

Monday, June 18, 2017

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Monday, June 19

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.

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Senior Menu: Teriyaki chicken, almond rice with peas, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, orange sherbet, dinner roll.

T-Ball: Black team at Columbia, 5:30 p.m.

Jr. Teener: hosts Claremont for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U12: Hosts Welke for 2 games, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

U10: vs. Borge at Manor Park, Aberdeen, for 1 game at 6:30 p.m.

U8 Blue: vs. Borge at Manor Park, Aberdeen, for 1 game, 5:30 p.m.

Softball: hosts Ipswich (U8 at 5:30 p.m., U10 at 6:30 p.m., U12 at 7:30 p.m.)

Olive Grove: Ladies Night, 6 p.m.

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**



Dakota Outdoors

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“Good friends help you
to find important things
when you have lost
them...your smile, your
hope, and your
courage.”

Doe Zantamata



Miranda Mack Crowned Miss South Dakota 2017

June 18, 2017, Hot Springs, SD – Miranda Mack, 21, of Redfield was crowned Miss South Dakota 2017 Saturday night. Her platform is "All for Music." For her talent, she performed the operatic aria "Habanera." She is the daughter of Hugh and Cari Mack, is a student at South Dakota State University, and held the local title of Miss SDSU. Mack was also awarded the "Ray Peterson Rookie of the Year" \$500 scholarship for the first-year contestant with the highest overall score.

First runner-up was Miss Rushmore, Carrie Wintle, from Iroquois. Wintle was a preliminary talent winner Thursday evening (\$1,000), won the Miracle Maker award for raising the most money for Children's Miracle Network, a \$400 scholarship for being the top fundraiser, the \$500 State Community Service Award, and the \$1000 Miss America Community Service award.

Second runner-up was Miss Missouri Valley Evy Johnson of Firesteel. Johnson won the preliminary swimsuit award Thursday evening (\$400).

Third runner-up was Miss Siouxland Rachel Evangelisto of Rapid City. Evangelisto won the preliminary swimsuit award Friday evening (\$400).

Fourth runner-up was Miss Rapid City Isabel MacLachlan of Rapid City. MacLachlan won the preliminary talent award Friday evening (\$1,000).

Rounding out the top nine semi-finalists were Isabella Garcia of Sioux Falls, Amber Hulse of Hot Springs, Carly Goodhart of Sisseton, and Heather Egbert of Vermillion.

Hulse received the Top Interview Award (\$800). Goodhart was voted "People's Choice" through online voting, and received an additional \$500 scholarship for that title.

Annie Woodmansey of Pierre was the Most Talented Non-Finalist (\$400 scholarship) and was named Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants (\$500 scholarship). Marley Hanson of Vermillion won the Non-Finalist Interview Award (\$500). Kaitlin O'Neill won the Sylvia Tannehill "Kindness" Scholarship of \$1,000 as well as the \$500 CMN Legacy Scholarship.

Mack will represent South Dakota at the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in September 2017. The Miss America Pageant will air on ABC on Sunday, September 10.



Miss South Dakota and her court, from left to right, 4rd runner-up Isabel MacLachlan, 2nd runner up Evy Johnson, Miss South Dakota 2017 Miranda Mack, 1st runner-up Carrie Wintle, 3rd runner up Rachel Evangelisto.



By Richard P. Holm M.D.



Broken Hip Blues

Mrs. Z, a widow of 15 years and living alone, was in her kitchen reaching high for something in the cupboard. As she reached, she turned too fast, fell sideways, and couldn't get up by herself. She lay on that cold linoleum floor for most of the night until she was finally able to crawl to a phone and call for help. In the emergency room, we saw the tell-tale signs of leg shortening and outward turning; a fractured hip was confirmed by X-ray.

Lifetime risk for hip fracture is 6% in men and 14% in women. Of those, 40% will require a nursing home stay for at least some period of time during recovery and 50% will permanently require a walker. The risk of death following a hip fracture is 10% at one month and 12-37% at one year. In 2011, hip fractures resulted in about 30% of all US hospitalizations, costing about \$5 billion, as well as an untold amount of suffering.

Prior to the development of a surgical repair for hip fractures, treatment involved six weeks of traction and bed rest, with something like an 80% mortality rate resulting from blood clots or pneumonia. Pinning the hip with ivory pins was first tried in 1899, but it was in World War II that a German surgeon began regularly using metal rods to stabilize bone fractures. Shortly after the war and into the '50s, hip pinning spread throughout the world, allowing early mobilization and greatly reducing the death rate that was then associated with hip fractures. Now in about a third of the cases a new ball and socket replaces the fractured hip, but pinning still works in most cases, and is quicker, easier, cheaper and safer than the more invasive total hip surgery.

Syncope, a word meaning loss of consciousness, is a common cause of falling in the elderly, and requires a cardiac and neurological work-up whenever a hip fracture occurs. Almost 90% of all hip fractures happen after falling, most often the result of weak bones due to inactivity and poor physical conditioning. Say it again: inactivity is the most important risk factor for hip fracture. Although advanced age and poor eyesight are also risk factors, the biggest danger comes from inactivity, something that accumulates over a lifetime.

Physical activity and conditioning at any age hardens bones, enhances strength, and helps avoid falls and fractured hips. So, unless you want to end up on a cold linoleum floor someday, get out and get walking.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

There has been a lot of activity around the Minnesota Vikings this past week, but the first thing I want to do is wish a Happy Father's Day to all the dads and father figures out there! Being a parent is a difficult job, as I have found out this past year, but the amount of joy we get makes it all worth it. My favorite quote from the man I consider my father, my grandpa A.K.A. Papa is, "You can never go wrong, being considerate of others". This has always stuck with me.

The Minnesota Vikings held mandatory minicamp this past week, so we finally got a chance to see the Vikings rookies and veterans take the field. The practices were held without pads, so it's impossible to get a true feel on how the team is looking. There were, however, some noticeable improvements from some of the Vikings' younger players, and it was great to see. Laquon Treadwell looks like he took some big steps this offseason, and has been in plenty of minicamp highlight videos. Mackensie Alexander is another player who has seemingly taken a step forward and is ready to lock down the nickel cornerback position.

A recent Vikings addition, wide receiver Michael Floyd, has once again gotten in trouble with the law. Floyd was on house arrest because of a DUI, and was not allowed to touch alcohol. Unfortunately, he apparently had some alcohol in his system last week and will now need to go back to court to await his fate. Floyd was brought in to push Treadwell and possibly be a starter if Laquon wasn't ready. Now it looks like Floyd will likely be released – pending his court appearance – and the job is once again Treadwell's to lose.

Speaking of wide receivers, a couple of former Vikings found out they will be enshrined in the team's Ring of Honor this upcoming season. Former Vikings' wide receiver and current NBA analyst Ahmad Rashad will join future first-ballot hall of famer Randy Moss on the Ring of Honor.

Rashad played for the Vikings from 1976 to 1982 and accumulated 5,489 yards and 34 touchdowns. He made the Pro Bowl four times, and led the team in receiving yards when he retired in 1982.

Randy Moss was drafted in the first round of the 1998 by the Vikings, and then proceeded to light the league on fire. Moss had 9,316 yards and 92 touchdowns during his seven and a half seasons with the team, both of which are the second most in team history behind Cris Carter. Moss made the Pro Bowl five times and was named a First-Team All Pro three times while wearing purple and gold. He is considered by most to be the second best wide receiver of all time behind Jerry Rice, and was certainly a big part of the Minnesota Vikings' history.

Mike Zimmer has been (almost) cleared by doctors to resume his everyday activities after an eighth surgery to his eye. Zimmer told the media he fully expects to be able to put this ordeal behind him and get back to doing everything he needs to do as a Head Coach in the NFL.

Have any questions or comments? Feel free to reach out to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/SkolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SkolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright). Skol!

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Today in Weather History

June 19, 1894: A tornado moved NNE, passing 12 miles northwest of Bowdle, ending in extreme south-eastern Campbell County. A child was killed, and the mother and four other children were severely injured. A man was killed in another home, and his wife was injured. Fourteen homes were damaged or destroyed. Clothes were said to be torn to shreds and scattered for miles. This tornado was estimated to be an F3.

June 19, 1931: A tornado moved east from just south of St. Lawrence, passing south of Wessington. Buildings were destroyed on eight farms. Two farms were said to be wiped out, house and all. A woman was injured as she tried to rescue chickens. Cattle, horses, and over 100 hogs were killed. Estimated loss from this storm totaled \$32,000. This tornado had an estimated strength of an F3.

June 19, 2013: Slow moving thunderstorms brought some large hail along with very heavy rains and flash flooding to parts of northeast South Dakota. One thunderstorm produced quarter hail and winds over 50 mph, which caused significant damage to a bean field along with damaging the siding of the house south of Wilmot in Roberts County. Several roads in Wilmot had water running over them for several hours. Over three inches of rain caused water to go over a part of Highway 123 south of Wilmot. The heavy rain of three to four inches brought many flooded roads in and around Veblen in Marshall County.

1794: A violent tornado commenced west of the Hudson River in New York. The tornado traveled through Poughkeepsie then crossed the border into Connecticut where it went through the towns of New Milford, Waterbury, North Haven, and Branford. It then continued into Long Island Sound. The tornado did extensive damage, and the funnel was reported by one observer to look like the "aurora borealis."

1835 - A tornado tore through the center of New Brunswick NJ killing five persons and scattering debris as far as Manhattan Island. The tornado provided the first opportunity for scientists to study firsthand the track of such a storm. (David Ludlum)

1938 - A cloudburst near Custer Creek, MT, (near Miles City) caused a train wreck killing forty-eight persons. An estimated four to seven inches of rain deluged the head of the creek that evening, and water flowing through the creek weakened the bridge. As a result, a locomotive and seven passenger cars plunged into the swollen creek. One car, a tourist sleeper, was completely submerged. (David Ludlum)

1972 - Hurricane Agnes moved onshore near Cape San Blas FL with wind gusts to 80 mph, and exited Maine on the 26th. There were 117 deaths, mainly due to flooding from North Carolina to New York State, and total damage was estimated at more than three billion dollars. Up to 19 inches of rain deluged western Schuylkill County PA. The rains of Hurricane Agnes resulted in one of the greatest natural disasters in U.S. history. Agnes caused more damage than all other tropical cyclones in the previous six years combined (which included Celia and Camille). (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - It was a warm June day, with plenty of thunderstorms east of the Rockies. Lightning knocked out power at Throckmorton, TX, and ignited an oil tank battery. A woman in Knox City TX was struck by lightning while in her car, and a man was struck by lightning near his home in Manatee County FL. Strong thunderstorm winds overturned several outhouses near Bixby OK, but no injuries were reported. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Temperatures soared above 100 degrees in the central U.S. for Father's Day. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Severe thunderstorms in Minnesota and Wisconsin produced softball size hail near River Falls WI, and wind gusts to 80 mph at Menomonie WI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1989 - Fourteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date as searing heat spread from the southwestern deserts into the High Plains Region. Record highs included 98 degrees at Billings, MT, 107 degrees at Valentine, NE, and 112 degrees at Tucson, AZ. (The National Weather Summary)

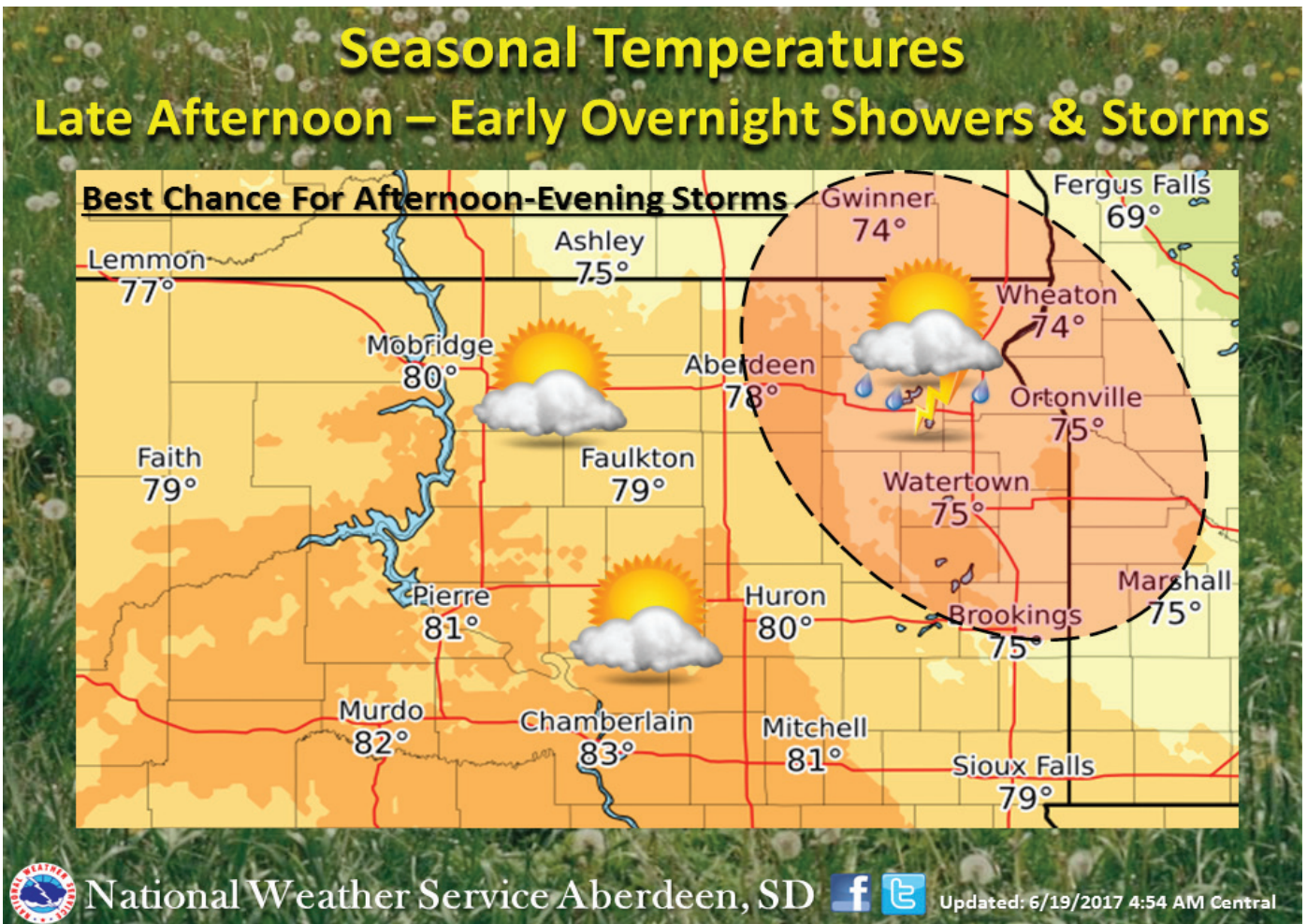
2006 - Up to 11 inches of rain fell in the Houston, Texas area, causing widespread flash flooding. The Houston Fire Department rescued more than 500 people from flood waters, but no serious injuries or fatalities were reported.

2004: Annette Island, Alaska set an all-time record high temperature of 93 degrees. Since record keeping began in 1941, Annette Island has seen 90-degree temperatures four times.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Chance Showers
High: 77 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 76 °F



Published on: 06/19/2017 at 4:59AM

Another day, another shot at additional moisture late this afternoon and into the evening hours. Unlikely to be severe however.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.2 at 7:30 PM

Low Outside Temp: 54.3 at 5:00 AM

High Gust: 20 at 2:36 PM

Precip: 0.18

Today's Info

Record High: 108° in 1933

Record Low: 38° in 1940

Average High: 79°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in June: 2.33

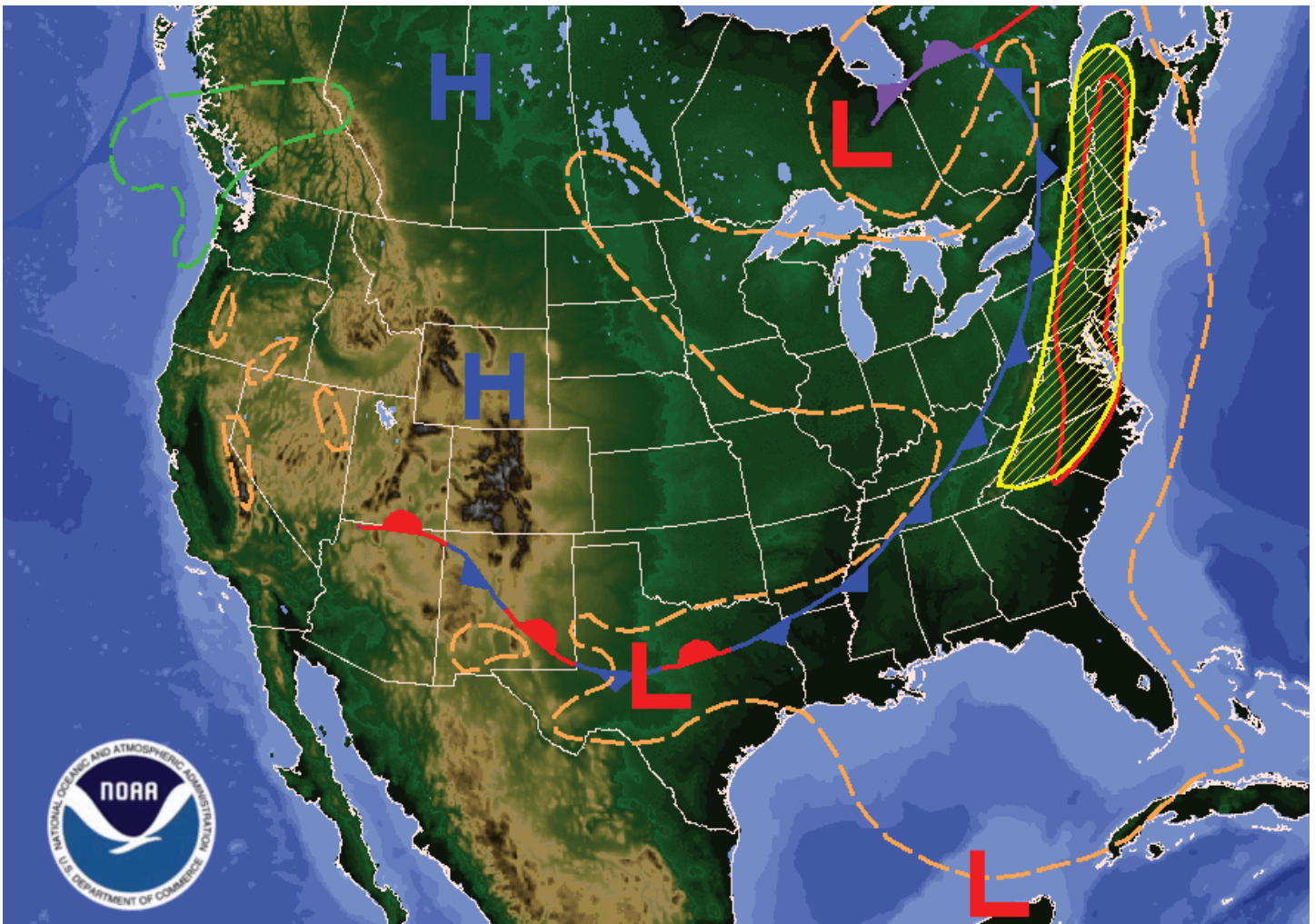
Precip to date in June: 2.43

Average Precip to date: 9.47

Precip Year to Date: 5.62

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jun 19, 2017, issued 4:29 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds 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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SELAH!

The word Selah appears seventy-one times in the Psalms and three times in the book of Habakkuk. Its specific meaning is not known but it implies that the reader, or the one listening to one who is reading the psalm, should pause or rest or stop and think of "this" or "that" – or whatever the writer was addressing. It is illuminating and inspiring when we actually apply it.

David was driven from his palace and people by his rebellious son, Absalom. When he saw his army and his advisors follow his son he wrote the third Psalm.

In his despair he wrote, "O Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me. Many are saying of me, 'God will not deliver him.'"

Then he paused, thought for a moment and said "Selah!" Which must have meant, "Wait a moment, David, and think of this." Think of what, we might ask. Being betrayed? Being pursued? Being driven from family and friends? Being driven from your throne?

Of course not. But, then, what is he to think of?

And he answers his own question: "You, oh Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts my head high!"

David ran away from his son, Absalom. But in so doing he ran into the arms of the Almighty God. He found in Him his protection from persecution and his source of salvation. There is no one like the Lord! He is our comfort in times of conflict and our protector when others pursue us.

Prayer: May we realize, O Lord, Your eternal power and presence over anything that could hurt or harm us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 3:8 From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.

News from the Associated Press

College World Series fan cuts head when struck by flying bat

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A 61-year-old man sitting behind the Louisville dugout at the College World Series sustained a minor cut to his head when he was struck by a bat that flew out of a player's hands Sunday.

Burke Perry of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was in the second row when Louisville's Josh Stowers lost grip of his bat as he swung at a pitch against Texas A&M to end the third inning. Perry said he saw the bat coming but couldn't get out of the way.

Nearby fans applied towels to Perry's head. Medics escorted him to a first-aid station, and he returned to his seat with his son a few minutes later.

Perry had about a 2-inch cut on the top of his head. He said the bat "just skimmed me."

Wind turbine opponents plan forums in Lincoln County

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Opponents of a proposed wind farm in southeastern South Dakota will hold two community meetings to outline their objections this week.

The sessions are scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday at Liberty Elementary School in Harrisburg and 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Lennox Community Library.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2tCNNo2>) reports the forums are in advance of a public referendum next month on whether to repeal or keep the Lincoln County Commission's vote to set wind turbines a half-mile or more from homes.

The company behind the wind development, Dakota Power Community Wind, says the commission's vote amounts to a ban on wind.

Opponents of the wind farm say the setbacks are necessary to protect homeowners' property values, health and safety from the impact of large turbines.

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

South Dakota planning archery complex expansion

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The National Field Archery Association is planning an expansion of an archery center in southeast South Dakota.

Association President Bruce Cull spoke to investors recently to discuss a large addition that the Easton Yankton Archery Complex will be making this year, the Yankton Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2tmkI07>) reported.

Cull said that one reason the center needs more space is for the 2018 World Indoor Archery Tournament it will be hosting in February. But he said another sport was also behind the idea.

"One of the issues that we had was the space that we need to do everything with all of these people, because this is an indoor tournament," he said. "We didn't quite have the room we've needed, and we've been talking about an expansion. Some different ideas came up, and one of them that hit the top was air rifle."

The new 24,000-square-foot addition will include extra multipurpose space that can be used for archery, air rifle ranges and other large non-archery events.

Cull says requirements for air rifle sports mimic many of those in place for competitive archery.

"Having clear-span space like this is really cool as far as being able to expand to another sport," he said. "We had the president of the NRA (National Rifle Association) here ... and I talked at length with him about the different opportunities. I've talked with the USOC (United States Olympic Committee), the USA Shooting director and there's a great desire to have something like this."

The project is expected to wrap up by the end of the year.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

South Dakota man selling more than 300 vehicles

MOBRIDGE, S.D. (AP) — A man in a northern South Dakota city is auctioning off vehicles this month that he's collected for the last 40 years, even attracting a bidder from Denmark.

Kerry Droog, owner of K & K Auto Parts in Mobridge, told the Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2rFc9wf>) that his collection of more than 300 vehicles and parts are participating in an online auction on a website called K-Bid.com. The auction began in May and ends June 26.

"It's time to give some of these a new owner," Droog said. "I just don't want to leave a mess for my wife."

Droog said many of the vehicles are missing pieces but that he hopes buyer will restore them. He said bidders have been calling from places across the country as well as in Denmark. His favorite vehicles he's selling include a Chevrolet from the 1920s and Dodge Power Wagons.

The 54-year-old started collecting old automobiles because his father, Preston Droog, runs auctions for a living. But Kerry Droog prefers collecting more than selling.

"I like how the craftsmanship was, I like the quality," he said. "I have a thing for the old stuff."

Kerry Droog said he'll continue collecting after the auction ends.

Preston Droog opened Droog's Auction Service with his wife, Diane, after he attended the World Wide College of Auctioneering in Iowa in 1969.

"I've always liked it," he said. "I always wanted to do it."

He and his wife auction off items such as old tractors, vehicles, guns and real estate.

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

Authorities ID Rapid City man fatally shot by police officer

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a Rapid City man who was fatally shot by a police officer.

The South Dakota Attorney General's office identifies the man as 48-year-old Joseph Paul Hogan.

Rapid City Police Chief Karl Jegeris says police responded to a report of an "active shooter situation" Saturday afternoon in a residential area in northern Rapid City. Shots were fired both before and after officers arrived on the scene.

Jegeris says police were working to evacuate nearby homes when the man left the house and threatened an officer. The chief says the man then shot at the officer, who returned fire. Hogan died at the scene. No one else was hurt.

The name of the officer was not released. The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating.

Japan investigates delay in reporting US Navy ship collision

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's coast guard is investigating why it took nearly an hour for a deadly collision between a U.S. Navy destroyer and a container ship to be reported.

A coast guard official said Monday they are trying to find out what the crew of the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal was doing before reporting the collision off Japan's coast to authorities 50 minutes later.

The ACX Crystal collided with the USS Fitzgerald off Japan's coast, killing seven of the destroyer's crew of nearly 300. The ships collided early Saturday morning, when the Navy said most of the 300 sailors on board would have been sleeping. Authorities have declined to speculate on a cause while the crash remains under investigation.

A track of the much-larger container ship's route by MarineTraffic, a vessel-tracking service, shows it

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made a sudden turn as if trying to avoid something at about 1:30 a.m., before continuing eastward. It then made a U-turn and returned around 2:30 a.m. to the area near the collision.

The coast guard initially said the collision occurred at 2:20 a.m. because the Philippine ship had reported it at 2:25 a.m. and said it just happened. After interviewing Filipino crewmembers, the coast guard has changed the collision time to 1:30 a.m.

Coast guard official Tetsuya Tanaka said they are trying to resolve what happened during the 50 minutes. He said officials are planning to get hold of a device with communication records to examine further details of the crash. Japan's Transport Safety Board also started an accident investigation Monday.

Nanami Meguro, a spokeswoman for NYK Line, the ship's operator, agreed with the revised timing of the collision.

Meguro said the ship was "operating as usual" until the collision at 1:30 a.m., as shown on a ship tracking service that the company uses. She said the ship reported to the coast guard at 2:25 a.m., but she could not provide details about what the ship was doing for nearly an hour.

"Because it was in an emergency, the crewmembers may not have been able to place a call," she said.

Coast guard officials are investigating the case as possible professional negligence, but no criminal charges have been pressed so far.

On Monday, the Navy's 7th Fleet identified the seven sailors who died. Navy divers recovered the bodies after the severely damaged Fitzgerald returned to the fleet's home in Yokosuka, Japan, with assistance from tug boats.

The victims were Gunner's Mate Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby, 19, from Palmyra, Virginia; Yeoman 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, from San Diego, California; Sonar Technician 3rd Class Ngoc T Truong Huynh, 25, from Oakville, Connecticut; Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, 26, from Weslaco, Texas; Fire Controlman 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, from Chula Vista, California; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin, 24, from Halethorpe, Maryland; and Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, from Elyria, Ohio.

In a statement, acting Navy Secretary Sean Stackley said, "We are all deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our fellow shipmates. ... As details emerge, we can all be proud of the heroic effort by the crew to tend to the needs of those injured and save the ship from further damage while returning safely to port."

He thanked "our Japanese allies" for their swift assistance, and said the Navy will fully investigate the cause.

The mother of a Navy sailor on board the ship said her son kept diving in his flooded berth to try to save his shipmates until it began running out of air pockets, while other survivors — believing their ship was under attack — hurried to man the guns.

Mia Sykes of Raleigh, North Carolina, told The Associated Press on Sunday that her 19-year-old son, Brayden Harden, was knocked out of his bunk by the impact and water immediately began filling the berth.

Sykes said her son told her that four men in his berth died, including those sleeping on bunks above and below him, while three died in the berth above his.

She said she hopes her son, from Herrin, Illinois, can come home to be with family as he works through what happened. "You have to realize most of them are 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds living with guilt. But I told him, 'There's a reason you're still here and make that count.'"

Associated Press writer Yuri Kageyama contributed to this story.

Iran calls missile attack on Syria militants a wider warning

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's ballistic missile strike targeting the Islamic State group in Syria served both as revenge for attacks on Tehran earlier this month and a warning that Iran could strike Saudi Arabia and U.S. interests in the Mideast, an Iranian general said Monday.

The launch, which hit Syria's eastern city of Deir el-Zour on Sunday night, appeared to be Iran's first

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missile attack abroad in over 15 years and its first in the Syrian conflict amid its support of embattled President Bashar Assad.

It adds new tensions in a region already unsettled by a long-running feud between Shiite power Iran and the Sunni kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as a campaign by Arab nations against Qatar.

It also raises questions about how U.S. President Donald Trump's administration, which already said it put Iran "on notice" for its ballistic missile tests, will respond.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard, a paramilitary force in charge of the country's missile program, said it launched six Zolfaghar ballistic missiles from the western provinces of Kermanshah and Kurdistan. State television footage showed the missiles on truck missile launchers in the daylight before being launched at night.

The missiles flew over Iraq before striking what the Guard called an Islamic State command center and suicide car bomb operation in Deir el-Zour, over 600 kilometers (370 miles) away. The extremists have been trying to fortify their positions in the Syrian city in the face of a U.S.-led coalition onslaught on Raqqa, the group's de facto capital.

Activists in Syria said they had no immediate information on damage or casualties from the strikes, nor did the Islamic State group immediately acknowledge it. The Guard released black-and-white footage it said came from a drone showing the strikes, a column of thick black smoke rising into the sky after the attack.

The Guard described the missile strike as revenge for attacks on Tehran earlier this month. Five Islamic State-linked attackers stormed Iran's parliament and a shrine to revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on June 7, killing at least 18 people and wounding more than 50. That Islamic State assault, the first to hit Iran, shook residents who believed the chaos engulfing the rest of the Middle East would not find them.

But the missiles sent a message to more than just the extremists in Iraq and Syria, Gen. Ramazan Sharif of the Guard told state television in a telephone interview.

"The Saudis and Americans are especially receivers of this message," he said. "Obviously and clearly, some reactionary countries of the region, especially Saudi Arabia, had announced that they are trying to bring insecurity into Iran."

The Zolfaghar missile, unveiled in September 2016, was described at the time as carrying a cluster warhead and being able to strike as far as 700 kilometers (435 miles) away.

That puts the missile in range of the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command in Qatar, American bases in the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain.

The missile also could strike Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. While Iran has other ballistic missiles it says can reach longer distances, Sunday night's launch appears to mark the longest strike it has launched abroad. Iran's last foreign missile strike is believed to have been carried out in April 2001, targeting an Iranian exile group in Iraq.

Iran has described the Tehran attackers as being "long affiliated with the Wahhabi," an ultraconservative form of Sunni Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia. However, it stopped short of directly blaming the kingdom for the attack, though many in the country have expressed suspicion that Iran's regional rival had a hand in the assault.

Emboldened Sunni Arab states backed by Trump have hardened their stance against Iran. Since Trump took office, his administration has put new economic sanctions on those allegedly involved with the program. However, the test launches haven't affect Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Sunday's launch also carried religious undertones.

The Guard, which answers only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called the launch "Operation Laylat al-Qadar," referring to the night Muslims believe the Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. That's believed to fall in the last 10 days of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, now underway. The name of the missile, Zolfaghar, is also the name of the sword used by Imam Ali, a cousin of the Prophet Muhammad and his successor, according to Shiite belief.

Israel also remains concerned about Iran's missile launches and has deployed a multilayered missile-defense system over fears of potential Iranian attacks. When Iran unveiled the Zolfaghar in 2016, it bore

a banner printed with a 2013 anti-Israeli quote by Khamenei saying that Iran will annihilate the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa should Israel attack Iran.

Israeli security officials said Monday they were studying the missile strike to see what they could learn about its accuracy and capabilities. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writers Zeina Karam in Beirut and Josef Federman in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

So it begins: Britain kicks off Brexit negotiations with EU

By RAF CASERT, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — A year after its historic vote, Britain on Monday finally opened negotiations with the other 27 European Union nations about leaving the bloc, with the final outcome, due in 2019, as globally important as it now seems unpredictable.

The two chief negotiators, Michel Barnier of the EU and David Davis from Britain, immediately set off to find common ground in their working relationship, an important touchstone to see how amicable the biggest political divorce in decades will become.

"Our objective is clear. We must first tackle the uncertainties caused by Brexit," centering on citizens living on each other's territory, border arrangements between Ireland and the United Kingdom and the amount that Britain stands to pay to get out of its previous EU commitments, Barnier said.

Davis said he was looking for a "positive and constructive tone" to deal with the myriad issues dividing both sides.

While the EU negotiating team led by Barnier has been ready for months, British efforts on Brexit stalled even after it triggered the two-year process on March 29. An early election this month, in which British Prime Minister Theresa May lost her Conservative majority in parliament, only added to the problems.

"Our big problem is that we have no picture, no idea at all, what the British want," said German Manfred Weber, the head of the EPP Christian Democrat group in the European Parliament. The other EU countries have a united position, but the British are "in chaos," Weber added.

May's government said it was "confident it can achieve a bold and ambitious deal that will work in the interest of the whole U.K."

The EU said it was also looking for a good compromise. Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz said: "If we don't succeed, both sides will lose."

Davis and Barnier have one key issue over the first weeks of talks: building trust after months of haggling over leaks and figures over the final bill that Britain would have to pay for leaving.

Time is pressing. After Britain's June 23, 2016 referendum to leave the bloc, the other 27 nations wanted to start the exit talks as soon as possible so they could work on their own futures, but Britain long seemed dazed by its own momentous move.

And even when May finally triggered the two-year unraveling process on March 29, she followed it up by calling an early election on June 8 that she hoped would strengthen her majority in parliament and thus her negotiating mandate with the EU. The move backfired, May lost her Conservative majority in the vote and has been fending off critics of her leadership ever since. The election left an image of a dysfunctional Britain coming up against a well-oiled EU negotiating machine.

Still, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson remained upbeat Monday and thinks that the Brexit negotiations will yield "a happy resolution that can be done with profit and honor for both sides."

Johnson urged Europeans to look at the more distant future.

"The most important thing for us is to look to the horizon, raise our eyes to the horizon. In the long run, this will be good for the U.K. and good for the rest of Europe," Johnson said at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

Driver plows into crowd outside London mosque, injuring 10

By DANICA KIRKA and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A driver plowed into a crowd of Muslim worshippers outside a north London mosque early Monday in an attack that police said they were investigating as a terrorist incident.

Ten people were injured and police said a man died at the scene, though he was receiving first aid at the time and it wasn't clear if he died as a result of the attack or something else.

Police said the 48-year-old man who was driving the van that hit people leaving evening prayers at the Finsbury Park mosque has been arrested and taken to a hospital as a precaution. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. Police have not released his identity. Eight of the injured were taken to hospitals, police said.

Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said police are investigating whether the death of the man who was being given first aid was a direct result of the attack, but it was too early to say for sure.

London police, already stretched by a series of recent tragedies including a high-rise fire in which 79 people are presumed dead and a terror attack near London Bridge that killed seven people, said they are putting more officers on the street to reassure the public. Muslim leaders called for calm.

"London is a city of many faiths and many nationalities. An attack on one community is an attack on all of us," Police Commissioner Cressida Dick said. "Terrorists will not succeed in their attempts to divide us and make us live in fear."

London's Mayor Sadiq Khan, the first Muslim to serve in that position, urged the public to focus on shared values and the city to stand together in an unprecedented period in the capital's history. The attack hits a community already feeling targeted in the fallout from the London Bridge killings and other attacks blamed on Islamic extremists.

"While this appears to be an attack on a particular community, like the terrible attacks in Manchester, Westminster and London Bridge it is also an assault on all our shared values of tolerance, freedom and respect," Khan said. "The situation is still unfolding and I urge all Londoners to remain calm and vigilant."

Sky News reported that the mosque's imam prevented the crowd from beating the attacker until police arrived.

Toufik Kacimi, chief executive of the Muslim Welfare House, speaking to Sky News, said the attack clearly targeted Muslims, who were leaving evening prayers during Ramadan.

"We have a witness saying that the guy who did what he did, the driver of the van, said 'I did my bit,' which means he's not mentally ill," Kacimi said. "This person was conscious. He did what he did deliberately to hit and kill as many Muslims as possible, so he is a terrorist."

The Finsbury Park mosque was associated with extremist ideology for several years after the 9/11 attacks in the United States, but was shut down and reorganized. It has not been associated with radical views for more than a decade.

It is located a short walk away from Emirates Stadium, home of the Arsenal football club in north London.

Prime Minister Theresa May said she would chair an emergency security Cabinet session Monday. She said her thoughts were with the injured, their loved ones and emergency officials who responded to the incident.

Britain's terrorist alert has been set at "severe," meaning an attack is highly likely.

Earlier this month on London Bridge, attackers used a vehicle and then knives to kill eight people and wound many others on the bridge and in the nearby Borough Market area. Three Islamic extremists who carried out the attack were killed by police. Earlier this year, a man plowed into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing four people before stabbing a police officer outside Parliament.

Manchester was also hit in May when a bomber killed more than 20 people at an Ariana Grande concert.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. SUSPECT DETAINED AFTER VAN PLOWS INTO MUSLIMS IN LONDON

Police say the driver was arrested immediately after the attack, which is being treated as a terrorist incident.

2. JAPAN LOOKS AT LAPSE IN REPORTING OF AT-SEA COLLISION

Japan's coast guard tries to determine why it took nearly an hour for a deadly collision between a U.S. Navy destroyer and a container ship to be reported.

3. RAGING WILDFIRE KILLS 62 IN PORTUGAL

The disaster shakes the nation, with the president declaring that the country's pain "knows no end."

4. WHERE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS CAN FIND HELP

From its beginnings in Argentina, a movement called Ni Una Menos — or Not One Less — spreads worldwide and now has branches in New York, Berlin, Italy, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador and elsewhere.

5. TRUMP LAWYER SAYS PRESIDENT NOT UNDER INVESTIGATION

The denial comes days after Donald Trump appeared to confirm he is being investigated, complaining that he's the target of a "witch hunt."

6. WHO LIBERAL GROUPS TURN TO AFTER PRESIDENT TRUMP IGNORES THEM

Activists have been appealing to Ivanka Trump for help on climate change, international labor conditions and immigration — without much luck.

7. WHY RESEARCHERS ARE RECRUITING 10,000 NEW YORKERS

They need participants for a wide-ranging study called "The Human Project" that aims to channel different data streams into a river of insight on health, aging, education and many other aspects of people's lives.

8. FRENCH PRESIDENT WINS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN ASSEMBLY

Emmanuel Macron is poised to rearrange his Cabinet after his new centrist party swept parliamentary elections.

9. HARVARD DECISION TO DENY ADMISSIONS OVER OFFENSIVE POSTS STIRS DEBATE

It comes at a time of heightened attention to free speech and student conduct on U.S. college campuses.

10. BROOKS KOEPKA SHOOT 5-UNDER PAR TO WIN US OPEN

Koepka broke away from a tight pack with three straight birdies on the back nine en route to his first major championship.

In spite of tweet, lawyer says Trump not under investigation

By CATHERINE LUCEY and HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A member of the president's outside legal team says Donald Trump is not under federal investigation, days after Trump appeared to confirm he was with a tweet about being the target of a "witch hunt."

Appearing on a series of morning news programs, attorney Jay Sekulow repeatedly stressed Sunday that "the president has not been and is not under investigation." He said a Friday tweet from Trump was specifically directed at a story in The Washington Post about the expanding probe into Russia's election meddling.

As evidence, Sekulow said that Trump has not been notified of any investigation. He also cited the testimony from former FBI Director James Comey before the Senate intelligence committee, in which Comey said he had told Trump he was not under investigation in the months leading up to his May 9 firing.

Asked about the possibility that an investigation has since developed and the president just does not know, Sekulow said: "I can't read people's minds, but I can tell you this, we have not been notified that there's an investigation to the president of the United States. So that — nothing has changed in that regard since James Comey's testimony."

The Post reported last week that Robert Mueller — the special counsel appointed to investigate Russian

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involvement in the 2016 presidential election — was looking into whether Trump obstructed justice. Mueller was appointed by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and has expansive powers to probe any matters that develop from his initial investigation.

The president wrote on Twitter Friday: "I am being investigated for firing the FBI Director by the man who told me to fire the FBI Director! Witch Hunt."

"Witch hunt" has become Trump's preferred phrase to dismiss the probe into Russian election interference. The message apparently referred to Rosenstein, whose role leading the federal investigation has become increasingly complicated. The White House used a memo he wrote to justify Trump's decision to fire Comey, but Trump's firing of the FBI director may now be part of the 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.

The president has directed some of his frustration at Rosenstein and Mueller. Sen. Marco Rubio said Sunday that he does not expect Trump to seek to fire them.

"I don't believe it's going to happen," said Rubio on CNN's "State of the Union." "The best thing that could happen for the president, and the country, is a full and credible investigation."

Trump is under pressure to reveal whether he has any tape recordings of private conversations with Comey. Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said that the panel — overseeing one of several congressional investigations — is looking forward to getting a response from the White House on whether recordings exist.

The president suggested on Twitter that he may have taped those conversations. Schiff said he wants the White House to acknowledge the tapes or make clear there are no tapes and "it was an idle threat."

The committee sent a bipartisan letter this month to White House counsel Don McGahn seeking an answer by this Friday. It also sent a letter to Comey asking for any notes or memos. Schiff said if the panel can't get an answer then he believes a subpoena will be needed.

Schiff also said he believes recent congressional testimony from Comey and Attorney General Jeff Sessions points to signs of possible obstruction by Trump that warrant further investigation. Schiff cited the fact that the president at one meeting "cleared the room" of advisers and asked to speak to Comey alone. Comey testified to Congress that Trump then asked him to back off the investigation into his fired national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

"That signifies this president knew all too well that it was inappropriate," Schiff said.

And Senate intelligence committee member Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine, stressed that the probe will likely last for a long time. King said the "collusion, the cooperation aspect of the investigation is not over." He added: "A lot of people have said, 'When do you think you'll be done?' Maybe the end of the year. This is a very complex matter, involving thousands of pages of intelligence documents, lots of witnesses. There's a lot of information yet to go."

While aides have advised Trump to stay off Twitter, the president continued to weigh in Sunday as he spent the weekend at Camp David, the government-owned presidential retreat in Maryland.

In a two-part tweet posted before 7 a.m., Trump wrote: "The MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN agenda is doing very well despite the distraction of the Witch Hunt."

Sekulow appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," CNN's "State of the Union," CBS's "Face the Nation" and "Fox News Sunday" on Fox. Rubio spoke on NBC, CNN and CBS. Schiff spoke on ABC's "This Week" and King spoke on NBC.

London police plead for calm after attack at mosque

By **DANICA KIRKA** and **GREGORY KATZ**, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — London police, already stretched by a series of major incidents around the capital, are putting more officers on the street to reassure the public after a driver plowed into a crowd of people leaving a mosque early Monday. One man died at the scene and 10 people were injured.

Police say a suspect was arrested immediately after the attack, which is being treated as a terrorist

incident.

"Extra officers are on duty in the area to help reassure the local community," Police Commissioner Cresida Dick said. "They will be there for as long as they are needed. Communities will see additional officers patrolling across the city and at Muslim places of worship."

Police said the 48-year-old man who was driving the van has been arrested and taken to a hospital as a precaution. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder. It was not immediately clear why no charge had been made in relation to the one death.

The attack will stretch the capacity of authorities in Britain, who have faced four attacks in recent months, together with a major fire that has killed dozens. London's Mayor Sadiq Khan, the first Muslim to serve in that position, urged the public to focus on shared values and urged the city to stand together in an unprecedented period in the capital's history.

"While this appears to be an attack on a particular community, like the terrible attacks in Manchester, Westminster and London Bridge it is also an assault on all our shared values of tolerance, freedom and respect," he said. "The situation is still unfolding and I urge all Londoners to remain calm and vigilant."

Eyewitnesses told British media that the van seemed to have veered and hit people intentionally. Sky News reported that the mosque's imam prevented the crowd from beating the attacker until police arrived.

Mohammed Shafiq of the Ramadhan Foundation, a Muslim organization, said that based on eyewitness reports, it seems to be a "deliberate attack against innocent Muslims."

The Finsbury Park mosque was associated with extremist ideology for several years after the 9/11 attacks in the United States, but was shut down and reorganized. It has not been associated with radical views for more than a decade.

It is located a short walk away from Emirates Stadium, home of the Arsenal football club in north London.

Prime Minister Theresa May said she would chair an emergency security Cabinet session later Monday. She said her thoughts were with the injured, their loved ones and emergency officials who responded to the incident.

Britain's terrorist alert has been set at "severe," meaning an attack is highly likely.

Earlier this month on London Bridge, attackers used a vehicle and then knives to kill eight people and wound many others on the bridge and in the nearby Borough Market area. Three Muslim extremists who carried out the attack were killed by police.

Manchester was also hit by a severe attack when a bomber killed more than 20 people at an Ariana Grande concert.

Indiana Christian school at center of LGBT voucher debate

By **BRIAN SLODYSKO** and **MARIA DANILOVA**, Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP) — The Lighthouse Christian Academy promises to provide an exemplary education, a caring atmosphere and service to God — but not for everyone. The school says in its admissions brochure that it reserves the right to deny admission to LGBT students because their lifestyle is prohibited by the Bible.

As the Trump administration seeks to expand school choice nationwide, the academy was thrust into the national spotlight last month as part of a heated debate over whether schools that receive money from taxpayer-funded vouchers can discriminate against certain groups of students, such as LGBT children or students with disabilities.

Lighthouse officials say they've never turned anyone away based on sexual orientation. But at a congressional hearing, Senate Democrats cited it as an example of a school that discriminates against LGBT students. A Lighthouse brochure says the Bible does not allow homosexual, bisexual or "any form of sexual immorality" and if a student's "home life" violates biblical rules, the school can deny them admission or expel them.

Pressed on the issue, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, an ardent supporter of school choice, told the Senate committee that discrimination is wrong, but that it was up to Congress and the courts, not her

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department, to intervene.

Founded in the early 1990s by a tight-knit group of families who wanted an affordable Christian education for their children, the academy is now an academically successful K-12 school serving 300 children in the Bloomington area. About half receive vouchers to help pay an annual tuition that ranges from \$4,500 to \$6,000 depending on a student's grade.

This year, Lighthouse received over \$665,000 in state funds to enroll 152 students.

DeVos and the Trump administration are strong proponents of giving states a greater role in education. Earlier this year, the administration rescinded former President Barack Obama's guidance that instructed to schools to let students use school restrooms in accordance with the gender they identify with, not their sex at birth. The move sparked criticism from the civil rights community.

The administration is looking at taxpayer-funded vouchers as a way to expand school choice nationwide, but it has not yet come out with a specific plan on how to do it.

Indiana is one of 30 states that use public money for school choice programs, including vouchers, educational savings accounts and tax-credit scholarships. The District of Columbia has the country's only federally funded voucher program. All told, some 450,000 students participate nationally.

In a study last year, Indiana University professor Suzanne Eckes found that none of the states with voucher programs prohibits discrimination against LGBT students.

Lighthouse defends its right to educate children according to its values, saying that Christians are state taxpayers, too, and should be allowed to fund institutions of their choice with their money.

"Parents are free to choose which school best comports with their religious convictions," Brian Bailey, an attorney who is serving as the school's spokesman, said in a statement. "For a real choice and thus real liberty to exist, the government may not impose its own orthodoxy and homogenize all schools to conform to politically correct attitudes and ideologies."

Former Lighthouse student Mary Wegener, 24, says some of her classmates at the school were gay and received love and care. Bailey confirmed that the school did admit some students who were "tempted by same-sex intimacy," saying "we teach our students to flee these sins."

Wegener sees both sides of the story, but says a religious school cannot function contrary to its core beliefs.

"If they (Lighthouse) are going to be a Christian school, they can't conform to everything else, because then that would be a private school that knocked out the Christian name."

Carissa Dollar, 46, of Indianapolis, who has a transgender daughter, is unconvinced.

"I have a problem with public funds going to a private institution who then make decisions that would be discriminatory to any group," Dollar said. "It's wrong if an LGBT student, or even if someone in their family identifies on the LGBT spectrum, could be denied admission to the school."

Dick Komer, senior attorney with Institute for Justice, a libertarian public interest law firm, said that federal law has protections against discrimination on the basis of race, national identity, sex and religion, but they do not extend to LGBT individuals.

"If the people who are grilling DeVos believe that sex includes sexual orientation and gender identity, then they should propose amendments to the statutes that they have written and given her to enforce," Komer said. "The Congress is supposed to write the law, the agency is supposed to administer what Congress has given them. And Congress hasn't given it to them."

Eckes, the Indiana University professor, said states must create protections to ensure that any benefit they create is available to all. She said that decades ago some private schools used their own interpretation of the Bible to exclude African-American students and federal protections were necessary to stop those practices.

"If you accept public money in the form of a voucher then you shouldn't be able to discriminate whether it's based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability or sexual orientation," Eckes said. "If you agree to take that public money, then there are certain rules that you need to follow."

Lindsey Burke, director of education policy studies at the conservative Heritage Foundation, disagrees.

"Racism was based on identity and skin color and had no reasonable basis," Burke said. "This is about whether a student, a family is going to live out their communal beliefs of the school that they have chosen

to attend. These are intentional communities that are built upon a moral code that they have decided on.”

Lily Eskelsen García, president of the National Education Association, the country’s largest teachers’ union, said the Trump administration’s attempt to fund private schools takes away money from public schools, where discrimination is not allowed.

“Every child, every blessed child has the legal, civil and the human right to attend their public school, but no one can say that about a private school,” Eskelsen Garcia said. “Why would you get public dollars to a school that discriminates against students?”

Danilova reported from Washington.

Long road: Koepka’s journey now includes a US Open title

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

ERIN, Wis. (AP) — The list of places Brooks Koepka had to go to win golf tournaments looks like a page straight out of a travelogue.

Spain. Scotland. Turkey. Japan.

On Sunday, he added Erin Hills in Wisconsin to the list — the stop that made all those frequent flier miles worth it.

The 27-year-old American, who had to leave his home country and join Europe’s minor-league tour to get his career going, won the U.S. Open. He set aside the wind and the pressure to subdue Erin Hills after it finally got some teeth following three rounds of soft greens and prime scoring conditions.

The wind kicked up, but it didn’t faze Koepka. He shot 5-under par and made only one bogey to finish at 16-under 272. That was four shots clear of Hideki Matsuyama and Brian Harman. The only drama at the end was whether he’d make birdie on the par-5 18th to break Rory McIlroy’s scoring record in relation to par.

Koepka settled for a tap-in par, but that didn’t matter. He earned \$2.16 million, his nation’s championship and the comfort of knowing the far-flung trips to Kenya and Kazakhstan and India and beyond are all in the rearview mirror.

“To get to travel the world at 22, 21 years old, and do what you do for a living is pretty neat,” Koepka said. “I’ll go anywhere. ... I think it helped me grow up a little bit and really figure out that, hey, play golf, get it done, and then you can really take this somewhere. And I built a lot of confidence off of that.”

His confidence in the final round came, in part, from a short conversation the night before with Dustin Johnson, a friend who had been through his share of close calls and heartbreaks before finally becoming a major champion at the U.S. Open last year.

Take the shots one at a time, Johnson told him.

Turns out, they think pretty much the same. Play the same, too.

“He’s going to overpower golf courses, and he’s got a great demeanor,” said Bill Haas, who finished tied for fifth. “He’s just like Dustin, I would say. They’re very much a similar player, where nothing seems to bother them. And it’s no surprise.”

Tied for the lead with six holes left, Koepka made an 8-foot par putt on 13 that gave him confidence in his putting stroke. He followed that up with birdies on the next three holes.

Only Matsuyama displayed that kind of scoring ability Sunday. But he started the day six shots out of the lead. His round of 66 was over nearly 90 minutes before Koepka strolled to the 18th green, with the tournament all but wrapped up.

“I learned a lot this week,” Matsuyama said. “Hopefully, though, in the future, in majors, I can play in the either last or next-to-last group to give myself a better chance.”

Other than him, nobody made a charge.

Rickie Fowler and Justin Thomas were the popular favorites. But Thomas followed his record-setting 63 with a 75, and his hopes were essentially dashed after three bogeys over the first five holes. Fowler shot 72 and finished at 10 under, in a tie for fifth. It’s a score that would’ve won all but two of the previous 116 renditions of the U.S. Open.

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But not this one.

Erin Hills never quite shaped up as the exacting, U.S. Open-type course it could have been. It was long — the longest in U.S. Open history — and the fescue lining the fairways was brutal. But the fairways were generous and the wind that serves as the course's best defense didn't kick up until the end.

"It would be a lot of fun to see this place firm and fast," Fowler said.

Hard to think it would've bothered Koepka, who has seen a lot.

Upon getting out of Florida State, he was without a card on any tour, so went onto the Challenge Tour, which is Europe's version of the Web.com Tour.

Asked about the low point, he said it came one night in Scotland when he called his agent and said he wanted to come home.

"I was kind of, I don't want to say homesick, it was just, tired of golf. Tired of traveling. I just wanted to be home," he said.

He won that tournament, made it to the regular European Tour, and then made it home to the PGA Tour. He came into the U.S. Open with one Ryder Cup appearance under his belt, and three top-five finishes in majors. More than worrying about the uncertainty of his career, he was trying to figure a way to close one of these big ones out.

He did it. Now, his journey includes a victory in Wisconsin — in the U.S. Open, no less.

"I'd love to get a map and just look at all the places I've won," Koepka said. "It's pretty cool."

Pentagon: US shoots down Syrian aircraft for first time

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military on Sunday shot down a Syrian Air Force fighter jet that bombed local forces aligned with the Americans in the fight against Islamic State militants, an action that appeared to mark a new escalation of the conflict.

The U.S. had not shot down a Syrian regime aircraft before Sunday's confrontation, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. While the U.S. has said since it began recruiting, training and advising what it calls moderate Syrian opposition forces to fight IS that it would protect them from potential Syrian government retribution, this was the first time it resorted to engaging in air-to-air combat to make good on that promise.

The U.S.-led coalition headquarters in Iraq said in a written statement that a U.S. F-18 Super Hornet shot down a Syrian government SU-22 after it dropped bombs near the U.S. partner forces, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The shutdown was near Tabqa, a Syrian town in an area that has been a weeklong focus of fighting against IS militants by the SDF as they surround the city of Raqqa and attempt to retake it from IS.

The U.S. military statement said it acted in "collective self defense" of its partner forces and that the U.S. did not seek a fight with the Syrian government or its Russian supporters.

According to a statement from the Pentagon, pro-Syrian regime forces attacked the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces-held town of Ja'Din, south of Tabqah in northern Syria, wounding a number of SDF fighters and driving the SDF from the town.

Coalition aircraft conducted a show of force and stopped the initial pro-regime advance toward the town, the Pentagon said. Following the pro-Syrian forces attack, the coalition called its Russian counterparts "to de-escalate the situation and stop the firing," according to the statement.

A few hours later, the Syrian SU-22 dropped bombs near SDF fighters and, "in collective self-defense of coalition-partnered forces," was immediately shot down by a U.S. F/A-18E Super Hornet, the Pentagon said.

"The coalition's mission is to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria," the Pentagon said, using an abbreviation for the Islamic State group. "The coalition does not seek to fight Syrian regime, Russian or pro-regime forces partnered with them, but will not hesitate to defend coalition or partner forces from any threat."

U.S. forces tangled earlier this month with Syria-allied aircraft in the region. On June 8, U.S. officials

reported that a drone likely connected to Iranian-supported Hezbollah forces fired on U.S.-backed troops and was shot down by an American fighter jet. The incident took place in southern Syria near a base where the U.S.-led coalition was training Syrian rebels fighting the Islamic State group.

An Army spokesman at the Pentagon said at the time that the drone carried more weapons and was considered a direct threat, prompting the shutdown.

Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

Mother: Son tried to save Navy shipmates after collision

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and TAMMY WEBBER, Associated Press

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AP) — The mother of a U.S. Navy sailor said her son kept diving to try to save his shipmates after a collision at sea until their flooded sleeping berth began running out of air pockets, while other survivors — believing their ship was under attack — hurried to man the guns.

Mia Sykes of Raleigh, North Carolina, told The Associated Press on Sunday that her 19-year-old son, Brayden Harden, was knocked out of his bunk by the impact, and water immediately began filling the berth, after their destroyer, the USS Fitzgerald, collided with a Philippine-flagged container ship four times its size off the Japanese coast.

The ships collided about 2:20 a.m. Saturday, when the Navy said most of the 300 sailors on board would have been sleeping, and authorities have declined to speculate on a cause while the crash remains under investigation.

Sykes says her son told her that four men in his berth, including those sleeping on bunks above and below him died, while three died in the berth above his.

"They did what they were trained to do," said Sykes, who said she hopes her son, from Herrin, Illinois, can come home to be with family as he works through what happened. "You have to realize most of them are 18, 19 and 20-year-olds living with guilt. But I told him, 'There's a reason you're still here and make that count.'"

On Monday morning in Japan, the Navy's 7th Fleet identified the seven sailors who died. Navy divers had recovered the bodies after the severely damaged Fitzgerald returned to the fleet's home in Yokosuka, Japan, on Saturday with assistance from tug boats.

The victims were Gunner's Mate Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby, 19, from Palmyra, Virginia; Yeoman 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass, 25, from San Diego, California; Sonar Technician 3rd Class Ngoc T Truong Huynh, 25, from Oakville, Connecticut; Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Noe Hernandez, 26, from Weslaco, Texas; Fire Controlman 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, 23, from Chula Vista, California; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin, 24, from Halethorpe, Maryland; and Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm Jr., 37, from Elyria, Ohio.

In a statement, acting Navy Secretary Sean Stackley said, "We are all deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our fellow shipmates. ... As details emerge, we can all be proud of the heroic effort by the crew to tend to the needs of those injured and save the ship from further damage while returning safely to port."

He thanked "our Japanese allies" for their swift assistance, and said the Navy will full investigate the cause.

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, the commander of the 7th Fleet, described a harrowing scene as other sailors fought to keep the ship from sinking. Most of the damage is below the waterline, including a large gash near the keel, Aucoin said.

"The water flow was tremendous, and so there wasn't a lot of time in those spaces that were open to the sea. And as you can see now, the ship is still listing, so they had to fight the ship to keep it above the surface. It was traumatic," Aucoin said at a news conference at the Yokosuka base on Sunday.

He said one machinery room and two berthing areas for 116 crew members were severely damaged from the impact to the ship's side. Navy spokesman Lt. Paul Newell said the victims may have been killed by the impact of the collision or drowned in the flooding.

The Fitzgerald's captain, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, suffered a head injury in the collision and was airlifted to

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the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka. Two other crew members suffered cuts and bruises and were also flown out by helicopter.

Conditions were clear at the time of the collision, though the area is particularly busy with sea traffic.

The damage to the destroyer suggests that the container ship, the ACX Crystal, might have slammed into it at a high speed, raising questions about communication between the two vessels in an area where as many as 400 ships pass through every day, according to Japan's coast guard. Most congestion occurs in the early hours of the day, and fast currents make it a tricky area that requires experience and skill to navigate.

The ACX Crystal weighs 29,060 tons and is 222 meters (730 feet) long, much larger than the 8,315-ton destroyer.

The container ship's left bow was dented and scraped, and accident investigators from the Japanese transport ministry found further damage below its waterline. Footage from Japanese broadcaster NHK showed a sharp horizontal cut across the bow area, which looked like a shark's mouth. Many scratches were also seen in the frontal area.

Some ship trackers showed the container ship making a U-turn before the collision, a move that has raised questions about what happened. Both Aucoin and the Japanese coast guard, however, said it was too early to determine what led to the collision.

The coast guard questioned crew members of the ACX Crystal, and is treating the collision as a case of possible professional negligence, said Masayuki Obara, a regional coast guard official.

All of the ACX Crystal's 20-member Filipino crew were safe, according to Japanese shipping company Nippon Yusen K.K., which operates the ship.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a sympathy message to President Donald Trump. "We are struck by deep sorrow," Abe said in the message. "I express my heartfelt solidarity to America at this difficult time."

Jennifer Adkison of Granbury, Texas, whose 20-year-old son, Bruce Adkison, a fifth-generation sailor, survived the collision, said in a Facebook message that families are grieving for those who died and trying to get clothing and other items to survivors who lost all their possessions.

"The only other day I have been so overwhelmed with joy to hear my son's voice was the day he was born," Adkison said.

Webber reported from Chicago.

This story has been corrected to show that the name of one victim is Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan, not Carlosvictor.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi>

Find her work also on APNews at <https://www.apnews.com/search/mari%20yamaguchi>

Brooks Koepka caps a record week with US Open title

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

ERIN, Wis. (AP) — Brooks Koepka received a short piece of advice from a valuable source on the eve of the final round at the U.S. Open.

Defending champion Dustin Johnson was doing most of the talking.

"It was a long phone call for us — it was like two minutes," Koepka said. "But he just said a few things, and just stay patient. And I'll win if I stay patient and just keep doing what I'm doing."

What he did looked awfully familiar Sunday at Erin Hills, minus any mess involving the rules.

With athleticism and power, and four straight putts over the back nine that allowed him to pull away, Koepka capped off his hardscrabble journey around the world and found stardom at home as the U.S. Open champion.

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He closed with a 5-under 67, only realizing after his par on the final hole that a birdie would have set yet another U.S. Open record in a week filled with them.

Koepka finished at 16-under 272, matching the lowest score to par first set by Rory McIlroy six years ago at Congressional.

Tied for the lead with six holes to play, Koepka holed an 8-foot par putt on the 13th hole that gave him confidence with his stroke and momentum to pour in birdies on the next three holes to turn the final hour into a celebration of another young star in golf.

The 27-year-old Koepka wound up winning by four shots over Brian Harman, who was done in by back-to-back bogeys right when Koepka was making his run, and Hideki Matsuyama, who closed with a 66.

"That's probably the most emotion I've ever shown coming down the stretch," Koepka said. "It feels amazing to get my name on this trophy with so many other great names. It's truly an honor."

Emotion? The most he displayed was a light fist pump, his hand clenched a little tighter with each birdie, and a double fist pump on the 18th when he tapped in for par.

It's not much different from Johnson.

They are close friends on the golf course and in the gym, and they play a similar game of power off the tee, a clean strike with the iron and a knack for looking calm even as the pressure is ramping up.

And now their names are on the U.S. Open trophy, one after the other.

It capped quite a journey for the Floridian. Without a card on any tour when Koepka got out of Florida State, he filled his passport on the Challenge Tour with stamps from Kazakhstan to Kenya, Scotland and Spain, India and the Madeira Island.

One night in Scotland, he called his agent and wanted to come home, even though he was leading the tournament. He had been on the road for so long, in so many different countries, and was feeling lonely. He won the next day to graduate to the European Tour. The next year, he earned a spot in the U.S. Open through a qualifier in England, and his tie for fourth at Pinehurst No. 2 helped him earn a card on the PGA Tour.

Koepka took it from there — a victory in Turkey against a strong field, his first PGA Tour victory in the Phoenix Open, his first Ryder Cup and now a major championship.

"To go over there, I think it helped me grow up a little bit and really figure out that, hey, play golf, get it done, and then you can really take this somewhere," he said.

Koepka became the seventh straight first-time winner of a major championship, and it was the first time since 1998-2000 that Americans won their national championship three straight years.

Tommy Fleetwood, who played alongside Koepka and closed with a 72 to finish fourth, played the Challenge Tour a year before Koepka arrived.

"It gives you a good grounding," Fleetwood said. "Obviously, Brooks dealt with it amazingly. He came and kicked everyone's (behind) over there, didn't he? But he's proven for a long time how good he is. Now he's done it in a major."

It was only fitting that Koepka left Erin Hills with yet another record matched or broken.

McIlroy finished at 16-under 268 when he won on rain-softened Congressional in the 2011 U.S. Open. But the low scoring went much deeper than that. Only six players had ever reached double digits under par in the previous 116 times at the U.S. Open. McIlroy and Tiger Woods (12 under at Pebble Beach in 2000) had been the only players to finish there.

This week alone, nine players reached at least 10 under and seven finished there.

Xander Schauffele, a rookie on the PGA Tour playing in his first U.S. Open, birdied his last hole for a 69 to tie for fifth at 10-under 268 along with Bill Haas (69) and Rickie Fowler (72), who was poised at yet another major to win only to fall back. Fowler started one shot out of the lead at the Masters this year and shot 76. He was only two behind when he made the turn, but bogeys on the 12th and 15th holes — and no birdies until No. 18 — ended his hopes.

Justin Thomas, coming off a 9-under 63 that matched the major championship scoring record and was the first 9-under round at a U.S. Open, went out in 39 and closed with a 75 to tie for ninth.

The week ended with 31 players under par, breaking the U.S. Open record of 28 players at Medinah in 1990. There were 133 sub-par rounds, nine more than the previous record in that 1990 U.S. Open.

Gunmen attack resort in Mali's capital, killing 2

By BABA AHMED, Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — Jihadis attacked a hotel resort Sunday in Mali's capital, taking hostages at a spot popular with foreigners on the weekends. More than 30 people managed to escape though at least two people were killed, authorities said.

Moussa Ag Infahi, director of the national police, told The Associated Press that three of the assailants had been killed while a fourth escaped.

Gunfire first rang out at the Campement Kangaba on the outskirts of Bamako in the late afternoon, according to a security guard who was working at the time.

Mahamadou Doumbia said a militant on a motorcycle entered the area around 3:40 p.m. and cried "Allah Akbar" before jumping off and running toward the pool area.

"Then a car with three jihadis entered the resort and they started to fire their weapons," he said. "A French soldier who had come for the weekend but had his gun shot and wounded" a jihadi.

Mali's security minister later issued a statement confirming at least two deaths, one of which was a dual French-Gabonese citizen.

As night fell, witnesses saw smoke rising from the Campement Kangaba, which features three swimming pools and is a popular escape from the Malian heat. It was not immediately clear what was burning, although extremists in other attacks have set cars ablaze.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which took place amid the final week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In predominantly Muslim Mali, people have been fasting from sunrise to sundown for three weeks.

Sunday's violence came about a week after the U.S. State Department warned of possible attacks on Western diplomatic missions and other locations in Bamako that Westerners frequent.

A U.N. official who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to journalists said those at the resort when the attack began included people affiliated with the French military mission, as well as the U.N. and European Union missions in the country.

Religious extremism in Mali once was limited to northern areas, prompting the French military in 2013 to lead a military operation to oust jihadis from power in the major towns in the north. But the militants have continued targeting Malian forces and peacekeepers, making it the deadliest U.N. mission in the world.

There are no French troops based in Bamako, but about 2,000 French troops are based in northern Mali fighting Islamic extremists.

French President Emmanuel Macron was informed about the attack and was following the events carefully, according to an official in his office.

In recent years, the extremists have become even more brazen, attacking sites frequented by Westerners. In March 2015, five people died when militants hit a popular restaurant in the capital. A devastating attack on the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako later that year left 20 dead - six Malians and 14 foreigners.

That attack was jointly claimed by both the regional al-Qaida affiliate and a group known as Al Mourabitoun, which was founded by Moktar Belmoktar after he fell out with al-Qaida leaders.

In a video released in March, jihadis said those two were joining together along with two Mali-based terror groups.

Associated Press writers Krista Larson in Dakar, Senegal, and Angela Charlton in Paris contributed.

Prada takes inspiration from graphic novels for Milan show

By COLLEEN BARRY, AP Fashion Writer

MILAN (AP) — A fresh breeze buffeted Italy's fashion capital during the second day of Milan Fashion Week on Sunday, both literally, bringing relief from the June heat, and figuratively, as young designers took the spotlight.

They brought with them fresh silhouettes with new proportions and reinterpretations of old summertime favorites from linens to stripes.

Here are highlights from menswear previews Sunday in Milan for next spring and summer:

PRADA REALITY

Miuccia Prada took inspiration from graphic novels for her latest collection, which aims to create a dialogue between the virtual world and the real world.

The virtual world is in an exhibit at the brand's Fondazione Prada contemporary art exhibition space. Fashion is Prada's reality.

She employed two artists — James Jean from Los Angeles and Ollie Schrauwen of Belgium — to create graphic stories on a human and not superhero scale that covered the walls of the showroom and became the prints that defined Sunday's menswear collection in Milan.

Scenes included a robot monkey and an oversized spider descending to pick up houses. Prada said she was attracted to the comics because they turn out information in bit-size pieces -- much the same way social media does today.

Nylon jumpsuits defined the Prada silhouette, belted at the waist and gathered at the ankles and cuffs with plastic Prada labels. Shirt collars were turned up. There was a shorts version worn with Prada men's knee socks and pointy leather shoes.

The silhouette was repeated in casualwear, with sweaters tucked into athletic-style trousers. Meshed sweaters of horizontal stripes tucked into houndstooth pattern trousers turned up into a thick cuff. Sandals with socks anchored those looks.

Graphic prints appeared in both pastel colors and black and white on shirts, jacket panels and bags. Prada said she added overcoats to unify the looks.

"Everything was a little naive, too simple," she said. "We thought these big heavy coats would be the right counterpart. That is just fashion."

TEXTURES AT FERRAGAMO

Guillaume Meilland's second collection for Ferragamo is inspired by the Mediterranean coastline shared by his native France and adopted Italy.

The looks are defined by texture: cable-knit fishermen's sweaters, velvety shorts, corduroy trousers and suede laser cut tops, all hearty fare for wind-swept seaside strolls. The designer also added touches of whimsy like sea horse prints and coral key chains.

"Yes I like the idea of having, for me, something very Italian, something very much linked to the idea of the holidays and the seaside," Meilland said backstage. "Textures, colors, we are trying combine soft velvet, English fabrics and heavy linens ... The fluid and something more rough."

The looks combined for an effortless silhouette that Meilland said was inspired by the 1960 French film "Purple Noon," based on the Patricia Highsmith's "Ripley" novels.

Ferragamo's footwear included penny loafers or slip on moccasins with rubber soles adorned with the trademark buckle for the city or rope accents for the seaside.

CELEBRITY TURNS

Italian rapper Ghali honed in on a pair of velvety shorts with a sea horse print on a golden background from the front row of Ferragamo's show for next spring and summer.

"I really like the collection. I love lots of the textures that I saw," said Ghali, a Milan native whose new album, titled "Album," is being promoted with an ad on the Duomo cathedral.

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BRÜTALISM AT BIKKEMBERGS

Lee Wood laid the seams bare at Dirk Bikkembergs during his second season as its creative director. The clean collection revealed the construction details that create rhythms with their repetition, from the patchwork trousers to the intarsia knitwear.

Wood said he was inspired by the brutalism architectural movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s that stood against adornment.

"I wanted it to be brutal. I wanted it to be honest. I wanted it to be like men should be," Lee said backstage. "I don't want to see men all pretty and perfect. I think a man should be rugged."

The lines were simple, with neat T-shirts with scooped necks paired with urban patchwork trousers cut from natural fabrics. The cuffs were turned up to reveal the rough seam. Heavy boots and utilitarian sandals anchored the looks.

Suit jackets were worn with shorts that were nearly bloomers in proportion, a fob to summer, while some trousers were festooned with maxi-pockets. Tops, by contrast, were soft, like one that was a patchwork of gold, light blue and white.

While the materials were mostly natural fibers and the color palette based on hues of blue, white and slate gray, the collection closed with flashes of green and Japanese technical fabric.

YOLO FROM KOREA

Korean designer Munsoo Kwon made his Milan debut in the Armani theater with a collection that contained some measure of autobiography.

The triptych collection includes pieces based on European tailoring, Korean military wear and a series of character looks. The thread that connects them all: The YOLO phenomenon, previously, before the invention of abbreviation-loving social media, known as "You Only Live Once."

The 37-year-old Kwon expresses his whimsy with out-of-proportion cuts: Boyish striped sweaters that are part of his character series are gigantic with wide, trailing arms, dwarfing the wearer.

The military looks are elongated and soft, not your usual regimented rendering. And the tailored outfits are clean and elegant, featuring pinstripe pants with long belts worn with a pajama-inspired top and a trench coat with bell sleeves.

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUNNEI

The hallway of an artistic high school was the runway for the Sunnei brand by designers Loris Messina and Simone Rizzo. The occasion: The last day of school.

"For us, this is an expression of total freedom," Rizzo said of the collection.

The looks are more artsty student than beach, even if the striped button-down tops and shorts recalled beach umbrellas. Suits featured boxy jackets and athletic drawstring pants, which could be worn with a plasticized denim overcoat. Footwear included sling-back sneakers.

Oversized sweaters came with matching water bottle holders and T-shirts played on social media with a photograph of Myspace founder Tom Anderson with the slogan "Forever Tom," dating even the young designers of the three-year-old brand.

"We show our lives, our daily existence. We don't refer to the past," Rizzo said.

DSQUARED2

Dean and Dan Caten, the Canadian twins behind the DSquared2 label, have made their mark on Milan -- most recently with a neon maple leaf on the former distillery where they showed next year's warm weather looks for men and women.

The designers put a jangle in the models' walk with buckled leather straps in neat rows up the sleeves of sweaters, down the legs of trousers and leggings, and across boots.

Hawaiian floral prints were the accent of the season, with floral shirts paired busily with leopard leggings or worn over the trademark Canadian plaid. Painted florals accented leather pants and skirts, and

appeared as panel overlays on denim jackets.

Womenswear featured dramatically layered long ruffle tulle skirts that were often paired with simple T-shirts. Men also can indulge in some light ruffles down the front of their tank tops.

The headgear of the season: A military beret over a baseball cap.

Forest fire kills 62 in Portugal; search on for more bodies

By HELENA ALVES and ARMANDO FRANCA, Associated Press

PEDROGAO GRANDE, Portugal (AP) — A raging forest fire in central Portugal killed at least 62 people as they desperately tried to flee, charring cars and trucks as it swept over roads. The disaster — the worst tragedy Portugal has experienced in decades — shook the nation, with the president declaring that the country's pain "knows no end."

Almost 24 hours after the deaths Saturday night, fires were still churning across the forested hillsides of central Portugal. Police and firefighters were searching charred areas of the forest and isolated homes, looking for more bodies.

"It is a time of pain but also ... a time to carry on the fight" against the flames, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa told the nation in a televised address Sunday evening after the government declared three days of national mourning.

A huge wall of thick smoke and bright red flames towered over the tops of trees in the forested Pedrogao Grande area, 150 kilometers (95 miles) northeast of Lisbon where a lightning strike was believed to have sparked the blaze Saturday. Investigators found a tree that was hit during a "dry thunderstorm," the head of the national judicial police said.

Dry thunderstorms are frequent when falling water evaporates before reaching the ground because of high temperatures. Portugal is prone to forest fires in the dry summer months and temperatures as high as 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) hit the area in recent days.

At least four other significant wildfires were burning Sunday elsewhere in Portugal but the one in Pedrogao Grande was responsible for all the deaths.

"The dimensions of this fire have caused a human tragedy beyond any in our memory," said Prime Minister Antonio Costa told reporters as he arrived at the scene Sunday. "Something extraordinary has taken place and we have to wait for experts to properly determine its causes."

Interior Minister Constanca Urbano de Sousa said the death toll had risen to 62 by the end of Sunday. She said the country's judicial police was expecting to complete the identification of the bodies soon in order to release them as early as possible.

Interior Ministry official Jorge Gomes said firefighting crews were having difficulties battling the fire, which was "very intense" in at least two of its four fronts. He said authorities were worried about strong winds that could help spread the blaze further.

More than 350 soldiers on Sunday joined the 700 firefighters who have been struggling to put out the blaze, schools in the area were closed until further notice and outdoor fires were banned.

The forest fire deaths were the biggest in memory in Portugal, which saw 25 Portuguese soldiers die fighting wildfires in 1966. Last August, an outbreak of fires across Portugal killed four people, including three on the island of Madeira, and destroyed huge areas of forest.

Isabel Brandao told The Associated Press on Sunday that she had feared for her life when she saw the Pedrogao Grande blaze.

"Yesterday, we saw the fire but thought it was very far. I never thought it would come to this side," she said. "At 3:30 a.m., my mother-in-law woke me up quickly and we never went to sleep again."

Others were also shocked.

"This is a region that has had fires because of its forests, but we cannot remember a tragedy of these proportions," said Valdemar Alves, the mayor of Pedrogao Grande. "I am completely stunned by the number of deaths."

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State broadcaster RTP showed terrifying images of several people on a road trying to escape the intense smoke that had reduced visibility to a few meters (yards). A young man shared a bottle of water with a distraught woman as she stumbled down the road.

Gomes gave a grim description of the deaths to RTP. He said at least 30 people died inside their cars as they tried to flee between the towns of Figueiro dos Vinhos and Castanheira de Pera. He said 17 others died right outside their cars or by the road, 11 people died in the forest, two people died in a car accident related to the fire and information was missing on the other deaths.

Gomes said 54 people were also injured in the fire, 5 of them seriously, including four firefighters and a minor.

Costa tweeted his "deepest regret for the victims ... and a word of encouragement and strength for all who help combat this scourge."

"We are most likely facing the biggest tragedy of human life that we have known," he said.

There was no immediate identification of the victims. Portugal established a special diplomatic channel for embassies to receive information on foreign citizens who "may be affected."

The European Union responded to a call for assistance by Portugal. As a result, Spain sent four firefighting aircraft on Sunday, France was sending three and Greece's prime minister also offered firefighting help.

Many world leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, Pope Francis and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressed solidarity with Portugal. Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy tweeted that he was "overwhelmed by the tragedy at Pedrogao Grande. The Portuguese people can count on our solidarity, support and care."

In Kazan, Russia, Portugal's national soccer team wore black arm bands and stood for a moment of silence with the Mexican team in solidarity with the forest fire victims. The ceremony took place before the teams' match Sunday at the Confederations Cup tournament.

Coach Fernando Santos, Cristiano Ronaldo and the rest of the players released a statement saying "in this sad hour, we send our deepest sympathies to the families, friends and loved ones of the victims of the fires."

FIFA President Gianni Infantino, attending the match in Russia, also offered his condolences.

"We want to send a big hug to everyone in Portugal for what they are going through, which is absolutely terrible. There are no words for that," he told reporters.

Associated Press writers Barry Hatton in Lisbon, Portugal; Joseph Wilson in Barcelona, Spain; Aritz Parra in Madrid; and Tales Azzoni in Kazan, Russia, contributed to this report.

Cosby team triumphant, but sex crime retrial, lawsuits loom

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — In one of the more unusual scenes to play out at Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial, the judge questioned Cosby under oath as jury deliberations wore on to be sure he knew the mistrial he sought could lead to a second trial.

Cosby, the actor and comedian known as "America's Dad," turns 80 next month facing just that ordeal. Legal experts believe prosecutors will reshape their case for Round Two, although it's not yet clear why jurors couldn't reach a verdict, or how close they came.

District Attorney Kevin Steele could ask the judge to let more of Cosby's 60 accusers testify or disclose to jurors that accuser Andrea Constand is gay. That never came up in her seven hours of testimony. The defense had hoped, if it did, to introduce evidence she had previously dated a man.

"The key to retrying a case is to do it differently the second time, because the defense expects you to do it the same way," said Constand's lawyer, Dolores Troiani.

Constand is on board for the retrial. And Steele on Sunday denied a media report that Cosby had ever been offered a plea deal.

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The juror names remain shielded from the public under a protective order that several news outlets have challenged. Judge Steven O'Neill could revisit the issue as early as Monday. He advised jurors when the trial ended, after a week of testimony and 52 hours of deliberations, that they need not discuss the case, even as the public debates whether age, race, gender or other issues separated them.

"It can never be clearer that if you speak up, you could be chilling the justice system in the future if jurors are needed in this case," O'Neill told them.

Criminal law professor Jody Armour wonders if the bitter divide over social issues that's evident in American politics was at work in the jury room.

"Social attitudes in general affect what happens in criminal trials, in rape cases. We can now wonder if a lot of those kinds of attitudes were at play in ... Bill Cosby's rape case," said Armour, who teaches at the University of South California.

Two women jurors who appeared to be in their 30s or 40s looked anguished when they announced the final deadlock, wiping away tears with tissues handed to them by a sympathetic young man sitting between them. Other jurors were harder to read.

"We get 12 people to agree on sex assault cases all the time, but this is not any case. It's an old case, it's a controversial case, it's a case that involves questions of consent," said professor Laurie Levenson, of Loyola Law School.

She once served on a jury where the foreperson was the lone holdout for an acquittal. She also recalled a Los Angeles case where an 11-1 vote to acquit in the first trial ended with a conviction the second time around. She believes the breakdown of the first Cosby jury is important to know, but perhaps not predictive of how the second trial might go.

"Anything can happen because it's a new set of jurors," Levenson said. "The second time around, are they coming with an agenda? Do they want to save Cosby, or do what the first jury couldn't do, which was convict him?"

Cosby is also battling sexual battery or defamation cases still pending by 10 women in California and Massachusetts. Several of them attended the criminal trial with their lawyers. The discovery in those cases is underway, but his deposition testimony will remain on hold until the retrial in the criminal case.

Publicist Andrew Wyatt raised a clenched fist as he led the legally blind Cosby out of the courthouse after the jury deadlocked Saturday, while cameras popped and his lead defense lawyer walked away. They attacked the judge, in a letter from Cosby's wife Camille, as "arrogant" and Steele as "heinous" and "ambitious."

Cosby remains on \$1 million bail over the three felony charges. O'Neill could schedule the retrial within weeks.

President Macron's party dominates French parliamentary vote

By ELAINE GANLEY and SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — President Emmanuel Macron's party, including untested novices, will be sweeping into the lower house of the French parliament, hogging a clear majority of seats after winning an overwhelming victory in Sunday's elections and clinching the young leader's hold on power.

Macron fulfilled his wish to disrupt politics as usual with new faces — including a farmer, a teacher and a math genius — and a new approach. But he may be getting more than he bargained for with the entry into parliament of loud voices from the ultra-left and far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen, both promising to fight his plans to overhaul French labor laws, one of the touchiest subjects in France.

"Through their vote, a wide majority of the French have chosen hope over anger," said Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, reiterating his "total" determination to work on major reforms in the coming months.

A minor reshuffle of the Cabinet, an obligatory move after parliamentary elections, is expected this week, perhaps as soon as Monday.

The May 7 election of the 39-year-old Macron, himself untested, upended France's political landscape, a phenomenon that continued with the parliamentary victory of a party that didn't exist 14 months ago.

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With the June 27 start of the new session, the novices within the ranks of Macron's Republic on the Move! party will be learning at high-speed. Half of the candidates in the running for his party were drawn from civilian life, and half were women.

Starting Monday, many will be taking their first official steps in the corridors of power, invited to pick up keys and the blue-white-red sashes worn by elected officials, and learn their way around.

Pollsters projected Republic on the Move! and its allies could take up to about 360 of the lower chamber's 577 seats. Official partial results confirmed the trend, showing them with 327 seats, with 33 seats yet to be counted. The party will have far more than the 289 seats needed for an absolute majority to carry out Macron's program.

Mainstream conservatives and their allies, the closest rivals, held their ground better than expected. The Interior Ministry counted the Republicans and allied candidates with 131 seats, with 33 seats still uncounted.

The Socialist Party, which dominated the outgoing Assembly, was flattened by the unpopularity of former President Francois Hollande. With its allies, it could get fewer than 50 seats, according to projections. The stinging reality of defeat pushed party leader Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, who lost in last week's first-round vote, to resign — and blast the Macron system "with all the power."

The Macron steamroller effect could be blunted with the entrance into parliament of some prickly opponents.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who rivaled him for the presidency, won a seat representing her northern bastion around Henin-Beaumont with more than 58 percent of the vote. Her National Front party was expected to place up to eight lawmakers in the lower chamber, compared to two lawmakers in the outgoing Assembly.

Le Pen said she would "fight with all necessary means the harmful projects of the government," especially what she called Macron's pro-European, pro-migrant policies.

"We are the only force of resistance to the dilution of France, of its social model and its identity," Le Pen said, claiming the mainstream opposition parties were but "satellites" of the Macron power structure.

Le Pen's nemesis, the ultra-left Jean-Luc Melenchon, vowed a "social coup d'état," saying Macron's plans to reform labor laws amount to "destruction of the social order." Unlike the National Front, Melenchon and his allies will have the required 15 lawmakers needed to form a group, a tool that provides extra funds, speaking time and other ways to weigh on policy.

Macron's bid to ease hiring and firing through a set of measures aimed at bringing down the unemployment rate — now just below 10 percent — is the most sensitive plan on his agenda. Unions fear it would destroy workers' protections.

Workers unions have already criticized the labor reform and the president's decision to skirt normal procedure to pass changes that would short-circuit extended debate and nix amendments. The measures must, however, be ratified by parliament.

Macron also wants to clean up politics to change the image of a political class dominated by career politicians, peppered with corruption and losing credibility. The new government has already presented a draft bill with new restrictions on how lawmakers operated.

Disillusion with the political class is one reason given for what is likely to be a record low participation rate that could outdo the record low in last Sunday's first round, measured at 43 percent — five points lower than last week.

Experts partly blamed voter fatigue following the May election of Macron, plus voter disappointment with politics.

Confusion also played a role, according to Frederic Dabi, of the IFOP polling firm. Macron's party, which didn't exist 14 months ago and offered novice candidates from civilian life, has drawn from left and right to fill its ranks, effectively blurring the traditional left-right political divide.

Macron's party "vampirized" the left and right after his huge win in the presidential balloting, Dabi said on CNews TV.

Philippe Sotto in Paris contributed to this report.

UK: London tower may have used banned siding in renovation

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The new exterior cladding used in a renovation on London's Grenfell Tower may have been banned under U.K. building regulations, two British ministers said Sunday as police continued their criminal investigation into the inferno that killed at least 58 people.

Trade Minister Greg Hands said the government is carrying out an "urgent inspection" of the roughly 2,500 similar tower blocks across Britain to assess their safety, while an opposition lawmaker urged the government to quickly secure documents in the Grenfell renovation for the criminal probe.

Late Sunday, the Metropolitan Police released three photos from inside Grenfell Tower, which showed in close detail how the fire charred the 24-story building that once housed up to 600 people in 120 apartments.

Experts believe the building's new exterior cladding, which contained insulation, helped spread the flames quickly up the outside of the public housing tower early Wednesday. Some said they had never seen a building fire advance so quickly.

Hands and Treasury chief Philip Hammond said in separate TV appearances that the cladding used on Grenfell seems to be prohibited by British regulations. Hands cautioned that officials don't yet have exact details about the renovation that ended just last year.

"My understanding is that the cladding that was reported wasn't in accordance with U.K. building regulations," Hands told Sky News. "We need to find out precisely what cladding was used and how it was attached."

Aluminum cladding with insulation sandwiched between two panels has been blamed for helping to spread flames in major fires in many parts of the world, including blazes in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and the United States.

Labour Party lawmaker David Lammy demanded that the government and police immediately seize all documents relating to Grenfell's renovation to prevent the destruction of evidence that could show criminal wrongdoing.

"The prime minister needs to act immediately to ensure that all evidence is protected so that everyone culpable for what happened at Grenfell Tower is held to account and feels the full force of the law," Lammy said, suggesting that contractors might be destroying evidence before it is sought by police.

He said all records — including emails, minutes of meetings, correspondence with contractors, safety assessments, specifications and reports — must be kept intact.

"When the truth comes out about this tragedy, we may find that there is blood on the hands of a number of organizations," Lammy said.

He complained bitterly that a friend — the young artist Khadija Saye — was still alive three hours after the fire started but was unable to get out of her apartment to safety.

Police Commander Stuart Cundy says police will seek criminal prosecutions if the evidence warrants. He has not provided details about the inquiry.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said Sunday after attending a church service several blocks from the tower that the fatal blaze was entirely preventable.

He said displaced residents are "angry not simply at the poor response in the days afterwards from the council and the government, but the years of neglect from the council and successive governments."

They feel they have been ignored because they are poor, he said.

British officials have announced a nationwide minute of silence to honor the victims on Monday morning.

Frustration has been mounting in recent days as information about those still missing in the blaze has been scanty and efforts to find temporary housing for the hundreds of now-homeless tower residents have faltered.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, criticized shortly after the blaze for failing to meet with victims, says the public inquiry looking into the tragedy will report directly to her. She also says she will receive daily reports from the stricken neighborhood.

In addition, British health authorities will provide long-term bereavement counselling for those who lost loved ones in the tragedy. Counselors are already working with 52 families.

British officials say they are helping the Syrian family of the first officially confirmed victim of the London tower blaze — 23-year-old Mohammad Alhajali — to “travel to the U.K. in these terribly sad circumstances.”

His family said Alhajali “came to the U.K. because he had ambitions and aims for his life and for his family.”

Police and fire experts have said the fire was so intense that the process of identifying human remains will take weeks, if not months — and some victims may never be found. Police say at least 58 people are either confirmed or presumed dead, with the figure likely to rise in coming days.

Officials are using dental records, fingerprints, DNA samples, tattoos and scars to try and positively identify victims. Sixteen bodies have been taken to a mortuary for examination..

In Georgia, a key US House race comes down to its final days

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

DORAVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Dr. Nadine Becker wasn't politically involved until she saw Donald Trump elected president, but the suburban Atlanta gynecologist didn't know how to engage, given her traditionally Republican surroundings.

“I was yelling at the TV and throwing things at the TV,” recalls the 55-year-old mother of three. Then she found her cause in 30-year-old Democrat Jon Ossoff, who is aiming for a major upset in Georgia's 6th Congressional District runoff Tuesday against Republican Karen Handel.

With a potential price tag exceeding \$50 million, the most expensive House race in U.S. history has become a proxy for the nation's political divides, offering another early test for Trump and the GOP's monopoly in Washington. And it gives Democrats a chance to prove they can flip at least 24 GOP-held seats and reclaim a House majority in the 2018 midterm elections.

“My values are being threatened,” Becker said, mentioning health care access, abortion rights and voting rights, “and now we have something we can do.”

Business owners Brian Sleeth and Dave McCleary are equally appalled, but for reasons that leave them backing Handel.

“This is about who will support Donald Trump and his agenda,” says Sleeth, a 37-year-old landscaper from Johns Creek, Georgia. “Karen Handel says she will, and we look forward to holding her accountable.”

For McCleary, 58, it's less about Trump. The Roswell, Georgia, resident sees Ossoff as a charlatan, campaigning as a moderate but certain to become a marionette of his national party.

“He's a phony. I think he's been coached up,” says McCleary, arguing Handel would cast reliably conservative votes.

Those are some of the rationales that could ultimately settle what both campaigns agree will be a close race, despite Republicans holding the seat since 1979 with representatives from Newt Gingrich, the eventual House speaker, to Price. The seat opened in February when Price resigned to become Trump's health and human service secretary.

Ossoff, who led April's first round but fell shy of outright victory, gamely insisted that “this is about the folks right here in Georgia.”

Handel, 55, said it's about choosing her record as Georgia secretary of state and commission chairman of the state's most populous county over the resume of a former congressional staffer and documentary filmmaker who's never held public office.

“My opponent likes to talk about it,” she says. “I've done it.”

But the national attention — and all the money — tells another story. And the attention is all the more intense given Republicans held on to House seats in Montana and Kansas earlier this spring and are expected to hold a South Carolina seat on Tuesday.

Ossoff's television ads mostly frame him as a centrist who criticizes both parties in Washington for “wasteful spending” and promises to focus on developing metro Atlanta's economy. He's also taken aim at Handel as a “career politician” and an executive for the Susan G. Komen Foundation when the organization

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threatened to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood, a health care and abortion provider.

But he's financed that message with a fundraising haul from outside the district, and his donor list contains far more addresses from California, New York and Massachusetts than from Georgia.

For Handel, Ossoff's "values are 3,000 miles away in San Francisco," the hometown of House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. But Handel also has benefited from millions in out-of-state spending. A political action committee backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan spent \$7 million on her behalf, and the GOP's House campaign committee about \$4.5 million.

Despite their emphasis on local matters, the candidates have generally aligned with their national parties on policy. She says she'd have voted for the House GOP health care bill; he says he'd have opposed it. She broadly endorsed Trump's loose outlines for tax cuts; he's said any plan must be "fiscally responsible." He supports a higher minimum wage, with caveats; she's opposed.

The two campaigns expect turnout to blow past the 2014 midterm election turnout of 210,000. More than 140,000 people cast ballots in the early voting period that ended Friday, compared with a total primary turnout of about 192,000. Republicans anticipated far higher early turnout among reliably Republican voters — Georgia voters don't register by party — while Democrats point to thousands of ballots cast by newly registered voters and those who didn't vote in April.

The reality, says Ossoff backer Dadoo Saakwa-Mante, is that no one knows who'll win or what it actually means for Washington.

"I think he can win," the Doraville, Georgia, Democrat says at an Ossoff rally. "But I don't know. We've never had a candidate like him to get excited about here."

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

Colombia: Bombing at mall kills 3, including French woman

By **SERGIO LEON and JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press**

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A homemade bomb placed in a women's bathroom rocked one of the busiest shopping centers in Colombia's capital Saturday, killing three people, including a French woman, and wounding nine others.

Witnesses told of being evacuated from movie theaters and stores after the blast at the upscale Centro Andino in the heart of Bogota's tourist district. Ambulances and firetrucks rushed to the scene and the injured were taken to a hospital, where two later died.

Police said a potent explosive, possibly made of ammonium nitrate, had caused the destruction.

Mayor Enrique Penalosa called it a "cowardly terrorist bombing," and attention immediately focused on the National Liberation Army, which is the last rebel movement still active in Colombia. The group, known as the ELN, carried out a spate of recent attacks against mostly police targets in Bogota, but leaders denied involvement in the latest bombing.

President Juan Manuel Santos made a late-night visit to the shopping mall, where he strongly condemned the attack but declined to speculate on who was behind it. He said he would meet with top security advisers Sunday before heading out on a previously-scheduled tour of Europe that includes a planned visit to France.

"The best answer to cowardly terrorism is to not let it unnerve us," he said. "The French know perfectly how to respond to these terrorist attacks and we Colombians too have the will not to let ourselves be intimidated."

Penalosa said the 25-year-old French victim, identified as Julie Huynh, had been in Bogota the past six months volunteering at a school in a poor neighborhood. He said she was preparing to return to France in the coming days in the company of her mother, who was with her in Bogota.

In a cruel irony, Huynh worked with a French-backed charity helping people displaced by Colombia's long conflict gain the skills and expertise needed to rebuild. A member of the group, Proyectar Sin Fronteras, declined to comment when contacted by The Associated Press, but the group posted on its web page a

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black ribbon in memory of Huynh.

The ELN, which is engaged in long-running peace talks with the government, rejected accusations it was behind the attack.

"We ask for seriousness from people making unfounded and reckless accusations," ELN negotiators at peace talks taking place in neighboring Ecuador said on Twitter. "This is the way people are trying to tear up the peace process."

The ELN in February claimed responsibility for a bombing near Bogota's bullring that killed one police officer and injured 20 other people. But the group said it doesn't target civilians.

Penalosa urged residents of Bogota's wealthier districts to be on high alert but cautioned that there was no hint of other attacks being planned.

The government last year reached a peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, which was much bigger than the ELN. Some analysts attribute an uptick in violence in Colombian cities to the ELN's desire to wrest concessions from the government at the negotiating table.

Bogota has seen dramatic improvement in security over the past decade as the country's long-running conflict has wound down. But the capital remains vulnerable to attacks as residents have let down their guard

Still, the Andino shopping center would seem a difficult target. All vehicles entering the parking garage are screened by bomb-sniffing dogs and security guards are present throughout the mall — a lasting legacy of the days more than two decades ago when drug-fueled violence was at its peak.

Goodman reported from Caracas, Venezuela.

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 19, the 170th day of 2017. There are 195 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 19, 1867, Maximilian I, emperor of Mexico since 1864, was executed by firing squad a month after being taken prisoner by the forces of President Benito Juarez. The inaugural running of the Belmont Stakes took place; the winner was a filly named Ruthless.

On this date:

In 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over, and that all remaining slaves in Texas were free — an event celebrated to this day as "Juneteenth."

In 1917, during World War I, King George V ordered the British royal family to dispense with German titles and surnames; the family took the name "Windsor."

In 1937, the city of Bilbao fell to the Nationalist Army during the Spanish Civil War.

In 1944, during World War II, the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea began, resulting in a decisive victory for the Americans over the Japanese.

In 1952, the celebrity-panel game show "I've Got A Secret" made its debut on CBS-TV with Garry Moore as host.

In 1953, Julius Rosenberg, 35, and his wife, Ethel, 37, convicted of conspiring to pass U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York.

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.

In 1972, Hurricane Agnes, blamed for at least 122 deaths, made landfall over the Florida Panhandle.

In 1977, Pope Paul VI proclaimed a 19th-century Philadelphia bishop, John Neumann (NOY'-muhn), the first male U.S. saint.

In 1982, Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American auto engineer, was fatally beaten in Highland Park, Michigan, by two auto workers who later received probation for manslaughter in state court, and won acquittals in

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federal court.

In 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Edwards v. Aguillard*, struck down, 7-2, a Louisiana law requiring any public school teaching the theory of evolution to teach creationism as well.

In 1999, author Stephen King was seriously injured when he was struck by a van driven by Bryan Smith in North Lovell, Maine. Britain's Prince Edward married commoner Sophie Rhys-Jones (rees johnz) in Windsor, England.

Ten years ago: A truck bomb struck a Shiite mosque in central Baghdad, killing at least 87 people. President George W. Bush and visiting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (EH'-hood OHL'-murt) sided emphatically with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (mahk-MOOD' ah-BAHS') in his standoff with the militant group Hamas. The space shuttle Atlantis undocked from the international space station for its return to earth, concluding a nearly 10-day stay.

Five years ago: WikiLeaks chief Julian Assange took refuge at Ecuador's Embassy in London, seeking to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he faced questioning about alleged sex crimes. (Sweden dropped its inquiry in May 2017, but Assange remains holed up in the Ecuadorian Embassy to avoid arrest by British authorities for jumping bail.) The Southern Baptist Convention voted to elect its first African-American president, the Rev. Fred Luter Jr.

One year ago: LeBron James and his relentless Cavaliers pulled off an improbable NBA Finals comeback to give the city of Cleveland its first title since 1964 as they became the first team to rally from a 3-1 finals deficit by beating the defending champion Golden State Warriors 93-89. Dustin Johnson won the U.S. Open by three shots while Shane Lowry, who began the final round with a four-shot lead, Jim Furyk and Scott Piercy finished tied for second. Anton Yelchin, a rising actor best known for playing Chekov in the new "Star Trek" films, was killed by his own car as it rolled down his driveway in Los Angeles; he was 27.

Today's Birthdays: Pop singer Tommy DeVito (The Four Seasons) is 89. Actress Gena (JEH'-nuh) Rowlands is 87. Hall of Fame race car driver Shirley Muldowney is 77. Singer Spanky McFarlane (Spanky and Our Gang) is 75. Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee) is 72. Author Salman Rushdie is 70. Actress Phylicia Rashad is 69. Rock singer Ann Wilson (Heart) is 67. Musician Larry Dunn is 64. Actress Kathleen Turner is 63. Country singer Doug Stone is 61. Singer Mark DeBarge is 58. Singer-dancer-choreographer Paula Abdul is 55. Actor Andy Lauer is 54. Rock singer-musician Brian Vander Ark (Verve Pipe) is 53. Actor Samuel West is 51. Actress Mia Sara is 50. TV personality Lara Spencer is 48. Rock musician Brian "Head" Welch is 47. Actor Jean Dujardin is 45. Actress Robin Tunney is 45. Actor Bumper Robinson is 43. Actress Poppy Montgomery is 42. Alt-country singer-musician Scott Avett (AY'-veht) (The Avett Brothers) is 41. Actor Ryan Hurst is 41. Actress Zoe Saldana is 39. Actress Lauren Lee Smith is 37. Rapper Macklemore (Macklemore and Ryan Lewis) is 34. Actor Paul Dano is 33. Actor Giacomo Gianniotti is 28. Actor Atticus Shaffer is 19.

Thought for Today: "Free thinkers are generally those who never think at all." — Laurence Sterne, English author (1713-1768).