hillary Clinton."

And Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida called Trump's comments "unfortunate" and praised Khan as a hero.

Yet as Democrats were quick to point out, most of the Republicans criticizing Trump had already declared their plans to vote for him for president, and despite their collective outrage, none of them withdrew their support. Several, including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, avoided mentioning the billionaire by name.

"No matter what Trump has said or done — from shameful personal attacks to racist outbursts — John McCain has blindly pledged to 'support the nominee,'" said Max Croes, campaign manager for McCain's Democratic opponent, Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, in one typical response from a Democratic Senate campaign.

"McCain's window to take a principled stand and abandon Trump has closed. There is no post-primary redemption for John McCain," Croes added, in a reference to McCain's Aug. 30 primary face-off against a tea party-backed conservative.

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The furor surrounds Trump's accusations against Khizr and Ghazala Khan, whose son was killed in Iraq in 2004. Trump complained that Khizr Khan was "viciously attacking" him by appearing on stage at last week's Democratic National Convention holding up a copy of the Constitution, questioning whether Trump had even read it and asserting the billionaire had sacrificed nothing. Trump has responded by insisting he had made sacrifices and questioning why Ghazala Khan did not speak on stage, which she later said was because she was too bereaved.

It's just the latest Trump-created conundrum for Republican senators who need support from Trump's enthusiastic backers to win re-election, but risk alienating moderate Republicans, independents, minorities and women if they embrace the GOP nominee too enthusiastically.

"There's no question that Donald Trump is making it very difficult for House and Senate candidates who are running on the ballot in November," said Brian Walsh, a GOP strategist and former spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. "In an ideal world we would have a candidate who would appropriately recognize his comments and apologize for them, but that's not the situation right now."

Candidates have also wrestled with whether to appear alongside Trump when he campaigns in their states. When Trump appeared Monday in Columbus, Ohio, vulnerable GOP Sen. Rob Portman was not on-hand; aides said he was doing previously scheduled events related to opioid legislation he has sponsored, although his schedule appeared to have him near-by. Grassley's aides also cited scheduling conflicts as the reason Grassley did not attend Trump events in Iowa last week.

Burr, on the other hand, joined Trump on the campaign trail in Winston-Salem, North Carolina last week, and other campaigns, including Rubio's, have said they're open to joint appearances with Trump. Trump is backed by all but two vulnerable GOP senators — Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, who is still in a "wait and see" mode, and Mark Kirk of Illinois, who withdrew his endorsement after Trump's attacks on a U.S. judge of Mexican heritage.

Obama meeting Singapore PM, looks to boost TPP trade pact

MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The prime minister of Singapore is joining President Barack Obama at the White House to celebrate the 50th anniversary of U.S. diplomatic relations with the Southeast Asian city state. But the two leaders will also discuss a shared cause with less rosy prospects — the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal.

Singapore, a close U.S. partner, is one of the 12 nations in the TPP, an agreement key to Obama's effort to boost U.S. exports and build strategic ties in Asia. But Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's Washington visit starting Tuesday comes as opposition to the TPP intensifies in the United States. Both Republican contender Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, who are competing to succeed Obama as president, are against it.

Speaking at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce late Monday, Lee urged its ratification, saying the pact would give the U.S. better access to the markets that account for 40 percent of global economic output. He said it would also add heft to Washington's so-called "rebalance" to the Asia-Pacific.

"For America's friends and partners, ratifying the TPP is a litmus test of your credibility and seriousness of purpose," he said.

His sentiments are shared by Obama, who told Singapore's *The Straits Times* in an interview published Monday that the U.S. can't "turn inward" and embrace protectionism because of economic anxieties that have been drawn out by the presidential election.

The Obama administration says it remains determined to try and win congressional approval for TPP,

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but the chances of achieving that in the “lame duck” session after the Nov. 8 election and before the new president takes office Jan. 20 appear slim because of the depth of political opposition, not least from Obama’s fellow Democrats.

The deal would eliminate trade barriers and tariffs, streamline standards and encourage investment between the 12 countries that include Mexico, Japan, Vietnam and Australia. But critics say the pact undercuts American workers by introducing lower-wage competition and gives huge corporations too much leeway.

Singapore, a city state of 5.7 million people, is heavily dependent on international trade for its prosperity. In 2004, it became the first Asian nation to strike a bilateral free trade agreement with the U.S. Last year, the bilateral trade in goods totaled \$47 billion, with the U.S. enjoying a \$10 billion surplus.

Singapore is also a strong advocate of the U.S. security role in Asia although it retains cordial ties with China too. Under Obama, the U.S. has deployed littoral combat ships in Singapore, and last December, deployed a P-8 Poseidon spy plane there for the first time, amid heightened tensions in the South China Sea.

Lee’s meeting with Obama on Tuesday will be watched for reaction to an international tribunal ruling July 12 that invalidated China’s historical claims to most of the disputed South China Sea. The U.S. says the ruling is binding but China has rejected it. Southeast Asian nations have been reluctant to speak out against Beijing.

Lee will be honored with a state dinner Tuesday evening — the first held for a Singaporean leader since October 1985, when Ronald Reagan hosted Lee’s late father, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

The U.S. and Singapore opened diplomatic relations in 1966, a year after the U.S. recognized Singapore’s independence from Malaysia.

Trump moves from ‘Crooked Hillary’ to ‘the devil’ on stump

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. (AP) — On the campaign stump, Donald Trump has opened August by moving from “Crooked Hillary” to “the devil.”

Speaking in Pennsylvania on Monday, the billionaire real estate mogul derided Bernie Sanders’ capitulation in the Democratic primary race and Sanders’ decision to support Clinton.

Trump said of Sanders: “He made a deal with the devil. She’s the devil.”

Trump in recent days has taken to categorizing the Clinton-Sanders understanding as a “deal with the devil” but this was the first time that he went so far as to specifically equate Clinton with Lucifer.

Trump’s supporters packed a Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, high school gymnasium and thousands more were left outside or forced to watch in a spillover room.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump gets much wrong on Ukraine

BRADLEY KLAPPER, Associated Press

EDITOR’S NOTE _ A look at the veracity of claims by political figures

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump is trying to claw back a string of inaccurate comments about Ukraine, but he’s yet to get it right.

On the weekend, Trump asserted in an ABC interview that Russia would not enter Ukraine, not seeming to know Russian troops were already there. He suggested the 2014 annexation of Crimea didn’t count because the peninsula’s people preferred being part of Russia, which was Russian President Vladimir Putin’s stated reason for taking it.

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Prodded by his interviewer, the Republican presidential candidate modified his statement afterward. "Already in Crimea!" Trump tweeted Monday, referring to Russian forces. "That's what I said!" The attempted clarifications left much unclarified.

Here's how Trump's comments comport with the facts:

TRUMP on Putin: "He's not going into Ukraine, OK. Just so you understand: He's not going to go into Ukraine, all right?"

THE FACTS: Putin did go into Ukraine. After Ukrainian protesters chased Viktor Yanukovich, their Russian-backed leader, from power in February 2014, Russian troops stationed at a base in Crimea seized strategic locations on the peninsula and replaced the local government with pro-Kremlin politicians. Russia annexed the territory after a widely discredited referendum a month later.

Moscow didn't stop there, according to the central government in Kiev and its Western backers, sending troops and military equipment to help separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. They say Russia continues to train rebels and direct low-level attacks against Ukrainian forces on the front line.

Russia acknowledges it has some military officials in Ukraine, but says no regular troops are there.

In his tweets Monday, Trump sought to explain himself: "When I said in an interview that Putin is 'not going into Ukraine, you can mark it down,' I am saying if I am President."

TRUMP: "You know, the people of Crimea, from what I've heard, would rather be with Russia than where they were. And you have to look at that, also."

THE FACTS: Trump is right that many Crimeans, being ethnically Russian, felt close to Moscow. But that is only part of the story.

The March 2014 referendum that officially showed 95 percent of Crimeans wanting to join Russia faced an avalanche of criticism.

It occurred as thousands of Russian troops were controlling Crimea. There were charges that people voted at gunpoint. No respected international election monitors supervised the balloting. Crimea's large Muslim Tatar minority, whose families were forcibly relocated to Central Asia during Soviet times, defiantly opposed joining Russia. Many ethnic Ukrainians stayed at home. And the world community almost universally panned the annexation.

TRUMP: "As far as the Ukraine is concerned, it's a mess. And that's under the Obama's administration, with his strong ties to NATO. So with all of these strong ties to NATO, Ukraine is a mess."

THE FACTS: Ukraine is not a NATO country and is not covered under the alliance's basic premise that "an attack against one ally is considered as an attack against all allies," so Trump's implication that NATO somehow failed Ukraine is incorrect.

Ukraine has never been part of the 28-member organization.

And although NATO has mobilized for campaigns in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Libya, the self-described defensive alliance has never engaged in military action against Russia.

It probably would never do so unless a NATO member — such as Poland or one of the Baltic states — were faced with Russian aggression.

TRUMP: "If we can have a good relationship with Russia and if Russia would help us get rid of ISIS ... that would be a positive thing, not a negative thing."

THE FACTS: Hawks in both parties have attacked Trump for suggesting closer U.S.-Russian coordination against the Islamic State. Much of the criticism has been unfair.

Trump's suggested approach is in line with the current strategy of the Obama administration. And Republican and Democratic administrations have a long history of counterterrorism cooperation with Russia, even during times of strained relations.

Former President George W. Bush worked with Putin to fight al-Qaida and other extremist groups after 9/11. As secretary of state, Clinton took partial credit for Russia opening up a northern corridor for U.S. troops and materiel to reach Afghanistan.

Trump also has been accused of having a hand in the Republican Party platform's omission of pushing for lethal aid to Ukraine, a long held GOP position. The current platform calls for "appropriate assistance" to Ukraine.

President Barack Obama, too, has opposed providing offensive weaponry to Ukraine.

4 Kenyan-born runners join Army, represent US at Rio Games

PAT GRAHAM, AP Sports Writer

FORT CARSON, Colo. (AP) — Kenyan-born runner Hillary Bor won't be content with just wearing the red, white and blue at the Olympics.

He's willing to protect his new country, too.

The sergeant in the U.S. Army heads to Rio this month while his unit — which includes his older brother — is already deployed to Afghanistan. Bor stayed behind this time, but it could be his turn soon.

That's the reality for Bor and three other runners of Kenyan descent who've taken a unique path to the Olympics through enlisting in the Army, earning U.S. citizenship, training with the military branch's World Class Athlete Program and making Team USA.

They understand the risks. They've pledged allegiance to America — as soldiers to defend and now as runners hoping to bring home an Olympic medal.

"I might be told tomorrow, 'Hey, pack your things, we're deploying.' I can't say, 'I have the Olympics coming up,' said Army specialist Paul Chelimo, who's from Iten, Kenya, and earned a spot in the 5,000 meters at U.S. Trials in July. "Whatever happens from now to the Olympics, into the future, I'm here to follow the orders."

Simply the Army way of life for specialists Leonard Korir and Shadrack Kipchirchir, Chelimo and Bor.

— Korir hails from Iten, Kenya, and was a two-time NCAA champion at Iona College before joining the Army in May 2015 as a motor transportation operator. He qualified in the 10,000 meters at trials.

— Kipchirchir is from Eldoret, Kenya, and was an All-American at Oklahoma State University. He enlisted in June 2014 as a financial management technician. He's going in the 10,000.

— Bor, a 3,000-meter steeplechase runner, arrived from Eldoret as a teenager, running for Iowa State and entering the military in July 2013. He's one of three Bor brothers in the Army — the other two following his lead.

— Chelimo became a standout at University of North Carolina-Greensboro, before joining in May 2014. He balances his time between training and his duties as a water treatment specialist.

"If you have a contract with a big shoe company, that's predictable — you know what's going to happen," Chelimo explained. "With the Army, you don't know."

All four are part of the Army's World Class Athlete Program, which formally began in 1997 and is designed to give soldier-athletes the support necessary to compete at the highest levels. The program — headquartered in Fort Carson, Colorado — includes a variety of sports, with more than a dozen soldier-athletes and three coaches making the trip for the Rio Olympics and Paralympics.

A number bolstered by the Kenyan-raised runners.

"It's a pretty humbling moment to think that somebody would want to leave their country and come to yours and do so to the degree in which they would die for something they haven't even been a part

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of yet," said Army Capt. Matthew Hickey, who supervises the program. "WCAP provides a lot to the U.S. Army — we help train soldiers, help make more ready and resilient troops.

"However, if all hell broke loose, everybody in the U.S. Army is a soldier first and expected to go deploy and defend the country."

Bor was nearly sent to Afghanistan in February, when his unit needed either him or his brother to go. His older brother, Julius, instantly volunteered.

"It takes courage for someone to raise their hand and say, 'I'm going to fight for my country.' It's something I admire," Hillary Bor said. "He knew I had a chance to make the team."

Growing up, Bor preferred soccer over running, which he didn't really even take seriously until after high school when his uncle, Barnaba Korir, a standout at Iowa State, enticed him to come to America and give college running a try.

Bor followed his uncle's lead to Ames, Iowa, and in no time unlocked a talent for the steeplechase, a 3,000-meter race around the track that includes jumping over barriers and into water. Bor became a four-time All-American at Iowa State.

After graduation, his running career seemed to hit a road block. So he took an assistant teaching position in New Mexico before joining the Army not so much as a path to Olympics — he didn't know about WCAP — but simply because, "I wanted to be American," he said.

Later, his two older brothers followed his lead — Julius joining him at Fort Carson and Emmanuel at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Bor's running career was rekindled through a timed two-mile run that's required for soldiers. He finished in roughly 10 minutes.

"Everyone was like, 'You should compete for the Army team,'" Bor said.

Not as simple as that, though. First, he had to earn his place in WCAP by running a qualifying time. It took him nearly three years — and stepping up his training largely on his own — to earn inclusion.

A typical day for him went like this: Rise at dawn for training runs with an off-base coach, return to perform his Army tasks and train again at night.

In May, Bor ran the necessary time to earn a spot in WCAP. And in July, he finished second at trials to secure his place in Rio.

Fittingly, Bor's first message was to his brother in Afghanistan.

"This is not only for my brother, but for my whole unit," Bor said. "It's for every soldier that's deployed now."

What does the cox say? Seat No. 9 keeps the rowers in line

KARL RITTER, Associated Press

In Olympic rowing, two people make a "pair" and four make a "four" but eight won't do for an "eight." Sitting in the stern in the biggest boat class is a ninth crew member, facing the others. He or she is the coxswain, typically a small person who plays such a big role that calling the boat a "nine" might seem more appropriate.

"She's our eyes and ears," said Meghan Musnicki of the U.S. women's eight, the two-time defending Olympic champions, describing the role of coxswain Katelin Snyder. "And basically our brain. Because we're just hauling on it. And in a lot of pain."

The coxswain, or cox, keeps the boat going straight and the oars swinging in sync and lets the crew know who's ahead and who's behind and by how much. If done right, the cox's commands help the rowers push past the pain barrier and keep pulling those oars when every muscle fiber tells them to

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stop.

It's a delicate task. How do you make rowers who already feel they're giving everything to give even more, when you're sitting in that ninth seat in relative comfort? Just telling them to "go faster" won't cut it.

"Definitely not!" said Snyder, 28. "Go faster' could mean pull harder with my arms or it could mean swing more with my body or step quicker with my legs. So when I want them to go faster I have to specify where and how we're going to do that together."

The men's and women's eight are the only boats with a coxswain in the Olympic regatta.

It's a job that can seem thankless.

"You pretty much can only screw up," says U.S. women's coach Tom Terhaar. "They don't get a lot of credit when they do a good job. And if they make a mistake it's obvious."

A bad cox is just dead weight, literally. The coxswains don't row, and they slow the boat down with their body weight, which explains why they tend to be so petite.

The minimum weight for a cox in international rowing is at least 55 kilograms (121 pounds) for men and 50 kilograms (110 pounds) for women.

Frances Turner, who coxes New Zealand's women's eight, said she started off rowing but soon realized she was "too short and too loud and that I would be much better suited as a cox." She thinks of herself partly as a psychologist, whose job starts long before the race begins.

"You've got to know the athletes inside out," Turner said. "Know their trigger points. Know how the boat's feeling. And pull on those trigger points in a race when you need them so you can get the boat working completely harmoniously."

In training, the coxswains focus on stroke rates and other technical details and generally stay calm. In racing, they get loud and occasionally foul-mouthed as they try to squeeze every joule of energy out of the crew through the 2-kilometer (1.24-mile) course.

These days the coxswain calls out commands using headsets hooked up to a so-called cox box, which is connected to speakers in the boat and amplifies the coxswain's voice.

"I always get stopped at the airport for it," Snyder said. "It is a circle and it has a timer and a toggle. It looks a lot like a bomb."

Still, she'd rather have a cox box in Rio than the weird-looking megaphones that coxswains used to strap to their faces in the old days.

"They would scream through cones," Snyder said. "So I'm really happy that's not a thing anymore."

Bill would end longstanding ban on bikes in US wilderness

MICHELLE L. PRICE, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — More than 100 million acres of America's most rugged landscapes designated as wilderness are off-limits to mountain bikers, but two Utah senators have introduced legislation that would allow bikers to join hikers and horseback riders in those scenic, undisturbed areas.

The proposal is controversial within the biking community and opposed by conservationists who say bikes would erode trails and upset the five-decade notion of wilderness as primitive spaces.

The bill from U.S. Sens. Mike Lee and Orrin Hatch, both Utah Republicans, would give local officials with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and other federal management agencies two years to decide in each wilderness area if bikes will be allowed. If no decision is made within two years, the bike ban would be lifted in that area.

The legislation, which has not yet had a hearing, comes from somewhat unlikely sponsors. Hatch

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and Lee both represent Utah, where outdoor recreation and mountain biking are big business, but are supporters of the GOP state's push to takeover public lands controlled by the federal government — something environmentalists and outdoor recreation groups oppose.

Lee, who said he's a former mountain biker, said his bill takes on what he sees as another overreaching federal regulation that hamstring locals and that there's no evidence that mountain bike tires cause any more erosion than hikers do.

At issue is a part of the 1964 Wilderness Act restricting the use of "mechanical transport" — bikes, all-terrain vehicles and cars — in those 100-plus million wilderness acres in 44 states. It's the only blanket ban on bicycling in the federal public lands system.

The ban on "mechanical transport" doesn't include wheelchairs, which are allowed as part of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Lee notes that skis, rock climbing gear, kayaks, which are also allowed, "arguably involve some type of mechanical action" and help people move about.

While mountain biking wasn't a popular sport when the law was passed, they will alter the character of those spaces and are tough on trails, said Alan Rowsome with The Wilderness Society, a Washington, D.C.-based conservation group.

Rowsome said that only about 10 to 12 percent of all U.S. public lands are protected under the Wilderness Act, one of "the bedrock environmental laws we have in this country" setting aside some areas as sacrosanct.

That includes tens of thousands of acres of forests, valleys, lakes and peaks around Lake Tahoe, that "if mountain bikers could start riding those trails, they would be in Seventh Heaven," said Ted Stroll, president of the Sustainable Trails Coalition, a nonprofit that's working to overturn the ban.

Stroll said the wilderness ban on bikes leaves riders in Colorado on dirt forest roads from Crested Butte to Aspen instead of more scenic single track trails. In North Dakota, he said, about 100 miles of one bike trail are bookended by wilderness zones, leaving bikers to make detours at both ends to avoid the protected areas.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association doesn't have a position on the bill and is still reviewing it, according to president Mike Van Abel, but the association's 40,000 mountain bikers are divided on the idea.

Some mountain bikers don't want to upset longstanding political alliances with conservation groups and say bikers should instead focus on working with interest groups and lawmakers to negotiate and move the boundaries of wilderness areas to allow bikes on trails.

"Wilderness is the first time we as a species decided to put the needs of nature above the needs of man," said Ashley Korenblat, the owner of a bicycling tour company based in the mountain bike Moab, Utah, a red rock mountain biking playground. "We don't need to ride our bikes everywhere."

Korenblat, a former chair of the International Mountain Bicycling Association, said there are few trails in wilderness areas that would be fun to ride, but "the last thing the bike industry wants to do is have a big fight with the environmental community."

Battle within tiny Indian Muslim sect on circumcising girls

MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — When Bilqis talks about having circumcised her daughter, she goes back and forth on how she feels — sometimes within the same sentence.

The slender 50-year-old doctor defends what is widely known as female genital mutilation within her small, prosperous Shia Muslim sect in India, saying it's a mild version that amounts to "just a little nick. No harm done." Yet she also acknowledges regret and guilt at putting her daughter through a practice the United Nations calls a violation of girls' rights.

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"It's really nothing, it changes nothing," repeats Bilqis, who asks to be anonymous except for her religious name because of the personal nature of the subject. But she adds: "I have no doubt in my mind that it is not helpful. ... If I had a young daughter now there's no way I would have her circumcised."

The struggle within Bilqis and her Dawoodi Bohra community reflects a growing debate over the best way to address a custom that is proving stubbornly hard to eradicate. At least 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone some form of female genital cutting, according to the United Nations — 70 million more than in 2014 because of increases in both population and reporting. And the U.N. predicts the number of victims will increase significantly over the next 15 years because of population growth.

Faced with this prospect, experts in the respected international Journal of Medical Ethics in February proposed permitting small female genital cuts that "uphold cultural and religious traditions without sacrificing the health and wellbeing of girls and young women." But this approach is already carried out in the Bohra community and is proving highly controversial.

"They always say it's just a nick and a touch, but there are incidents where things have gone horribly wrong," says Masooma Ranalvi, who broke the silence around female genital mutilation in her community last year with a series of online petitions that sought to ban it.

Ranalvi remembers when she was 7, her grandmother promised her candy and ice cream. Instead, she was taken to a dingy room in a back alley. Her dress was pulled up and her legs and arms held down. A sharp pain followed. She came home in tears.

She did not understand what had happened until her 30s, when she read about female genital mutilation. India has no laws banning female circumcision, and Ranalvi says the letters she has sent to Dawoodi Bohra leaders have been ignored.

The Dawoodi Bohras are an affluent trading community of about a million people concentrated mostly in Mumbai, but also seen across the United States and Europe. In the winding lanes of a Bohra neighborhood, observant men are distinguished by white and gold embroidered caps and beards. Women wear a long, colorful tunic down to their ankles, and a scarf over their hair.

The Bohras are known for their liberal attitude toward the education of women. Yet the community is also tightly controlled by an entirely male clergy, with headquarters in upscale Malabar Hill in southern Mumbai. Here, alongside the homes of Bollywood stars and billionaire business tycoons, sits the sprawling Saifee Mahal, the home of the religious head known as the Syedna.

When they reach puberty, Bohra boys and girls take an oath of loyalty to the Syedna, and he has a say in almost every aspect of their lives, including marriage and funerals. From Mumbai to New York, medical professionals receive the Syedna's blessings to perform circumcision for girls, known as khatna. The procedure goes back to the community's roots in Yemen and its proximity to northern and north-eastern Africa, where the practice is deeply entrenched.

Circumcision has become a battleground for the two Bohra men vying for succession, the half-brother and the son of the former Syedna. The half-brother says it is time to end the practice. The son, whom most Dawoodi Bohras accept as their new leader, says the tradition must continue and notes that Bohra men are also circumcised. He declined to comment, but laid out some of his views in an earlier speech.

"Our community is very pure compared to other people, and it's our duty to keep it that way," Syedna Muffadal Saifuddin said at a recent gathering in Mumbai. "Men have to do it, and even women have to do it."

Activists say the two cannot be compared, because there is enough scientific evidence to show that male circumcision has health benefits.

As the Dawoodi Bohras have traveled the world, they have taken the closely held ritual of circumcision

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with them. Alefiya, a 34-year-old social worker in the United States, remembers the khatna being done by her grandmother's sister in a cold basement in New York. It was awkward and painful, she says.

Alefiya, who asked for her full name not to be used for privacy, objects as much to the message sent as to the act itself. Older Dawoodi women call the clitoris "haraam ki boti" or sinful flesh — the flesh that can lead a woman astray.

"It's horrible, it's disgusting, that these completely natural experiences are made to feel dirty," she says. "The guilt of sexuality is always on our heads. ... I'm not angry at my mother. I'm angry at the men who make these rules."

Bilqis, dressed in slim pants and a sleeveless blouse, comes across as the epitome of the modern Indian woman. She lives in a swanky high-rise apartment building with views of manicured gardens, a luxury in a city of matchbox homes. And she talks openly about her sex life, breaking a taboo that runs deep in Indian culture.

She grew up in an observant Bohra family in central India, the only girl among 10 brothers and cousins. Her father wanted them all to get a good education. It was almost drilled into her that she had to become a doctor.

It was a childhood more liberal than most girls in India can dream of. Her father never forced her to dress or behave a certain way. Her mother was a much more silent presence, but she never pushed her daughter toward traditional female roles either. Bilqis did not set foot in the kitchen.

"When I got married I could barely boil an egg or make tea," she says.

She was circumcised as a child, but has only the faintest memory of it. It was neither harmful nor traumatic for her, she says, and has not hurt her sex life.

As a doctor, however, she knows that the circumcision of a little girl — sometimes by midwives and older Bohra women in the community — can be traumatic. She remembers a time when a child came to her after being cut too deep, requiring blood vessels to be cauterized.

She does not have religious sanction to actually perform circumcisions. But in the past she has given certificates of circumcision to non-Bohra women who wanted to marry men in her community, even though many had never had the procedure.

She tells her female patients that circumcision has no benefits and potential risks. Yet by the time they talk to her, with their mothers or mothers-in-law, they've usually made up their minds to go forward.

Fifteen years ago, she felt the same way. There was no nail-biting self-doubt or anxious buildup. She says she acted out of a sense of religious obligation.

Bilqis told her daughter Sameena she would get a small injection. A nurse snipped off a tiny bit of skin. The girl did not cry, Bilqis says. She remembers thinking "one social milestone passed. One responsibility dealt with."

Sameena, now 22, is a graduate student at an Ivy League school in America. She has not had sex, which is not unusual for women her age in India. But like her mother, she talks about it without the coyness or shyness of most young Indian women.

Sameena is gradually coming to terms with the knowledge that she was circumcised at age 7.

"It's a very clear memory," she says. "I remember thinking, why is this woman coming to me?"

There was no discussion or explanation of what had happened. Sameena says it didn't hurt, but the memory makes her uncomfortable, although she can't say exactly why.

The next time it came up was when she was 15 or 16, with other Dawoodi Bohra girls at school. "Ask your mom," they said.

She did. Her mother told her it was something done in their community.

Then, spurred in part by the increasing discussion around khatna in her community, Sameena began

researching circumcision of Bohra women. First there was denial.

"How can they do this? We're educated women," she remembers thinking.C

And then anger. She says many Bohras are misled to believe that Islam condones the procedure, when no other Muslim community in India practices female circumcision.

"Who the hell are you to control anyone's sexuality?" she says. "I was very, very pissed off."

She confronted her mother, and told her she would never do such a thing to her own daughter. She accused her mother of hypocrisy. Yet her anger is with the community rather than her mother; both women describe their relationship as very close.

They agree that the custom should be abolished but differ on how. Bilqis fears that the few vocal activists speaking out may only drive it deeper underground. But Sameena does not want slow and silent change — she wants the religious leadership to come out against the practice.

"It's not going to end by not talking about it. You have to keep bringing it up as something that should not be done," she says. "That's the only way to tackle it."

Wildfires burn in 7 Western states, prompt evacuations

The Associated Press

Wildfires were burning Monday in seven Western U.S. states, from California's famed Big Sur region to tribal towns and hamlets near Reno, Nevada. More than a dozen homes were destroyed in Montana, and evacuations were ordered in Nevada, Oregon and Wyoming. Firefighters were trying to stop a Washington blaze from reaching a thickly forested security zone at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Here's a look at some of the fires:

CALIFORNIA

Higher humidity and lower temperatures on Monday helped firefighters battle a destructive wildfire that has scorched more than 63 square miles near the scenic Big Sur coast, while firefighters in Central California faced blistering heat as they worked to contain a blaze that burned rural homes and forced hundreds of evacuations near the small Fresno County town of Prather.

A layer of ocean air that arrived in the mountainous Big Sur region was credited for the better conditions in an area where a fire that started July 22 has destroyed 57 homes and is threatening 2,000 more structures. A bulldozer operator working for the firefighting operation died in an accident last week. It is 18 percent contained.

The blaze near Prather has damaged three homes just outside the Sierra National Forest, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. About 300 people are under evacuation orders.

That fire started Saturday and by Monday had grown to over 3 square miles with just 20 percent of it surrounded by firefighters.

Just north of Los Angeles, a 65-square-mile wildfire in wilderness just north of Los Angeles was almost fully contained and only active with isolated pockets of vegetation burning within a fire lines. A man who refused to evacuate from a home was killed and the fire also prompted the evacuation of about 20,000 people.

IDAHO

A southwest Idaho wildfire burning timber in rugged terrain and pushed by winds grew to 60 square miles Monday.

Temperatures in the 90s, wind and low humidity caused significant expansion on Sunday. Firefighting aircraft were grounded for about 45 minutes because of people flying their drones in the area.

The fire closed a section of State Highway 21 between Idaho City and Lowman and destroyed two

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outbuildings.

A firefighter suffered burns during the weekend when fuel spilled on his arm and it ignited.

MONTANA

At least 14 homes were destroyed by a fast-moving wildfire in the Bitterroot National Forest in western Montana, authorities said Monday.

Ravalli County authorities ordered residents of about 500 homes to leave the area after the fire began Sunday afternoon southwest of Hamilton.

It had burned nearly 5.5 square miles by Monday night.

"I've talked to homeowners who said we had 200-foot flames coming off those trees. This thing really blew up, and I've never seen anything like it in the years that I've been" with the Bitterroot National Forest, spokesman Tod McKay said.

Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman said he could not immediately provide details about the number of homes or buildings destroyed.

NEVADA

About 800 firefighters were battling a series of fires that had threatened a tribal town and hamlets near Pyramid Lake, north of Reno.

The fire zone totaled about 78 square miles Monday, said fire spokeswoman Jesse Bender.

Residents of about 30 homes in Cottonwood Creek and Fish Springs Ranch were warned they would receive 30 minutes notice to evacuate if necessary.

About 600 people were ordered out of the shoreline town of Sutcliffe over the weekend, and 200 were evacuated from beach areas.

Flames destroyed six houses and mobile homes, two vehicles and several out-buildings at historic Hardscrabble Ranch, according to Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal officials.

OREGON

Eastern Oregon residents urged to evacuate over the weekend because of a wildfire were allowed to return home.

About 20 structures remained threatened by the fire east of the town of Pendleton, the Oregon Department of Forestry said.

The East Oregonian reports that columns of smoke were rose Sunday after the blaze scorched about 500 acres of grass and timber along Interstate 84.

It was 25 percent contained by Sunday evening.

WASHINGTON

A wildfire burning toward the Hanford nuclear reservation has scorched about 273 square miles of brush and grass as it spread from Yakima County into Benton County in south-central Washington.

The blaze, the largest of several wildfires in central and eastern Washington, began Saturday on the U.S. Army's Yakima Training Center and quickly grew in size over the weekend.

But fire lines set overnight and low winds Monday are helping to slow the fire's progression, said Randall Rishe, a spokesman with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Officials said Monday night better mapping allowed them to determine the fire had burned significantly more acreage than previously thought. About 250 residences are at risk, officials also said Monday night and the fire is 10 percent contained. The cause is being investigated.

The Department of Energy said Monday on its website that Hanford work schedules were not immediately affected by the fire.

WYOMING

Firefighters made progress in their effort to contain several fires burning in western part of the state. An approximately 2-square-mile blaze that destroyed eight homes and prompted the evacuation of about 140 others in southern Uinta County was 25 percent contained.

Northwest of Dubois, a 21-square-mile blaze was 40 percent surrounded and some residents who evacuated seasonal homes were allowed to return.

In neighboring Bridger-Teton National Forest, a fire that has burned about 45 square miles was 81 percent contained.

Paid family leave benefits rising in some sectors, regions

DAMIAN TROISE, Associated Press

MATT OTT, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The call for paid family leave on the Democratic party platform is the most ambitious attempt by a major party in years to reverse the United States' status as the only industrialized nation without any standard for paid time off for new parents. But over the last five years a handful of states and some industries have been quietly increasing this benefit.

Last week's convention put paid family leave on the list of workplace election issues along with the minimum wage and equal pay. The Democrats say they will try to secure up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave to care for a new child. While the Republican platform makes no specific reference to paid family leave, the GOP in 2015 called for establishing a "flexible credit hour program" in which workers could exchange overtime hours worked for future leave time.

While Americans generally support paid family leave — a poll conducted this spring by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that 72 percent of Americans 40 and older support the benefit — efforts to adopt a national standard haven't gone anywhere. Advocates are now more hopeful. "It's taken on an inevitability," said Ellen Bravo, executive director of Family Values @ Work, an advocacy group. "Not that it will happen by itself, that it will take work. It took a decade to get the first three states."

More reason for optimism is that a few states and several competitive industries have slowly been bolstering paid parental leave laws and policies.

Here's a look at the current best and worst industries and regions with regard to paid family leave benefits.

BEST INDUSTRIES

The technology sector leads the private sector in parental leave offerings.

About 30 percent of tech workers had access to paid family leave, up from 23 percent in 2011, a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey from March 2015 found. That's nearly triple the average of all industries. About 12 percent of workers overall had access to paid family leave in 2015, up just slightly from 11 percent in 2011.

Netflix made a media splash last year when it changed its policy to allow new mothers and fathers up to a year off. Etsy gives new parents up to 26 weeks off, while Google offers 12 weeks of paid time, and Microsoft has expanded its offering to 20 weeks.

Facebook offers 16 weeks of paid leave to new parents, and CEO Mark Zuckerberg made headlines

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when he took two months off to care for his new daughter.

The industries that shine tend to compete for workers globally where other nations and companies offer generous benefits. "For many companies, this is a business issue," Bravo said. "It's about retaining and attracting talent."

Such industries include the financial sector. Bank of America, Merrill Lynch and Citi all offer more than 12 weeks of paid parental leave.

Recently, Ernst & Young boosted its paid parental leave to 16 weeks from 12 weeks and made the entire amount available to both men and women. The company's benefits also include a career and family transition program that gives new moms and dads a coach to help them better balance work and family.

Lindsay Abt, a partner in the company's audit practice, cited its leave policy as a key asset in helping her adjust to being a new parent.

"As a new mom, you're trying to figure out what that means along with a new schedule. With the leave I took, by the time I went back to work, I felt I was in a good routine," she said.

BEST PLACES

California allows workers to receive 55 percent of their pay for up to six weeks, through a state insurance program funded by workers. A new San Francisco law requires private employers within the city to make up the remainder of a new parent's full pay for six weeks.

Starting in 2018, New York workers will become eligible to take up to 12 weeks paid time off to care for a new child or sick relative. The benefit will be funded by worker payroll contributions and will start at 50 percent of an employee's weekly wage up to the statewide average.

New Jersey law allows new parents to receive two-thirds of their average weekly wage for up to six weeks during a 12 month period or until benefits equal to one-third of total wages during their base year, whichever is less.

In 2013, Rhode Island amended its temporary disability law to include caregivers and new parents. The benefit, funded by an employee payroll tax, allows for up to four weeks paid leave at about 60 percent of one's wages with a maximum weekly benefit of \$795 per week.

WORST INDUSTRIES

Traditional "blue collar" jobs remain the weakest for paid family leave. For those working in the service, manufacturing, farming or construction industries, worker access to paid family leave is mostly under 10 percent and stagnant, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data from 2015 and 2011.

WORST PLACES

The Labor Department says workers in the East South Central region — which includes Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee — are the least likely to have access to paid family leave. Only about 7 percent of workers in those states had access to paid family benefits, while every other region came in between 10 and 15 percent.

Asian shares lower as investors await Japan stimulus details

TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower Tuesday as investors watched for details of a Japanese fiscal stimulus package. The recent decline in oil prices also weighed on trading.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 lost 0.7 percent at 16,522.47. Australia's S&P ASX 200 slid 0.4

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percent at 5,579.76. China's Shanghai Composite Index edged up 0.1 percent at 2,956.74. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.5 percent at 2,019.70. Most Southeast Asian markets were down. Hong Kong's stock market was closed in the morning due to a typhoon.

JAPAN STIMULUS PACKAGE: The Japanese Cabinet was due later Tuesday to approve Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's proposal, announced last week, of a 28 trillion yen (\$272 billion) package of measures to help rev up the lagging economic recovery. Economists have noted that much of the money listed in the package may be already in the pipeline and massive construction projects have so far done little to sustain stronger growth.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: Japanese stocks opened lower, "with a focus on the details of the 28 trillion yen stimulus," said Chris Weston, chief market strategist with IG. "In terms of genuine fiscal stimulus measures the devil is in the details."

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks wobbled and finished mostly lower Monday as the price of oil continued to nosedive thanks to the strong dollar. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.2 percent to 18,404.51. The S&P 500 lost 0.1 percent to 2,170.84. The Nasdaq composite gained 0.4 percent to 5,184.20. The Dow and S&P 500 set all-time highs recently and the Nasdaq is within 1 percent of the record it set in July 2015.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 13 cents to \$40.19 after settling at \$40.06 a barrel in New York on Monday. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, rose 23 cents to \$42.37 a barrel in London, after closing at \$42.14 a barrel the day before. As of Monday, the price of oil had fallen 13 percent in a little more than two weeks.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 102.60 yen from 102.39 the previous day. The euro rose to \$1.1172 from \$1.1166 on Monday.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 2, the 215th day of 2016. There are 151 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 2, 1776, members of the Continental Congress began attaching their signatures to the Declaration of Independence.

On this date:

In 216 B.C., during the Second Punic War, Carthaginian forces led by Hannibal defeated the Roman army in the Battle of Cannae.

In 1873, inventor Andrew S. Hallidie (HAH'-lih-day) successfully tested a cable car he had designed for the city of San Francisco.

In 1876, frontiersman "Wild Bill" Hickok was shot and killed while playing poker at a saloon in Deadwood, Dakota Territory, by Jack McCall, who was later hanged.

In 1909, the original Lincoln "wheat" penny first went into circulation, replacing the "Indian Head" cent.

In 1923, the 29th president of the United States, Warren G. Harding, died in San Francisco; Vice President Calvin Coolidge became president.

In 1934, German President Paul von Hindenburg died, paving the way for Adolf Hitler's complete takeover.

In 1939, Albert Einstein signed a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt urging creation of an atomic weapons research program. President Roosevelt signed the Hatch Act, which prohibited civil service

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employees from taking an active part in political campaigns.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. Navy boat PT-109, commanded by Lt. (jg) John F. Kennedy, sank after being rammed in the middle of the night by the Japanese destroyer Amagiri off the Solomon Islands. Two crew members were killed.

In 1964, the destroyer USS Maddox suffered light damage during a skirmish with North Vietnamese patrol torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. (This and an alleged second incident two days later led to congressional approval of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that propelled America deep into war.)

In 1974, former White House counsel John W. Dean III was sentenced to one to four years in prison for obstruction of justice in the Watergate coverup. (Dean ended up serving four months.)

In 1985, 137 people were killed when Delta Air Lines Flight 191, a Lockheed L-1011 Tristar, crashed while attempting to land at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, seizing control of the oil-rich emirate. (The Iraqis were later driven out in Operation Desert Storm.)

Ten years ago: Five days after being pulled over by police, actor-director Mel Gibson was charged with misdemeanor drunken driving, having an elevated blood-alcohol level and having an open container of liquor in his car. (Gibson later pleaded no contest to drunken driving under a deal in which he received three years' probation, paid a fine and agreed to attend alcohol rehabilitation classes.)

Five years ago: The Senate passed, and President Barack Obama signed, legislation to avoid an unprecedented national default. New York Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira (teh-SHEHR'-uh) set a major league record when he homered from both sides of the plate for the 12th time in his career during a 6-0 win over the Chicago White Sox.

One year ago: The International Olympic Committee said it would order testing for disease-causing viruses in the sewage-polluted waters where athletes would be competing in the 2016 Rio Games, days after an Associated Press investigation revealed high counts of viruses directly linked to human waste in the waters. Inbee Park of South Korea rallied to win the Women's British Open to become the seventh women to win four different major championships.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Nehemiah Persoff is 97. Former Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., is 94. Rock musician Garth Hudson (The Band) is 79. Singer Kathy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 73. Actor Max Wright is 73. Actress Joanna Cassidy is 71. Actress Kathryn Harrold is 66. Actor Butch Patrick (TV: "The Munsters") is 63. Rock music producer/drummer Butch Vig (Garbage) is 61. Singer Mojo Nixon is 59. Actress Victoria Jackson is 57. Actress Apollonia is 57. Actress Cynthia Stevenson is 54. Actress Mary-Louise Parker is 52. Rock musician John Stanier is 48. Writer-actor-director Kevin Smith is 46. Actor Sam Worthington is 40. Figure skater Michael Weiss is 40. Actor Edward Furlong is 39. Rock musician Devon Glenn is 36. TV meteorologist Dylan Dreyer (TV: "Today") is 35. Singer Charli XCX is 24. Actress Hallie Eisenberg is 24.

Thought for Today: "We look forward to the time when the power to love will replace the love of power." — William Ellery Channing, American clergyman (1780-1842).