

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, June 17

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.

Olive Grove: Triathlon.

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FATHER'S DAY

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sarah Circle serves at nursing home, 3 p.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship in Pierpont at 10 a.m.

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Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, fresh fruit, cookie, whole wheat bread.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

Emmanuel: Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

United Methodist: Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

T-Ball: Black team practice at 6 p.m., Gold team at Andover, 6 p.m.

Legion: hosts Redfield for 1 game, 7 p.m.

Jr. Legion: hosts Redfield for 1 game, 6 p.m.

U10: at Andover for 1 game, 7 p.m.

City Council: Meet at 7 p.m. at the Groton Community Center

Olive Grove: Kid's lessons, 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Ladies Invitational 18 holes at 10 a.m.

Service Notice:

Ronald Spencer

Services for Ronald "Ron" Spencer, 68, of Houghton will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 20th at the United Methodist Church, Claremont. Rev. Lorin Salfrank will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow at Huffton Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Monday from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Ron passed away June 15, 2017 at his home, surrounded by family.

FOR SALE

MARCY MWM900 Home Gym for sale. Asking \$100. Contact Brian at 397-7180.

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**





**"Be present in all things
and thankful
for all
things."**

-Maya Angelou

Chicken Soup
for the *Soul*

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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

June 19, 2017 - 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) City Hall Roof
- 4) Community Center Paint
- 5) Capital Improvement List
- 6) 7:15-Wine/Beer Hearing
- 7) Handicapped Signs-BB Parking Lot (only 1 currently)
- 8) Move Funds
- 9) Golf Tournament
- 10) Water & Electric Study
- 11) Gov Declaration-Meeting July 3
- 12) FO School Report
- 13) Executive Session-Personnel 1-25-2(1)



Call or Text
Paul at
397-7460
or Tina at
397-7285
for
membership
Information

GDI Living Fitness
25 Main St., Downtown Groton



Drought Relief is Needed

Today in South Dakota, much of our state is experiencing a significant drought. Ranchers are struggling to feed their livestock and farmers are concerned about their crops. In many counties, the hay and forage being harvested is yielding one-third or less of normal production. Despite recent rainfall across much of the state, these dry conditions are expected to continue into the summer.

The drought underscores the importance of the farm bill, the primary ag and food policy legislation that directs U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs and is generally up for reauthorization every five years. The current farm bill runs through 2018, and ideas on how to improve the next one are already being discussed among many in Congress, especially those of us in rural states. Those discussions include the importance of safety net programs such as crop insurance and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which are designed to help farmers and ranchers during adverse times, such as during a drought.

I recently joined fellow South Dakota Senator John Thune in urging USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue to provide timely assistance to the South Dakota counties facing these extreme drought conditions. In our letter, we asked him to be ready to provide expedited assistance to counties that will likely soon be in extreme drought conditions and eligible for assistance from the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). We also requested that CRP acres be made available for emergency haying and grazing as soon as possible due to the substantial loss of grazing and forage for feed.

Because much of the state is already experiencing D2 category drought conditions, we asked that USDA be prepared to take LFP applications and issue payments as soon as possible if and when any county reaches D3 category. We also asked USDA to open up CRP acres for haying and grazing no later than July 15, 2017, which is several weeks earlier than normal. "Timely assistance is needed in order to preserve foundation grazing livestock herds in the drought-stricken areas of our state from further downsizing due to lack of feed and forage," we wrote.

Most recently, Governor Dennis Daugaard declared a statewide emergency because of the ongoing drought conditions in South Dakota. As part of the State of Emergency, the state will ease haying and transportation restrictions to assist agriculture producers. I applaud these efforts.

In South Dakota, our farmers and ranchers are not immune to challenging conditions. They've persevered through adverse weather before, from floods and hail to drought and windstorms. This year, however, the challenges are being compounded by the sluggish ag economy in which net farm income has fallen 50 percent in the past four years.

During these adverse times, it is important we give our producers all the tools possible to manage these difficult conditions, so that they can continue to feed a growing global population. We will continue to closely monitor the drought. Additionally, I will continue working with my colleagues to make sure these important safety net programs are preserved and strengthened as the next farm bill begins to take shape. As always, if you have concerns or recommendations, please feel free to contact one of my offices.

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Good Reason To Be Proud Of The SDNG

If you live out west or near Chamberlain, you may have noticed more individuals in uniform over the last week. That's because the South Dakota National Guard is currently in the middle of its annual Golden Coyote training exercise. In its 33rd year, the exercise is held to prepare military members for overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.

Thirty military units with soldiers from 13 states, one U.S. territory and four foreign countries are participating in the two-week training. The 2,400 service members who are involved serve in the Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as the National Guard.

Through the exercise, the SDNG is providing service to the public. For the tenth year in a row, the National Guard and reserve soldiers are conducting a timber haul humanitarian mission. They are using hydraulic excavators to load timber onto trucks for delivery to members of the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Standing Rock, Cheyenne River and Crow Creek tribes. This not only provides tribes with wood to use for heating, but gives soldiers experience in finding and delivering supplies – a job soldiers routinely perform overseas.

I am proud of the South Dakota National Guard for leading this successful operation each year, and also for continuously distinguishing itself.

I recently received word that South Dakota is leading the country in unit readiness. The National Guard Bureau annually designates "Superior Units" based upon personnel strength, meeting high training requirements and receiving excellent marks during inspections. This year, only 35 Army National Guard units in the nation earned this distinction: two from Iowa, 10 from Virginia and 23 from South Dakota. In total, the SDNG makes up nine-tenths of a percent of the nation's Army National Guard. Yet, our units earned 66 percent of the Superior Unit Awards for training year 2016 – a truly incredible accomplishment.

And that's not all. The SD Army National Guard was recently named the overall winner of the Army Communities of Excellence competition. This award recognizes performance excellence within U.S. Army, National Guard and Reserve installations and communities and their approach to systems management. After finishing runner-up last year, they outdid every other state in the nation this year, bringing home \$100,000 to push organizational excellence even higher.

We have good reason to be proud of our soldiers and airmen. For over 155 years, this leading force has been dedicated to serving the citizens of South Dakota and the nation. They are among the most dedicated, capable, and reliable men and women I've ever known.

Gov. Daugaard Issues State Of Emergency For Drought Conditions

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has declared a statewide emergency because of the ongoing drought conditions in South Dakota. As part of the State of Emergency, the state will ease haying and transportation restrictions to assist agriculture producers.

“The drought has really hurt grass and hay production in much of the state, which is making our ag producers scramble to keep livestock fed. I’m hopeful that these changes will help keep livestock on the farm until the drought breaks,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

Effective immediately, farmers and ranchers across the state may cut and bale state highway ditches adjacent to their property. The South Dakota Department of Transportation has suspended their mowing operations until July 5 to allow farmers to access more of the hay along the ditches. During this time SDDOT will continue to mow in urban areas. For safety reasons, mowing in the medians of divided four-lane highways is prohibited and a permit is still required for mowing interstate right-of-ways. Because of the dry conditions, farmers and ranchers are strongly encouraged to carry fire extinguishers on mowing equipment. Producers are also reminded to be watchful of traffic along the highways and to always yield to oncoming traffic.

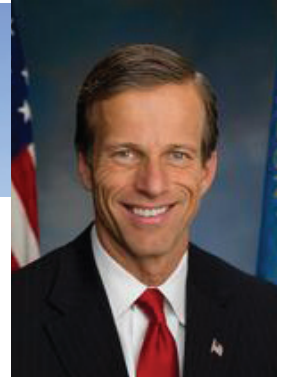
The state is also authorizing producers to travel statewide without a commercial driver’s license (CDL) to ease transport of feed in the drought stricken area.

With the emergency drought disaster declaration federal trucking regulations are waived for the transportation of goods such as hay. FMCSA regulations ranging from 390-399 are waived for the next 30 days. Those include general regulations, driving training regulations, special driving considerations, parts and accessories, medical cards, hours of service, and proof of annual inspections.

Also as part of an emergency declaration, permits are available to allow oversize movement of hay up to 12 feet wide and to extend the time allowed for movement of vehicles from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., provided the load has reflectorized or lighted oversize load signs on the front and back of the vehicle(s). The permits are free and available by contacting the South Dakota Highway Patrol Permitting Office at 605-698-3925.

For more information on state highway ditch mowing, call Greg Fuller, SDDOT director of operations at 605-773-3256.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



We're All on the Same Team

If you watch cable news, you might think Republicans and Democrats have irreconcilable differences – that at the end of the day, we retreat to our own corners to isolate ourselves from the other party. Nothing could be further from the truth, though. Political tensions are high these days, I'll admit it, but if you asked just about any elected official, they would tell you that the "R" or "D" after his or her name means far less than the one overarching title that unites us, which is that we're all Americans.

When all is said and done, it's "American" that's embroidered on our jerseys, because all 535 of us in Congress are on the same team. We were bluntly reminded of that after the recent shooting in Alexandria, Virginia. What should have been a fun morning spent with friends and colleagues at the ballpark quickly turned into a chaotic scene that ended with bravery and heroism.

If it wasn't for the quick and selfless action of several Capitol Police officers who were there that morning, a bad situation could have been so much worse. It's always amazing to think about, but when the bullets start flying, these men and women rush toward danger to stare it directly in the face. There isn't a day that goes by that my staff and I aren't unbelievably grateful for everything they do to protect us, whether it's amid peace or chaos.

It's unfortunate that in the cloudy political climate in which we live, it takes an event like this one to rattle us back to reality. The Capitol Hill community – members of Congress, all of our respective staff members who help us represent our constituents to the best of our ability, the Capitol Police, and everyone else who works or lives here – is like a family. Like any family, we have disputes from time to time, but we must remember that we can disagree without being disagreeable.

I'm not going to agree with my colleagues on every bill, but that's okay. We can have honest disagreements about policy, whether it's about health care or tax reform or you name it. We will have disagreements, and we should, frankly. That's exactly what our democracy is all about. But we can and should do it in an honest and respectful way, which is what I hope we all take away from this recent act of violence.

Shortly after the shooting, I went to the Senate floor to reflect on what happened. I said it then, but it bears repeating. Good endures. Sacrifice endures. Heroism endures. Long after the names of the evildoers are forgotten, these things remain. It's one of many reasons that America remains a beacon of hope around the world and why we – individually and collectively – must always remember that it's our commonalities and not our differences that make us great.



A Common Country

On June 14, Members of Congress, their staff, and Capitol Hill Police were fired upon while preparing for a charity baseball game. The incident left five victims with varying degrees of injury. Due to a fast response from law enforcement, however, dozens of lives were saved and I'm immensely grateful to them for that. My prayers have been with all those involved and their families, but also with our nation.

We are a country built on the freedom to disagree. Our Founding Fathers orchestrated a revolution to ensure their children and grandchildren would not be ruled by a monarch whose heavy hand eliminated the freedom of religion, speech, and press. Later generations embraced peaceful protest to protect liberties for all, earning women the right to vote and ending segregation. Our men and women in uniform have fought to protect these freedoms; their sacrifices ought not to be taken for granted.

None of this means that America hasn't struggled with how to deal with disagreement throughout our 240-plus-year history. During the worst of times, the differences erupted into a brutal Civil War. But even as neighbor stood against neighbor, brother against brother, Abraham Lincoln turned his focus to what binds us together: "Let us at all times remember that all American citizens are brothers of a common country, and should dwell together in the bonds of fraternal feeling."

Although the divisions today are nowhere near as deep as they were before our nation fell into the Civil War, many have come to feel complete disdain for those who have a different political view – a reality we see in our daily interactions on social media and elsewhere.

In the back-and-forth of issues we're passionate about, I understand contempt can be an easy emotion to fall back on. But when things get heated, we must keep in mind that the person we're debating is God's creation too. That, in and of itself, demands civility.

So, I ask that you join me in praying for our ability to disagree on matters of policy, principle, and belief while maintaining respect for the "other side." I also ask that you keep the president, members of Congress, and all elected officials in your prayers. Finally, I ask that you seek God's comfort and strength for every family impacted by violence. I will be doing the same.

I wanted to close this piece with something I wrote after Democratic Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was shot: "We are all South Dakotans and we are all Americans. Those are ties that will always remain stronger than any political affiliation or ideological viewpoint – no matter how strongly held."

I am so proud to represent South Dakota and our diversity of viewpoints. Thank you for always surrounding my family and I with your prayers. It truly means the world to us.

Adjust Summer Diet To Meet Your Body's Needs

The weather's not the only thing that heats up in summer. So do our bodies, which makes this time of year a great time to transition to a healthier diet. If we aren't careful, foods we eat during the summer can affect our bodies and digestion through Thanksgiving and beyond, says Dr. John Douillard, a leader in the natural health field and author of *Eat Wheat* (www.LifeSpa.com).

Douillard recommends we adopt a summer diet consisting of foods that are sweet, bitter, cold and oily – such as salads, steamed vegetables, fruits and coconut oil.

He also recommends that we not shy away from foods that contain Gluten, such as wheat. According to a pair of recent Harvard studies, going gluten-free increases the risk of heart disease and diabetes.

"To attain optimal health, it's critical to eat the right foods during summer so that we don't experience problems like constipation in November, sleep concerns in December, depression in January, a cold or flu in February," says Douillard.

Douillard offers some tips on what to avoid and what foods to eat in the summer months:

- Incorporate wheat into your diet. Fiber and carbohydrates in grains like wheat, feed healthy immunity boosting microbes in the gut. Douillard recommends eating wheat in the summer because it can decrease the risk of chronic diseases. But he also recommends doing so in moderation because fall-harvested wheat is in-season and much easier to digest.

- Save the warm soups, stews and heavy foods for winter. It might be tough to resist a hearty stew, but the microbes in our bodies in winter are geared toward keeping us warm. As we move into warm weather months, the body has transitioned to microbes that facilitate fat burning, weight loss and renewed energy. In the summer go for lighter fare such as fruits, leafy greens, beans and cucumbers.

- Hot, spicy foods don't mix with summer. If you like spicy foods better get them on the table during the spring when the body is transitioning from the winter. Once summer rolls around it's best to avoid hot and spicy foods; which include coffee, red meat and eggs – all of which can put undue stress on organs such as the prostate, liver, stomach and small intestines.

- Eat the chicken, not the egg. While eggs are considered a warm food that should be avoided during summer months, chicken is considered a cool food. A 2016 study found that men who ate chicken four times a week had a 17 percent less chance of getting prostate cancer, compared to men who ate poultry less than twice a month.

- Drink water before meals. Staying hydrated is one of the most important things you can do for your body, especially during the summer. Water is the best way to stay hydrated, but it's best to drink water 15-30 minutes before a meal. Drinking it during a meal will drown out stomach acid, which breaks down hard to digest proteins.

"If you are curious about the food you should be eating, go ahead and give it a little taste," says Douillard. "If it has two of the three summer tastes – sweet, bitter or astringent – it is balancing and should be prepared in a way that is cool, heavy or oily."

About Dr. John Douillard

Dr. John Douillard, DC, CAP, author of *Eat Wheat* (www.LifeSpa.com), is a globally recognized leader in the fields of natural health, Ayurveda and sports medicine, and is author of six previous health books. He is the creator of LifeSpa.com, the leading Ayurveda health and wellness resource on the internet. Douillard also is the former Director of Player Development and nutrition counselor for the New Jersey Nets NBA team. He has been a repeat guest on the Dr. Oz show, and has been featured in *Woman's World* magazine, *Huffington Post*, *Yoga Journal* and dozens of other national publications.

Today in Weather History

June 17, 1944: On this date, six estimated F2 or greater tornadoes were tracked across Faulk, Codington, Brown, Day, Grant, and Roberts County in South Dakota as well as Big Stone in Minnesota. The first tornado touched down at approximately 3:30 pm CST in Faulk County. This estimated F2 tornado destroyed all buildings except the house on a farm 7 miles northeast of Faulkton. The next tornado occurred at 4:00 pm CST in Codington County, where barns were destroyed. Cattle and a truck were thrown into Grass Lake, near Wallace. About the same time, in Brown County, a tornado moved northeast from just northeast of Warner, and crossed the town of Bath. This storm killed two people and injured another twelve. A couple was killed in the destruction of their home. Twenty homes in Bath were damaged. A brick school had its upper story torn off. Another tornado moved through Codington County at 4:45 pm CST, killing three and injuring twenty five. This F4 strength tornado moved northeast from two miles northeast of Henry, passing over Long Lake and ending 2 miles northwest of Florence. The funnel was described as snake like over Long Lake and massive as it swept through five farms southwest of Florence. Over 100 head of cattle were killed, and about a dozen homes were destroyed. In Day county an estimated F2 moved due north from 4 miles south of Webster, ending 2 miles northeast of Roslyn. This storm passed two miles east of Webster where barns were destroyed and livestock was killed on a half dozen farms. At 5:15 pm CST a monster of a storm moved northeast from 5 miles south of Summit, passing 3 miles south of Wilmot and ending about 3 miles east of Beardsley, Minnesota. This massive tornado had an estimated width of 1500 yards and traveled 30 miles. Along the path, eight people were killed and another forty three were injured. Farm devastation southwest and south of Wilmot was as complete as it could be with some farms reportedly left without even debris on the property. About 15 farms in South Dakota reported F3-F5 damage. From this day, the Red Cross counted 13 dead and 560 people injured across the state.

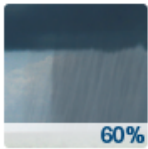






June 17, 2010: This day will go down as the day with the greatest single-day tornado total in Minnesota history. The 3 EF4 tornadoes in Minnesota were the first tornadoes EF4 or stronger in this state since the Granite Falls tornado on July 25, 2000. This was the greatest number of tornadoes rated EF4 or greater in one day in Minnesota since the Black Sunday tornado outbreak on April 30, 1967. This was the first EF4 tornado in Freeborn County since the Black Sunday outbreak. The 4 total EF4 tornadoes across the Upper Midwest on June 17, 2010 (3 in MN, and 1 in ND) were the most in any outbreak in the U.S. since the "Super Tuesday Outbreak" on February 5-6, 2008. The number of tornado fatalities (4) on this day was the highest in Minnesota since July 5, 1978. Click [HERE](#) for a NWS summary.

1946: The third deadliest tornado in Canadian history struck southwestern Ontario from Windsor to Tecumseh. 17 people were killed and hundreds injured. Damage was conservatively estimated at \$1.5 million dollars.

2009: A tornado leveled a house knocks down power poles and overturns about a dozen railroad cars in Aurora, Nebraska. The tornado is rated EF2, with winds between 111 and 135 mph. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the National Weather Service in Hastings, Nebraska.

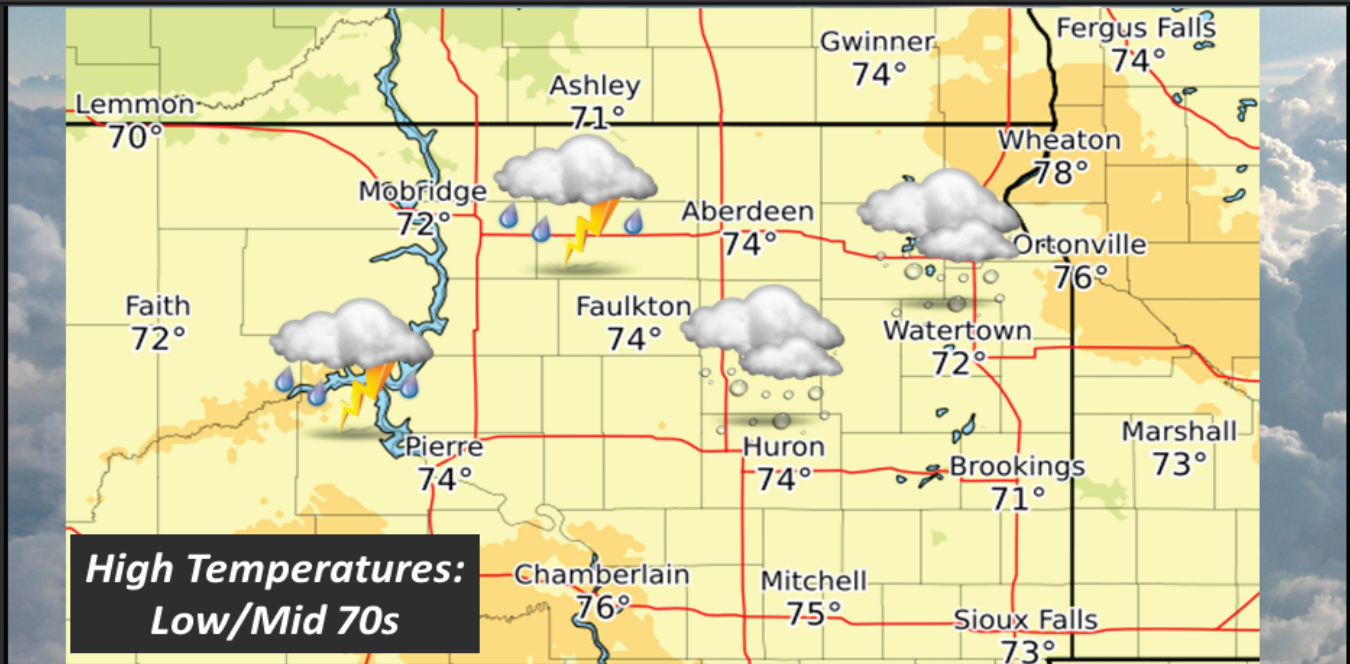
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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
60%	60%	20% 40%	30%			
Showers Likely and Breezy	Showers Likely	Slight Chance Showers then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 75 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 79 °F



Light Morning Showers Weak Afternoon Storms



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 6/17/2017 5:35 AM Central

Published on: 06/17/2017 at 5:42AM

Temperatures will top out in the 70s today, and we will see light morning showers replaced by weak afternoon thunderstorms. The stronger storms could produce gusty winds. Additionally it will be breezy again today.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 81.5

Low Outside Temp: 59.9

High Gust: 16

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1933

Record Low: 40° in 1915

Average High: 78°F

Average Low: 54°F

Average Precip in June: 2.07

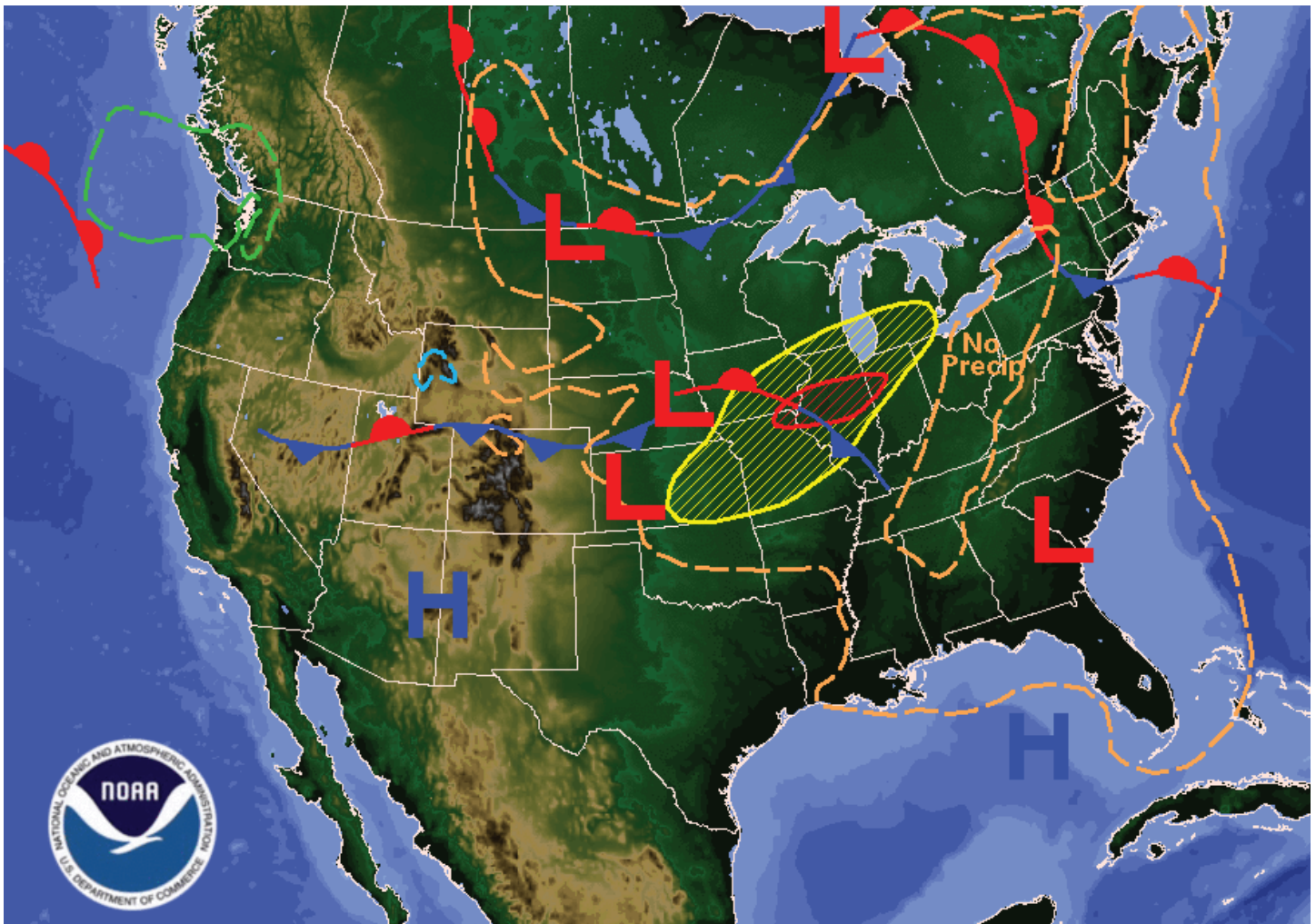
Precip to date in June: 2.02

Average Precip to date: 9.21

Precip Year to Date: 5.21

Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jun 17, 2017, issued 4:44 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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INNOCENT!

David's boldness is dramatic. He goes before God with confidence and conviction – not fearing what God may uncover in his heart. "Hear me, O Lord – my plea is just and my prayer does not rise from deceitful lips." Most of us, when we go to God in prayer, begin with a plea for forgiveness, knowing that our lives fall short of God's expectations and our best efforts.

David, in this psalm, had no fear of God. He said that "You, God, have probed my heart, examined me at night, have tested me and found no evil plans within me!" That's boldness that we can actually see! Few of us would stand before God and make such statements! How was it that David could ask God to put him under His magnifying glass and have no fear? Was he a favorite of God's? Did he do something that gave him special privileges in God's sight? Or was he so aware of God's love, mercy and grace that he could stand before God and say, "Judge me! I've been cleansed of my sin!"

David prayed for God's presence to be with him and His eyes to be upon him. And we, as David, can make that same claim! Not because we have a clear conscience or a just plea. Not because God has examined us and found us faultless.

We can ask for God's presence and His favors because we have a Savior Who cleanses us from all unrighteousness and Who pleads our cause before His Father. "In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence," said Paul.

Prayer: Your greatness and grace, Heavenly Father, are more than we deserve but not greater than our needs. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 17:1 Hear me, LORD, my plea is just; listen to my cry. Hear my prayer—it does not rise from deceitful lips.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota men sentenced for shooting 200 protected birds

WEBSTER, S.D. (AP) — Two South Dakota men have been sentenced for illegally shooting and killing more than 200 pelicans and double-crested cormorants.

Sixty-six-year-old Brant Nelson and 63-year-old Kirk Nelson, both of Webster, pleaded guilty in federal court to taking, killing and possessing migratory birds.

U.S. District Judge William Gerdes sentenced the men to 36 months of probation and ordered them to pay nearly \$11,000 in restitution. They were fined \$500 each and had their hunting privileges suspended for three years.

Authorities say the birds were killed in the spring of 2016. The Nelsons allegedly shot them from their property that borders a small lake in Day County.

Both species are migratory birds and by federal law cannot be hunted or killed under any circumstances.

South Dakota library gets \$35K grant to help newcomers

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A new public library opening in September in northeast South Dakota will have a special section dedicated to helping newcomers in the city, especially those whose first language isn't English.

The Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2suD7ew>) reports that Aberdeen is one of 26 communities getting part of a \$5 million from the Knight Foundation. A \$35,000 share will go to The A Place.

Library director Shirley Arment said in January that specifications of The A Place are still undecided, but it will likely include computers with translation software and job information, services and activities in Aberdeen.

At its June 1 meeting, the Aberdeen Area Diversity Coalition discussed bringing a traveling exhibit called "Green Card Voices" to the library. The exhibit features stories of legal permanent residents in the country.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

South Dakota city plans major development for 2018

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A year after completing a \$14 million reconstruction of U.S. Highway 85 and a week before it opens a new \$6.5 million visitor center, a western South Dakota city is already looking to the future and a major revamp of the tourist town's northern entrance.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2sawf57>) reports that Deadwood city planners met last week with a design team to chart a major 2018 project on U.S. Highway 14A that will involve city, state and federal governments.

City Planner Bob Nelson Jr. says the state Department of Transportation plans to mill and overlay existing roadway. The project also will include sidewalk replacement and a possible extension from the First Gold Hotel & Casino to the Deadwood Station.

Nelson expects the design phase to finish by October.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

18-22-26-30-44, Mega Ball: 9, Megaplier: 5

(eighteen, twenty-two, twenty-six, thirty, forty-four; Mega Ball: nine; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$113 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$52 million

Sage grouse hunting unlikely in South Dakota this year

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Department wants to close the state's hunting season on sage grouse after fewer male birds were seen dancing on their mating grounds this year.

Biologists counted fewer than 220 males this spring, below the 250-bird hunting threshold in the state's sage grouse management plan. The spring of 2016 showed nearly 280 males, the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2s8xAt8>) reported.

Drought hit the state's sage grouse range last summer. Chick survival was low last year, leading to fewer adults this year, according to Travis Runia, a senior upland-game biologist.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considered placing sage grouse on its list of threatened or endangered species less than five years ago. But an unexpected effort on behalf of state and federal agencies, private industry and private conservation organizations, was able to slow and even reverse the declines in sage grouse populations.

"We were starting to recover quite nicely," Runia said.

He said one positive is that the state's sage grouse habitat is almost entirely intact because there hasn't been much crop tillage or oil and gas development in northwest South Dakota.

Runia said the Game, Fish and Parks Department is trying to better understand how best to manage sage grouse by helping fund a research project focused specifically on the birds. He said the information can ultimately help keep the birds off the endangered-species list.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Number of same-sex marriages in South Dakota in hundreds

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Nearly 300 marriage licenses have been given to same-sex couples in South Dakota since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized the unions two years ago.

The Sioux Falls Pride festival will take place Saturday, which falls about a week before the anniversary of the groundbreaking court decision.

As of Tuesday, five licenses had been issued this month to same-sex couples in the state, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2sGyZIW>) reported.

Ashley Joubert-Gaddis with the Center for Equality said she's excited that hundreds of people in the state have embraced the rights granted to them by the court.

"I think that number sounds big," she said. "We're a small community."

The busiest month for same-sex marriage licenses issued in South Dakota is the month after the law changed, in July 2015. Licenses continue to be issued, with the number spiking last year in August.

"It was such a foreign idea for us to get married," said Nancy Rosenbrahn, 71, of her relationship with her wife. "As their (LGBT-identifying people) friends get married and they become accustomed to the idea, I think we're going to see that number grow."

The South Dakota Constitution still includes a ban on same-sex marriage, but that language became legally moot following the June 2015 ruling. Rosenbrahn had sued the state for the right to marry her wife before the ruling.

She said that even though the state Constitution's language on same-sex marriage is moot, it still remains as a symbol of the South Dakota's unwillingness to change.

"The big battle is full equality," Rosenbrahn said. "Until we have full equality there are so many slights."

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Governor issues drought emergency declaration

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Ongoing drought conditions in South Dakota have prompted Gov. Dennis Daugaard to issue an emergency declaration which eases hay and transportation restrictions.

The drought has reduced grass and hay supplies. The declaration means farmers and ranchers can cut and bale highway ditches adjacent to their property to keep their livestock fed.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation has suspended mowing operations along those ditches until July 5 in order to give farmers access. The governor's order also authorizes producers to travel state-wide without a commercial driver's license in order to get feed to the drought stricken area.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows about 80 percent of the state being either abnormally dry or in some stage of drought, up just slightly from last week.

Judge won't allow Trump to be added to pipeline lawsuit

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A judge says he's inclined to let a group of individual members of American Indian tribes join a lawsuit over the Dakota Access oil pipeline, but only if they agree to not add President Donald Trump as a defendant.

Any action against the president whose administration pushed through the pipeline's completion would need to come in a separate lawsuit, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg said. The group's lead attorney said that's still a possibility. The pipeline began shipping oil to customers on June 1.

The White House said the administration is confident that federal analysis of the pipeline's environmental impacts "is legally sound."

Four Sioux tribes in the Dakotas are suing Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners and the Army Corps of Engineers, which permitted the \$3.8 billion project to move North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois where it can be shipped to Gulf Coast refineries. The tribes fear environmental and cultural harm, which ETP denies.

The lawsuit in federal court in Washington, D.C., has lingered nearly a year. In late February, 13 members of the Standing Rock, Cheyenne River and Oglala Sioux tribes asked to join as individual plaintiffs. They maintain they might be better suited than the tribes as a whole to make some claims against the pipeline because they're personally affected. Boasberg ruled this week that the Corps didn't adequately consider how an oil spill might affect tribal fishing and hunting rights, or whether it might disproportionately affect the tribal community.

"Ultimately, this case is about whether individual Native American people are to be subjected to environmental harm," plaintiffs' attorney Bruce Afran said.

ETP attorneys have argued there's no evidence the individual tribe members will be "substantially burdened" by the pipeline. The Corps also has objected to their intervention, saying their interests are adequately represented by the tribes and that their claims against Trump "create an additional layer of complexity that is likely to cause undue delay."

The group wants to add Trump as a defendant because he pushed through completion of the long-stalled project shortly after taking office in January. The Corps had announced further environmental study of

the pipeline but canceled those plans after Trump in an executive action in January urged completion of the project.

Boasberg said Wednesday he'll let the group intervene as long as it keeps the scope of its arguments to those being argued by the full tribes. Any additional claims, or adding Trump as a defendant, "would unduly expand the scope of the case," he said.

Boasberg gave the group until Tuesday to respond. Afran told The Associated Press that the group will comply with the order. He said no decision has been made on whether to sue Trump separately.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

188 new Americans given citizenship oath at Mount Rushmore

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — Mount Rushmore was the backdrop as nearly 200 people became new citizens of the United States.

The U.S. District Court of South Dakota held a naturalization ceremony Thursday for 188 people at the national landmark symbolizing American freedom and the nation's history.

KOTA-TV (<http://bit.ly/2rErtZL>) says the new citizens came from 39 countries, including 24 immigrants from Bhutan. After the oath was administered, every new citizen got a chance to address the crowd.

Leandro Robles became a citizen just a few months ago and delivered the keynote speech. He encouraged the new Americans to keep their homelands in their heart and help weave their backgrounds into the fabric of the U.S. in order to make it stronger.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

Cosby judge declares mistrial as jury deadlocks again

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby's trial on sexual assault charges ended without a verdict Saturday after jurors failed to reach a unanimous decision in a case that helped destroy the 79-year-old comedian's image as "America's Dad."

Jurors deliberated more than 52 hours over six days before telling a judge they couldn't agree on whether "The Cosby Show" star drugged and molested Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. The judge then declared a mistrial.

Prosecutors said they would retry Cosby, who remains charged with three counts of aggravated indecent assault.

The comedian's career and good-guy image were already in tatters by the time his chief accuser took the stand and described how Cosby gave her pills and then penetrated her with his fingers as she lay paralyzed on a couch, unable to tell him to stop.

But the jurors clearly struggled with their verdict, telling the judge on Day 4 they were at impasse. Judge Steven O'Neill instructed them to keep working toward a unanimous decision. On Saturday, they came back and told O'Neill they were hopelessly deadlocked.

It was the only criminal case to arise from allegations from more than 60 women that cast Cosby — married more than 50 years — as a serial predator who gave drugs to women before violating them.

He did not take the stand in his own defense, leaving it to his attorney to argue Cosby and Constand were lovers sharing a consensual sexual encounter. Lawyer Brian McMonagle told jurors that while Cosby had been unfaithful to his wife, he didn't commit a crime.

"We're talking about all the man's tomorrows," said McMonagle, urging acquittal of an icon in the twilight of life.

Cosby broke barriers as the first black actor to star in a network show, "I Spy," in the 1960s and created the top-ranked "Cosby Show" two decades later, starring as kindly Dr. Cliff Huxtable. He found success with his "Fat Albert" animated TV show and starred in commercials for Jello-O pudding.

But it was his reputation as a public moralist who urged young people to pull up their saggy pants and start acting responsibly that prompted a federal judge to unseal portions of an explosive deposition he gave more than a decade ago as part of Constand's civil lawsuit against him.

In the deposition, released in 2015 at the request of The Associated Press, Cosby said he obtained several prescriptions for quaaludes in the 1970s and offered the now-banned sedatives to women he wanted to have sex with.

He also said he gave Constand three half-tablets of the cold and allergy medicine Benadryl before the "petting" began. Prosecutors suggested he drugged her with something stronger.

Constand, 44, initially went to police about a year after she said Cosby assaulted her, but a prosecutor declared her case too weak to bring charges.

A decade later, a new district attorney reopened the investigation after Cosby's lurid testimony about drugs and sex became public, and dozens of women came forward against one of the most beloved stars in all of show business. He was charged shortly before the statute of limitation was set to expire.

McMonagle, in his closing argument, pointed out that Constand telephoned Cosby dozens of times after the alleged assault. Constand told the jury she was merely returning his calls about the women's basketball squad at Temple University, where she was director of team operations and he was a member of the board of trustees.

"This isn't talking to a trustee. This is talking to a lover," McMonagle said of one call that lasted 49 minutes. "Why are we running from the truth of this case — this relationship? Why?"

He also tried to sow doubt about Constand's story, saying it had evolved during her interviews with police.

But Steele, the district attorney, said it was no accident that some of Constand's memories were faulty.

"There are some things in this case that should be fuzzy. Why? Because he drugged her to do this," the prosecutor told jurors. "She spent a lot more time trying to forget what happened than trying to remember that night."

Before going on trial, Cosby expressed hope he could eventually resume his career. But TV networks had long since scrapped plans for a comeback and pulled reruns from the air after his lurid deposition testimony became public.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

For more on Cosby, including trial updates, historical photos, videos and an audio series exploring the case, visit <http://www.apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial>.

US, Japan search for 7 Navy sailors, puzzle over ship crash

By EUGENE HOSHIKO and KOJI UEDA, Associated Press

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP) — U.S. and Japanese vessels and aircraft searched Saturday for seven American sailors who were missing after their Navy destroyer collided before dawn with a container ship four times its size off the coast of Japan.

The USS Fitzgerald was back at its home port in Yokosuka Naval Base south of Tokyo by sunset Saturday, its crew lined up on deck. The Philippine-flagged container ship was berthed at Tokyo's Oi wharf, where officials began questioning crew members about the cause of the nighttime crash.

After helping stabilize the USS Fitzgerald, the destroyer USS Dewey joined other American and Japanese vessels and aircraft in the search for the missing sailors.

At least three other Navy sailors were injured in the collision.

Family members were frantically seeking news, appealing via social media for calls from sailors aboard from the ship.

The U.S. 7th Fleet said in a statement that the crash damaged two berthing spaces, a machinery room and the radio room. Most of the more than 200 sailors aboard would have been asleep in their berths at the time of the pre-dawn crash.

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Water was being pumped out of flooded areas and it was unclear how long it would take to get into the crushed mid-right side of the ship once it was at the pier in Yokosuka, the statement said.

"This has been a difficult day," said Vice Adm. Joseph P. Aucoin, the commander of the 7th Fleet. "I am humbled by the bravery and tenacity of the Fitzgerald crew. Now that the ship is in Yokosuka, I ask that you help the families by maintaining their privacy as we continue the search for our shipmates."

The USS Fitzgerald's captain, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, was airlifted early Saturday to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka and was in stable condition with a head injury, the Navy said. Two other crew members suffered cuts and bruises and were evacuated. It was unclear how many others may have been hurt.

The Navy said that the collision occurred 56 nautical miles (103 kilometers) southwest of Yokosuka, home to the 7th Fleet.

"Right now we are focused on two things: the safety of the ship and the well-being of the sailors," said Adm. Scott Swift, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The Japanese coast guard said it received an emergency call from the container ship, the ACX Crystal, reporting the collision at around 2:20 a.m. (1720 GMT Friday). It was questioning crew members of the ACX Crystal, which is operated by the Japanese shipping company Nippon Yusen K.K., and was treating the incident as a case of possible professional negligence, said Masayuki Obara, a regional coast guard official.

"Thoughts and prayers with the sailors of USS Fitzgerald and their families," President Donald Trump said on Twitter. "Thank you to our Japanese allies for their assistance."

The ACX Crystal weighs 29,060 tons and is 222 meters (730 feet) long, the coast guard said, much larger than the 8,315-ton Navy destroyer. The container ship's left bow was dented and scraped, but it did not appear to have sustained any major structural damage.

Nippon Yusen said all of the ACX Crystal's 20-member Filipino crew members were safe.

Conditions were clear at the time of the collision, though Yutaka Saito of the coast guard said the area is particularly busy with sea traffic.

The names of the missing sailors were being withheld pending notification of their families. U.S. Navy personnel set up support and counseling services to help families as they sought updates on crew members.

"Just heard the sweetest voice and saw a wonderful face. He's okay. Thank you all for the prayers," Rita Schrimsher of Athens, Alabama, tweeted after speaking with her 23-year-old grandson, Jackson Schrimsher, via Facetime.

"It could have been worse, so we're grateful," she said by phone.

Associated Press writers Mari Yamaguchi and Elaine Kurtenbach in Tokyo and Cathy Bussewitz and Jennifer Kelleher in Honolulu contributed to this report.

Castile trial had video evidence _ but not of key seconds

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI** and **AMY FORLITI**, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — The world learned of Philando Castile's death through a grim livestream launched by his girlfriend seconds after Castile was shot five times by a police officer. Many were outraged by what they saw as Diamond Reynolds' outwardly calm voice described Castile being shot after reaching for his wallet.

But no video existed of exactly what happened inside the car in the key seconds before Reynolds began filming, leaving a jury to decide whether to believe Officer Jeronimo Yanez's testimony that Castile was pulling out his gun despite his commands and he fired in fear for his life.

The jury opted for acquittal, clearing Yanez of manslaughter Friday after five days of deliberation that nearly ended in deadlock. Castile's family cursed and stormed from the courtroom and citizens flocked by the hundreds to the state Capitol to vent their anger. Despite the acquittal, the city where Yanez works almost immediately announced plans to dismiss him.

The finding was in line with recent history showing trials of police officers often end in non-convictions — nearly 40 percent of the time for those that Philip Stinson, a criminologist at Ohio's Bowling Green State

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University, has tracked since 2005. That included several recent mistrials or acquittals when officers testified they feared for their lives, Stinson said.

Juror Dennis Ploussard said the jury favored acquittal early in the week by a 10-2 margin. He said they spent a lot of time dissecting the "culpable negligence" requirement for conviction, and the two holdouts eventually agreed Friday on acquittal.

"We struggled with it. I struggled with it. It was very, very hard," Ploussard said, adding that he thought the jury delivered the right verdict.

He would not identify the two holdouts, but said they were not the jury's only two black members. The rest of the jurors were white. None was Latino.

He declined to say whether he thought Yanez acted appropriately, but said the jury sympathizes with the Castile family.

Yanez, a 29-year-old Latino officer, stopped Castile, a 32-year-old school cafeteria worker, on July 6 in a St. Paul suburb. Castile's taillight was out; Yanez also testified he thought Castile resembled a suspect in a recent convenience store robbery.

The stop turned deadly seconds after Castile alerted the officer that he was carrying a gun. Castile had a permit.

The defense argued Castile, who had traces of marijuana in his system, was stoned and it affected his responses to Yanez's commands. They raised questions about discrepancies in Reynolds' statements to investigators, including where Castile carried his wallet and who purchased the marijuana that was in the car.

Prosecutors countered that Yanez overreacted to a man who was no threat, and had options short of shooting. They also highlighted seemingly contradictory statements Yanez made right after the shooting and to investigators later about whether he saw the gun. He testified that when he told a supervisor he didn't know where it was, he meant only at first.

Ramsey County Attorney John Choi, who made the decision to charge Yanez, said his office considered carefully before bringing the case.

"I don't doubt that Officer Yanez is a decent person, but he made a horrible mistake from our perspective, and that's what this case was about. I know that if he could, he would take back what he did, and we all wish, and he would too, that this never happened," Choi said.

Outside the courthouse, Valerie Castile said her son followed the law.

"The fact in this matter is that my son was murdered, and I'll continue to say murdered, because where in this planet (can you) tell the truth, and you be honest, and you still be murdered by the police of Minnesota," she said, referring to the fact that her son was shot after he volunteered to Yanez, "Sir, I have to tell you, I do have a firearm on me."

"He didn't deserve to die the way he did," Philando Castile's sister, Allysza, said, through tears. "I will never have faith in the system."

Yanez stared ahead with no reaction as the verdict was read. Afterward, one of his attorneys, Tom Kelly, said the defense was "satisfied."

"We were confident in our client. We felt all along his conduct was justified. However that doesn't take away from the tragedy of the event," Kelly said.

A large crowd of protesters gathered outside of the state Capitol after the verdict, eventually leaving to march down St. Paul's streets. The State Police estimated that about 1,500 people splintered off to block traffic on Interstate 94 for about two hours, and 18 people were arrested after failing to heed a third warning to leave the roadway.

Gov. Mark Dayton offered his condolences to the Castile family on the verdict, calling his death "a terrible tragedy" in a statement that made no mention of Yanez. Dayton, a Democrat, drew criticism in the days after the shooting for suggesting that Castile might not have been shot if he was white.

The evidence included squad car video, but its wide view didn't capture exactly what happened inside the car. Prosecutors questioned whether Yanez had even seen Castile's gun, and witnesses testified that it was in a pocket of Castile's shorts when paramedics pulled him from the car.

The squad car video shows Yanez approaching Castile's car and asking for a driver's license and proof of insurance. Castile appears to give something to Yanez through the driver's side window. Castile then informs the officer he's carrying a weapon, but before he finishes his sentence, Yanez has his hand on his own gun and is pulling it out of the holster.

There is shouting, and Yanez screams, "Don't pull it out!" before he fires seven shots into the car, five of which hit Castile. Prosecutors said Castile's last words were: "I wasn't reaching for it."

In his testimony, Yanez's voice choked with emotion as he talked of being "scared to death" and thinking of his wife and baby daughter in the split-second before he fired.

Yanez was charged with second-degree manslaughter, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, though sentencing guidelines suggested around four years would have been more likely. Yanez was also cleared of lesser counts related to endangering Reynolds and her daughter for firing his gun into the car near them.

Associated Press writer Doug Glass contributed from Minneapolis.

Merkel: Pope urged her to fight for Paris climate deal

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel says Pope Francis encouraged her to work to preserve the Paris climate accord despite the U.S. withdrawal and shared her aim to "bring down walls," and not build them.

Merkel and Francis met for about 40 minutes Saturday in the Apostolic Palace, focusing on the Group of 20 summit that Germany is hosting in Hamburg on July 7-8.

The Vatican said the talks focused on the need for the international community to combat poverty, hunger, terrorism and climate change.

Merkel told reporters she briefed the pope on Germany's G-20 agenda, which she said "assumes that we are a world in which we want to work together multilaterally, a world in which we don't want to build walls but bring down walls."

Francis has consistently called for nations to build bridges not walls — including in reference to the border wall the Trump administration wants to build with Mexico.

Merkel said Francis encouraged her to fight for international agreements, including the 2015 Paris climate accord, which aims to curb heat-trapping emissions.

"We know that regrettably, the United States is leaving this accord," Merkel said.

As he did when President Donald Trump visited last month, Francis gave Merkel a copy of his environmental encyclical, "Praise Be," which casts fighting climate change and caring for the environment as an urgent moral obligation.

Francis issued the encyclical in the run-up to the Paris negotiations in hopes of urging a global consensus on the need to change the "perverse" development models which he said had enriched the wealthy at the expense of the poor and turned God's creation into an "immense pile of filth."

The audience began with Francis expressing his condolences over the death of former Chancellor Helmut Kohl. In his formal note of condolences, Francis called Kohl a "great statesman and convinced European" who worked tirelessly for the unity of his homeland and the continent.

In a particularly heartfelt tone, Francis said he was praying that the Lord gives Kohl "the gift of eternal joy and life in heaven."

UK royals honor London fire victims as anger mounts

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A solemn Queen Elizabeth II marked a minute of silence Saturday for victims of the London high-rise inferno that killed at least 30 people as exhausted firefighters continued their grim search for more bodies.

Public anger was mounting as residents and neighbors demanded answers for how the blaze spread so

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quickly amid reports that contractors installed a cheaper, less flame-resistant type of exterior paneling in a renovation of Grenfell Tower that ended in May 2016.

Around 70 people are missing, according to Britain's Press Association, and identification of the victims is proving very difficult. British health authorities say that 19 patients are still being treated at four London hospitals. Of those, 10 remain in critical condition.

The queen marked her official birthday Saturday by saying Britain remains "resolute in the face of adversity" after the horrendous fire and recent extremist attacks in London and Manchester.

The 91-year-old monarch said it is "difficult to escape a very somber mood" on what is normally a day of celebration.

The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, stood silently on the steps of Buckingham Palace before the start of the Trooping the Color that each year marks the queen's official birthday, which is traditionally celebrated in June when the weather is warm.

There is simmering anger in the multi-ethnic Kensington area hit by the blaze, and public fury has been directed at senior government figures, including Prime Minister Theresa May, when they visited the stricken area.

Rescue personnel have had difficulty reaching the top floors of the charred, 24-story tower. Officials warn that no further survivors are likely to be found.

Hundreds have been left homeless by the blaze, putting more pressure on officials in a city already plagued by a chronic housing shortage.

The government has promised a full public inquiry, but that has done little to a sense of frustration at the lack of information about how the fire moved so quickly to engulf the building.

Engineering experts and fire safety specialists believe the building's exterior cladding may have quickly fueled the blaze, overwhelming fire protection devices. British officials have ordered a review of other buildings that have had similar renovations.

The horrific fire early Wednesday morning has put increased pressure on May and her senior ministers at a time when her authority has been weakened by an election that saw her Conservative Party lose its majority in Parliament. May was jeered after she made a visit to the community Friday.

The tragedy has provoked a gigantic response from nearby communities that have donated food and shelter to the victims. More than 3 million pounds (\$3.8 million) have been raised for the victims, and the British government has announced a 5 million-pound (\$6.3 million) emergency fund.

Many of the displaced are living in churches and community centers. There is ample food and water, but very little privacy or proper bedding.

Scuffles broke out near the Kensington and Chelsea town hall offices Friday as demonstrators chanting "We want justice!" surged toward the doors.

Some residents had warned months ago that the tower represented a dangerous fire risk. They say their complaints were ignored.

Associated Press writer Frank Griffiths contributed to this report.

If it flies or hovers, it will be at the Paris Air Show

By JOHN LEICESTER, Associated Press

LE BOURGET, France (AP) — While Airbus and Boeing will again hog the spotlight at the Paris Air Show with their battle for ever-larger slices of the lucrative pie in the sky, a lot of the really interesting stuff will be going on elsewhere at the upcoming biennial aviation and defense industry gathering.

Lockheed Martin's F-35 jet will crane necks with high-speed aerial displays, drones will again be a hot topic and a would-be flying car will aim to show that it is closer to getting off the ground as a consumer ride. Defense contractors will be seeking customers for their latest high-tech weapons, including drones designed to act as wingmen to piloted aircraft in battle.

More peacefully, there'll be the launch of a distress beacon with an integrated GPS transmitter to help

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locate planes that go down — an issue of vital importance after the failure to locate Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 that disappeared with 239 passengers and crew on March 8, 2014. And several companies are showcasing technologies to allow passengers to stay connected in the air.

With airlines suffering a string of public relations' embarrassments recently — from the United Airlines' passenger getting dragged off a flight to British Airways' massive outage — the aerospace industry is eager to show off its goods.

Here, in greater detail, is a taste of what to watch for at the show, which runs from June 19-25:

AIRBUS VS. BOEING — AGAIN

The U.S. and European manufacturers invariably seek to out-do each other by announcing big deals at the show. The last event in 2015 brought orders for 421 planes worth \$57 billion for Airbus and orders for 331 planes worth \$50 billion for Boeing.

Airbus and Boeing orders have seen a downturn in recent years after a buying spree by Mideast and Asian carriers. This year, each company is expected to announce around 200 orders, though some may be airlines or leasing companies firming up earlier tentative orders.

Neither Boeing nor Airbus is unveiling a major new plane at the show. Likely to get attention are Boeing's latest 787 model, the 787-10, and Airbus' answer to it, the A350-1000, the latest version of the long-delayed Airbus wide-body. Boeing will also show its 737 Max 9 and Airbus will show the single-aisle A321, popular for its fuel efficiency.

MAKE WAY FOR THE F-35

Among the 130 aircraft on display, the star will likely be the cutting-edge F-35 stealth jet fighter, which costs about \$100 million each.

Designed to creep up undetected on ground targets and for air-to-air combat, the jet will wow with daily flights — hoping to impress potential foreign customers for manufacturer Lockheed Martin.

Briefings, by the plane's chief test pilot and others, on the jet's aerial capabilities and the F-35 program could produce news about recent problems that grounded U.S. Air Force F-35s at a base in Arizona, after pilots reported symptoms of oxygen deprivation.

The U.S. Air Force will use the F-35 to replace the A-10 and F-16, and has already taken delivery of more than 100 of the planes.

DRONES, OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Big, small, deadly or peaceful, drones of all shapes and sizes that do jobs once done by pilots — and jobs that pilots can't — are expected to be a major source of interest and business at the show. There'll also be discussion about how to ensure that civilian drones don't unsafely clog the skies, by tripping over commercial flights and each other.

San Diego-based Kratos Defense and Security Solutions, Inc. says it will display its "fighter-like" Valkyrie and Mako drones, which it touts as being highly maneuverable, stealthy, able to fly at near supersonic speeds and "designed to function as wingmen to manned aircraft in contested airspace."

There will also be drones for surveillance and intelligence-gathering.

Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

Republicans divided as Trump reverses some Obama Cuba policy

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's decision to reverse some Obama-era Cuba policies landed with a thud among many congressional Republicans who say the new approach surrenders a potentially lucrative market for American goods and services to competitors.

While anti-Castro conservatives hailed Trump's partial roll-back of President Barack Obama's detente, a number of other GOP lawmakers, particularly from farm states, criticized the change as misguided and

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isolationist. They urged him to ease barriers with Havana that will boost trade and create jobs in both countries.

Rep. Rick Crawford, R-Ark., said Trump's shift is more than just a missed opportunity for rural America, which would benefit from greater access to Cuba's agricultural import market. He said Trump's policy may put U.S. national security at risk as strategic competitors move to fill the vacuum the uncoupling could create.

"Further U.S. disengagement opens up opportunities for countries like Iran, Russia, North Korea and China to gain influence on an island 90 miles off our coast," Crawford said.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a frequent critic of Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign, said in a statement that any policy change "that diminishes the ability of Americans to travel freely to Cuba is not in the best interests of the United States or the Cuban people."

Flake has been among the most outspoken lawmakers opposed to rolling back Obama's outreach to Havana. He's warned that returning to a "get tough" policy hurts everyday Cubans whose livelihoods are increasingly rooted in travel and tourism.

In his statement, Flake called for the Senate's GOP leadership to allow a vote on his legislation that he said would eliminate "archaic restrictions" on travel to Cuba that "do not exist for travel by Americans to any other country in the world." Flake's bill has 54 co-sponsors, including nine Republicans. Among them are Sens. John Boozman of Arkansas, Mike Enzi of Wyoming and Jerry Moran of Kansas.

During a speech Friday in Miami, Trump portrayed his updated policy as the fulfillment of a campaign promise to reverse Obama's diplomatic rapprochement with Cuba after decades of estrangement. Trump's approach is aimed at halting the flow of U.S. cash to the country's military while maintaining diplomatic relations. U.S. airlines and cruise ships would still be allowed to service the island.

Yet new moves will burden the U.S. government with the complicated task of policing U.S. travel to Cuba to make sure there are no transactions with the military-linked conglomerate that runs much of the Cuban economy.

By restricting individual U.S. travel to Cuba, the new policy also risks cutting off a major source of income for Cuba's private business sector, which the policy is intended to support. Under the expected changes, the U.S. will ban American financial transactions with the dozens of enterprises run by the military-linked corporation GAESA, which operates dozens of hotels, tour buses, restaurants and other facilities.

Among those with Trump as he announced the policy in Little Havana were Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, both Florida Republicans strongly opposed to Obama's outreach.

Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., said Trump's new Cuba policy "will hurt the United States economically, making it harder for our nation's farmers to access new markets and cutting the knees out from under our travel and manufacturing industries."

Emmer, who's been one of Trump's most enthusiastic backers on Capitol Hill, echoed Crawford's criticism, saying Trump's Cuba directive appears to be in violation of his promise to keep the American homeland safe. Emmer, Crawford and five other House Republicans have warned that rolling back U.S. Cuba policy could threaten new bilateral agreements with Havana to combat human trafficking, illicit drugs and cyber crimes.

Moran said in a statement that "putting America first means exporting what we produce to countries across the globe." He said he remains focused on finding ways to "increase trade with Cuba rather than cut off relationships that have the potential to create new jobs, bring in revenue and boost our national economy."

Moran backs legislation to restore trade with Cuba in addition to supporting Flake's legislation.

Sen. John Boozman, R-Ark., said Trump's policy moves the U.S. backward.

"It would be more effective to continue an open line of communication and working relationship with a government in need of democratic assistance, instead of shutting them out," Boozman said. "Through this approach, we not only trade goods, but ideas."

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Trump rolls back some, not all, changes in US-Cuba relations **By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

MIAMI (AP) — Pressing “pause” on a historic detente, President Donald Trump thrust the U.S. and Cuba back on a path toward open hostility Friday with a blistering denunciation of the island’s communist government. He clamped down on some commerce and travel but left intact many new avenues President Barack Obama had opened.

The Cuban government responded Friday evening by rejecting what it called Trump’s “hostile rhetoric.” Still, Cuba said it is willing to continue “respectful dialogue” with on topics of mutual interest.

Even as Trump predicted a quick end to President Raul Castro’s regime, he challenged Cuba to negotiate better agreements for Americans, Cubans and those whose identities lie somewhere in between. Diplomatic relations, restored only two years ago, will remain intact. But, in a shift from Obama’s approach, Trump said trade and other penalties would stay in place until a long list of prerequisites was met.

“America has rejected the Cuban people’s oppressors,” Trump said in Miami’s Little Havana, the cradle of Cuban-American resistance to Castro’s government. “Officially, today, they are rejected.”

Declaring Obama’s pact with Castro a “completely one-sided deal,” Trump said he was canceling it. In practice, however, many recent changes to boost ties to Cuba will stay as they are. Trump cast that as a sign the U.S. still wanted to engage with Cuba in hopes of forging “a much stronger and better path.”

In a statement released Friday evening on government-run websites and television, Cuban President Raul Castro’s administration said Trump’s speech was “loaded with hostile rhetoric that recalls the times of open confrontation.”

The lengthy statement went on to strike a conciliatory tone, saying Cuba wants to continue negotiations with the U.S. on a variety of subjects. “The last two years have shown that the two countries can cooperate and coexist in a civilized way,” it said.

Embassies in Havana and Washington will remain open. U.S. airlines and cruise ships will still be allowed to serve the island 90 miles south of Florida. The “wet foot, dry foot” policy, which once let most Cuban migrants stay if they made it to U.S. soil but was terminated under Obama, will remain terminated. Remittances from people in America to Cubans won’t be cut off.

But individual “people-to-people” trips by Americans to Cuba, allowed by Obama for the first time in decades, will again be prohibited. And the U.S. government will police other trips to ensure travelers are pursuing a “full-time schedule of educational exchange activities.”

The changes won’t go into effect until new documents laying out details are issued. Once implemented Trump’s policy is expected to curtail U.S. travel by creating a maze of rules for Americans to obey. The policy bans most financial transactions with a yet-unreleased list of entities associated with Cuba’s military and state security, including a conglomerate that dominates much of Cuba’s economy, such as many hotels, state-run restaurants and tour buses.

Surrounded by Florida Republican officials, the president was unabashed about the political overtones of his election victory and Friday’s announcement:

“You went out and you voted, and here I am, like I promised.”

Cheered by Cuba hardliners in both parties, Trump’s new policy is broadly opposed by U.S. businesses eager to invest in Cuba.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, typically supportive of GOP presidents, predicted the changes would limit prospects for “positive change on the island,” while Rep. Tom Emmer, R-Minn., said Trump’s policy was “misguided” and will hurt the U.S. economically.

Trump’s declaration in a crowded, sweltering auditorium was a direct rebuke to Obama, for whom the diplomatic opening with Cuba was a central accomplishment of his presidency.

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Yet it also exposed the shortcomings in Obama's approach.

Unable to persuade Congress to lift the decades-old trade embargo, Obama had used his power to adjust the rules that implement the embargo to expand built-in loopholes. Obama and his aides argued that commerce and travel between the countries, which has blossomed since he relaxed the rules, would make his policy irreversible.

Ben Rhodes, the former deputy national security adviser who negotiated Obama's opening with the Cubans, said it was disappointing Trump was halting the momentum that had built but added that it could have been worse.

"This is a limitation on what we did, not a reversal of what we did," Rhodes said in an interview.

For Cubans, the shift risks stifling a nascent middle class that has started to rise as Americans have flocked to the island on airlines, patronizing thousands of private bed-and-breakfasts.

"When he's cutting back on travel, he's hurting us, the Cuban entrepreneurs," said Camilo Diaz, a 44-year-old waiter in a restaurant in Havana. "We're the ones who are hurt."

Granma, the official organ of Cuba's Communist Party, described Trump's declarations in real-time blog coverage Friday as "a return to imperialist rhetoric and unilateral demands." Cuba's government may not formally respond to Trump's speech until a speech Monday by its foreign minister.

The Castro government is certain to reject Trump's list of demands, which includes releasing political prisoners, halting what the U.S. says is abuse of dissidents and allowing greater freedom of expression. Refusing to negotiate domestic reforms in exchange for U.S. concessions is perhaps the most fundamental plank of Cuba's policy toward the U.S.

Cuba functioned as a virtual U.S. colony for much of the 20th century, and even reform-minded Cubans are highly sensitive to perceived U.S. infringements on national sovereignty. Trump, on the other hand, described his move as an effort to bring about a "free Cuba" after more than half a century of communism.

"I do believe that end is in the very near future," he said.

Cuba's 1,470-word statement Friday night labeled Trump a hypocrite for calling on Cuba to improve human rights, saying the U.S. government "is threatening more limits on health care that would leave 23 million people without insurance ... and marginalizes immigrants and refugees, particular those from Islamic countries."

The statement reiterates Cuba's commitment to "the necessary changes that we're making now as part of the updating of our socio-economic model," but says "they will continue being decided in a sovereign way by the Cuban people."

The U.S. severed ties with Cuba in 1961 after Fidel Castro's revolution, and spent decades trying to either overthrow the government or isolate the island, including by toughening an economic embargo first imposed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Obama announced in December 2014 that he and Castro were restoring ties. Less than a year later, the U.S. Embassy in Havana re-opened, and Obama paid a historic visit to Havana in 2016.

Weissenstein reported from Havana and Lederman from Washington.

Follow Darlene Superville and Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap> and <http://www.twitter.com/mweissenstein>

Trump publicly acknowledges Russia probe includes him

By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump acknowledged for the first time Friday that he is under federal investigation as part of the expanding probe into Russia's election meddling. He lashed out at a top Justice Department official overseeing the inquiry, reflecting his mounting frustration with the unrelenting controversy that has consumed his early presidency.

"I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director!"

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Witch Hunt," the president wrote on Twitter.

His morning missive apparently referred to Rod Rosenstein, the deputy attorney general whose role leading the federal investigation has become increasingly complicated. The White House has used a memo he wrote to justify Trump's decision to fire FBI Director James Comey, but that Trump action may now be part of the probe. Thursday night, Rosenstein issued an unusual statement complaining about leaks in the case.

Trump advisers and confidants describe the president as increasingly angry over the investigation, yelling at television sets in the White House carrying coverage and insisting he is the target of a conspiracy to discredit — and potentially end — his presidency. Some of his ire is aimed at Rosenstein and investigative special counsel Robert Mueller, both of whom the president believes are biased against him, associates say.

Dianne Feinstein, top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said she was "increasingly concerned" that Trump will fire both Mueller and Rosenstein.

"The message the president is sending through his tweets is that he believes the rule of law doesn't apply to him and that anyone who thinks otherwise will be fired," Feinstein said. "That's undemocratic on its face and a blatant violation of the president's oath of office."

Aides have counseled the president to stay off Twitter and focus on other aspects of his job. They have tried to highlight the positive reviews he received Wednesday when he made a statesman-like appearance in the White House to address the nation after Rep. Steve Scalise was shot during a congressional baseball practice.

Yet Trump's angry tweets on Friday underscored the near-impossible challenge his advisers and legal team have in trying to get him to avoid weighing in on an active probe.

The president has denied that he has any nefarious ties to Russia and has also disputed that he's attempted to block the investigation into his campaign's possible role in Russia's election-related hacking. It was unclear whether his tweet about being under investigation was based on direct knowledge or new media reports that suggest Mueller is examining whether the president obstructed justice by firing Comey.

The tweets came shortly after Rosenstein issued his unusual statement that appeared to be warning about the accuracy of such reports.

"Americans should be skeptical about anonymous allegations," Rosenstein said. "The Department of Justice has a long-established policy to neither confirm nor deny such allegations."

The department would not comment on the record on whether Trump, who has repeatedly complained about leaks on the case, requested the statement. But a department official said no one asked for the statement and Rosenstein acted on his own. The official demanded anonymity because the official was not authorized to be named discussing the deliberations.

Trump has told associates he has the legal authority to fire Mueller. What is clear is that he could order the Justice Department to ax Mueller, which may result in Rosenstein's departure and would certainly intensify the uproar over the investigation. Though some in the White House have preached caution, fearing a repeat of the firestorm over Comey's firing, many in Trump's orbit — including his son Donald Trump Jr. and adviser Newt Gingrich — have deemed Mueller biased and worthy of dismissal.

Several White House officials and Trump associates insisted on anonymity in order to discuss the president's views of the unfolding investigation.

Rosenstein has been overseeing the Russia probe since shortly after Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself. But Rosenstein, too, may ultimately have to hand off oversight given his role in Trump's decision to fire Comey.

Earlier this month, Rosenstein told The Associated Press that "if anything that I did winds up being relevant to his investigation then, as Director Mueller and I discussed, if there's a need from me to recuse, I will."

Trump's tweets came after the top lawyer for his transition team warned the organization's officials to preserve all records and other materials related to the Russia probe. An official of Trump's transition confirmed the lawyer's internal order, which was sent Thursday.

The order from the general counsel for the transition team casts a wide net on documents that could shed light on ties between Trump's presidential campaign and representatives of Russia's government. The order also covers separate inquiries into several key Trump associates including former National Se-

curity Adviser Michael Flynn, campaign adviser Paul Manafort, foreign policy aide Carter Page and outside adviser Roger Stone.

The White House has directed questions for details to outside legal counsel, which has not responded. Vice President Mike Pence has also hired a private lawyer to represent his interests in the expanding probe. Pence headed the Trump transition until Inauguration Day.

Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, also has retained an attorney to represent him. Cohen has worked for Trump since the mid-2000s and was active in the campaign. He has already been subpoenaed by the House intelligence committee.

Associated Press writers Steve Braun, Sadie Gurman, Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick and Vivian Salama contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Jonathan Lemire at <http://twitter.com/JonLemire>

The top 3 miss US Open cut, leaving 4-way tie for the lead

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

ERIN, Wis. (AP) — An 11-year-old golf course shaped from Wisconsin pastureland was sure to bring something different to the U.S. Open.

This might have been more than anyone was expecting.

The four players tied for the lead — Paul Casey, Brooks Koepka, Brian Harman and Tommy Fleetwood — created the largest 36-hole logjam in 43 years at the U.S. Open. None has ever won a major, and neither have the next 14 players behind them.

On the longest course ever for a major, the cut was the lowest at the U.S. Open since 1990.

And for all the birdies and blunders at Erin Hills, the most compelling image Friday came from the parking lot, where one star after another left town after missing the cut.

Dustin Johnson. Rory McIlroy. Jason Day.

It was the first time since the world ranking began in 1986 that the top three players missed the cut in any major.

Henrik Stenson. Alex Noren. Jon Rahm. Justin Rose. Adam Scott.

Eight of the top 12 players in the world won't be around for the weekend at Erin Hills, leaving a tournament as open as the land on which it was built.

Casey chopped his way to a triple bogey, only to respond with five straight birdies that carried him to a 1-under 71 and make him the first to post at 7-under 137. He set the target early under warm sunshine, and even as the wind tapered in the afternoon, no one could catch him.

Koepka had the lead until he turned a birdie chance into a bogey on the par-5 first hole after making the turn. He didn't make a birdie the rest of the way and had to settle for a 70. They were joined by Harman and Fleetwood, who each had a 70.

Right behind was a trio of players that included Rickie Fowler, who went 28 holes before making his first bogey and then went three holes without making a par. Fowler shot a 73 and was still very much in the hunt at a second straight major.

The four-way tie was the most after two rounds in a U.S. Open since Winged Foot in 1974, back when the names were more familiar for a major — Raymond Floyd, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Hale Irwin, who went on to win his first major.

The last six majors have been won by first-timers, and that cycle has a good chance to continue. The top 18 players on the leaderboard going into the weekend have combined for zero majors. Only a half-dozen of them have even experienced Sunday contention in golf's biggest events.

"Tomorrow will be a very cool experience," Fleetwood said. "It's still Saturday — 36 holes is a very long time in a U.S. Open. Anything can happen."

Just about everything already has at Erin Hills.

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A commercial blimp crashed to the ground and caught fire just outside the course Thursday, about the time the county health department was analyzing samples that confirmed evidence of the E. coli bacteria in water at a hydration station near the 12th hole. The USGA is providing complimentary bottled water the rest of the week. There have been no reports yet of anyone getting sick.

And then Friday, a 94-year-old man at the tournament for the first time stopped breathing while in a grandstand on the sixth hole and died of what Washington County officials said appeared to be natural causes.

Next up is a weekend without most of the biggest names in golf. The cut for the top 60 and ties was at 1-over 145, tying a U.S. Open record set in 1990 at Medinah.

Johnson was hitting it so well that he appeared to be safe even when he was on the cut line. But then he three-putted from long range on the 13th and the 14th, and lost all hope when he missed the green on the 17th while going after the flag. He shot 73 and missed the cut by three.

"I couldn't have shot any higher," Johnson said. "I couldn't possibly shoot any higher than I did. I just struggled on the greens. It's simple."

Day never had a chance, following his career-worst 79 in a U.S. Open with a 75. McIlroy came to life when it was far too late. He made four birdies over the last six holes to salvage a 71, but he still missed the cut for the second straight year.

Fowler has the best chance, even though he lost so much ground over the final two hours. He went from pouring putts into the center of the cup to burning the edges, and his 39 on the back nine cost him the lead, though not his chances of breaking through for that first major.

"We're in a good spot," Fowler said. "Looking forward to the next two days."

Casey discovered how little it takes to make a big number in the U.S. Open — and at this U.S. Open, how a recovery is never too far away.

Casey laid up in the rough, took two chops to get out of more rough behind the 14th green, and staggered away with a triple-bogey 8 that might have ruined his day at Erin Hills. Moments later, he began a run of five straight birdies that put him right where he wanted to be going into the weekend.

"Not every day you enjoy a round of golf with an 8 on the card, but I'm a pretty happy man," Casey said. "Yeah, it was a bit of a roller coaster. I guess it's rare you get through a U.S. Open or any major without some kind of a hiccup."

Helmut Kohl, chancellor who reunited Germany, dies at 87

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Helmut Kohl, the physically imposing German chancellor whose reunification of a nation divided by the Cold War put Germany at the heart of a united Europe, died Friday at his home in Ludwigshafen. He was 87.

"A life has ended and the person who lived it will go down in history" said German Chancellor Angela Merkel, speaking from Rome. "It will take some time, however, until we can truly judge what we have lost in him. Helmut Kohl was a great German and a great European."

During his 16 years at the country's helm from 1982 to 1998 — first for West Germany and then all of a united Germany — Kohl combined a dogged pursuit of European unity with a keen instinct for history. Less than a year after the November 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, he spearheaded the end of Germany's decades-long division into East and West, ushering in a new era in European politics.

"When a new spirit began to sweep through Eastern Europe in the 1980s, when freedom was won in Poland, when brave people in Leipzig, East Berlin and elsewhere in East Germany staged a peaceful revolution, Helmut Kohl was the right person at the right time," said Merkel. "He held fast to the dream and goal of a united Germany, even as others wavered."

It was the close friendships that Kohl built up with other world leaders that helped him persuade both anti-communist Western allies and the leaders of the collapsing Soviet Union that a strong, united Germany could live at peace with its neighbors.

"Helmut Kohl was the most important European statesman since World War II," Bill Clinton, the former

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U.S. president, said in 2011, adding that Kohl answered the big questions of his time "correctly for Germany, correctly for Europe, correctly for the United States, correctly for the future of the world."

Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush said the world had lost "a true friend of freedom."

"Working closely with my very good friend to help achieve a peaceful end to the Cold War and the unification of Germany within NATO will remain one of the great joys of my life," Bush said. "Throughout our endeavors, Helmut was a rock — both steady and strong."

President Donald Trump said Kohl was "a friend and ally to the United States as he led the Federal Republic of Germany through 16 pivotal years. He was not only the father of German reunification, but also an advocate for Europe and the trans-Atlantic relationship."

"The world has benefited from his vision and efforts. His legacy will live on," he said in a statement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin credited Kohl with "playing a key role in putting an end to the Cold War and with the reunification of Germany."

Famed for his massive girth on a 6-foot-4 (1.93-meter) frame, Kohl still moved nimbly in domestic politics and among rivals in his conservative Christian Democratic Union, holding power for 16 years until his defeat by center-left rival Gerhard Schroeder in 1998.

That was followed by the eruption of a party financing scandal which threatened to tarnish his legacy.

For foreigners, the bulky conservative with a fondness for heavy local food and white wine came to symbolize a benign, steady — even dull — Germany.

Kohl's legacy includes the common euro currency — now used by 19 nations — that bound Europe more closely together than ever before. Kohl lobbied heavily for the euro, introduced in 1999, as a pillar of peace — and when it hit trouble more than a decade later, he insisted there was no alternative but for Germany to help out debt-strapped countries like Greece.

Once viewed as a provincial bumbler, Kohl combined an understanding of the worries of ordinary Germans with a hunger for power, getting elected four times.

Kohl served longer than Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's first post-World War II chancellor and his political idol. Only Otto von Bismarck, who first unified Germany in the 1870s, was chancellor longer, for 19 years.

"Voters do not like Kohl, but they trust him," Rita Suessmuth, a former speaker of parliament, once said.

Often harsh and thin-skinned, Kohl also could display a quick wit and jovial earthiness. He ate pasta with Clinton and took saunas with Russia's Boris Yeltsin.

Kohl linked his dedication to a united Europe to his roots in a part of Germany close to France and his memories of a wartime boyhood. He celebrated the European Union's eastward expansion in 2004 with a speech declaring that "the most important rule of the new Europe is: There must never again be violence in Europe."

Still, the "blooming landscapes" that Kohl promised East German voters during reunification were slow to come after the collapse of its communist economy, and massive aid to the east pushed up German government debt. He also drew criticism for failing to embark on economic reforms.

Born on April 3, 1930, in Ludwigshafen, a western industrial city on the Rhine, Kohl joined the Hitler Youth but missed serving in the Nazi army. As a 15-year-old, he was about to be pressed into service in a German anti-aircraft gun unit when World War II ended. His oldest brother, Walter, was killed in action a few months earlier.

A Roman Catholic, Kohl joined the CDU in his teens shortly after its postwar founding. He earned his doctorate in 1958 at the University of Heidelberg with a dissertation on the politics of Rhineland-Palatinate and became governor of that western state in 1969.

His first attempt to unseat Social Democratic Chancellor Helmut Schmidt failed in 1976, but Kohl seized his chance six years later, taking power on Oct. 1, 1982 when a junior coalition party switched sides.

He won elections in 1983 and 1987, then rode to an election triumph in 1990 on a wave of post-unity euphoria.

Kohl was reluctant to view united Germany as a major power because of its Nazi past. Still, he slowly edged his country toward greater responsibilities in the 1990s, as Germany sent troops for U.N. humani-

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tarian missions in Cambodia, Somalia and elsewhere, and deployed peacekeepers to Bosnia.

He pursued reconciliation with Germany's eastern neighbors, though some critics said he moved too slowly after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Kohl was helped in securing German unity by his friendships with French President Francois Mitterrand and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who approved NATO membership for a united Germany and agreed to pull Soviet troops out of East Germany.

"It was real luck that at that difficult time leading nations were headed by statesmen with a sense of responsibility, adamant about defending the interests of their countries but also able to consider the interests of others, able to overcome the barrier of prevailing suspicion about partnership and mutual trust," Gorbachev said Friday in a statement released by his foundation.

Kohl's earlier bridge-building with the U.S. also paid off. The stationing of U.S. Pershing II missiles in Germany starting in 1983, despite huge domestic protests, had established trust in Washington that was crucial to creating a single German state.

"It was a stroke of luck that there were about four to six leaders in power in the mid-80s who really trusted one another and could really make things happen," Kohl later recalled. In his memoirs, he described George H.W. Bush as "the most important ally on the road to German unity."

He praised former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for her honesty, even as he recalled a confrontation with her just days after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"I cited a 1970s-era NATO statement and said that NATO supported reunification. ... Thatcher stamped her feet in anger and screamed at me, 'That's how you see it! That's how you see it!'" he wrote.

In a poignant gesture of reconciliation in 1984, Kohl held hands with Mitterrand during a ceremony at a World War I cemetery in Verdun, France.

Another gesture of friendship and reconciliation the following year turned into a public relations fiasco. Kohl's trip with then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan to a war cemetery in Bitburg where SS troops were buried alongside ordinary German soldiers generated international indignation.

Kohl's relationship with Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader, also had to overcome early turbulence. In a 1986 interview, Kohl was quoted as comparing Gorbachev's public relations skills with those of Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels. The Soviet Union protested.

Elation over German reunification ebbed amid the harsh realities of its cost and the difficulties of integrating east and west, but Kohl's coalition squeaked by again in 1994. Yet high unemployment and Germans' yearning for change gradually sapped his authority, provoking a humiliating loss to Schroeder's center-left Social Democrats in 1998.

The following year, Kohl plunged his party into crisis when he admitted accepting undeclared — and therefore illegal — donations during his time as chancellor. Kohl refused to identify the donors.

His silence helped trigger a parliamentary inquiry and was condemned by many, both inside and outside his party, but Kohl vehemently denied that any decisions by his government were bought.

When Bonn prosecutors launched an investigation into possible breach-of-trust charges in January 2000, Kohl was pressured to give up his party's symbolic honorary chairmanship — notably by Merkel, a longtime Kohl protegee who served for seven years in his Cabinet and followed him into the chancellery in 2005.

In a 2001 deal with Bonn prosecutors, the probe was dropped in exchange for a 300,000-mark fine (about \$140,000 at the time) — giving Kohl the legal stamp of innocence. That was a common German practice but judicial investigations into other figures in the murky financing scandal continued.

In another battle after his departure from power, Kohl fought and won a lengthy legal fight to prevent the release of most of the files held on him by East Germany's secret police. Journalists and historians had asked to see the material, prompting speculation it could shed light on the financing scandal. Kohl, however, argued successfully that the wiretaps used by the Stasi to spy on him were illegal and that he deserved protection from damage to his "human dignity."

Kohl's estrangement from his party lasted until 2002, when its new leaders invited him to speak at a convention as they sought to regain power.

The former chancellor was married for 41 years to Hannelore Renner, an interpreter of English and French

who stood firmly but discreetly by his side. They had two sons, Peter and Walter.

In July 2001, Hannelore killed herself at age 68 in despair over an incurable allergy to light. In 2005, Kohl introduced his new partner Maike Richter, an economist some 35 years his junior. The couple married in May 2008.

Though slowed by illness in his later years, Kohl still made occasional eye-catching interventions on the political stage. As Merkel struggled to convince center-right lawmakers in 2011 of the wisdom of having Germany finance further bailouts of other eurozone nations, Kohl weighed in firmly.

"There must be no question for us that we in the European Union and the eurozone stand by Greece in solidarity," he declared.

He also appeared to question Merkel's approach at a time when conservatives were unsettled by her decision to speed up Germany's exit from nuclear energy and by Germany's abstention in a U.N. vote on a no-fly zone over Libya.

"I ask myself where Germany stands today and where it wants to go," he said.

In April 2016, Kohl welcomed Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban — who had clashed with Merkel over Europe's approach to a large influx of refugees — to his home. That coincided with the publication of a new foreword to a Kohl essay in which the ex-chancellor stated that "Europe cannot become the new home for millions of people in need worldwide."

Despite their differences, Merkel made clear Friday that Kohl had touched her life deeply when he helped forge a united Germany.

"Like millions of others, I was able to go from a life under a dictatorship to a life of freedom," she said. "He will continue to live in our memories as a great European and as the Chancellor of reunification."

Associated Press writers Frank Jordans and David Rising contributed to this report.

NBC vows to air interview with conspiracy theorist Jones

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News said it has vowed to go ahead with Megyn Kelly's report on conspiracy theorist Alex Jones on Sunday despite his "efforts to distract and ultimately prevent" its airing.

The network said that it remains "committed to giving viewers context and insight into a controversial and polarizing figure, how he relates to the president of the United States and influences others, and to getting this serious story right."

Jones, a radio host, has alleged the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, was a hoax, upsetting the victims' families, and Connecticut's NBC affiliate said Friday it's not going to air Kelly's report on him. In an internal memo obtained by The Associated Press, NBC Connecticut staff members were told station executives made the decision after listening to concerns from employees, Sandy Hook families and viewers and considering "the deep emotions from the wounds of that day that have yet to heal."

The story, scheduled to air Sunday evening, has NBC being buffeted from both sides. Jones has said he believes it will be a "fraud," and he said he would release an unedited version of the interview that he recorded. So far, he's only released snippets of a supposed conversation with Kelly, which could not be independently verified.

Lawyers who represent 12 people who lost loved ones in the 2012 massacre urged NBC News officials not to air the interview. The families say they've been hurt by Jones' claim that the shooting, in which 20 first-graders and six educators were killed by a young man with a rifle, was a hoax.

The report is likely to have devastating human consequences, the families wrote to NBC.

"Airing Ms. Kelly's interview implicitly endorses the notion that Mr. Jones' lies are actually 'claims' that are worthy of serious debate, and in doing so it exponentially enhances the suffering and distress of our clients," lawyers Josh Koskoff and Katie Mesner-Hage wrote.

Kelly has called Jones' claims "personally revolting," but she said she believes there's a value in exposing what he says to the American people.

An interview with at least one parent of a child killed at Sandy Hook will be part of NBC's report on Sunday, according to a person familiar with the reporting who could not be identified because the person was not authorized to discuss it.

NBC News Chairman Andy Lack told the AP that the story on "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly" will be edited with the sensitivity of its critics in mind.

Kelly, who interviewed Russian President Vladimir Putin on the June 4 premiere of "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly," said on Twitter that President Donald Trump has praised Jones and been on his show.

AP Television Writer Lynn Elber in Los Angeles contributed to this report

Tennessee "hero" says Georgia fugitives surrendered to him

By ERIK SCHELZIG and KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The man credited by law enforcement with holding two Georgia prison escapees at gunpoint until police arrived rejected the "hero" label on Friday, and said credit should go to forces well beyond his control.

"I realized I had two ex-cons wanted for murder who had just shot at law enforcement who had nothing to lose and for some reason they surrendered and laid down on the concrete in my driveway," Patrick Hale said. "If that doesn't make you believe in Jesus Christ, I don't know what does."

Hale said friends had just alerted him that the fugitives wanted in the slayings of two prison guards had been spotted in his area of rural Tennessee, so he quickly loaded his guns. Moments later, he saw them climb over his fence and approach his home, where he was alone with his little girl.

He decided to flee — getting into his car with his girl. Then, just as he prepared for the worst, the inmates took off their shirts and waved them in the air in a sign of surrender. He thinks they mistook his car for a law enforcement vehicle.

He said he never had to pull out his weapon — but the wait was agonizing. More than 45 police officers began showing up within three minutes, he said.

"I cannot tell you how grateful I was to see them arrive," Hale said.

The manhunt for Donnie Rowe and Ricky Dubose suddenly focused on Tennessee Thursday evening after the fugitives invaded a home in Shelbyville and held a man and his wife hostage for several hours.

That couple "are lucky they're alive," Bedford County Sheriff Austin Swing said. The fugitives "told them that they would probably be dead in 24 hours and they didn't have anything to lose."

The fugitives tied them up, and when the man tried to break free, they tied him up tighter, putting socks on his hands so he couldn't loosen his bonds, Swing said. They also ate a beef stew the woman had been preparing, took valuables and clothing, and ordered them to concoct a story that would conceal their identities.

"They threatened them that they would be back if they didn't," Swing said.

By about 5 p.m. they were on the run again, in the couple's Jeep. Within 15 minutes, the couple managed to call for help.

"We've had an armed home invasion," the man told a 911 dispatcher. "It's the two people from Georgia, escapees. They're in a black Jeep Cherokee Trailblazer. We need help out here quick ... hurry!"

His wife can be heard sobbing as he tries to reassure her, saying: "It's all right. You've survived. You've survived. You did it. You did a good job. Come here and let me hold you."

Deputies spotted the car and chased it for 20 miles (32 kilometers) at high-speed, Tennessee Highway Patrol spokesman Lt. Bill Miller said.

Rutherford County Sheriff Michael Fitzhugh said the suspects fired shots, striking several cruisers, but his deputies weren't hit and didn't return fire to avoid endangering other motorists on Interstate 24

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southeast of Nashville.

The chase ended with a crash near the community of Christiana, Tennessee. With deputies in hot pursuit, the suspects left the weapons they had stolen from their guards in the couple's wrecked car, and ran through trees to Hale's property.

Miller said the homeowner held them at gunpoint until deputies arrived. But Hale said he wanted to set the record straight: "I had a weapon on me, but I never had to draw the weapon as has been in the news."

TBI Director Mark Gwyn said he's "totally grateful to everyone involved."

"True bravery is what's caused us to stand before you tonight to talk about a successful capture instead of a tragic incident," he said.

Hale took a picture of the escapees once they were surrounded by law enforcement officers. It shows them spread-eagled and shirtless, face-down on the concrete — the same postures he said they had assumed themselves without saying a word to him.

The fugitives were taken to the Rutherford County jail, and in a hearing on Friday, wearing orange jumpsuits and surrounded by officers, they waived their right to challenge their extraditions to Georgia.

"They will be brought to justice swiftly for their heinous crime against our officers," Georgia Department of Corrections Commissioner Greg Dozier said in a news release.

Their escape began early Tuesday, when authorities said they somehow got through a door that should have been locked separating the guards from the inmates on the prison bus.

Sgt. Christopher Monica and Sgt. Curtis Billue were overpowered and shot to death with their own weapons. The fugitives then locked up 31 other inmates and jumped out with the guards' 9 mm Glock pistols, carjacking a driver who happened to pull up behind them.

It was the first of four cars they stole on the run, authorities said. The fugitives ditched the Honda Civic and their prison uniforms, ransacked a home and then stole a Ford pickup truck in Madison, Georgia, later Tuesday. They left that truck in Tennessee and stole a white sedan, which they abandoned near the hostages' home, Swing said.

The FBI announced a tip line and advertised a \$130,000 reward on billboards. The Tennessee and Georgia bureaus of investigation weren't immediately sure who would collect the reward.

Monica and Billue were transfer sergeants at Baldwin State Prison, where Rowe, 43, had been serving life without parole since 2002, and Dubose, 24, began a 20-year sentence in 2015, both for armed robbery and other felonies.

Kate Brumback reported from Madison and Atlanta. Associated Press writers Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, and Adrian Sainz in Memphis, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Amazon deal for Whole Foods could bring retail experiments

By ANICK JESDANUN, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Online retail giant Amazon is making a bold expansion into physical stores with a \$13.7 billion deal to buy Whole Foods, setting the stage for radical retail experiments that could revolutionize how people buy groceries and everything else.

Amazon could try to use automation and data analysis to draw more customers to stores while helping Whole Foods cut costs and perhaps prices. Meanwhile, the more than 460 Whole Foods stores in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. could be turned into distribution hubs — not just for delivering groceries but as pickup centers for online orders.

"The conventional grocery store should feel threatened and incapable of responding," Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter said.

Moody's lead retail analyst Charlie O'Shea said the deal could be "transformative, not just for food retail, but for retail in general."

Walmart, which has the largest share of the U.S. food market, has already been pushing harder into e-commerce to build on strength in its stores and groceries. It announced Friday that it's buying online

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men's clothing retailer Bonobos for \$310 million, following a string of online acquisitions including ModCloth and Moosejaw.

But if Amazon can be the one-stop shop for everything — groceries had been one of the key missing elements — customers would have even less of a need to go to Walmart or elsewhere.

TOUGH TIMES FOR GROCERS

Amazon already offers grocery-delivery services in five markets, but analysts say expansion is tough because its current distribution centers are set up for dry goods, not perishables. Just two years ago, Whole Foods CEO John Mackey told Bloomberg BusinessWeek that Amazon's foray into grocery delivery would be "Amazon's Waterloo."

But it was Whole Foods that fell behind as shoppers found alternatives to the organic and natural foods it helped popularize since its founding in 1978. Whole Foods has seen its sales slump and recently announced a board shake-up and cost-cutting plan amid pressure from activist investor Jana Partners.

Groceries are already a fiercely competitive business, with low-cost rivals like Aldi putting pressure on traditional supermarket chains and another discounter, Lidl, opening its first U.S. stores just this week. Whole Foods itself had launched an offshoot chain named after its "365" private label brand in a nod to the popularity of no-frills chains.

The Amazon-Whole Foods combination, expected to close by the end of the year, could put even more pressure on those chains and other big grocery sellers.

"Dominant players like Walmart, Kroger, Costco and Target now have to look over their shoulders at the Amazon train coming down the tracks," O'Shea said.

TECHNOLOGY TO THE RESCUE

Amazon could try to cut operational costs at Whole Foods by using the same types of robots that already move inventory around at its e-commerce fulfillment centers.

The company also has been testing sensors at a convenience store in Seattle to track items as shoppers put them into baskets or return them to the shelf. Shoppers skip the checkout line, and their Amazon accounts get automatically charged. Gartner retail analyst Robert Hetu said Amazon could bring pieces of that to Whole Foods to further cut costs.

Both companies said there will be no layoffs, but they did not respond to other questions about Amazon's plans for Whole Foods. Whole Foods will keep operating stores under its name. In an email to customers, the company said it planned to maintain the same standards under Amazon, including bans on artificial flavors and colors.

Whole Foods, often derided as "Whole Paycheck" for its high prices, could see its reputation change if Amazon, a master at undercutting its brick-and-mortar rivals, passes any savings from automation to customers.

"This might be an opportunity for consumers who have felt that Whole Foods is inaccessible," said Lauren Beitelspacher, a marketing professor at Babson College in Massachusetts.

BEYOND FOOD

Amazon could also get a better picture of customers by marrying data from Amazon and Whole Foods' loyalty programs. Hetu said Amazon could make pertinent offers to attract shoppers of one but not the other, or get shoppers of both to buy more.

Ryne Misso of the research firm Market Track said a customer who buys fresh fruit regularly at Whole Foods might be offered a deal on blenders and serving bowls. Or someone who buys granola bars monthly from Whole Foods and paper towels every other week from Amazon might be offered the items in a single shipment, delivered to the door.

The Whole Foods deal could also get more people to try grocery delivery, something many shoppers have been hesitant about because of concerns about meat and produce quality. Pachter said Amazon might get customers over those fears if they know the delivered items are the same as those they would

find at the local store.

On the flip side, Amazon could use Whole Foods stores as pickup locations for deliveries, an option Amazon already offers in many cities by installing lockers at 7-Eleven and other retailers.

"Instead of deliver to my home, why not just come down here? I'm shopping here anyways," shopper Alina Gura said at a Whole Foods in West Hartford, Connecticut.

That could help Amazon cut shipping costs and give the company opportunities to sell even more products once in the store. The stores could also showcase gadgets such as Kindle e-readers and Fire tablets. One day, these stores might even serve as launch centers for Amazon's delivery drones.

AP Retail Writer Anne D'Innocenzio and Business Writer Stan Choe in New York and writer Susan Haigh in West Hartford, Connecticut, contributed to this report.

Scalise doctor hopes for 'excellent recovery' despite risk

By ERICA WERNER and LAURAN NEERGAARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressman Steve Scalise can hope to make an "excellent recovery," his trauma surgeon said Friday, even though the lawmaker arrived at the hospital Wednesday at imminent risk of death after getting shot at a congressional baseball practice.

In his first public comments since the shooting, Dr. Jack Sava of MedStar Washington Hospital Center said it's a "good possibility" that the Louisiana Republican will be able to return to work in his full capacity.

Sava declined to put a timeline on when that would happen or when Scalise, 51, would be able to leave the hospital. The doctor described how a bullet from an assault rifle entered Scalise's hip and traversed his pelvis, shattering blood vessels, bones and internal organs along the way.

For now, Scalise remains in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Scalise, the No. 3 House Republican, arrived at the hospital via helicopter in shock, with intense internal bleeding and "an imminent risk of death," Sava said.

Since then, the lawmaker has undergone multiple surgeries and procedures to stop the bleeding and repair bone. He has been sedated, but has been brought out of sedation periodically and been able to recognize and communicate with his family, Sava said.

Scalise has received multiple blood transfusions, which can affect clotting, something doctors will monitor closely. Infection also is a risk, especially if the intestines were perforated.

Scalise was wounded when a gunman opened fire at a GOP lawmaker baseball practice Wednesday morning. The fact that his injuries brought him close to death was not widely known initially.

Sava said Friday that there are hundreds of bullet fragments in Scalise's body, but "we have no intention to try and remove all the bullet fragments at this point."

Damage from a bullet occurs when it's traveling. Once it has lodged in bone or muscle, "it's not going to do anything. All you're doing is stirring up more trouble" by making another incision larger than the fragment to try to get it out, explained Dr. Deborah Stein, trauma chief at the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center.

Nonetheless, said Sava, "We fully expect him to be able to walk" and "hopefully run."

Sava said that after being released from the hospital, Scalise "will require a period of healing and rehabilitation."

"I feel a lot more confident and a lot more optimistic than I did two, three days ago," Sava said. "I think that his risk of death right now is substantially lower than when he came in ... he was as critical as you can be when he came in."

Sava said Scalise would need to undergo an additional operation within the next 48 hours and more beyond that.

Sava later told The Associated Press that Scalise's care is on track for someone with such a severe injury but that he still faces many risks to recovery.

Sava said he told Scalise's family that "I am not declaring victory until he's playing ball in his back yard

with his family.”

Several other people were also injured in Wednesday’s shooting before Scalise’s security detail and other police officers gunned down the assailant, who later died. The shooter was an Illinois man, James Hodgkinson, who had lashed out against President Donald Trump and Republicans over social media.

Speaking earlier Friday in Miami, Trump said Scalise “took a bullet for all of us” when he was shot.

The president’s meaning was not entirely clear, but Trump went on to say that “Because of him and the tremendous pain and suffering he’s now enduring — and he’s having a hard time, far worse than anybody thought — our country will perhaps become closer, more unified, so important.

“So we all owe Steve a big, big thank you,” Trump added.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., paid a visit to his injured colleague at the hospital Friday.

Scalise’s wife, Jennifer, issued a statement saying she was thankful for the “incredible amount of prayers and warm wishes” the family has received since the shooting.

Law enforcement officials proceeded Friday with their investigation of the attack at a suburban Virginia park, including examining Hodgkinson’s social media activities and his home in Belleville, Illinois. They released photos of guns similar to the handgun and rifle that were used in the attack, which officials have said were purchased legally.

Hodgkinson contacted both of his state’s Democratic senators frequently, always through email links on their websites, spokesmen said Friday. The offices of both senators — Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth — turned over the emails to Capitol Police and declined to offer specifics about their content.

Hodgkinson also contacted the office of Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill., at least 10 times over the past year, a Bost spokesman has said, characterizing the emails and phone calls as negative but not threatening.

Also suffering relatively minor injuries were two Capitol Police officers, David Bailey and Crystal Griner, and House GOP aide Zack Barth. Griner remains hospitalized at MedStar Hospital after getting shot in the ankle, and Sava described her in good condition.

Bailey was spotted Friday in the Capitol, on crutches and out of uniform, accepting congratulations from fellow officers.

Lobbyist Matt Mika was shot multiple times and critically injured and remained hospitalized.

Associated Press writer Maria Danilova and Jim Salter in St. Louis contributed to this report.

Anger erupts over possible flaws at burned London tower

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Grief turned to outrage Friday over a deadly high-rise tower fire in London amid reports that materials used in the building’s renovation could have fueled the inferno that left dozens dead and missing as it decimated the public housing block.

Engineering experts say outside insulation panels installed on the 24-story Grenfell Tower may have helped the fire spread rapidly from one floor to the next. The Guardian newspaper reported Friday that contractors installed a cheaper, less flame-resistant type of paneling in the renovation that ended in May 2016.

Tensions were high Friday two days after the overnight fire gutted the huge housing block, killing at least 30 people and leaving dozens missing and hundreds homeless.

Scuffles broke out near the Kensington and Chelsea town hall offices as demonstrators chanting “We want justice!” surged toward the doors.

London has a chronic housing shortage even in the best of times, and those left homeless by the fire — already angry over what they see as government inequity and incompetence — fear being forced out of the British capital.

The Grenfell Tower housed about 600 people in 120 apartments. Britain’s Press Association reported that some 70 people are still missing after the fire.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said people were frustrated by the lack of information about the missing and the dead as well as a lack of coordination between support services. Residents who survived the tower

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blaze lost everything and have no idea where they are going to live or how they will get back on their feet.

"The scale of this tragedy is clearly proving too much for the local authority to cope with on their own," Khan said in an open letter to Prime Minister Theresa May.

After meeting with Grenfell survivors on Friday, May announced a 5 million pound (\$6.4 million) fund to help them and expressed sorrow for their plight. The package includes a guarantee to rehouse people as close as possible to where they previously lived — a poor neighborhood surrounded by extreme wealth.

"(This aims) to give the victims the immediate support they need to care for themselves and for loved ones," May said.

But the Conservative leader still struggled to overcome accusations that she lacked compassion because she had failed to meet with victims on her first visit to the devastated site. Police surrounded May as she left a church Friday following the meeting with survivors and protesters shouted "Shame on you!" and "Coward!"

Using drones and sniffer dogs, firefighters continued to search the burned-out housing block that looms over the low-income community in west London.

The fire, which started just before 1 a.m. Wednesday, surprised many as they slept and the speed with which it spread shocked fire experts.

Metropolitan Police commander Stuart Cundy responded to fears that the number of dead could exceed 100 by saying: "I really hope it isn't."

London Police have launched an investigation to determine whether any crimes contributed to the blaze. May on Thursday announced a public inquiry while Khan called for an interim report on the fire to be published this summer.

Grenfell Tower is a public housing project owned by the local government council and managed by a nonprofit known as the Kensington and Chelsea Tenants Management Organization. The group last year completed a 10 million pound (\$12.8 million) renovation that included new outside insulation panels, double-paned windows and a communal heating system.

Aluminum composite panels essentially consist of two thin layers of aluminum sandwiched around a lightweight insulating material. Standard versions use plastic such as polyethylene for the core, while more expensive variants use fire-resistant material.

The Guardian newspaper reported Friday that Omnis Exteriors supplied the aluminum composite material used in the cladding. The newspaper quoted company director John Cowley as saying the building used Reynobond PE cladding, which is 2 pounds cheaper (\$2.56) per square meter than Reynobond FR, which stands for "fire resistant."

The International Building Code calls for the use of fire-resistant cores in buildings over 40 feet (12 meters) tall to slow the spread of flames.

The company that installed the exterior cladding, Harley Facades, issued a statement this week saying the panels are "commonly used" in refurbishing buildings. It did not address the exact makeup of the panels.

"It would not be appropriate for us to comment or for others to speculate on any aspect of fire, or its causes, in advance of these inquiries," managing director Ray Bailey said. "At this time, we are not aware of any link between the fire and the exterior cladding to the tower."

Families searching for loved ones have blanketed the area near the tower with posters. Whole families are said to be among the missing.

Nearly 110 families made homeless from the blaze are being housed at hotels in west London. Churches and community centers are providing meals and support, and donations of clothing, toys and household supplies are flooding in.

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince William visited an aid distribution site Friday for the tower's residents and met with volunteers.

It may take some time though, before the families of the victims know the fate of their loved ones.

Forensic experts said the fire at Grenfell was so hot it could be compared to a cremation, which is going to make it difficult to identify those who lost their lives.

"When you have a fire that takes hold like that, that is literally an inferno. You get a lot of fragmentation

of bodies, charring of bones," said Peter Vanezis, a professor of forensic medical sciences at Queen Mary University in London. "Sometimes all that's left is ash."

Vanezis said the best chance to identify victims may be if firefighters find bits of teeth or bone, medical devices like pacemakers or artificial implants.

"The longer a fire burns, the less chance you have that there will be enough DNA left to test," Vanezis said.

Even amid the chaos and the frustration, some found a moment to seek unity. A special service was held Friday afternoon at the al-Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre to pray for the victims — and for the families waiting for news.

"Obviously, the longer people have to wait, especially finding out what happened to their loved ones, (that) can create anger," said Abdurahman Sayed, Chief Executive Officer of al-Manaar. "We're just really anxiously waiting for the authorities really, (to see) what they are going to do."

AP Medical Writer Maria Cheng contributed to this report.

Girlfriend whose texts urged suicide guilty of manslaughter

By DENISE LAVOIE, AP Legal Affairs Writer

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP) — A woman who sent her boyfriend a barrage of text messages urging him to kill himself when they were both teenagers was convicted Friday of involuntary manslaughter in a trial that raised questions about whether words can kill.

The judge found that Michelle Carter caused the death of Conrad Roy III, who intentionally filled his truck with carbon monoxide in a Fairhaven, Massachusetts, store parking lot in July 2014.

Carter, who faces up to 20 years in prison, cried and clutched a handkerchief to her face as Juvenile Court Judge Lawrence Moniz detailed her conduct and the circumstances of Roy's death, but she was stoic when the verdict was formally pronounced. As spectators and members of both the Roy and Carter families left the courtroom, she sat at the defense table, sobbing, while her lawyers tried to comfort her.

The judge focused his ruling on three words Carter said to the 18-year-old Roy after he climbed out of his truck as it was filling with toxic gas and told her he was scared.

"Get back in," Carter told Roy, according to a friend who testified that Carter described the conversation in a text message to her about a month after Roy died.

The judge said those words constituted "wanton and reckless conduct."

He said Carter, then 17, had a duty to call someone for help when she knew Roy was attempting suicide. Yet she did not call the police or Roy's family, he noted.

"She did not issue a simple additional instruction: Get out of the truck," the judge said.

The case provided a disturbing look at teen depression and suicide. Carter and Roy met in Florida in 2012 while both were on vacation with their families. Their relationship consisted mainly of texting and other electronic communications. They only met in person a handful of times.

Both teens struggled with depression. Carter had also been treated for anorexia, and Roy had made earlier suicide attempts.

The sensational trial was closely watched in legal circles and a hot topic on social media, in part because of the insistent tone of text messages Carter sent to Roy.

"You can't think about it. You just have to do it. You said you were gonna do it. Like I don't get why you aren't," Carter wrote to Roy the day of his suicide.

"I thought you wanted to do this. The time is right and you're ready ... just do it babe," she wrote in another text that day.

In the end, the judge found that it was not the coercive text messages that caused Roy's death. It was Carter's insistence that he get back in the truck.

The judge ruled that Carter can remain free on bail but ordered her not to make any contact with Roy's family or leave the state. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for Aug. 3.

Carter's lawyer, Joseph Cataldo, argued that Roy was determined to kill himself and nothing Carter did could change that. He said Carter initially tried to talk Roy out of it and urged him to get professional help, but eventually went along with his plan.

The judge said he did not take into account in his verdict Roy's previous suicide attempts.

Roy's father said the family was pleased with the conviction.

"This has been a very tough time for our family, and we'd like to just process this verdict that we are happy with," Conrad Roy Jr. said.

Assistant District Attorney Katie Rayburn said the case dealt with important societal issues, "but in the end, the case was really about one young man and one young woman who were brought together by tragic circumstances."

The American Civil Liberties Union denounced the conviction, saying it "exceeds the limits of our criminal laws and violates free speech protections" guaranteed by the Massachusetts and U.S. constitutions.

Matthew Segal, the ACLU's legal director for Massachusetts, called Roy's suicide tragic but said, "It is not a reason to stretch the boundaries of our criminal laws or abandon the protections of our constitution."

Higher prices squeezing both renters and would-be homeowners

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

A diminished supply of available homes is swelling prices in large U.S. metro areas from New York to Miami to Los Angeles, squeezing out would-be buyers and pushing up rents as more people are forced to remain tenants.

The trend is pressuring Americans' budgets, with about one-third of households spending more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing as of 2015, according to a report being released Friday by Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Homeownership rates have stagnated in part because high rents have made it difficult for many prospective buyers to amass a down payment for a house.

At the same time, the sparse supply of available properties is benefiting existing homeowners, many of whose home values have recovered from the housing bust a decade ago.

The tight supply of homes and a shortage of affordable rental housing have improved little in recent years for a variety of reasons. Among the key factors is that construction has yet to regain the pace of homebuilding that predated the bust.

"As the economy continues to recover, as income picks up as household formations pick up, it's not spurring a supply response," said Chris Herbert, managing director of Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies. "It's a worsening of the situation that was evident last year."

Here are some major findings documented in the report:

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

The government considers people who spend over 30 percent of their income on housing to be "cost-burdened." Those who spend more than 50 percent are considered "severely" burdened.

About one-third of households — 38.9 million — were considered cost-burdened in 2015, down from 39.8 million a year earlier. This was the fifth straight annual decline.

Still, roughly 16 percent of households, or about 18.8 million, paid more than half their income on housing. The share of renters paying more than they can afford varies from city to city. In Miami, it's 35.4 percent. In El Paso, Texas, it's just 18.4 percent. Other cities where households were deemed to be cost-burdened include Daytona Beach, Florida; Riverside, California; and Honolulu.

Ryan Welch of Santa Monica, California, is among those feeling stuck between rising rents and home prices. Welch, 32, pays about \$1,500 a month for a rent-controlled one-bedroom apartment he shares with his wife. That works out to about a quarter of their monthly income, an affordable portion.

Welch, who works in advertising sales, would like a bigger place with more amenities. But he's reluctant to leave their apartment.

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"I'm nervous to move to a place that's not rent-controlled," he said.

Saving to own a home, something he wants to do, has had to take a back seat to making payments on student loans and his car, among other expenses.

"I'd much rather buy, but I can't come up with the down payment," Welch said.

HOME SUPPLY AND PRICES

The availability of homes for sale has fallen short of demand. Last year, the typical new home for sale was on the market for just 3.3 months, according to the report — well below the average of 5.1 months dating to the 1980s.

All told, 1.65 million homes were on the market last year, the fewest in 16 years, the report said.

The supply is worse for lower-priced homes that would be affordable to typical first-time buyers. Builders have been constructing fewer homes for that segment of buyers.

Between 2004 and 2015, construction of single-family homes of less than 1,800 square feet fell to 136,000 from nearly 500,000, according to the report.

The trends helped boost national home prices 5.6 percent last year, above their housing boom peak. (Prices remained nearly 15 percent below their peak, when adjusted for inflation.)

"Builders are starting to turn more attention to the entry-level market," Herbert said. "My guess is we'll see some increase in our supply of smaller, more moderate-cost new housing on the single-family side."

WIDENING COST GAP

One striking finding in the Harvard report is the gap in home values that's widened since 2000, well before the market hit its boom-era highs. When adjusted for inflation, prices in markets along the East and West coasts have vaulted more than 40 percent since 2000. By contrast, values in the Midwest and South have declined.

Among the markets where prices remain well below their housing-boom peaks: Las Vegas, Chicago, Detroit and Tampa, Florida. By contrast, home values have risen far above their previous highs in Denver, San Francisco and Austin, among other markets.

"If you go back to, say, 1970 and you look at the differences in house prices across market areas, they were not nearly as extreme as they are now," Herbert said. "It's a function of income inequality and how much the differences in income have grown."

In addition, regulatory constraints and a shortage of available land limit construction in many areas.

RENTAL PRICES AND SUPPLY

Though apartment construction surged in the years after the housing bust, demand for rental housing has grown even more. The rental vacancy rate fell last year to 6.9 percent, a three-decade low, according to the Harvard report. That's the seventh straight annual decline.

Much of the apartment construction in recent years has been made up of luxury developments catering to affluent renters rather than to households of modest means.

The number of rental units available for under \$800 fell by 261,000 between 2005 and 2015, according to the report. By comparison, the number of units for \$2,000 or more climbed by 1.5 million in the same period.

HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE

The nation's homeownership rate has been falling since peaking around 69 percent in 2004. Last year, it hit 63.4 percent, just above the low set in 1965. But the rate appears to be stabilizing, according to the report.

"Even if it is no longer falling, it's settling in at a rate that's low by historic standards," Herbert said.

The rate has grown notably worse for African-Americans, the report found. Homeownership among African-Americans is now at its lowest point since the 1960s and nearly 30 percentage points below the rate for whites, Herbert said.

HOMEBUILDING UP, BUT STILL LOW

Construction increased in 2016 for the seventh year in a row, adding 1.17 million houses and apartments. But that was still the lowest growth rate since 2011, the report noted.

Building of single-family homes has been rising faster, up 9.4 percent last year to 781,600 units. Even so, residential construction still trails the 1.4-1.5 million annual rate that prevailed in the 1980s and 1990s, the report notes.

On Friday, the government reported that housing starts fell 5.5 percent in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.09 million units.

"We're still not yet at 1.2 million starts," Herbert said. "Back in the day, it would have been a bad year during a recession, and we're still trying to get back up there. We're certainly not back to normal in terms of supply."

Tax overhaul in trouble as opposition to import tax grows

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — A key part of House Republicans' plan to overhaul the way corporations pay taxes is on life support, leaving lawmakers scrambling to save one of President Donald Trump's biggest priorities and increasing the chances the GOP will simply pass a tax cut instead of overhauling the tax code.

A proposed tax on imports is central to the GOP plan to lower the overall corporate tax rate. It would generate about \$1 trillion over the next decade to finance the lower rates without adding to the deficit. It would also provide strong incentives for U.S.-based companies to keep their operations in the United States and perhaps persuade companies to move overseas operations to the U.S.

But the tax faces strong opposition from retailers, automakers and the oil industry, and a growing number of congressional Republicans have come out against it. They worry that it will increase the cost of imports, raising consumer prices.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., says there probably aren't enough votes to pass the import tax in the Senate — not a single Republican senator has publicly endorsed it. And a powerful group of House conservatives says it's time to dump the idea.

"The sooner we acknowledge that and get on with a plan that actually works and actually can build consensus, the better off we will be," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., chairman of the conservative Freedom Caucus.

Even one of the biggest backers of the new tax says he is open to other ideas.

Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, has pushed the tax as chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. He still says it's the best way to promote economic growth and domestic jobs, but he has softened his stance on alternatives.

"I'm still confident that we're going to stay at the table until we solve that problem, which is how do we stop U.S. jobs from continuing to leave the United States," Brady said. "We're going to remain open to the best ideas on how we do that."

On Tuesday, Brady proposed gradually phasing in the tax over five years to give corporations time to adjust.

It wasn't received well by opponents.

"Forcing consumers to pay more so that some profitable companies can operate tax-free is no better of an idea in five years than it is today," said Brian Dodge of the Retail Industry Leaders Association.

But if the import tax is dead, then what?

"I would never declare anything dead until there was a fully formed alternative," said Rohit Kumar, a former tax counsel to McConnell who now heads PwC's Washington tax office. "I think that's one of the big challenges that Republicans are struggling with right now."

Thirty-one years after the last tax overhaul, there is widespread agreement that the current system is too complicated and picks winners and losers, compelling companies to make decisions based on tax

implications instead of sound business reasons.

The goal — for now — is to simplify the tax code and make it more efficient in a way that does not add to the federal government's mounting debt. That means some would pay more and some would pay less, a heavy political lift among politicians who have deep political and practical disagreements.

Lawmakers also are trying to overhaul taxes on individuals, which raises another set of big challenges. "It's easier to get a coalition to cut taxes," said Mark Mazur, a former Treasury official under President Barack Obama. "And if the conversation is, 'how long do they last and how deep are the tax cuts,' each party knows how to do that conversation. It's not like you're asking for a huge lift."

The new import tax, which is called a border adjustment tax, would radically change the way corporations are taxed. Under current law, corporations pay a top tax rate of 35 percent on their profits. But the tax code is filled with so many exemptions, deductions and credits that most corporations pay a much lower rate.

Under the proposed system, American companies that produce and sell their products in the U.S. would pay a new 20 percent tax on the profits from these sales. However, if a company exports a product, the profits from that sale would not be taxed by the U.S.

Foreign companies that import goods to the U.S. would also have to pay the tax, and they would not be able to deduct the cost of the imported good as a business expense.

Republicans in Congress and at the White House have been meeting behind closed doors for weeks to come up with viable alternatives. Democrats have been largely excluded from the talks, leaving Republicans with little room for error.

"I still think that Republicans, out of pure political necessity, if nothing else, are likely to find a way to get some sort of tax bill to the president's desk for his signature," Kumar said.

Whether it's genuine tax reform or simply a tax cut "is still very much in question right now," he added.

Associated Press writer Erica Werner contributed to this report.

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Trump financial disclosures show Mar-a-Lago business boom

By **JULIE BYKOWICZ** and **STEPHEN BRAUN**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's Washington hotel saw almost \$20 million in revenue during its first few months of operation — a period that coincided with his election and inauguration as the 45th president. His Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, which he's visited seven times as president, pulled in millions of dollars more than it had previously.

The new details were included in a financial disclosure that Trump voluntarily submitted Friday to the Office of Government Ethics, the first snapshot of the Trump Organization's finances since its longtime leader became president.

When he took office in January, Trump turned over the reins of his global real estate, property management and marketing empire to his two adult sons and a senior executive. But Trump did not divest, instead placing his enormous portfolio of financial assets in a trust controlled by the executive and Donald Trump Jr. He can take back control of the trust at any time, and he's free to withdraw cash from it as he pleases.

On paper, at least, the billionaire president's finances don't appear to have been upended by the time-consuming campaign and transition to power.

He has at least \$1.4 billion in assets and reported at least \$594 million in income from January 2016 through this spring. Those top-line numbers were largely the same as he had reported in his previous filing, which included all of 2015 and part of 2016.

Trump's financial disclosures have added importance because he isn't following the long tradition of presidential candidates and office-holders making public their tax returns. Those returns provide more precise financial information than the disclosure forms that have broad ranges for income, assets and debts.

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The latest report shows Trump resigned from more than 500 positions, stepping down from many on the day before his inauguration. He listed at least \$315 million in liabilities, about the same as in the previous report.

The president still owes more than \$100 million to Deutsche Bank and a similar amount to Ladder Capital Finance, a New York-based real estate investment trust.

What is unclear from the disclosure is whether Trump added to his debt in any significant way to help pay for his presidential campaign. Because the ranges required for disclosure under federal ethics laws are so wide — Trump's documents list five separate liabilities each at "over \$50,000,000" — it is impossible to tell whether his debt load has changed appreciably.

Some of Trump's ventures appear to be making more money than they had a year earlier.

His book "The Art of the Deal" is having a comeback of its own. Royalties from the 1987 autobiography ranged between \$100,000 and \$1 million, according to the new report. The 2016 report listed royalties as being between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and the 2015 report put them at \$15,000 to \$50,000.

Trump's management fees from Indonesian companies tied to two planned resorts there more than doubled. The latest disclosure puts the fees \$380,000, up from \$167,000 he reported in 2016. Trump is partnering with a billionaire Indonesian, Hary Tanoesoedibjo, on the two ventures. One is planned for the tourist island of Bali, the other near Jakarta.

Mar-a-Lago, where Trump played host to several foreign dignitaries during his seven weekends there this winter, has improved its finances. Trump listed the resort's income as about \$37 million, up from about \$30 million it had taken in prior to his 2016 financial report.

His golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, on the other hand, produced almost \$20 million in revenue, about what it had during the previous reporting period. Trump recently began decamping to that property some weekends.

The documentation of revenue from each of those properties doesn't account for expenses, meaning those figures are not pure profit.

The Trump International Hotel, housed in the Old Post Office building down the street from the White House, has seen a burst of activity since opening its doors last fall. In addition to serving as a hub during inauguration festivities, it has hosted numerous events for foreign diplomatic and business interests.

The hotel is cited in three separate lawsuits arguing that Trump is violating the Constitution's "emoluments" clause, a ban on foreign gifts and payments. Trump and the Justice Department have called those claims baseless.

Associated Press writers Chad Day, Bernard Condon, Josh Boak and Marcy Gordon contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 17, the 168th day of 2017. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 17, 1972, President Richard Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside Democratic national headquarters in Washington, D.C.'s Watergate complex.

On this date:

In 1397, the Treaty of Kalmar created a union between the kingdoms of Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

In 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

In 1885, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York Harbor aboard the French ship *Isere* (ee-SEHR').

In 1928, Amelia Earhart embarked on a trans-Atlantic flight from Newfoundland to Wales with pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, becoming the first woman to make the trip as a passenger.

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In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which boosted U.S. tariffs to historically high levels, prompting foreign retaliation.

In 1942, the U.S. Army began publishing Yank, the Army Weekly, featuring the debut of the cartoon character G.I. Joe.

In 1957, mob underboss Frank Scalice was shot to death at a produce market in the Bronx, New York.

In 1967, China successfully tested its first thermonuclear (hydrogen) bomb.

In 1987, Charles Glass, a journalist on leave from ABC News, was kidnapped in Beirut by pro-Iranian guerrillas. (Glass escaped his captors in Aug. 1987.)

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a breakthrough arms-reduction agreement.

In 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was later acquitted in a criminal trial, but held liable in a civil trial.)

In 2015, nine people were shot to death in a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina; suspect Dylann Roof was arrested the following morning. (Roof has since been convicted of federal hate crimes and sentenced to death; he later pleaded guilty to state murder charges and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.)

Ten years ago: Thirty-five people were killed in the bombing of a police academy bus in Kabul, Afghanistan; the Taliban claimed responsibility. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (mahk-MOOD' ah-BAHS') swore in a new government and outlawed Hamas militias. Angel Cabrera (AHN'-hehl kuh-BREHR'-uh) held off Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk by a stroke to capture the U.S. Open. Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré, known as the "architect of fashion," died in Milan at age 62.

Five years ago: Rodney King, 47, whose 1991 videotaped beating by Los Angeles police sparked widespread outrage and who struggled with addiction and repeated arrests, died in Rialto, California, in an apparent accidental drowning. Fears of Greece's imminent exit from Europe's joint currency receded after the conservative New Democracy party came first in a critical election and pro-bailout parties won enough seats to form a joint government. Webb Simpson won the U.S. Open, outlasting former U.S. Open champions Jim Furyk and Graeme McDowell.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, his wife and their daughters traveled to Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico as part of a long Father's Day weekend that was also designed to draw attention to America's natural wonders. Thousands of friends and fans said farewell to "The Voice" singer Christina Grimmie at services in Medford, New Jersey, a week after the 22-year-old was shot to death while signing autographs in Orlando, Florida, by a man who then killed himself.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 85. Movie director Ken Loach is 81. Actor William Lucking is 76. Singer Barry Manilow is 74. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 74. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 66. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 63. Actor Jon Gries (gryz) is 60. Rock singer Jello Biafra is 59. Movie producer-director-writer Bobby Farrelly is 59. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 56. Actor Greg Kinnear is 54. Actress Kami Cotler is 52. Olympic gold-medal speed skater Dan Jansen is 52. Actor Jason Patric is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kevin Thornton is 48. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 47. Latin pop singer Paulina Rubio is 46. Tennis player Venus Williams is 37. Actor Arthur Darvill is 35. Country singer Mickey Guyton is 34. Actor-rapper Herculeez (AKA Jamal Mixon) is 34. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 30. Actor Damani Roberts is 21.

Thought for Today: "The truth is that there is nothing noble in being superior to somebody else. The only real nobility is in being superior to your former self." — Whitney Young, American civil rights leader (1921-1971).