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Sunday, June 25

St. John's Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m. **Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Legion: at Redfield Tourney Jr. Teener: at Milbank Tourney

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

Senior Menu: Chicken rice casserole, green beans, spinach salad, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

Groton School: School board meeting, 7 p.m.

U12: at Webster for 2 games, 6 p.m., at the new complex

U10: at Webster for 2 games, 6 p.m., at the new complex

U8 Blue: at Webster for 2 games, 6 p.m., at the old field

Softball: Hosts Ellendale, (U10 at 6 p.m., U12 at 7 p.m.)

4:30pm: JV FB at Redfield-Doland



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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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"Compliments are like verbal sunshine."

-Steve Curtin



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Darien Shabazz hit an RBI inside-the-park home run with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Groton a 13-12 win over Mobridge. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Junior Legion beats Mobridge in an extra inning

It was a close game all the way to the end, going an extra inning as Groton defeated Mobridge in Junior Legion action, 13-12. The game was played Saturday at Locke-Karst Field in Groton.

Darien Shabazz hit an RBI inside-the-park home run in the bottom of the eighth inning with two outs to Groton the one run win.

Austin Jones pitched for three innings, Darien Shabazz pitched for the fourth through sixth innings and Peyton Johnson pitched the rest of the game starting in the seventh inning. Caleb Furney was the catcher for the first six innings and Korbin Blackum caught starting in the seventh inning.

Hunter Schaller had a double and two singles, Peyton Johnson and Garret Schroeder each had a double, Austin Jones had two singles and adding one hit each were Darien Shabazz, Caleb Furney, Riley Thurston and Grady O'Neill.

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Korbin Blackmun was the catcher for the last few innings of the game with Mobridge. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Peyton Johnson pitching for Groton Junior Legion. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jonathan Doeden gets the popup for the second out in the top of the eighth inning. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Garret Schroeder was successful in stealing second as Mobridge's Reese Cerney tried to tag him out. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries





To Stink, or Not to Stink, That is the Question

There are all kinds of questions in this world of ours. Most are rather annoying. It would not surprise me in the least if there were a gang of hooligans somewhere hired to make up silly questions. If I could find this gang, I would disperse them immediately, without a question.

Of course, there is the fact that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is in cahoots with these questionmaker-uppers. Every once in a while she comes up with questions for Yours Truly.

It is not the questions I object to but rather the answers I am supposed to give in connection to the questions. My wife has a silly notion that the answers I give should be in direct correlation to the questions she asked. Who made up this rule? Oops, that was a question. Sorry about that.

It is my opinion, and mine alone, especially in my home, that if I am asked a question I should have the option to give the answer I want to give whether it relates to the question or not. My wife insists my answer should be a response to her question.

More times than I care to admit, when my wife is asking her second question, I am still thinking about her first question. By the time she had gotten to her sixth question, I have formed an answer for that first question. And when she asks her tenth question, I am answering her first question.

It is all very confusing to me because she always says, 'That was not what I asked you?" It was but she was so far ahead of me that it is virtually impossible for me to catch up. So, if I cannot catch up, I catch flak. Last week, for example, she put to me a very penetrating question. 'What is that awful smell?"

I would not have taken offense to the question so much, but she was looking straight at me when she posed it. What I took from the question was that I, for some reason unbeknownst to me, smelled pretty bad. Even though it was not Saturday night, I took the hint and marched my raunchy body to the bath-room for a bath.

I just took for granted that there was an odor around. I do have a nose, but the primary function of my nose is to be a resting place for my spectacles. Something has to be awful for me to smell it. My wife, on the other hand, has superhuman smelling properties. She can smell a rotten apple while it is still a blossom on the apple tree.

I thought the question of "What stinks?" had been thoroughly answered. So, I dressed and got in my car to go to the office. On the drive to the office, I noticed something rather peculiar. My car stank. There was some terrible odor in my car that I could not identify. I knew it could not be me since I had just come from a fresh bath only a few moments ago. But there was an unmistakable stench in the car.

I arrived at my office, got seated behind my desk and began some work when I noticed something peculiar. My office stank. It smelled as if some old alley cat had found its way into my office, crawled behind a bookcase, and died... two weeks ago. I began searching the office for the decaying carcass creating such a disgusting odor in my office.

Finally I gave up and went home. Before I could tell my wife about the problem at the office and in the car, she surprised me with another question.

"What is that awful smell?" She was looking straight at me with the obvious conclusion that the smell was coming from my direction.

By this time, I too was noticing the smell so it must have been something rather awful. I just knew it could not have been me because only two hours ago I immersed myself in the bubbly and vigorously

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scrubbed off any odor that might have been lodged on my body. I even threatened my body with a Brillo pad. I knew the odor was not on me.

"Where is that smell coming from?" my wife demanded as she approached me with her nostrils flaring. The closer she got to me the more her nose wrinkled in agony. It was then she made a startling conclusion.

"That odor is coming from you. You stink."

Well, if words could kill you would be reading a very nice obituary in the newspaper this morning. I was deeply offended by this observation.

When she got close to me, she examined my person very carefully and then looked down at my shoes. "How long have you had those shoes?"

They were my favorite shoes so I had them quite a long time. I mumbled something like about five years. 'Aha, it is your shoes that stink. Those shoes are rotten and you will have to throw them out. I do not want to see those shoes in this house ever again."

I was reminded of a verse in the Bible. 'For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD." (Jeremiah 2:22 KJV).

You can clean up all you want to but if you are still wearing rotten shoes you still stink.

Groton Post #39 beats Aberdeen by one run Groton's American Legion Post #39 held the Aberdeen Juniors to two runs in the top of the ninth inning

Groton's American Legion Post #39 held the Aberdeen Juniors to two runs in the top of the ninth inning to hang on for a 16-15 win in the Redfield Tournament.

Bennett Shabazz was the winning pitcher with three strike-outs, one hit by pitch, eight hits and 10 walks. Wyatt Locke was the catcher. Shabazz also had two singles and a double, Brandon Keith had three singles, Aaron Severson had a double and a single, Korbin Blackmun and Sean Schuring each had a double. Truitt Rogers had two singles and adding one hit each were Luke Thorson and Wyatt Locke.

The Groton Legion team will play at 11 a.m. today at the Redfield Tournament.

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Today in Weather History

June 25, 1914: An estimated F2 tornado moved east from 6 miles southeast of Isabel in Dewey County. Three small homes and two barns were destroyed. Twelve tons of hay was said to have vanished.

June 25, 1969: On the northeast side of Groton, an F2 to near F3 tornado destroyed a large grain elevator and uprooted huge trees. Four people were hospitalized. Estimated property damage was a quarter million dollars. Also, locally heavy rains caused flash flooding in Sully and Hughes Counties. A bridge near Harrold was washed out. Some rainfall amounts include; 5.34 inches at 23N of Highmore; 4.24 at 2N of Onaka; 4.14 at 12SSW of Harrold; 3.90 at 1NW of Faulkton; and 3.73 inches at Ipswich. Unofficial reports of 6 inches fell in and around Harrold.

1749 - A general fast was called on account of drought in Massachusetts. It was the year of the famous dry spring in which fields and villages burned. (David Ludlum)

1925 - The mercury hit 101 degrees at Portland, OR, their earliest 100 degree reading of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1953 - The temperature at Anchorage soared to 86 degrees, their hottest reading of record. (The Weather Channel)

1957: Hurricane Audrey moved northward, slowly strengthening until the 26th. At that time, a strong upper-level trough led to its acceleration and the hurricane deepened rapidly on its final approach to the Texas/Louisiana border. Audrey became the strongest hurricane on record for the month of June upon landfall, as it reached category four strength. Its acceleration was unanticipated, and despite hurricane warnings in place, 418 people perished in the storm, mainly across southwest Louisiana. Click HERE for more information from the History Channel.

1967: Three, F3 tornadoes crossed the Netherlands on this day. The first tornado touched down at 4:17 PM in Oostmalle. This storm destroyed the church and the center of the village. More than half of the 900 homes in the community were damage with 135 completely gone. The second tornado touched down near Ulicoten and tracked northward through woodlands area. This storm killed two people at a camping site near Chaam, Netherlands. The third tornado destroyed 50 houses in Tricht, killing five and injuring 32 others. Click HERE for more information from Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut.

1987 - Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Miami, FL, 107 degrees at Medford, OR, and 111 degrees at Redding CA were new records for the date. It was the third of six straight days of record heat for Miami. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Austin, and gusts to 75 mph at Tulsa OK. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Fifty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 100 degrees at Erie, PA, and 104 degrees at Cleveland OH established all- time records for those two locations. Highs of 101 degrees at Flint, MI, 105 degrees at Chicago, IL, and 106 degrees at Fort Wayne, IN, equalled all-time records. Thunderstorms in Idaho produced wind gusts to 100 mph west of Bliss and north of Crouch, injuring 29 persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Tropical depression Allison, the remnants of what was earlier Cosme (a hurricane over the Pacific Ocean which dissipated as it crossed northern Mexico), began to spread heavy rain into southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana. (The National Weather Summary)





Temperatures will be a bit warmer today compared to Saturday, and with less wind and more sun out there, it will feel much nicer. By mid to late afternoon though, widely scattered showers and thundershowers are expected.

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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 63.8 F at 5:02 PM

High Outside Temp: 63.8 F at 5:02 PM Low Outside Temp: 41.2 F at 4:57 AM (tied record low) High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 12:18 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 106° in 1936

Record High: 106° in 1936 Record Low: 41° in 1961 Average High: 80°F Average Low: 56°F Average Precip in June: 3.09 Precip to date in June: 2.52 Average Precip to date: 10.23 Precip Year to Date: 5.71 Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart Valid Sun, Jun 25, 2017, issued 4:28 AM EDT DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center Prepared by Krekeler 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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THERE IS AN ANSWER

"I do not know why God ever made me," he cried in deep despair. "God has not made you yet," said his friend. "He is making you and you do not like what is going on." That story neatly summarizes the tenth Psalm.

Whoever wrote this psalm was asking the same question. "O Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide from me when I need you the most?" But is this a question or an accusation? If God is distant or hiding, could there be a reason? What is going on here? Is it God's doing or the Psalmists? Who is responsible for the feelings of isolation or separation? Is it doubt or is it distrust? Or is it neither?

This psalm does not end where it begins. It concludes with a bold proclamation, "The Lord is King forever and ever!" And a short time later we read, "Lord You know the hopes of the helpless. Surely You will hear their cries and help them."

Is God ever absent from the lives of those who look to Him for salvation? It surely seems so. When the ones who claim they do not need God seem to prosper and we who worship Him are forced to go without, where is He?

The author does not speculate about what God is doing nor why He does not respond to our cries immediately. He simply reminds us of the grace of God and that in His time and in His way He will hear us and comfort us. Our faith only grows through adversity.

Prayer: Give us courage, Father, to be patient while You work within us to shape us into Your likeness. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 10:17 You LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry.

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash 04-13-21-30-32 (four, thirteen, twenty-one, thirty, thirty-two) Estimated jackpot: \$266,000

Hot Lotto 11-19-34-35-36, Hot Ball: 15 (eleven, nineteen, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six; Hot Ball: fifteen) Estimated jackpot: \$7.67 million

Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$145 million

Powerball 10-22-32-36-58, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 4 (ten, twenty-two, thirty-two, thirty-six, fifty-eight; Powerball: ten; Power Play: four) Estimated jackpot: \$79 million

South Dakota youth nonprofit to breed cattle with donation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit that operates a ranch for troubled boys in South Dakota has joined the local food movement.

A donation of five cow-calf pairs from the South Dakota Farm Bureau means the McCrossan Boys Ranch will soon be able to feed its approximately 65 boys beef from cattle they've bred and cared for themselves, the Argus Leader (http://argusne.ws/2ryWK1k) reported.

The last of the pairs arrived earlier this month. The nonprofit marked the event with a public viewing of the cattle and a competition in which the boys had a burger grill-off.

The animals will serve as the basis of a cattle-breeding program at the 90-acre campus long known for its horse rearing and 4-H programs. Some of the cattle born in coming years will feed the boys, and others will be sold.

"With 65 boys out here, so our grocery bill is pretty high," said Christy Menning, the ranch's director of development.

Menning said Interaction with the horses, sheep and chickens on the ranch teaches work ethic, but that it's also a therapeutic exercise for the boys, who range ages 9 to 20. Most are placed at the ranch by the Department of Corrections or the Department of Social Services.

South Dakota Farm Bureau Director Krystil Smit said the breeding program was a good fit because it lays a foundation for years of learning and has the potential to become a more integral part of an established program.

"Sometimes you don't really know what impact these projects are going to have," Smit said. "With this one, we really believe the impact will be long-lasting."

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

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Rapid City sees continued struggling rental market

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The property rental market in Rapid City remains tight in spite of ongoing construction of new apartment complexes and renovation of many existing units.

Renters working near the minimum wage level are especially impacted by the market, the Rapid City Journal (http://bit.ly/2rf7o18) reported.

A recent report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition showed that a full-time worker making minimum wage in Rapid City, and spending no more than 30 percent of income on rent, would fall about \$100 short of the price of the average studio apartment.

The coalition said that workers statewide that bring home minimum wage would need to put in a 65-hour week to pay the rent on a basic two-bedroom house.

"I love the area, people and so many things close by to see," emailed renter Lisa Ohlrogge. "But it's quite spendy to live here. Between rent, food, fuel and pet supplies, I'm barely making ends meet."

Collin Goodwin of Thrive Property Management said that demand and rent prices remain high because of the high cost of real estate and construction.

"Behind every rental is an owner paying equivalently high price for the acquisition of that property," Goodwin said.

He said that property owners who become landlords work on slim margins once loan principal and interest, taxes, insurance and maintenance costs are figured into rental rates.

"In my experience they're not going gangbusters on the profit side," Goodwin said.

He said that continuing to push for higher-paying jobs will close the gap between wages and housing costs. Good housing bargains are only out there if a diligent renter has time and is flexible on location and amenities.

"Once the supply outweighs the demand, those prices will drop," Goodwin said. "I don't know if we've hit that point yet, although it seems like we're building and building."

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

Defenders seek \$350,000 for South Dakota death penalty case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Pennington County Public Defender's Office is asking the county for about \$350,000 to help defend a man facing the death penalty for the alleged murder of his ex-girlfriend.

The Rapid City Journal reports (http://bit.ly/2t6N2ak) that the extra costs in Jonathon Klinetobe's case involve expert evaluations, travel expenses and witness fees.

The 27-year-old Klinetobe, of Sturgis, is charged with first-degree murder for the stabbing death of Jessica Rehfeld. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty against Klinetobe and Richard Hirth, an alleged accomplice.

Eric Whitcher, director of the public defender's office, says it's a complex issue and death penalty cases are "extremely expensive." He could not elaborate because of a judge's gag order.

Authorities say they believe Rehfeld's May 2015 death was a contract killing. Her body was discovered last summer.

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

Vikings name Uyeyama head strength and conditioning coach

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings have named Mark Uyeyama (ooh-ee-YAH'-muh) the team's head strength and conditioning coach.

Uyeyama spent the last nine seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, including four years as head of strength and conditioning and the past two years as the director of human performance.

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Uyeyama will manage the strength and conditioning programs for all Vikings players and work in conjunction with the medical staff on rehabilitation for injured players.

Prior to joining the 49ers, Uyeyama was head strength coach at Utah State University.

Uyeyama played football at Butte Community College in California before finishing his career at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

State Fire Marshal: Be careful with fireworks

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Fire Marshal says it's especially important this year to be careful with fireworks on the Fourth of July.

Fire Marshal Paul Merriman says using fireworks safely is always the main concern, but dry conditions in most of South Dakota this year mean there's a higher risk of starting unintentional fires. He says officials are "really encouraging people to be careful with fireworks."

Fireworks can be legally purchased in South Dakota from Tuesday until July 5. It's legal to light off fireworks through July 9.

Merriman says mishandled fireworks can cause injuries or fires. Individual cities can adopt fireworks limitations that are stricter than the state's rules.

Crowd catches teen falling from park ride; no serious injury

QUEENSBURY, N.Y. (AP) — A teenager fell about 25 feet (about 8 meters) from a stopped gondola ride at an upstate New York amusement park Saturday night, tumbling into a crowd of park guests and employees gathered below in an effort to catch her before she hit the ground.

The unidentified 14-year-old girl from Greenwood, Delaware, was taken to Albany Medical Center in stable condition with no serious injuries, the Warren County Sheriff's Office said.

The accident happened Saturday night on the "Sky Ride" at Six Flags Amusement Park, about 55 miles (88.51 kilometers) north of Albany, New York.

The sheriff's office said in a statement that the girl was riding the attraction with a child relative, and fell from a stationary two-person car. The ride was stopped by an operator after getting word of a rider in distress, officials said.

Authorities say the girl fell from the car and struck a tree before landing in the crowd. She was treated by park emergency medical staff and taken by ambulance to Glen Falls Hospital before being transferred by helicopter to the medical center.

Officials inspected the ride and said it was in proper working order. The park said in a statement that the safety of guests is a top priority.

"There does not appear to be any malfunction of the ride, but we have closed the attraction until a thorough review can be completed," a park official said.

Authorities also said an unidentified 47-year-old man from Schenectady, New York, who was a guest at the park, was treated and released from a hospital for a back injury sustained when he attempted to catch the falling girl.

No additional information was immediately available.

Norwegians collect money to fix penis-shaped rock formation

HELSINKI (AP) — Activists are collecting money to repair a penis-shaped rock formation in southern Norway after the popular tourist attraction was found badly damaged.

Joggers discovered Saturday that the Trollpikken rock formation had cracked and noted drilling holes in the rock — something that experts say strongly suggests the rock was deliberately vandalized.

By Sunday, over 500 people had donated nearly 90,000 Norwegian kroner (\$10,600) to fix the formation located south of the southern coastal city of Stavanger.

Activist Kjetil Bentsen told public broadcaster NRK that he was convinced the Trollpikken "will be rebuilt"

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with donated money.

Police are looking for tips to find the person or persons who did it. They could face a one-year prison sentence for a serious environmental crime.

Air bag maker Takata bankruptcy expected Monday in Japan, US By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Drowning in a sea of lawsuits and recall costs, Japanese air bag maker Takata Corp. is expected to seek bankruptcy protection in Tokyo and the United States early Monday.

Takata was done in by defective air bag inflators that can explode with too much force, spewing out shrapnel. They're responsible for at least 16 deaths and 180 injuries and have touched off the largest automotive recall in U.S. history. So far 100 million inflators have been recalled worldwide including 69 million in the U.S., affecting 42 million vehicles.

Rival Key Safety Systems, based in suburban Detroit, will buy most of Takata's assets for \$1.6 billion and take over its manufacturing operations to make seat belts, air bags and other automotive safety devices, according to two people briefed on the matter.

Some remnants of Takata will be folded into an entity with a different name to keep manufacturing inflators used as replacement parts in recalls, said the people, who didn't want to be identified because the bankruptcy terms have not been made public.

The recalls, which are being handled by 19 affected automakers, will continue.

At least \$1 billion from the sale will be used to satisfy Takata's settlement of criminal charges in the U.S. for concealing problems with the inflators. It was unclear what the rest of money paid by Key will be used for. Key is owned by Ningbo Joyson Electronic Corp. of China.

One of the people briefed on the filings said that Key would get Takata's assets "free and clear" of past or future liabilities. That makes it unclear whether anyone injured by inflators in the future would have any legal recourse against either company.

Takata's troubles stem from use of the explosive chemical ammonium nitrate in the inflators to deploy air bags in a crash. The chemical can deteriorate when exposed to hot and humid air and burn too fast, blowing apart a metal canister.

In February, Takata pleaded guilty to fraud and agreed to the \$1 billion settlement. Lawyers acknowledged in court that the company would have to be sold to fund the settlement. Automakers would get \$850 million in restitution for recall costs and a \$25 million fine would be paid to the government. Takata already has paid \$125 million into a fund for victims.

Attorneys for those injured by the inflators worry that \$125 million won't be enough to fairly compensate victims, many of whom have serious facial injuries from metal shrapnel. One 26-year-old plaintiff will never be able to smile due to nerve damage, his attorney says.

Takata wouldn't comment on a bankruptcy filing. As recently as last week it maintained the possibility of keeping the company in operation. A committee set up to explore restructuring has made a recommendation with Key as a suitor, but Takata's board had not decided on that last week, Takata said in a statement.

At the end of April, only 22 percent of the 69 million recalled inflators in the U.S. had been replaced under the recalls, leaving almost 54 million on the roads, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website. This means more inflators will likely explode and more people will be hurt in the future, lawyers say.

Key, which makes inflators, seat belts and crash sensors for the auto industry, would not comment on reports that it would purchase the Takata assets.

The Takata corporate name may not live on after the bankruptcy. The company, founded in 1933, says on its website that its products have kept people safe, and it apologizes for problems caused by the faulty inflators. "We hope the day will come when the word 'Takata' becomes synonymous with 'safety," the website says.

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Overturned oil tanker explodes in Pakistan, killing 148 By IRAM ASIM, Associated Press

BAHAWALPUR, Pakistan (AP) — An overturned oil tanker burst into flames in Pakistan on Sunday, killing 148 people who had rushed to the scene of the highway accident to gather leaking fuel, an official said.

The death toll could rise further as another 50 people are still in critical condition, said Dr. Mohammad Baqar, a senior rescue official in the area. There were dozens of other injuries of varying degree, he said. Local news channels showed black smoke billowing skyward and scores of burned bodies, as well as

rescue officials speeding the injured to hospital and army helicopters ferrying the wounded.

Saznoor Ahmad, 30, whose two cousins were killed in the fire, said the crowd of people screamed as the flames engulfed them.

"The fire moved so fast," he said. When the flames subsided the field was strewn with bodies, and nearby were the charred shells of motorcycles and cars that the villagers had used to race to the scene. As the wounded cried out for help, residents wandered through the area looking for loved ones.

Zulkha Bibi was searching for her two sons.

"Someone should tell me about my beloved sons, where are they? Are they alive or are they no longer in this world? Please tell me," she pleaded.

The disaster came on the eve of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. While Saudi Arabia and most other Muslim countries celebrated the holiday Sunday, Pakistanis will mark it on Monday.

The tanker was driving from the southern port city of Karachi to Lahore, the Punjab provincial capital, when the driver lost control and crashed on the national highway outside Bahawalpur.

A loudspeaker atop a local mosque alerted villagers to the leaking fuel, and scores raced to the site with jerry cans, said Rana Mohammad Salim, deputy commissioner of Bahawalpur.

Highway police moved quickly to redirect traffic but couldn't stop the scores of villagers who raced to collect the fuel, spokesman Imran Shah told a local TV channel.

When the fire erupted, the same mosque loudspeaker called on the remaining villagers to help put it out. Mohammed Salim ran toward the smoke carrying buckets of water and sand, but said the heat was too intense to reach those in need.

"I could hear people screaming but I couldn't get to them," he said.

Abdul Malik, a local police officer who was also among the first to arrive, described a "horrible scene." "I have never seen anything like it in my life. Victims trapped in the fireball. They were screaming for help," he said.

When the fire subsided, "we saw bodies everywhere, so many were just skeletons. The people who were alive were in really bad shape," he said.

Eyewitnesses said about 30 motorcycles that had carried villagers to the accident site lay charred nearby. Eight other vehicles were destroyed, they said.

A state of emergency was declared at the Victoria Hospital in Bahawalpur, said Dr. Javed Iqbal. Within 15 minutes of the fire the hospital had called in extra doctors and nurses, and had formed a team to handle the emergency.

Iqbal said most of the patients suffered burns to upward of 80 percent of their bodies. After being stabilized they will be transferred by C-130 aircraft to hospitals in the provincial capital, Lahore. Some of the most badly burned were evacuated by army helicopters to Multan, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) away.

The dead included men, women and children. Many were burned beyond recognition, Baqar said, and will have to be identified using DNA testing.

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Albanian vote in election seen as key to moving toward EU By LLAZAR SEMINI, Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Albanians were voting Sunday in a general election that follows a landmark agreement between the country's two biggest political parties to look past their bitter differences and back efforts for Albania to eventually join the European Union.

Holding a free and fair election is key to launching EU membership talks for the nation of 2.9 million, which is already a NATO member. After earning EU candidate status in 2014, Tirana has struggled to pass important reforms vital for its bid to advance to EU — namely deeply reforming its corrupted justice system. Eighteen political parties are running for 140 seats in parliament in Sunday's vote. The main contenders

are Prime Minister Edi Rama's Socialist Party and the opposition Democratic Party led by Lulzim Basha.

An agreement reached in May ended the three-month parliamentary boycott by the Democrats, who claimed that voting was open to manipulation. The election date was delayed a week and Rama's Socialists promised greater oversight on election transparency.

All main parties campaigned on a reform agenda, pledging faster economic growth, pay hikes and lower unemployment, which stands at about 14 percent.

Some 6,000 police officers were on duty for election security, while more 300 international observers came to monitor the vote.

"We expect a better Albania and leaders to work to do what they have pledged at the campaign," Zenel Caka, 47, said at a polling station in Tirana.

Luan Rama of the Socialist Party for Motivation, the third main political party, said one member was injured following a quarrel and a shooting incident outside a polling station in Shengjin, 60 kilometers (37 miles) northwest of the capital, Tirana.

Police investigating the incident said they found a cartridge but no injured person was taken to the hospital. They said it did not disrupt the voting.

The Interior Ministry also reported hundreds of attempts to buy votes, a crime that may result in a jail term.

Central Election Commission said partial turnout at a quarter of polling stations by 10 a.m. was 12.6 percent, almost the same as in the previous election.

Albanians also celebrated Eid al-Fitr on Sunday, the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. In the early morning, thousands of Muslim believers said prayers at the recently-renovated Skanderbeg Square in Tirana.

All top leaders cast their ballots, congratulating Muslims on the holiday and urging citizens to vote.

"Today, Albania needs God more than ever," Rama said.

The western city of Kavaja was also holding a mayoral election.

Preliminary results from the vote are expected Monday.

10 bodies found, scores missing in massive China landslide By HAN GUAN NG and DIDI TANG, Associated Press

MAO COUNTY, China (AP) — Rescuers recovered 10 bodies and were still searching for 93 other people on Sunday, a day after a massive landslide buried a picturesque mountain village in southwestern China. More than 2,500 rescuers with detection devices and dogs were looking for signs of life amid the rubble of huge boulders that rained down on Xinmo village in Sichuan province early Saturday.

As of Sunday afternoon, only three people — a couple and their month-old baby — had been rescued from the disaster site.

Sitting on the eastern margin of the Tibetan Plateau in Aba prefecture's Mao County, Xinmo has in recent years become a tourism destination for its picturesque scenery of homes in lush meadows tucked between steep and rugged mountains. But after the landslide, the village was reduced to a vast area of rubble.

As heavy machines removed debris and men scoured the rubble for survivors on Sunday, relatives from nearby villages sobbed as they awaited news of their loved ones.

"It was as if strong winds were blowing by, or a big truck rumbled by," Tang Hua, a 38-year-old woman

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from a nearby village, told The Associated Press. "The houses were shaking, as if there were an earthquake. We rushed out and saw massive smoke. With a thundering sound, the smoke suddenly lifted. We realized it was a landslide."

"As we ran for safety, we looked this way and saw the village flattened," she said.

Tang has relatives in Xinmo, but she said little could be done at this point. "The whole village is done for," she said.

The landslide carried an estimated 18 million cubic meters (636 million cubic feet) of earth and rock — equivalent to more than 7,200 Olympic-sized swimming pools — when it slid down from steep mountains. Some of it fell from as high as 1.6 kilometers (1 mile).

It buried 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of road and blocked a 2-kilometer (1.2-mile) section of a river as it completely wiped away the village, which was once home to 46 families comprising more than 100 people.

The Sichuan provincial government said Sunday that 10 bodies had been found, lowering an earlier figure of 15 that had been reported by state media. It also lowered the number of missing to 93, saying 15 people on an initial list of the missing were accounted for.

There were 142 tourists in the village around the time the landslide hit, and all were alive, said Xu Zhiwen, executive deputy governor of Aba prefecture.

Three members of a family from the village were rescued five hours after the landslide struck on Saturday. Qiao Dashuai, 26, told state broadcaster China Central Television that he and his wife awoke to cries from their 1-month-old son at around 5:30 a.m.

"Just after we changed the baby's diaper, we heard a big bang outside and the light went out," Qiao said. "We felt that something bad was happening and immediately rushed to the door, but the door was blocked by mud and rocks."

Qiao said his family was swept away by water as part of a mountain collapsed. He said they struggled against the water until they met medical workers who took them to a hospital. His parents and other relatives were among the missing.

A government-run news outlet said that Qiao and his wife were in stable condition on Sunday and that their infant was sent to an intensive care unit with pneumonia induced by mud inhalation.

Experts on state media said the landslide was likely triggered by rain. The mountainous region has been prone to geological disasters. In May 2008, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake killed nearly 90,000 people in Wenchuan County, 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Mao County.

Scientist He Siming told the state-run Beijing News that the 2008 quake could have done structural damage to the mountains flanking Xinmo. He said the rain could have been the external cause of the landslide. In 2014, a landslide in the same county killed 11 people when it struck a section of a highway.

Tang reported from Beijing.

Southern Utah wildfire grows, crews make slight gains

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A southern Utah wildfire has grown more, reaching 62.7 square miles (162.4 square kilometers) by Saturday night.

The fire near the town of Brian Head is 8 percent contained and has destroyed at least 13 homes, fire officials said. About 1,000 firefighters and support personnel are battling the blaze, which started June 17 by someone using a torch to burn weeds.

More than 1,500 people have been evacuated from several hundred homes and cabins, fire information officer Erin Darboven said Saturday night. Evacuation orders were given in nearby alpine communities that are generally known for second homes as a weekend getaway for Las Vegas residents.

High winds and hot weather continue to intensify the fire but conditions are expected to improve Sunday before winds return Monday.

Officials said firefighters are trying to fully extinguish hot spots in the southwest corner in order to allow Brian Head residents to return.

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Concert in Utah park honors man killed in London attack By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The life of a Utah man who ran a recording studio at his home before he was killed in a high-profile London attack that also injured his wife was celebrated Saturday with the local music he loved.

Among the attendees was Keith Malda, a police officer in London who was one of the first responders to the scene at London's Westminster Bridge. He saw Melissa Cochran bloody and silent on the bridge on March 22 and helped treat her before ambulances arrived.

The two stayed in touch, and Malda said he traveled to Utah after being inspired by her focus on love over hate after the attack. "I had to come," he said.

Melissa Cochran said Malda stayed with her and told her everything was going to be OK. "I owe my life to him," she said.

Melissa Cochran, 46, said she was looking at her camera and didn't see the sport utility vehicle coming before it plowed into a crowd of pedestrians. She and her husband had been grabbing each other's hands just before the attack, kissing and saying how much fun they were having with each other.

Kurt Cochran was thrown from London's Westminster Bridge when he and his wife were struck by a sport utility vehicle that plowed into a group of pedestrians. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack that killed four people and injured scores more.

Cochran says she's sometimes angry at the attacker who killed her husband, but she doesn't hate him.

"I can't hate anyone. Kurt wouldn't want me to, and I just don't have it in my heart to do that," she said. The concert was held in lieu of a traditional funeral for Kurt W. Cochran, 54, his brother-in-law Clint Payne said. It was an easy decision on how to honor the man who also helped with music festivals and high school productions, he said. "He's done so much for the music scene," Payne said.

Cochran's wife, Melissa, suffered a broken leg in the March 22 attack and arrived at the concert using crutches. She also suffered a broken rib and cuts and bruises.

Members of Cochran's family, including his son, are among the musicians who played at the show in a park in Bountiful, north of Salt Lake City, Payne said. The acts had worked with the Cochrans at their basement recording studio.

The West Bountiful couple was on the last day of a European trip celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary when the attack happened. The two were visiting Melissa Cochran's parents, who were serving a church mission in London.

She and her husband were described as inseparable. They ran a recording studio in their basement, and Kurt Cochran helped young bands get started by charging them only a small fee to use it.

The London attack came exactly one year after four Mormon missionaries — three from Utah — were seriously injured in a bombing of Brussels airport.

Koch chief says health care bill insufficiently conservative By STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

COLORADO SPRING, Colo. (AP) — Chief lieutenants in the Koch brothers' political network lashed out at the Senate Republican health care bill on Saturday as not conservative enough, becoming a powerful outside critic as GOP leaders try to rally support for their plan among rank-and-file Republicans.

Tim Phillips, who leads Americans For Prosperity, the Koch network's political arm, called the Senate's plans for Medicaid "a slight nip and tuck" of President Barack Obama's health care law, a modest change he described as "immoral."

"This Senate bill needs to get better," Phillips said. "It has to get better."

Some Republican senators have raised concern about cuts to Medicaid, which provides health care coverage to millions of poor and middle-income Americans. Several more conservative senators have voiced opposition because they feel it does not go far enough in dismantling what they call "Obamacare."

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The comments came on the first day of a three-day private donor retreat at a luxury resort in the Rocky Mountains. Invitations were extended only to donors who promise to give at least \$100,000 each year to the various groups backed by the Koch brothers' Freedom Partners — a network of education, policy and political entities that aim to promote small government.

"When I look at where we are at the size and effectiveness of this network, I'm blown away," billionaire industrialist Charles Koch told hundreds of donors during an outdoor evening reception. His brother, David Koch, looked on from the crowd along with Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Jeff Flake of Arizona.

"We've got to keep doing it at an accelerated pace," Charles Koch said.

No outside group has been move aggressive over the yearslong push to repeal Obama's health care law than the Kochs', who vowed on Saturday to spend another 10 years fighting to change the health care system if necessary. The Koch network has often displayed a willingness to take on Republicans — including President Donald Trump — when their policies aren't deemed conservative enough.

Network spokesman James Davis said the organization would continue to push for changes to the Senate health care bill over the coming week.

"At the end of the day, this bill is not going to fix health care," Davis declared.

The network's wishes are backed by a massive political budget that will be used to take on Republican lawmakers, if necessary, Phillips said.

He described the organization's budget for policy and politics heading into the 2018 midterm elections as between \$300 million and \$400 million. "We believe we're headed to the high end of that range," he said.

On Friday, Nevada Republican Dean Heller became the fifth GOP senator to declare his opposition to the Senate health care proposal. Echoing the other four, Heller said he opposes the measure "in this form" but does not rule out backing a version that is changed to his liking.

Heller, facing a competitive re-election battle next year, said he was opposing the legislation because of the cuts it would make in Medicaid.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he's willing to alter the measure to attract support, and promised plenty of back-room bargaining as he tries pushing a final package through his chamber next week.

Republican leaders have scant margin for error. Facing unanimous Democratic opposition, McConnell can afford to lose just two of the 52 GOP senators and still prevail.

At least two of the current opponents, Lee and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, were among 18 elected officials scheduled to attend the Koch retreat. Two more undecideds were also on the guest list: Flake and Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse.

President Donald Trump continued to push for replacing Obama's health care law, tweeting Saturday: "I cannot imagine that these very fine Republican Senators would allow the American people to suffer a broken ObamaCare any longer!"

The Senate measure resembles legislation the House approved last month that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said would mean 23 million additional uninsured people within a decade and that recent polling shows is viewed favorably by only around 1 in 4 Americans.

Charles Koch and his chief lieutenants met privately with Vice President Mike Pence for nearly an hour Friday. Pence, a longtime Koch ally, was in Colorado Springs to address a gathering of religious conservatives.

Phillips said it was "a cordial discussion" about policy, but that neither side asked the other for anything specific.

Also Saturday, retired football star Deion Sanders announced plans to partner with the Kochs to help fight poverty in Dallas.

The unlikely partnership aims to raise \$21 million over the next three years to fund anti-poverty programs in the city where Sanders once played football. The outspoken athlete also defended Koch, who is often demonized by Democrats, as someone simply "trying to make the world a better place."

"I'm happy where I am and who I'm with because we share a lot of the same values and goals," Sanders said when asked if he'd be willing to partner with organizations on the left.

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CIA chief: Intel leaks on the rise, cites leaker 'worship' By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIA Director Mike Pompeo says he thinks disclosure of America's secret intelligence is on the rise, fueled partly by the "worship" of leakers like Edward Snowden.

"In some ways, I do think it's accelerated," Pompeo told MSNBC in an interview that aired Saturday. "I think there is a phenomenon, the worship of Edward Snowden, and those who steal American secrets for the purpose of self-aggrandizement or money or for whatever their motivation may be, does seem to be on the increase."

Pompeo said the United States needs to redouble its efforts to stem leaks of classified information.

"It's tough. You now have not only nation states trying to steal our stuff, but non-state, hostile intelligence services, well-funded -- folks like WikiLeaks, out there trying to steal American secrets for the sole purpose of undermining the United States and democracy," Pompeo said.

Besides Snowden, who leaked documents revealing extensive U.S. government surveillance, WikiLeaks recently released nearly 8,000 documents that it says reveal secrets about the CIA's cyberespionage tools for breaking into computers. WikiLeaks previously published 250,000 State Department cables and embarrassed the U.S. military with hundreds of thousands of logs from Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are several other recent cases, including Chelsea Manning, the Army private formerly known as Bradley Manning. She was convicted in a 2013 court-martial of leaking more than 700,000 secret military and State Department documents to WikiLeaks while working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq. Manning said she leaked the documents to raise awareness about the war's impact on innocent civilians.

Last year, former NSA contractor Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was accused of removing highly classified information, storing it in an unlocked shed and in his car and home. Court documents say investigators seized, conservatively, 50 terabytes of information, or enough to fill roughly 200 laptop computers.

Pompeo said the Trump administration is focused on stopping leaks of any kind from any agency and pursuing perpetrators. "I think we'll have some successes both on the deterrence side — that is stopping them from happening — as well as on punishing those who we catch who have done it," Pompeo said.

On other issues, Pompeo said:

— North Korea poses a "very real danger" to U.S. national security. "I hardly ever escape a day at the White House without the president asking me about North Korea and how it is that the United States is responding to that threat. It's very much at the top of his mind." He said the North Koreans are "ever-closer to having the capacity to hold America at risk with a nuclear weapon."

—Pompeo said U.S. national security also is threatened by Iran, which he described as the world's largest state sponsor of terror.

"Today, we find it with enormous influence, influence that far outstrips where it was six or seven years ago," said Pompeo, a former Republican congressman from Kansas. "Whether it's the influence they have over the government in Baghdad, whether it's the increasing strength of Hezbollah and Lebanon, their work alongside the Houthis in Iran, the Iraqi Shias that are fighting along now the border in Syria -- certainly the Shia forces that are engaged in Syria. Iran is everywhere throughout the Middle East."

Al Capone song, pocket watch fetch over \$100K at auction By CRYSTAL HILL, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Artifacts connected to some of the nation's most notorious gangsters sold for more than \$100,000 at auction Saturday.

A diamond pocket watch that belonged to Al Capone and was produced in Chicago in the 1920s, along with a handwritten musical composition he wrote in Alcatraz in the 1930s, were among the items that sold at the "Gangsters, Outlaws and Lawmen" auction. The watch fetched the most — \$84,375 — according to Boston-based RR Auction.

The winning bidder of the watch was not identified. The buyer is a collector who has an eye for interesting American artifacts, said RR Auction Executive Vice President Bobby Livingston. He was among about

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30 internet, telephone and in-person bidders.

Capone's musical piece entitled "Humoresque" sold for \$18,750. The piece shows Capone's softer side. It contains the lines: "You thrill and fill this heart of mine, with gladness like a soothing symphony, over the air, you gently float, and in my soul, you strike a note."

Livingston told The Associated Press he wasn't surprised that lyrics written by a man better known for organized crime than his musical talents sold at the auction because of the way Capone "resonates in the American imagination."

"The musical artifact gives insight into who this man was," Livingston said. "It humanizes him, and shows that he had an imagination and creativity. These people had talents and they used those talents, unfortunately for criminal endeavors."

Livingston was referring not just to Capone, but to infamous couple Bonnie and Clyde. An autographed "So Long" letter written by Bonnie Parker and signed by Clyde Barrow just before their deaths sold for \$16,250. A pair of Texas arrest warrants fetched \$8,125.

Parker's silver-plated, three-headed snake ring fetched \$25,000. The ring was not made by Barrow— a skilled amateur craftsman who engaged in jewelry making, woodworking and leathercraft behind bars — as originally believed, according to RR Auction's website.

Clyde Barrow's nephew, Buddy Barrow, and Bonnie Parker's niece, Rhea Leen Linder, were in attendance. "I asked Buddy Barrow what his uncle would be thinking about the auction, he felt that Clyde would have said 'make as much money as you can'," Livingston said.

A letter written by John Gotti, the reputed head of the Gambino crime family in New York, didn't sell. The 1998 letter to the daughter of a mob associate urges the recipient to tell her father "to keep the martinis cold."

Now in Washington, Melania Trump still no social butterfly By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two weeks into her new life as a full-time Washingtonian, Melania Trump is staying true to her reputation as more homebody than social butterfly.

Not that she hasn't been busy fulfilling her duties as first lady and first mom.

Her top priority has been settling in 11-year-old son Barron — the first boy in the White House since John F. Kennedy Jr. more than 50 years ago.

Even the smallest details of every recent Barron sighting have drawn interest: his T-shirt reading "The Expert," his grasp on a popular fidget spinner toy as he exited Air Force One, his pivot to take a picture of the Marine One helicopter as the family returned from a Father's Day weekend retreat at Camp David.

Mrs. Trump told "Fox and Friends" this week that she's enjoying White House life so much that she doesn't really miss New York. Barron is "all settled" and "loves it here," she said.

In her first lady role, Mrs. Trump has played host to her counterpart from Panama for a lunch upstairs in the private quarters of the White House. She also accompanied President Donald Trump to the hospital to visit a Louisiana congressman and others who were shot at baseball practice, and helped plan a picnic for members of Congress on the White House lawn.

She's also preparing to accompany the president to Poland and Germany after the Fourth of July.

Questions remain, though, about what kind and how social a first lady Mrs. Trump will be.

Will she dine out at the city's trendiest restaurants? Pedal up a sweat at SoulCycle spinning classes? Try to go incognito on a Target shopping run?

"I don't know anybody in New York who knows her or ever sees her socially and I suspect that will be the same here," said Sally Quinn, an author and Washington hostess.

Even the president has described his third wife, a 47-year-old former model and native of Slovenia, as more happy at home than working the social scene.

"She would go home at night and didn't even want to go out with people," Trump said of his wife's life in New York. "She was a very private person."

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Mrs. Trump and Barron continued to live at Trump Tower after the Jan. 20 inauguration so he could finish the school year in New York. The first lady announced their June 11 move to Washington with a tweet.

"Looking forward to the memories we'll make in our new home! #Movingday," she wrote on a photo of the Washington Monument as seen from a White House window.

Spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said Mrs. Trump has been and will continue to be an active first lady. But she "is taking some time to get Barron settled into his new home and she continues to be thoughtful and deliberate about her platform." Mrs. Trump said during the campaign that she would work to combat cyberbullying as first lady. She has made no further announcements about her plans.

The first lady also needs to hire more staff, including a lead curator to help chronicle White House history and preserve its artifacts. She filled the chief usher's position last week with an employee from the Trump hotel down the street.

Like some presidents, first ladies complain about the constraints of White House life even as they try to find ways to cope with Secret Service agents guarding them around the clock. Michelle Obama once jokingly described the mansion as a "really nice prison." But it's much easier for first ladies than presidents to venture out in public because they travel with far less security and staff.

Hillary Clinton said she walked around town wearing a baseball cap, sunglasses and sweat clothes, and required the members of her security detail to try to blend in with tourists. Laura Bush would go shopping in Georgetown.

Mrs. Obama was often seen dining at the city's hottest restaurants with President Barack Obama or her girlfriends, or working up a sweat at exercise classes. She once made a Target run hiding behind dark glasses and a baseball cap.

Kathy Hollinger, president and CEO of the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, said the hope with every new administration is that the president, White House staff and their families will dine out frequently.

That's still only a hope when it comes to the Trumps.

The president dines out occasionally when he's in Washington — but so far only at his hotel near the White House. Mrs. Trump has eaten there, too.

"The Obama family and his administration were visible in countless restaurants across the region, raising the profile of our industry as a whole, and we hope the trend continues," Hollinger said in an emailed statement. "Mrs. Trump will find a lot of outstanding restaurants to choose from around her new home in Washington."

Carl Sferrazza Anthony, a historian with the National First Ladies' Library, said the current first lady may not find White House life to be all that confining.

She traded life in an expansive, three-story Trump Tower penthouse for a 132-room mansion with a bowling alley, outdoor swimming pool, tennis courts, gardens and "a lot of spaces that would allow her full privacy both indoors and outdoors."

"It's just hard to imagine that it's going to be frustrating," he said.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap

Yemen to probe alleged interrogation abuses by UAE, US By AHMED AL-HAJ, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's internationally-recognized government on Saturday ordered the creation of a committee to investigate allegations of human rights violations, following reports that U.S. military interrogators worked with forces from the United Arab Emirates who are accused of torturing detainees in Yemen.

A copy of the order issued by Prime Minister Ahmed Obaid bin Daghr was obtained by The Associated Press. It said the investigation would focus on areas liberated by government forces from Shiite rebels

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known as the Houthis and their allies.

The six-member committee will be chaired by Justice Minister Jamal Mohamed Omar and include representatives from the Human Rights Ministry, security agencies and the prosecution. It will immediately start work and have 15 days to conclude its investigation and report back to bin Daghr.

The reports of the abuses were revealed in an AP investigation published Thursday. The investigation detailed a network of secret prisons across southern Yemen where hundreds are detained in the hunt for al-Qaida militants. American defense officials said U.S. forces have interrogated some detainees in Yemen but denied any participation in, or knowledge of, human rights abuses.

Defense officials told the AP that the department had looked into reports of torture and concluded that its personnel were not involved or aware of any abuses. The American officials confirmed that the U.S. provides questions to the Emiratis and receives transcripts of their interrogations. The officials said the U.S. also provides information to the UAE on suspected al-Qaida militants that the U.S. believes should be apprehended or questioned.

The 18 lock-ups mentioned in the AP investigation are run by the UAE and by Yemeni forces it created, according to accounts from former detainees, families of prisoners, civil rights lawyers and Yemeni military officials. At the Riyan airport in the southern Yemeni city of Mukalla, former inmates described shipping containers smeared with feces and crammed with blindfolded detainees. They said they were beaten, roasted alive on a spit and sexually assaulted, among other abuses. One witness, who is a member of a Yemeni security force, said American forces were at times only yards (meters) away.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement Friday that the allegations are "completely untrue" and a "political game" by Yemeni militias to discredit a Saudi-led coalition that includes the UAE and which has been fighting since 2015 on the side of the internationally-recognized government against the rebels. It says it does not run or oversee any prisons in Yemen, and that any such facilities are under "the jurisdiction of the legitimate Yemeni authorities."

Most of the clandestine sites are run by either the Hadramawt Elite or Security Belt, Yemeni forces that were created, trained and financed by the UAE. Officially, they are under the authority of Yemen's internationally-recognized government, but multiple Yemeni government officials told the AP they have no control over them and they answer to the Emiratis.

It was not immediately clear whether the committee set up on Saturday by the Yemeni government would gain access to any of the lockups and whether its findings could lead to action that may end the abuses. Yemeni rights lawyers and activists were skeptical about the outcome, saying they did not expect commanders of the two UAE-backed military outfits to meaningfully assist in the investigation.

Relations between Saudi-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and the UAE have been fraught with tension, chiefly over allegations by the Yemeni leader that the Emiratis are offering patronage to southern Yemeni politicians campaigning for secession as well as what he sees as UAE violations of his country's sovereignty.

In Washington, pressure has been mounting on the U.S. Defense Department after multiple U.S. senators called for investigations into the reports, with John McCain, Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the ranking Democrat, Jack Reed, calling the reports "deeply disturbing."

McCain and Reed wrote a letter to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis Friday asking him to conduct an immediate review of the reported abuses and what U.S. forces knew.

"Even the suggestion that the United States tolerates torture by our foreign partners compromises our national security mission by undermining the moral principle that distinguishes us from our enemies — our belief that all people possess basic human rights," the senators wrote Mattis. "We are confident that you find these allegations as extremely troubling as we do."

Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, also called for an investigation and noted that support for the UAE forces could violate a law he wrote that forbids funding to known human rights violators.

"Reports of acts of torture by agents of a government that is supported by the United States, and the

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possibility that U.S. military personnel may have been aware of it, should ring alarm bells at the Department of Defense," Leahy said in a statement to the AP.

The American Civil Liberties Union also said Friday that it had filed a Freedom of Information Act request for U.S. records related to the interrogations.

UK Parliament investigates cyberattack on user accounts

LONDON (AP) — British officials were investigating a cyberattack Saturday on the country's Parliament after discovering "unauthorized attempts to access parliamentary user accounts."

A statement from the House of Commons said that as a precaution, remote email access for members has been disabled in order to protect the network from hackers.

"As a result, some Members of Parliament (lawmakers) and staff cannot access their email accounts outside of Westminster," it said, adding that IT services at Parliament itself are working normally.

It was not immediately clear how many people were affected or what the extent of the damage was. An email sent all those affected described a "sustained and determined attack on all parliamentary user accounts in an attempt to identify weak passwords," according to The Guardian newspaper. "These attempts specifically were trying to gain access to our emails."

Liberal Democrat Chris Rennard said on Twitter that urgent messages should be sent by text message because parliamentary emails may not work remotely.

The National Cyber Security Center and the National Crime Agency are looking into the incident.

Liam Fox, Britain's International Trade Secretary, told ITV News that the attack was "a warning to everyone: We need more security and better passwords. You wouldn't leave your door open at night."

UK finds 34 high-rise apartment buildings with unsafe siding By SYLVIA HUI and DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's fire-safety crisis expanded substantially Saturday as authorities said 34 high-rise apartment blocks across the country had cladding that failed fire safety tests. London officials scrambled to evacuate four public housing towers after experts found them "not safe for people to sleep in overnight." Hundreds of residents hastily packed their bags and sought emergency shelter, with many angry and

confused about the chaotic situation. Some refused to leave their high-rise apartments. Scores of evacuees slept on inflatable beds in a gym while officials sought better accommodations for them.

Camden Council leader Georgia Gould said it decided to evacuate four blocks in north London's Chalcots Estate late Friday after fire inspectors uncovered problems with "gas insulation and door stops," which, combined with the presence of flammable cladding encasing the buildings, meant residents had to leave immediately.

The evacuation comes amid widening worries about the safety of high-rise apartment blocks across the country following the inferno that engulfed Grenfell Tower in west London on June 14, killing at least 79 people. Attention has focused on the 24-story tower's external cladding material, which has been blamed for the rapid spread of that blaze, but multiple other fire risks have now been identified in some housing blocks.

The government said Saturday that the cladding samples that failed fire safety tests came from 34 apartment towers in cities including London, Manchester, Plymouth and Portsmouth. Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said further testing "is running around the clock."

So far, Camden Council has been the only local authority to have asked residents to leave as a precaution. It said about 650 apartments were evacuated, though initial reports put the figure at 800 apartments.

The council said residents would be out of their homes for three to four weeks while it completes firesafety upgrades.

"I know some residents are angry and upset, but I want to be very clear that Camden Council acted to protect them," Gould said in a statement. "Grenfell changed everything, and when told our blocks were unsafe to remain in, we acted."

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Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May, who has been criticized for her slow response to the Grenfell tragedy, said Saturday that the government was supporting Camden officials to ensure residents have somewhere to stay while building work is done.

In response, Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, said May needed to "get a grip" and lead a stronger response to what is now a "national threat."

Residents — including families with babies and elderly relatives — trooped out of the buildings late Friday night with suitcases and plastic bags stuffed with clothes. Council workers guided dozens to a nearby gym, where they spent the night on inflatable mattresses. Others were being put up in hotels or other housing projects.

Many residents complained about a lack of information and confusion. Officials first announced the evacuation of one building, then expanded it to five before reducing it to four. Some residents said they learned about the evacuation from the television news hours before officials came knocking on doors.

Renee Williams, 90, who has lived in Taplow Tower since 1968, told Britain's Press Association: "No official came and told us what's going on. I saw it on the TV, so I packed an overnight bag.

"It's unbelievable. I understand that it's for our safety but they can't just ask us to evacuate with such short notice. There's no organization and it's chaos," she said.

Carl McDowell, 31, said he took one look at the inflatable beds at the gym and went back to his Taplow apartment to sleep there overnight. Other residents were distraught that they were ordered to evacuate, but were told to leave their pets behind in buildings that could be dangerous.

Fire-safety experts say the Grenfell Tower blaze, which police said was touched off by a fire at a refrigerator, was probably due to a string of failures, not just the cladding, which is widely used to provide insulation and enhance the appearance of buildings.

Police said Friday they are considering filing manslaughter charges in the Grenfell disaster and they were conducting a wide-ranging investigation that will look at everything that contributed to it. The Metropolitan Police said cladding attached to Grenfell during a recent renovation failed safety tests conducted by investigators.

"We are looking at every criminal offense from manslaughter onwards," Detective Superintendent Fiona McCormack told reporters. "We are looking at all health and safety and fire safety offenses, and we are reviewing every company at the moment involved in the building and refurbishment of Grenfell Tower."

The government has ordered an immediate examination of the refrigerator model that started the blaze, the Hotpoint model FF175BP refrigerator-freezer.

The government also urged building owners, public and private, to submit samples of their cladding. One hotel chain, Premier Inn, has calling in experts to check its buildings.

Police say 79 people are either confirmed or presumed dead in the Grenfell blaze, although that number may change, and it will take weeks to find and identify remains. To encourage cooperation with authorities, May said the government won't penalize any Grenfell fire survivors who were in the country illegally.

Sheila Norman-Culp, Gregory Katz and Alastair J. Grant contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 25, the 176th day of 2017. There are 189 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On June 25, 1967, the Beatles performed their new song "All You Need Is Love" during the closing segment of "Our World," the first-ever live international telecast which was carried by satellite from 14 countries. On this date:

In 1530, the Augsburg Confession, a statement outlining the articles of faith of the Lutheran Church, was presented to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg.

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In 1788, Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

In 1867, barbed wire was patented by Lucien B. Smith of Kent, Ohio.

In 1876, Lt. Col. Colonel George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

In 1910, President William Howard Taft signed the White-Slave Traffic Act, more popularly known as the Mann Act, which made it illegal to transport women across state lines for "immoral" purposes.

In 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was enacted.

In 1947, "The Diary of a Young Girl," the personal journal of Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl hiding with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, was first published.

In 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces from the communist North invaded the South.

In 1973, former White House Counsel John W. Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, implicating top administration officials, including President Richard Nixon as well as himself, in the Watergate scandal and cover-up.

In 1981, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that male-only draft registration was constitutional.

In 1997, oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau died in Paris at age 87.

In 2009, death claimed Michael Jackson, the "King of Pop," in Los Angeles at age 50 and actress Farrah Fawcett in Santa Monica, California, at age 62.

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber blew himself up in the midst of a gathering of U.S.-allied tribal sheiks at a Baghdad hotel, killing 13 people. Robert Zoellick (ZEHL'-ik) won unanimous approval of the World Bank's board to become the institution's next president. World Wrestling Entertainment star Chris Benoit (ben-WAH'), his wife and 7-year-old son were found dead in their Fayetteville, Georgia, home (authorities concluded that Benoit strangled his family, then killed himself). A judge in Washington, D.C. ruled in favor of a dry cleaner sued by a dissatisfied customer who was demanding \$54 million for his misplaced pants.

Five years ago: A divided U.S. Supreme Court threw out major parts of Arizona's tough crackdown on people living in the U.S. without legal permission, while unanimously upholding the law's most-discussed provision: requiring police to check the immigration status of those they stop for other reasons, but limiting the legal consequences. With BeBe Winans singing "God Bless America," a final steel beam was lifted atop the new 4 World Trade Center in New York City.

One year ago: President Barack Obama called West Virginia Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin to extend his condolences for the lives lost in heavy flooding, and directed White House staff to coordinate closely with Tomblin's team to make sure FEMA was providing all appropriate assistance. Pope Francis visited Armenia, where he recognized the Ottoman-era slaughter of Armenians as a genocide, prompting a harsh rebuttal from Turkey. Gunmen stormed a hotel in Somalia's seaside capital, killing at least 14 victims in an attack claimed by the extremist group al-Shabab.

Today's Birthdays: Actress June Lockhart is 92. Civil rights activist James Meredith is 84. Author-activist Larry Kramer is 82. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eddie Floyd is 80. Actress Barbara Montgomery is 78. Actress Mary Beth Peil (peel) is 77. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed is 75. Singer Carly Simon is 72. Rock musician Ian McDonald (Foreigner; King Crimson) is 71. Actor-comedian Jimmie Walker is 70. Actor-director Michael Lembeck is 69. TV personality Phyllis George is 68. Rock singer Tim Finn is 65. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is 63. Rock musician David Paich (Toto) is 63. Actor Michael Sabatino is 62. Celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain is 61. Actor-writer-director Ricky Gervais (jer-VAYZ') is 56. Actor John Benjamin Hickey is 54. Actress Erica Gimpel is 53. Basketball Hall of Famer Dikembe Mutombo (dih-KEHM'-bay moo-TAHM'-boh) is 51. Rapper-producer Richie Rich is 50. Rapper Candyman is 49. Contemporary Christian musician Sean Kelly (Sixpence None the Richer) is 46. Actress Angela Kinsey is 46. Rock musician Mike Kroeger (KROO'-gur) (Nickelback) is 45. Rock musician Mario Calire is 43. Actress Linda Cardellini is 42. Actress Busy Philipps is 38. Jazz musician Joey Alexander is 14.

Thought for Today: "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets." — Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821).