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Official Notices

Groton Area School Book
Brown County Official Notices Book
Groton City Official Notices Book
Other Official Notices Book

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**

2

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship with communion, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship with communion, 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 at 10 a.m. in Pierpont.

3

Senior Menu: Hamburger w/wheat bun, lettuce, tomato and onion; potato salad, cucumber salad, ice cream sundae.

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

4

FOURTH OF JULY

Senior Menu: NO MEAL.

Olive Grove: Firecracker couples tourney, 10 a.m. shotgun start, 18 holes

5

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, fresh fruit, cookie, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee time, 9 a.m.

Legion: at Redfield, 6 p.m., DH

Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com





“And in today
already walks
tomorrow.”

-Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

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June Sunflower Planting Report

The area planted to sunflower in 2017 totals 1.27 million acres, down 21 percent from 2016. Compared with last year, growers in four of the eight major sunflower-producing States expect a decline in sunflower acreage this year. Planted area in North Dakota, last year's leading sunflower-producing state, declined 318,000 acres from 2016. Producers in South Dakota planted 550,000 acres in 2017, a decrease of 8,000 acres from last year. Harvested area for the nation is forecast at 1.21 million acres, down 21 percent from last year.

Planted area of oil type varieties, at 1.08 million acres, is down 24 percent from 2016. Area planted to non-oil varieties, estimated at 186,000 acres, is up 4 percent from last year.

USDA 2017 U.S. Sunflower Plantings Report June 30, 2017

STATE	Oil Sunflower			Non-Oil Sunflower			All Types		
	Acres Planted 2016	Acres Planted 2017	% of 2016	Acres Planted 2016	Acres Planted 2017	% of 2016	Acres Planted 2016	Acres Planted 2017	% of 2016
California	45,000	56,000	124%	1,600	3,000	188%	46,600	59,000	127%
Colorado	60,000	60,000	100%	14,000	14,000	100%	74,000	74,000	100%
Kansas	45,000	55,000	122%	18,000	15,000	83%	63,000	70,000	111%
Minnesota	66,000	33,000	50%	14,000	16,000	114%	80,000	49,000	61%
Nebraska	29,000	55,000	190%	12,500	6,000	48%	41,500	61,000	147%
N. Dakota	630,000	310,000	49%	58,000	60,000	103%	688,000	370,000	54%
S. Dakota	510,000	490,000	96%	48,000	60,000	125%	558,000	550,000	99%
Texas	33,000	20,000	61%	12,500	12,000	96%	45,500	32,000	70%
<i>US Total</i>	1,418,000	1,079,000	76%	178,600	186,000	104%	1,596,600	1,265,000	79%

Bad News for Diet Soda Lovers

Study links artificially sweetened drinks with higher risk of stroke and dementia

by Shelley Emling, AARP, April 21, 2017

You might think drinking sugar-free diet soda is better for you than regular soda, which is packed with sugar. After all, experts have been sounding alarm bells for years about the dangers of consuming excessive amounts of sugar, which has been associated with obesity and a litany of health problems.

But new research published in the American Heart Association's journal *Stroke* finds that the artificial sweeteners used in diet drinks are also a cause for concern, as they have been linked to a greater risk of stroke and dementia.

The April 2017 study involved 2,888 adults older than 45 and 1,484 adults older than 60. Researchers asked the participants to answer questions about their eating and drinking habits at three separate points during a seven-year period. Then, for the next 10 years, they kept tabs on the participants, recording which of them suffered a stroke or developed dementia.

In the end, researchers learned that those who drank at least one artificially sweetened drink per day were nearly three times more likely to have a stroke or develop dementia compared to those who drank less than one a week. Their findings held up even after adjusting for other factors such as age, gender, calorie intake, diet quality, physical activity and the presence of genetic risk factors for Alzheimer's disease.

The data collected did not distinguish between the types of artificial sweeteners used in the drinks.

Although lead researcher Matthew Pase of the Boston University School of Medicine acknowledged that the findings showed only a correlation — and not causation — he said they do provide yet one more piece of evidence that diet drinks are not as healthy an alternative to sugary drinks as many people think.

"We recommend that people drink water on a regular basis instead of sugary or artificially sweetened beverages," he said in a statement.

Pase added that the study shows a need to direct more research to this area, given how often people drink artificially sweetened beverages.

Responding to the new study, the American Beverage Association released a statement saying that low-calorie sweeteners found in beverages have been proven safe by worldwide government safety authorities.

"The FDA, World Health Organization, European Food Safety Authority and others have extensively reviewed low-calorie sweeteners and have all reached the same conclusion — they are safe for consumption," the statement said. "While we respect the mission of these organizations to help prevent conditions like stroke and dementia, the authors of this study acknowledge that their conclusions do not — and cannot — prove cause and effect."

Even so, you might want to think twice before gulping down diet soda. A 2015 study of adults 65 and older found that those who drank diet soda daily gained more weight than those who never drank it. Still another previous study found that diet soda could disrupt gut bacteria, leading to glucose intolerance in some people and raising the risk for type 2 diabetes.

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The South Dakota Building at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair

New York Tribune Editor Horace Greeley encouraged people to go West, but a South Dakota newspaper editor admonished people to go East.

"Any person who can take in the world's fair and does not do so, makes a great mistake, and they will surely regret it as long as they live," read an article in the June 8, 1893, Turner County Herald in Hurley, published by William C. Brown.

It's no wonder. The editor and his wife had spent 10 days taking in the sights at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, also known as the Chicago World's Fair. The fair had opened on May 1, 1893, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World. Those attending the fair on the south side of Chicago adjacent to Lake Michigan would have seen buildings that stretched a third of a mile long, the world's first Ferris wheel, exhibits from 86 foreign countries, buildings representing 43 states and territories, and much more.

Many South Dakotans heeded the advice to see the world's fair, as 19,684 South Dakotans signed the guest register in the South Dakota State building from June 1 until the fair closed on Oct. 30. South Dakota's estimated white population in 1890, according to the census, was 328,808. The population had increased by 2,167 five years later. South Dakotans were part of an estimated 28 million people who visited the Chicago World's Fair.

"The South Dakota State building was not only a surprise to strangers, but to many of our own people," stated the Report of the South Dakota World's Fair Commission, made to Gov. Charles Sheldon. "Situated on the 57th street entrance, near the gate, it was in the path of all visitors passing in or out of the grounds at that gate. The building itself was a very important state exhibit. The outside walls were covered with the Yankton Portland cement; the beauty of color and flint-like hardness attracted much attention. The front entrance was under a large arch composed of Sioux Falls quartzite and Black Hills sandstone, supported by two beautiful, polished quartzite columns."

Those entering the 100-foot by 60-

SOUTH DAKOTA

HISTORY & HERITAGE



THE SOUTH DAKOTA BUILDING is entirely the creation of the muscle, brain, material, and money of that State. The exterior is coated with Yankton cement, the timber is the product of her forests, and the roofing the product of her mines. Within its walls a wonderfully varied exhibit of the natural resources of the State are exhibited, including all the fruits of the temperate zone, and almost all known metals. The building measures 100x60 feet, is Romanesque in style, and cost \$25,000.

South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives

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foot building saw rooms packed with agricultural, commercial and mining displays. The main exhibit hall held more than 100 varieties of wheat, oats and other cereals. An arch was made of 14-foot cornstalks loaded with large ears and the sign, "We want you to know that South Dakota is a corn state." The wool growers' exhibit was considered "the best arranged wool exhibit on the grounds." There was also a ladies' and gentlemen's parlor, bathrooms, gentlemen's reading and smoking room, private offices and storage rooms.

The purpose of the South Dakota Building was to showcase the state's advantages in order to encourage immigration and to correct erroneous impressions people might have of the state, then 4 years old, according to the commission's report. South Dakota was in dire straits, as the loss of crops to drought had caused the state's economy to crash and forced many South Dakotans to leave the state or accept outside aid.

Due to the state's treasury troubles, private citizens provided much of the financing of the building.

Gov. Sheldon formally dedicated the South Dakota Building on July 12, 1893, extolling the state's rich soil, mild climate, deposits of minerals and other virtues.

The South Dakota Building contained what South Dakota claimed to be not only the largest guest registers on the fairgrounds, but the largest in the world.

The guest registers were 17 inches thick, 25 inches high and 26 inches wide, and had a combined weight of 400 pounds, according to the fair commission's report. The guest registers are now in the safekeeping of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre.

Most of the fair's buildings were designed to be temporary structures, removed after the fair closed.

While the fair was underway, Old Main at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion was destroyed by fire. Many of the materials from the South Dakota Building were saved and found new life in building a new Old Main.

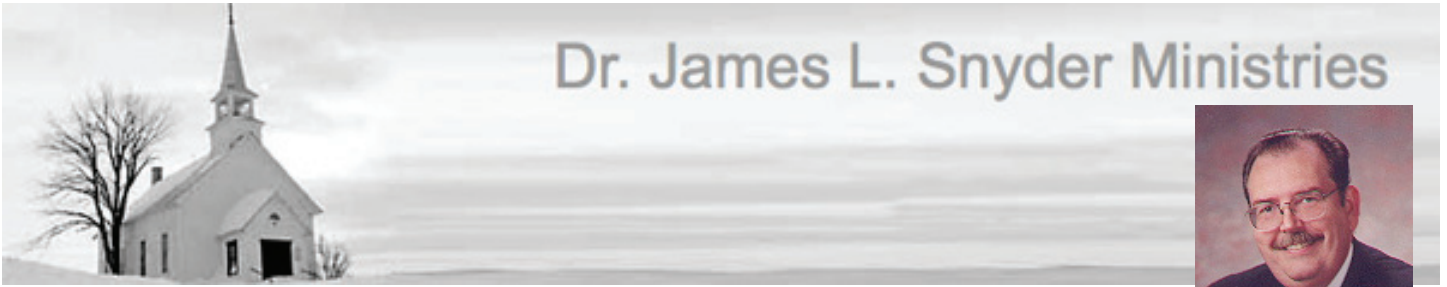
This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.



The photo of the painting is from the museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



I Was Just Thinking

Thinking is not my strong suit by any stretch of the imagination. Every time I start thinking, I either get a headache or get into trouble. I'm not sure which is worse, the headache or the trouble.

In my normal pursuit of life, thinking sits in the backseat. If there is an emergency, thinking may come forward and help out. However, in the meantime, thinking is not something I like to do on a regular basis.

That is my side. On the other side, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is always thinking. Most of the time, she is thinking about jobs I should be doing. I don't know how she does it, but she can come up with a list of "honey-do's" that will occupy all my time. Of course, I must confess, while I am doing these "honey-do's" I am thinking, but not thoughts I would like to come out into the public arena.

I do not really have to think that much because my wife thinks for me. How she does it is beyond me, but she knows what I am thinking three days before that thought enters my head. At least, that's what she tells me and she would not lie to me.

I have learned through the years that there are several questions that I should never ask my wife. One is, "Honey, what are you doing?"

You would think after decades of interaction with her I would know what to say and what not to say. Because I don't give much to thinking, I usually speak without thinking, which always gets me into trouble. If I could think through something, I just might escape the trouble that I get into.

Just the other day I came home from working at the office and my wife was sitting in the chair and I asked "the" question. "Honey, what are you doing?"

My wife knows how to ask questions and is very skillful at asking the right question. The other side is that she knows how to answer questions to such a degree that gets me into difficulty. How she manages this is beyond my wildest imagination. Of course, if I would think about it, maybe I could come up with an answer, but who has time to think these days?

Without any delay, she responded to my inquiry by saying, "I was just thinking..."

As soon as she said that, I knew I was in trouble. Why don't I keep my questions to myself? Why must I always fall into that trap she lays for me?

"I was just thinking," she said without giving me any opportunity to respond, "that we ought to go to the mall this afternoon and do a little bit of shopping."

Her "little bit of shopping" has nothing to do with the word "little," but a lot to do with the word, "cash." She has the idea that if you buy something with a credit card, no cash is involved.

The last place on earth I want to go to is the shopping mall. I must confess that I have a little bit of a drug problem here. When I go to the mall with my wife, I am drug from one store to another store to another store until I have completely lost any sense of reality.

I am not sure if there is a solution to this kind of a drug problem. If there is, I would like to know about it.

"Well," I said as hesitatingly as possible, "we might not have enough time to go this afternoon to the shopping mall."

"I was just thinking," she responded, "that we could go to the shopping mall this afternoon and then stop by a restaurant and have supper out together. Wouldn't that be wonderful? What do you think?"

If I had just the energy to think through this kind of thing, I would have guessed that she had an ulterior motive in going to the shopping mall.

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"If we go out for supper tonight," she explained, "we will have plenty of time to go to the mall this afternoon." With that, she smiled one of those contagious smiles that I have not yet been able to resist.

Driving to the mall that afternoon I had a variety of thoughts jingling through my mind. One predominant thought was, "How much is this going to cost?"

Although my wife thinks a lot, this is one area where her thinking never penetrates. I suppose that is my responsibility to think about the money aspect of everything. The problem is, the more I think about it, the less I really like it.

As we were coming home after supper at the restaurant my wife said, "I was just thinking what a wonderful afternoon this was. I'm glad you came up with this idea."

I pondered about that for a while and could not remember when I came up with this idea. I thought it would be better for me just to go along with her thought, which would make everybody in the car happy.

As we were driving home, I happened to think of a passage in the Old Testament. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8).

I may not be big on thinking, but I take comfort in the fact that God thinks about me all the time.

Sign Up Now for HuntSAFE Courses

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is currently taking registration for HuntSAFE classes. Classes are held statewide throughout the year. Registration for most classes is available online at gfp.sd.gov/hunt-ed.

HuntSAFE courses are classes designed to teach students the importance of firearm safety. Students will participate in multiple in-person sessions that will provide the students with the knowledge and skills relative to hunting and hunter safety.

To be eligible for certification, students must be present and participate in all required sessions. Courses are for youth age 12 and older. If a student's twelfth birthday falls on or between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, he/she may be issued a card and is eligible to obtain a license and hunt beginning Sept. 1 of that year.

Adults are welcome and invited to attend with a student or take the course on their own.

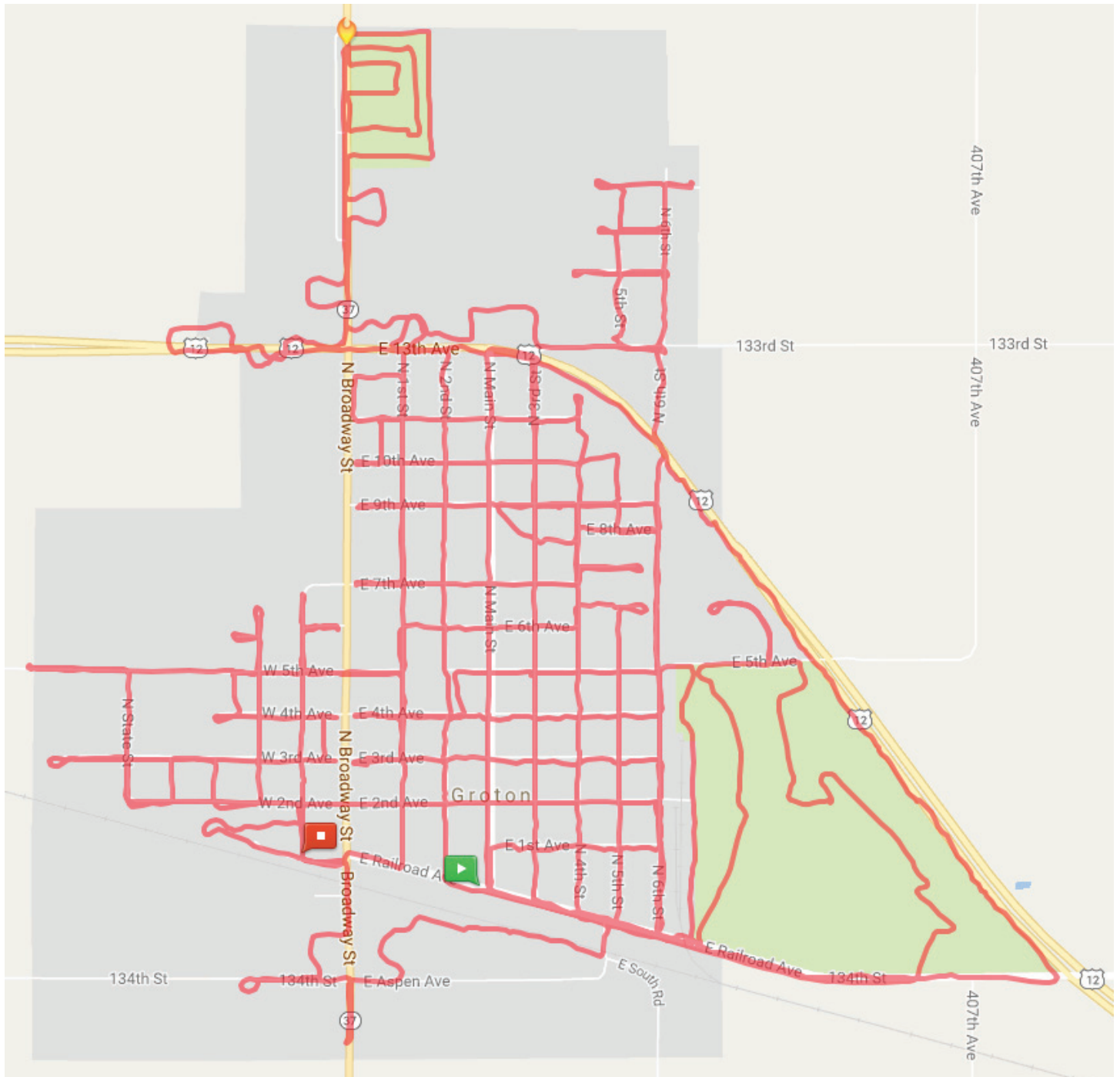
An independent study HuntSAFE class is also available. "Students also have the option of taking the course independent study style," says South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks HuntSAFE coordinator, Patrick Klotzbach. "Students complete the online coursework at their own pace then attend a 4-6 hour field day in order to get certified."

The independent study option is not available in all areas.

For more information on HuntSAFE in South Dakota, visit gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/hunter-education/.

Mosquito Control done last night

The City of Groton did mosquito control Saturday night/Sunday morning. The temperature was between 64 and 72 degrees and there was a NE wind from 5-10 mph. Nine gallons of Evolver was used in the 31.12 miles of travel distance.



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Today in Weather History

July 2, 1921: Barns were destroyed on two farms near Frederick in Brown County. A boy who could not make it to the cellar was killed in the open near a barn. This death is one of the earliest known from a significant, estimated F2 tornado in Brown County.

July 2, 1960: Hail shredded corn flattened grain and hay and pounded soybeans into the ground in a strip extending from Clinton to Montevideo in Minnesota. Leaves and bark were stripped from trees. Hail stones were reported to pile up to a depth of four feet in low spots. One farmer lost 2000 turkeys. Twelve barns demolished, many outbuildings destroyed and several homes damaged by winds. Near Appleton, 45 cars of a moving 174 car freight train derailed by the wind, one hanger destroyed, and two planes were damaged. In Big Stone County alone, the cost to repair power lines and poles estimated to be near 10,000 dollars. Total crop acreage affected was near 64,000 acres. The three counties of Big Stone, Swift, and Chippewa Counties, was designated a disaster area.

July 2, 2005: A line of severe thunderstorms with very strong straight-line winds moved from northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana across northwest South Dakota during the evening. Widespread wind gusts of 60 to 80 mph affected northwestern South Dakota; breaking tree limbs, downing trees, and knocking down snow fences. The high winds capsized a boat on the Belle Fourche Reservoir near Orman Dam. Five people, including an infant, were rescued by emergency personnel with no one injured. The strongest winds were reported north of Newell, near Castle Rock, where gusts estimated at 100 mph damaged a barn roof and ripped a chimney off a house. Hail to the size of quarters was also reported across parts of the area, and combined with the wind, caused some minor damage.

1833: The following is from the "History and Description of New England" published in 1860: "On the 2nd of July, 1833, this town (Holland, Vermont) was visited by a violent tornado, which commenced on Salem Pond in Salem, and passed over this place in a northeasterly direction. It was from half to three-quarters of a mile wide and prostrated and scattered nearly all the trees, fences, and buildings in its course. It crossed the outlet of Norton Pond and passed into Canada, and its path could be traced through the forests nearly to Connecticut River."

1843: An alligator reportedly fell from the sky onto Anson Street in Charleston, SC during a thunderstorm.

1987 - Thunderstorms in Colorado produced hail as large as golf balls northwest of Kiowa, which accumulated to a depth of twelve inches. Hail two and a half inches in diameter was reported at Black Forest. Hail damaged 900 acres of crops south of the town of Wiggins. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 47 degrees at Roanoke, VA, broke the July record set the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the south central U.S., with 158 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Evening thunderstorms in northeastern Texas produced softball size hail which caused more than five million dollars damage at Allen, and wind gusts to 90 mph at Dallas, which injured eight persons and caused seven million dollars damage. Winnfield LA reported 29.52 inches of rain in six days, for a total of 62.50 inches for the first six months of the year. Midland, TX, reported an all-time record high of 112 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2001: In Michigan, frost and freezing temperatures were observed in some locations with Grant dropping to 29 degrees. Muskegon reported their coldest July temperature on record with 39 degrees. Other daily record lows included: Lansing: 38, Muskegon: 39, Flint: 40, Youngstown, Ohio: 40, and Grand Rapids, Michigan: 43 degrees.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Independence Day	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Hot
High: 80 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 90 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 94 °F

Today
upper 70s to upper 80s

Tonight
mid 50s to mid 60s
showers/storms overnight -central SD

**Warming
Temperatures.**

Monday
80s

chance of showers/storms - central SD

Tuesday
80s-90s

chance of showers/storms - E SD and W MN

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 7/2/2017 5:20AM Central

Published on: 07/02/2017 at 5:33AM

Warmer days ahead! Highs will rise into the 80s and 90s by Tuesday, and even warmer Wednesday and Thursday. Expect scattered showers and thunderstorms to move into central South Dakota overnight tonight. The shower and thunderstorm potential will continue Monday, before sliding to eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota mainly during the day on the 4th. Check out your local forecast for further details... www.weather.gov/abr

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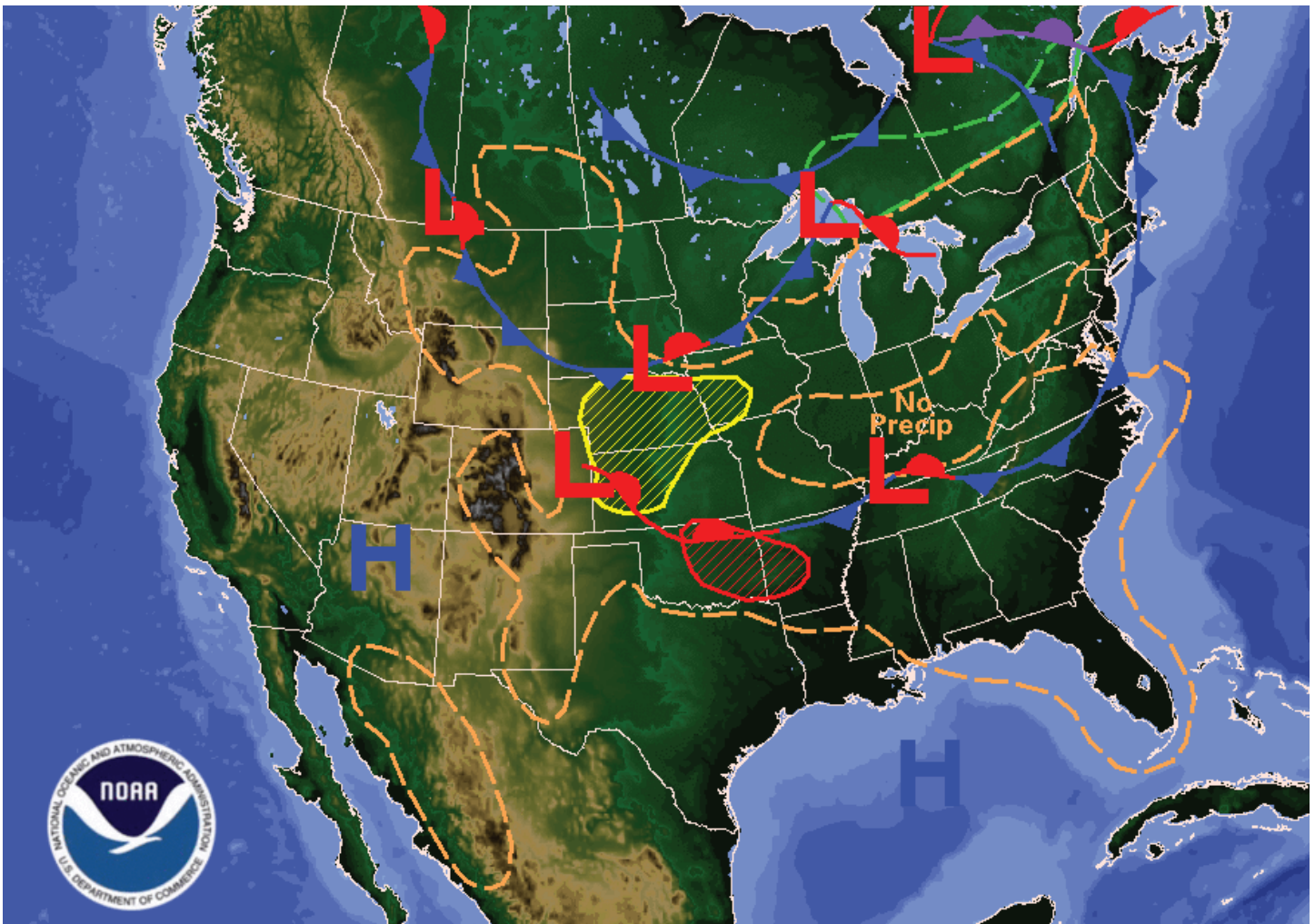
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 86.7 F at 4:41 PM
Low Outside Temp: 46.5 F at 3:41 AM
High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 3:01 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1949
Record Low: 37° in 1945
Average High: 82°F
Average Low: 58°F
Average Precip in July: 0.21
Precip to date in July: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 11.05
Precip Year to Date: 5.77
Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:50 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jul 02, 2017, issued 4:31 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli 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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DIVINE DELIVERANCE

Our God is a great and gracious God. We see His greatness when we look into the spacious skies at night and see stars that cannot be counted and know that there are galaxies beyond galaxies. We also see His greatness when His Son walked among the sick and healed them, the hungry and fed them, the grieving and comforted them, the distraught and encouraged them.

We see His power and greatness when we look at Jesus on the cross, His resurrection from the tomb when He defeated death, His offer of salvation, His promise of eternal life with Him and His invitation to call on Him "whenever" for "whatever" as long as it is in His name.

David said that God "rescued him because He delighted in him." Delighted here means "to be mindful of, to be attentive to, to keep, to protect, to have pleasure in..." Imagine the great value that God placed on David. He had a special place in God's heart and was delivered from God's wrath and his enemies.

Christians have the same offer of deliverance and salvation through Christ as David did through God. Christ takes God's wrath from us in the salvation He provides for us. He also delivers us from the power of Satan who would defeat us. He is with us now just as God was with David three thousand years ago.

Christ living in us gives us His presence and power. When we call upon Him and trust in Him, we can be assured that He "is attentive to us, will keep us, protect us and take great pleasure in us" because He delights in us just as He did David.

Prayer: We thank You, Father, for Your greatness and grace that delivers us, cleanses us and empowers us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 18:19 He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.

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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
05-12-14-22-33
(five, twelve, fourteen, twenty-two, thirty-three)
Estimated jackpot: \$289,000

Hot Lotto
02-03-04-10-33, Hot Ball: 12
(two, three, four, ten, thirty-three; Hot Ball: twelve)
Estimated jackpot: \$7.88 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$172 million

Powerball
19-42-45-48-53, Powerball: 16, Power Play: 3
(nineteen, forty-two, forty-five, forty-eight, fifty-three; Powerball: sixteen; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$106 million

Wildfire risk high in Southwest, northern Great Plains

By DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

Utah, Arizona and other parts of the Southwest could face more big wildfires this summer and fall, while hot and dry weather has also put the northern Great Plains at risk, forecasters said Saturday.

The National Interagency Fire Center's four-month outlook showed elevated danger of significant fires in parts of Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah, as well as eastern Montana and the western Dakotas.

Fire danger also remains high on the Big Island of Hawaii for the duration of the forecast, which covers July through October.

A fire in southern Utah has burned 94 square miles (244 square kilometers) and was 60 percent contained Saturday. The blaze was human-caused and began June 15, fire managers said. Some evacuation orders were lifted Friday.

A lightning-caused fire in northern Arizona burned 40 square miles (105 square kilometers) and was 44 percent contained.

A complex of lightning-caused grass fires in Washington state had burned 73 square miles (190 square kilometers). They ranged from 74 to 100 percent contained.

Other fires were burning in California, Colorado and New Mexico.

Conditions appeared bleak in the northern Great Plains, but no major wildfires were burning in the region Saturday, according to the federal government's InciWeb fire information system. The U.S. Drought Monitor map issued Thursday showed almost all of North and South Dakota and the eastern half of Montana ranging from abnormally dry to extreme drought.

Eastern Montana and western North Dakota received less than half their normal rainfall in June, the National Interagency Fire Center said.

The wildfire outlook was better for Northwest, the Midwest and the eastern half of the nation, forecast-

ers said.

They predicted below-normal danger for most of the South and southern Florida through August. Below-normal danger was also expected in September and October in south Texas and a swath from northern Mississippi to southwestern Pennsylvania.

Follow Dan Elliott at <http://twitter.com/DanElliottAP>. His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/dan%20elliott>.

Man guilty in beating death in Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City jury convicted a man in the beating death of a 35-year-old man last year in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2tC4JPw>) reports Friday's verdict means 44-year-old Marlon Iron Crow faces life in prison when he is sentenced at a later date.

Prosecutors say Iron Crow beat Craig Charging Crow after Charging Crow jokingly said, "I bet you can't knock me out." The pair was drinking at a home in Porcupine on November 2016.

Iron Crow was charged with second-degree murder.

Defense attorney Jamy Patterson says the men fought, but that Iron Crow only defended himself.

An autopsy showed Charging Crow died from bleeding at the base of the brain.

The case was tried in federal court and the FBI was the lead investigating agency.

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

Israel's ex-PM Olmert released from prison

By IAN DEITCH, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert left prison early Sunday days after a parole board granted him early release from his 27-month corruption sentence.

Prison Service spokesman Assaf Librati said Olmert, 71, was whisked away by security and driven home after serving 16 months. Olmert appeared gaunt and pale as he left the facility.

Librati said the terms of Olmert's early release stipulate that for the next few months he must do volunteer work, appear before police twice a month and not give interviews to the media or leave the country. Olmert will reportedly volunteer at a food bank and for a group that provides medical aid to needy families. However, President Reuven Rivlin could relieve him of the parole restrictions.

"We are very happy, a great burden has been lifted and a great sorrow and pain has ended," Eti Livni, a friend of Olmert, told Army Radio.

Olmert was convicted in 2014 in a wide-ranging case that accused him of accepting bribes to promote a real-estate project in Jerusalem and obstructing justice. The charges pertained to a period when he was mayor of Jerusalem and trade minister before he became premier in 2006.

His departure from office in 2009 ended the last major Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts and ushered in the era of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Olmert was a longtime fixture in Israel's hawkish right wing when he began taking a dramatically more conciliatory line toward the Palestinians more than a decade ago. He played a leading role in Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and became prime minister in January 2006 after then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a debilitating stroke. He resigned amid a corruption scandal that clouded his administration.

A gifted orator, Olmert broke a series of taboos while in office — warning that Israel could become like apartheid South Africa if it continued its occupation of the Palestinians and expressing readiness to relinquish parts of Jerusalem under a peace deal.

He led his government to the Annapolis peace conference in November 2007 — launching more than a year of ambitious, but ultimately unsuccessful U.S.-brokered talks.

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Olmert has said he made unprecedented concessions to the Palestinians — including a near-total withdrawal from the West Bank and an offer to place Jerusalem's Old City under international control — and was close to reaching an agreement at the time of his resignation.

Olmert was rushed to hospital with chest pains last month, but doctors ruled out a heart attack. A few days before that, Israel's Justice Ministry asked the police to investigate whether Olmert committed a "criminal offense" while behind bars.

It said a book Olmert is writing touches on "sensitive security issues" and that his lawyer was caught leaving the prison with a chapter on "secret operations" not approved by the censor for publication. Police searched the publishing house of the Yediot Ahronot newspaper, but not the paper itself, over the incident.

Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked welcomed Olmert's release, telling Army Radio he deserved to have his sentence reduced and that "all in all his behavior in prison was very good."

A few hours after his release, a somber-looking Olmert was seen walking around a shopping mall in Tel Aviv. A public relations company representing the mall released photos of the former premier in a clothing store. It said people had greeted him and wished him well.

Samsung to sell recycled Note 7 phone in South Korea at \$611

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Technology Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung Electronics said Sunday its recalled Galaxy Note 7 phones will be recycled and sold starting this week in South Korea.

The Galaxy Note FE phone, using unused parts in the recalled Note 7 smartphones, will go on sale in South Korea on Friday at 700,000 won (\$611), about three quarters of its original price.

The company said the supply will be limited to 400,000 units. Overseas sales plans will be determined later, it said in a statement.

Samsung said the Note FE has "perfect safety."

The original Note 7 was one of the biggest black eyes in Samsung's history. When it was launched in August 2016, the Note 7 was Samsung's answer to Apple's upcoming iPhone. It was also one of the most expensive Samsung phones with the price starting at \$850.

But after reports emerged that its batteries were prone to overheat and catch fire, Samsung recalled the phone in less than a month of its launch and released another one with replaced batteries. But the second batch also tended to overheat, prompting Samsung to discontinue the Note 7.

The debacle dealt a blow to Samsung's corporate image. Aviation authorities around the world banned the pricy phone on flight and photos of scorched Note 7 circulated on social media. Samsung spent billions of dollars to recall the Note 7 and fix its damaged brand.

Earlier this year, the company released the investigation results and blamed flaws in design and production of batteries supplied by two battery makers.

After Samsung recalled millions of Note 7 phones, environmental activists have pressured the South Korean tech giant to reuse the electronics parts to reduce waste. Samsung said the Note FE is part of its efforts to minimize waste.

Like the previous Note series, the Note FE, short for "Fan Edition," features the jumbo screen measuring 5.7 inches (14.48 centimeters) diagonally and the stylus pen.

Syria says it foiled attack as car bombs kill 8 in capital

By ALBERT AJI, Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — A series of car bomb explosions rocked Syria's capital Sunday, killing at least eight people and wounding 12, as officials claimed to have foiled a plot to target crowded areas during the first morning commute after a Muslim holiday.

The Interior Ministry said security forces tracked three cars loaded with explosives as they headed toward central Damascus. Two of the cars were intercepted at checkpoints on the airport road and detonated,

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apparently in controlled explosions, while the third made it into the city center, where the driver blew himself up near Tahreer Square.

The Syrian Minister of Local Administration, Hussein Makhlof, said the response marked a "major success in foiling a plot" to cause mass casualties.

The attack came on the first full work day after the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. State TV, which reported the toll, showed footage of two scorched vehicles on the airport road, as well as footage from Tahreer Square showing a damaged building and mangled cars at the small roundabout.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition monitoring group, put the death toll from the explosions at 12, including three attackers.

Such attacks have been relatively rare in Damascus, the seat of power for President Bashar Assad, who made a series of public appearances last week in a show of increased confidence after more than six years of battling a rebellion.

Pro-government forces have engaged in heavy fighting in Damascus' suburbs during the war, but have largely kept the rebels out of the city center. In recent days, Syrian troops and allied forces have been fighting to drive the rebels out of Ain Terma and Jobar, adjacent areas on the city's eastern outskirts that have been under rebel control since 2011.

The rebels said government forces attacked them with chlorine gas overnight, and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition monitoring group, said 12 fighters were treated for suffocation. The Syrian military denied the claims, and there was no way to independently verify them.

The attacks come days before Russian-sponsored talks are to resume in the Kazakh capital, Astana, where the two sides agreed to a cease-fire earlier this year that has been repeatedly violated. The new round of talks is expected to delineate "de-escalation zones." Russian officials said the talks are also to discuss the formation of a Syrian national reconciliation committee.

Associated Press writers Sarah El Deeb and Zeina Karam in Beirut contributed to this report.

Little Rock police chief: Quick work helped save lives

By **ANDREW DeMILLO** and **TAFI MUKUNYADZI**, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The landlord that owns the Little Rock nightclub where a shooting resulted in 28 people being injured officially evicted the club.

The volley of gunfire inside the Power Ultra Lounge early Saturday came so fast that investigators believe multiple people had to have been involved. Police Chief Kenton Buckner credited quick work by first responders for there being no fatalities.

Twenty-five people between the ages of 16 and 35 suffered gunshot wounds, and three others were hurt, perhaps while fleeing, Buckner said. Two people were in critical condition Saturday afternoon. Police said officers did not have any suspects in custody.

Courtney Swanigan, 23, told The Associated Press that when the gunfire rang out, "I just closed my eyes, got down on the ground and put my hands on my head."

City officials said they would move Monday to shut down the club under a "criminal abatement" program. State regulators suspended the club's liquor license earlier Saturday.

On Saturday night, a representative for the landlord's office posted an eviction notice on a door to the club. The notice stated that the club must move out of the property within three days "due to your failure to maintain the premises in a safe condition."

Mayor Mark Stodola said the city must "keep guns out of the hands of the wrong people" and suggested that people refuse to patronize clubs that seem to promote violence. Material advertising the concert by Tennessee rapper Finese 2Tymes showed a man pointing a gun at a camera.

"A promotional video with a gun on the front cover inviting people to a concert ... should also be totally unacceptable in our community," the mayor said.

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The shooting capped a violent week in Arkansas' largest city. Police had responded to a dozen drive-by shootings over the previous nine days.

"I'm sick of all the killing and I'm tired of all the shooting. The kids getting hurt," said Raida Bunche, who was waiting outside the club after hearing from a friend that her son had been inside. She found out later that he had run from the club when the shooting started and was not hurt.

The shooting occurred around 2:30 a.m. about 1 mile (1.61 kilometers) east of the state Capitol building. First-responders are stationed through the central part of the city and hospitals are a quick ride away.

"We had professional people responding to that incident and they did what they were trained to do, and I know they probably had something to do with the fact we didn't have any fatalities," Buckner said. He also credited divine intervention.

About 100 people gathered at Second Baptist Church on Saturday night for a candlelight vigil, seeking healing for those injured, and the community. Stodola sat in the front row.

"God bless our community. ... God bless our first responders," Robert Holt, president of Let Our Violence End and pastor at Healing Waters Outreach Center, said at the vigil.

Top state officials offered to help the city respond to an increasing number of incidents.

"Little Rock's crime problem appears to be intensifying," Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson said in a statement. "Every few days it seems a high-profile shooting dominates the news, culminating with (Saturday) morning's event. I have spoken this morning with Mayor (Mark) Stodola and I have offered both my heart felt concern over this senseless violent tragedy and state assets as needed to address the continued threat of violence in our community."

A Facebook video posted from inside the club included audio of at least 24 rounds fired in about 11 seconds. Darryl Rankin, who posted the video, said a friend of his who attended the concert with him had a bullet "stuck in his spine." Buckner said police had not yet spoken with the rapper, who he said has outstanding warrants in the state.

Calls to a number listed for Finese 2Tymes' booking agent weren't returned Saturday, but a message was posted on the artist's Facebook page offering thoughts and prayers for those injured: "THE VIOLENCE IS NOT FOR THE CLUB PEOPLE. WE ALL COME WITH 1 MOTIVE AT THE END OF THE DAY, AND THATS TO HAVE FUN."

Before Stodola announced that the city would shutter the club, officials at the Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control office suspended the club's liquor license and set a July 10 hearing on three potential charges: disorderly conduct, allowing possession of weapons on the premises and "failure to be a good neighbor."

The club's license has been suspended 11 times for failing to pay taxes, and it has been cited seven times for 14 various violations including unknowingly furnishing alcohol to minors and allowing alcohol to leave the premises since 2012, ABC Director of Enforcement Boyce Hamlet said.

Arkansas lawmakers this year passed a law allowing concealed handguns in bars, with permission of the businesses' owners and if the gun permit holder completes additional training. The law takes effect Sept. 1, but the training likely won't be available until next year.

Follow Andrew DeMillo and Tafi Mukunyadzi on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ademillo and www.twitter.com/tafimukunyadzi

Man held in Chinese scholar's kidnapping was grad student

By SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The 28-year-old Illinois man charged with kidnapping a Chinese scholar now believed to be dead was among a select few admitted to the University of Illinois' highly competitive physics graduate program in 2013.

Brendt Allen Christensen originally planned to earn a doctorate degree, but told his graduate adviser in 2016 he had changed his mind, Professor Lance Cooper recalled on Saturday. He didn't say why, and Christensen continued taking classes and teaching as a graduate assistant. He earned his master's degree

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in mid-May.

Christensen is in federal custody awaiting a court appearance Monday in the June 9 kidnapping of Yingying Zhang, the 26-year-old daughter of a working-class factory driver from China. Weeks ago, Zhang arrived at the university to conduct research in agricultural sciences and planned to begin work on her doctorate in the fall. Her body hasn't been found.

Hong Lei, China's general consul in Chicago, visited Zhang's family on Saturday when he expressed condolences. Hong condemned the cruelty by the suspect and urged the U.S. judicial system to hold a fair trial and mete out harsh punishment to the man charged in the case.

A criminal complaint accuses Christensen, of Champaign, Illinois, of abducting Zhang shortly after she stepped off a bus near the university campus. Video from nearby cameras showed Zhang, on her way to sign a lease for an apartment, trying unsuccessfully to flag down another bus. Minutes later, she's seen getting into a black Saturn Astra.

According to an affidavit filed in federal court, Christensen was under surveillance Thursday when agents overheard him explaining he had kidnapped Zhang. Authorities say agents believe Zhang is no longer alive based on that and other facts the investigation uncovered.

The charging document says his smartphone was used to visit an online forum in April called "Abduction 101." One of the threads on the forum, which was visited months before Zhang went missing, was entitled, "Perfect abduction fantasy." Another was about "planning a kidnapping."

Some 5,600 Chinese students are enrolled at the university — more than at any other college in the nation — and Zhang's disappearance fed anxieties of families of Chinese students studying in the U.S.

Meanwhile, the charges came as a shock to some who knew Christensen at the university. Cooper, a director of the graduate program, said he'd received no indication of anything unusual.

"There are many ways in which we find out there are problems with students," Cooper said. "We get reports they're not teaching well. We get reports from faculty that they're not doing well in classes, they're not showing up for classes. None of those flags were raised."

Former classmate Souvik Dutta said he was "dumbfounded" by the news, recalling Christensen as a normal guy and "very calm."

Public records show Christensen lived previously in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and his LinkedIn profile states he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2013 with bachelor's degrees in physics and math. Relatives couldn't be reached for comment or declined to speak to The Associated Press on Saturday.

Illinois Chancellor Robert Jones said in a statement the campus community is saddened Zhang is believed dead.

"This is a senseless and devastating loss of a promising young woman and a member of our community," Jones said. "There is nothing we can do to ease the sadness or grief for her family and friends, but we can and we will come together to support them in any way we can."

According to the criminal complaint, investigators determined 18 vehicles registered in Champaign County were similar to the one Zhang got in. One belonging to Christensen was first seen in an apartment complex parking lot June 12 — days after Zhang went missing — and investigators questioned him. The affidavit stated that investigators noted Christensen couldn't recall what he was doing the day Zhang disappeared. They searched the vehicle but didn't remove anything.

Investigators later determined the car in the video had a sunroof and cracked hubcap, like Christensen's car, the affidavit states. When investigators interviewed Christensen again, he acknowledged driving around the campus and giving a ride to an Asian woman who said she was late for an appointment. Christensen said the woman panicked after he apparently made a wrong turn and he let her out in a residential area.

Christensen was placed under continuous surveillance June 16 and his apartment was searched. On Thursday he was captured on an audio recording explaining how he took Zhang to his apartment and held her against her will, according to the affidavit.

Zhang's father, Ronggao Zhang, traveled to Illinois from Nanping, China, to be closer to the search. On

Thursday, he took part in a walk with students and university staff to the corner where his daughter was last seen.

Zhang graduated last year with a master's degree in environmental engineering from one of China's elite schools, Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. Friends and family said she dreamed of one day landing a professorship and helping her parents financially.

Associated Press writers Herbert McCann and Michael Tarm contributed to this report.

Ex-doctor sought to extract revenge on former colleagues

By COLLEEN LONG and JULIE WATSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A doctor disguised as one who would save lives came to the New York hospital that had spurned him only to try to destroy them instead, replacing his stethoscope and scalpel with an automatic weapon, authorities say.

In an instant, Dr. Henry Bello triggered a Code Silver at Bronx Lebanon Hospital, sending his one-time colleagues diving for cover on the hospital's two top floors while he repeatedly pulled his trigger, killing a doctor who had the misfortune of covering someone else's shift as a favor and injuring six others, including a patient.

The new details of Bello's rampage emerged Saturday along with an email rant against colleagues he blamed for forcing him to resign from the hospital amid sexual harassment allegations two years earlier. The email was sent to the New York Daily News just two hours before the shooting Friday afternoon that left six other people wounded and Bello dead from a self-inflicted shot.

"This hospital terminated my road to a licensure to practice medicine," the email said. "First, I was told it was because I always kept to myself. Then it was because of an altercation with a nurse."

He also blamed a doctor for blocking his chances at practicing medicine.

Bello had warned his former colleagues when he was forced out in 2015 that he would return someday to kill them.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press that Bello arrived at the hospital with the assault rifle hidden under his lab coat and asked for a specific doctor whom he blamed for his having to resign, but the physician wasn't there at the time. The official spoke on anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation.

It was not clear if Bello knew Dr. Tracy Sin-Yee Tam, 32, who was killed in the shooting on the 16th and 17th floors of the hospital and was, like him, a family medicine doctor. Hospital officials said that Tam normally worked in one of the hospital's satellite clinics and was covering a shift in the main hospital as a favor to someone else.

"It makes you think that anything can happen to anybody," said Tam's neighbor, Alena Khaim, 23, who saw Tam's sister outside the home Friday night overcome with grief, shaking and unable to walk. "She was such a sweet girl. You would never think something like that would happen but it happened."

Judy Beckles-Ross, 46, said she's not surprised Tam volunteered to cover the shift.

"She never said no," said Beckles-Ross, a friend from medical school who knew her for 11 years. "She had a good heart. Anybody that needed help, she would help them."

The six others who were injured — a patient, two medical students and three physicians — largely suffered gunshot wounds to the head, chest and abdomen. One physician remained in critical condition and the rest were stable, officials said Saturday.

Hospital vice president Errol C. Schneer said his staff responded heroically.

"Many of our staff risked their own lives to save patients," Schneer told reporters at the hospital where the 16th and 17th floors remained closed, and staffers were still recovering from the rampage that sent people diving for cover and huddling in patients' rooms while the gunman was on the loose. Adding to the chaos, authorities said, was a fire alarm that went off when Bello attempted to set himself ablaze, the flames extinguished by sprinklers, shortly before he shot himself.

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Detectives searched the Bronx home where Bello was most recently living and found the box where the gun came from. Investigators were checking serial numbers and trying to determine where it was purchased.

His former co-workers described a man who was aggressive, loud and threatening.

"All the time he was a problem," said Dr. David Lazala, who trained Bello as a family medicine doctor. When Bello was forced out in 2015, he sent Lazala an email blaming him for the dismissal.

Dr. Maureen Kwankam told the New York Daily News that "he promised to come back and kill us then."

According to New York State Education Department records, Bello graduated from Ross University and had a permit to practice as an international medical graduate that was issued on July 1, 2014, and expired last year on the same day.

In 2004, the doctor pleaded guilty to unlawful imprisonment, a misdemeanor, after a 23-year-old woman told police Bello grabbed her. He was arrested again in 2009 on a charge of unlawful surveillance, after two different women reported he was trying to look up their skirts with a mirror. That case was eventually sealed.

Schneer told The New York Times that the hospital did not know about Bello's criminal history when he was hired.

"At that time, and as a result of a human resources and security department background check, which includes fingerprinting, there was no record of any conviction for sexual abuse," he said.

Associated Press writers Larry Neumeister, Rebecca Gibian, Steve Peoples and Karen Matthews contributed to this report.

Police: Club shooting that injured 28 may be gang-related

By **ANDREW DeMILLO** and **TAFI MUKUNYADZI**, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Clubgoers screamed and scrambled for cover as dozens of gunshots rang out during a rap concert in downtown Little Rock early Saturday, leaving 28 people injured from an 11-second melee that police said may be gang-related.

The volley of gunfire inside the Power Ultra Lounge came so fast that investigators believe multiple people had to have been involved. Police Chief Kenton Buckner credited quick work by first responders for there being no fatalities.

Twenty-five people between the ages of 16 and 35 suffered gunshot wounds, and three others were hurt, perhaps while fleeing, Buckner said. Two people were in critical condition Saturday afternoon. Police said officers did not have any suspects in custody.

Courtney Swanigan, 23, told The Associated Press that when the gunfire rang out, "I just closed my eyes, got down on the ground and put my hands on my head."

City officials said they would move Monday to shut down the club under a "criminal abatement" program. State regulators suspended the club's liquor license earlier Saturday.

On Saturday night, a representative for the landlord's office posted an eviction notice on a door to the club. The notice stated that the club must move out of the property within three days "due to your failure to maintain the premises in a safe condition."

"We know we've got to use a hammer, we've got to use a big hammer on the people who would do violence with guns and hurt people," Stodola said at an afternoon news conference.

He said the city must "keep guns out of the hands of the wrong people" and suggested that people refuse to patronize clubs that seem to promote violence. Material advertising the concert by Tennessee rapper Finese 2Tymes showed a man pointing a gun at a camera.

"A promotional video with a gun on the front cover inviting people to a concert ... should also be totally unacceptable in our community," the mayor said.

The shooting capped a violent week in Arkansas' largest city. Police had responded to a dozen drive-by shootings over the previous nine days.

"This does appear to be a continuation of disputes from some of our local groups," Buckner said. "You've

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seen some of the things playing out in our streets that has resulted in drive-by shootings.”

The shooting occurred around 2:30 a.m. about 1 mile (1.61 kilometers) east of the state Capitol building. First-responders are stationed through the central part of the city and hospitals are a quick ride away.

“We had professional people responding to that incident and they did what they were trained to do, and I know they probably had something to do with the fact we didn’t have any fatalities,” Buckner said. He also credited divine intervention.

About 100 people gathered at Second Baptist Church on Saturday night for a candlelight vigil, seeking healing for those injured, and the community. Stodola sat in the front row.

“God bless our community. ... God bless our first responders,” Robert Holt, president of Let Our Violence End and pastor at Healing Waters Outreach Center, said at the vigil.

Top state officials offered to help the city respond to an increasing number of incidents.

“Little Rock’s crime problem appears to be intensifying,” Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson said in a statement. “Every few days it seems a high-profile shooting dominates the news, culminating with this morning’s event. I have spoken this morning with Mayor (Mark) Stodola and I have offered both my heart felt concern over this senseless violent tragedy and state assets as needed to address the continued threat of violence in our community.”

A Facebook video posted from inside the club included audio of at least 24 rounds fired in about 11 seconds. Darryl Rankin, who posted the video, said a friend of his who attended the concert with him had a bullet “stuck in his spine.” Buckner said police had not yet spoken with the rapper, who he said has outstanding warrants in the state.

Calls to a number listed for Finese 2Tymes’ booking agent weren’t returned Saturday, but a message was posted on the artist’s Facebook page offering thoughts and prayers for those injured: “THE VIOLENCE IS NOT FOR THE CLUB PEOPLE. WE ALL COME WITH 1 MOTIVE AT THE END OF THE DAY, AND THATS TO HAVE FUN.”

Police cordoned off the area as technicians collected evidence from the scene, which is near a Roman Catholic cathedral and a First United Methodist Church center. A number of worshippers gathered for a funeral at St. Andrew’s while police continued their work.

Glass from the Power Ultra Lounge’s second-story windows littered the ground, along with empty drink cups. In the parking lot, a silver Toyota had what appeared to be a streak of blood on the front passenger-side door.

“I’m sick of all the killing and I’m tired of all the shooting. The kids getting hurt,” said Raida Bunche, who was waiting outside the club after hearing from a friend that her son had been inside. She found out later that he had run from the club when the shooting started and was not hurt.

Before Stodola announced that the city would shutter the club, officials at the Arkansas Alcoholic Beverage Control office suspended the club’s liquor license and set a July 10 hearing on three potential charges: disorderly conduct, allowing possession of weapons on the premises and “failure to be a good neighbor.”

The club’s license has been suspended 11 times for failing to pay taxes, and it has been cited seven times for 14 various violations including unknowingly furnishing alcohol to minors and allowing alcohol to leave the premises since 2012, ABC Director of Enforcement Boyce Hamlet said.

Arkansas lawmakers this year passed a law allowing concealed handguns in bars, with permission of the businesses’ owners and if the gun permit holder completes additional training. The law takes effect Sept. 1, but the training likely won’t be available until next year.

Follow Andrew DeMillo and Tafi Mukunyadzi on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ademillo and www.twitter.com/tafimukunyadzi

This story has been updated to correct the name of the nightclub to Power Ultra Lounge instead of Power Lounge and to correct spelling of mother’s name who waited outside club to Raida Bunche.

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Day 1: Curry gets huge deal, Hayward hears Heat sales pitch

By TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

J.J. Redick is trusting the process. Gordon Hayward got his sales pitch from Miami. And David West, finally a champion, is coming back for one last season.

The first day of NBA free agency Saturday saw things starting to take shape, though there's still dozens more moves to come in the next few days. After an opening flurry that saw Stephen Curry get a \$201 million deal from the NBA champion Golden State Warriors and Blake Griffin take about \$175 million to stay with the Los Angeles Clippers, most teams started to look at names more within their price range.

Redick agreed to a \$23 million, one-year deal with the Philadelphia 76ers. West is going back to the Warriors on a veteran's minimum, which is now worth \$2.3 million. And Detroit got some solid insurance at point guard, agreeing with Langston Galloway on a three-year deal.

But all that, of course, was overshadowed by Curry's deal — the biggest contract in NBA history.

"Steph should be getting 400M this summer," Cleveland star LeBron James tweeted.

The rules, for now, only allow for Curry to get half of that.

With nearly \$1 billion in deals agreed to just in Day 1 of this year's free agency period, there is still obviously no shortage of money out there for teams to hand out.

And while Curry got the most, other point guards got plenty — or will when contracts can start being signed Thursday.

Jrue Holiday agreed to return to New Orleans for \$126 million over five years, with incentives potentially pushing that to \$150 million. Patty Mills is returning to San Antonio for the next four years at \$50 million, and Jeff Teague agreed with Minnesota on a three-year, \$57 million deal.

Still out there is another massive offer: John Wall has a chance to sign a four-year extension worth \$168 million with the Wizards, another deal under the so-called Supermax structure that allowed Curry to get his record payday.

In other major free agent news Saturday:

— Redick made his intentions for next season clear with three simple words. "Trust the process," he tweeted, his way of saying he was heading to the 76ers, who have made that phrase their mantra during their long rebuilding process. Redick averaged 15.0 points and made 43 percent of his 3-pointers last season for the Los Angeles Clippers, who will now need two new starting guards next season after point guard Chris Paul was traded to the Houston Rockets. Philadelphia also got veteran forward Amir Johnson on an \$11 million, one-year deal.

— Hayward was greeted by Heat players for his free-agent visit, along with a banner strategically placed outside AmericanAirlines Arena showing him in a Heat uniform. The All-Star forward who is coming off the best season of his career spent several hours with Miami officials such as team President Pat Riley, and is still expected to visit with Boston and Utah — the incumbent team — before making a decision in the coming days.

— The Jazz still aren't sure about Hayward, but are keeping Joe Ingles on a four-year, \$52 million deal.

— After locking up Holiday to feed the ball to All-Star big men DeMarcus Cousins and Anthony Davis, the Pelicans were talking with Nick Young and Ty Lawson about joining New Orleans as well.

— Dion Waiters, who spent last season with the Heat, had a list of free-agency targets revealed that not only included Miami but also Chicago, New York and Sacramento. Waiters is expected to continue taking meetings in Los Angeles in the coming days.

— Former Rookie of the Year Michael Carter-Williams agreed to a one-year, \$2.7 million contract with the Charlotte Hornets.

— Cleveland offered shooting guard Kyle Korver a new contract. The 36-year-old has expressed a desire to stay with Cleveland after making it to his first NBA Finals. The Cavaliers also added point guard Jose Calderon on a one-year, \$2.3 million deal.

AP Basketball Writers Jon Krawczynski and Brian Mahoney, and AP Sports Writer Tom Withers contributed to this report.

In tweet blitz, Trump defends his use of social media

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump escalated an intensely personal feud with two high-profile talk show hosts Saturday, suggesting without evidence that their network is biased against him.

The president's stream of insults has pained politicians from both parties who have appealed to him, without apparent success, to stop the 140-character bursts of character attacks and focus on running the country. Saturday evening, Trump was at it again.

Trump lashed out at Joe Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski, co-hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe," on Twitter earlier Saturday. From his New Jersey golf club, he said: "Crazy Joe Scarborough and dumb as a rock Mika are not bad people, but their low rated show is dominated by their NBC bosses."

Trump also said that Greta Van Susteren lost her nightly show on MSNBC because she "refused to go along w/ 'Trump hate!'" MSNBC confirmed this week that Van Susteren, previously a longtime anchor at Fox News, was being replaced.

NBC declined comment on all the tweets Saturday from the president. "Morning Joe" just finished the highest-rated quarter in the show's history. MSNBC never officially gave a reason for replacing Van Susteren's show; it did, however, lag in the ratings compared with the network's other shows.

Later in the day, Trump renewed his screed against the media.

"The FAKE & FRAUDULENT NEWS MEDIA is working hard to convince Republicans and others I should not use social media - but remember, I won the 2016 election with interviews, speeches and social media. I had to beat #FakeNews, and did. We will continue to WIN!" Trump said on Twitter.

And he said he was thinking about "changing the name of #FakeNewsCNN to #FraudNewsCNN."

Trump drew broad condemnation for his tweets on Thursday calling Brzezinski "crazy" and saying she was "bleeding badly from a face-lift" when he saw them at his Florida estate. The comment was decried as sexist and vulgar by many Democrats and Republicans.

The MSNBC personalities said Friday that Trump was lying about their December encounter and they questioned his "unhealthy obsession" with their program. The hosts, who are a couple onscreen and off, also said the White House told them a damaging National Enquirer story about their relationship would "go away" if they called the president and apologized for harsh commentary. Trump quickly disputed the claim on Twitter.

Trump's continued focus on cable television comes as Republicans are struggling to find agreement on a health care overhaul, a key promise from the president and GOP lawmakers. And Trump is heading to the annual Group of 20 meeting this week, where he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a high-stakes encounter that could put Trump's "America First" policy to the test.

Trump also tweeted angrily at CNN on Saturday, saying the network, which he has long pilloried, "has finally been exposed as #FakeNews and garbage journalism."

CNN recently accepted the resignations of three employees involved in a retracted story about a supposed investigation into a pre-inaugural meeting between a Trump associate and the head of a Russian investment fund. The network had no comment on Saturday's tweet.

AP Television Writer David Bauder contributed to this story from New York.

Tourists, locals buy Nevada's legal recreational marijuana

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and JOHN LOCHER, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Cheers and long lines of tourists and locals alike greeted the first day of sales of recreational marijuana on Saturday as Nevada became the fifth state with stores selling pot to the public in a market that is expected to outpace all others in the U.S. thanks to the millions of visitors who flock to Las Vegas each year.

Veteran consumers, first-timers, twenty-somethings and retirees were among those who defied triple-digit

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temperatures before they made it into stores across the Las Vegas area, some of which opened shortly after midnight and later provided free water, live music, valet parking and coveted promotions on their valuable product. Eager employees guided customers and answered questions from product potency to Nevada's consumption regulations.

Minnesota resident Edgar Rosas Lorenzo on Saturday flew with his family to Sin City for his sister's wedding. But even before he checked in to his hotel, he stopped at a dispensary on the Las Vegas Strip.

Lorenzo, 21, said he learned of the legalization of recreational marijuana in Nevada while he was at the airport waiting for his flight to depart. He drove with his sister and soon-to-be brother-in-law from the rental car facility in Las Vegas straight to the dispensary. They waited in line about 40 minutes before he could buy one-eighth of an ounce of marijuana and hemp wraps.

"It was worth the wait. I'm going to come get some more tomorrow," Lorenzo said after paying about \$60 in cash at Essence dispensary. "It helps me sleep. I get back pain. I have a slipped disk."

Some dispensaries took to social media to spread the word or tried to draw in buyers with special events. Some gave away free marijuana to their first 100 customers, and at least one entered buyers into a raffle for free pot for a year.

Those 21 and older with a valid ID can buy up to an ounce of pot. As of Friday, the state had licensed 44 dispensaries to sell recreational marijuana. Thirty-nine of those shops are in the Las Vegas area.

Tourists — 42 million of which stop in Sin City every year — are expected to make nearly two of every three recreational pot purchases in Nevada. But people can only use the drug in a private home as it remains illegal to consume it in public, including the Strip, hotels and casinos. Violators face a \$600 fine.

"I have yet to figure that out," Lorenzo said of where he will smoke the weed he got at the Essence dispensary, which along with others had stacks of pamphlets stating the regulations in every checkout station.

Meanwhile, Kristin Deneal got in line outside a pot shop at 5:45 a.m., after a different store that opened at midnight closed before she could make a purchase. She brought a folding chair and sat by the door, striking conversations with the security guard and others as the line continued to grow before doors opened at 9 a.m.

Deneal, a Las Vegas resident, said she is elated at being able to legally buy the drug that for decades she has had to buy through acquaintances. Smoking marijuana helps her cope with health conditions while also working a stressful job at a bank, she said.

"It looks like they have enough stuff for everyone, it's just a question of getting through the door," Deneal, 57, said.

State Sen. Tick Segerblom, one of the main proponents of marijuana legalization in Nevada, made the first purchase at The Source dispensary at a strip mall. Deneal and others followed. An hour after the door opened, at least 80 transactions had been recorded.

Some facilities are in strip malls, while others, in stereotypical Las Vegas fashion, are in neighborhoods shared by strip clubs. Some dispensaries have ATMs inside because they only accept cash transactions for marijuana.

Lorenzo immediately posted photos of his stash on Snapchat. His friends have said they're jealous and asked where he bought the products, he said, adding that he'll plan another trip to Las Vegas specifically to legally purchase marijuana, not to visit the city's world famous casinos.

"We just got here ... Instead of looking around in Vegas, I'm in a dispensary," he said.

In the afternoon, people walking along the Strip seemed to be obeying the state's ban on public pot smoking.

Recreational marijuana sales began shortly after midnight, just months after voters approved legalization in November, marking the fastest turnaround from the ballot box to retail sales in the country.

Hundreds of people lined up outside dispensaries that opened from 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. and had to turn away customers like Deneal. At Essence on the Strip, people were excited and well-behaved as a lone security guard looked on. A cheer erupted when the doors opened.

Despite the limits on where people can get high and restrictions on where the industry can advertise,

dispensaries worked furiously to prepare for the launch. They stamped labels on pot products, stocked up their shelves, added security and installed extra checkout stations.

Nevada joins Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Alaska in allowing adults to buy the drug that's still banned by the federal government.

"I've been living in Vegas for 15 years, and I keep missing the cities that legalize marijuana and edibles. So I'm happy that it's here now," said Babs Daitch, who was waiting in line.

Associated Press writer Sally Ho contributed to this report.

Ukraine: Russian security services were behind cyberattack

By HOWARD AMOS, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Ukraine accused the Russian security services Saturday of planning and launching a cyberattack that locked up computers around the world earlier this week.

The Ukrainian security agency, known as the SBU, alleged in a statement that similarities between the malicious software and previous attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure revealed the work of Russian intelligence services.

The SBU added that the attackers appeared uninterested in making a profit from the ransomware program and were more focused on sowing chaos in Ukraine.

There was no immediate official response from Russia's government, but Russian lawmaker Igor Morozov told the RIA Novosti news agency that the Ukrainian charges were "fiction" and that the attacks were likely the work of the United States.

Ukraine was the country most affected by the attack using a strain of malware known by names including NotPetya. Beginning Tuesday, computers across Ukraine at government agencies, energy companies and banks were disabled as their data was encrypted amid demands for ransom payments.

Two cybersecurity outfits have publicly tied the NotPetya malware to hacking groups that many other experts in turn believe are linked to Russian intelligence operations.

Russian anti-virus company Kaspersky Lab has identified similarities between NotPetya and BlackEnergy, a sophisticated malware assumed to have been used in a series of cyberattacks on Ukrainian infrastructure in recent years.

"There are several parts of the code and strings that are shared," Vyacheslav Zakorzhevsky, the head of Kaspersky's anti-virus research department, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "These families are connected."

ESET, a Slovakian cybersecurity firm, said the cyberattacks did not come out of nowhere.

"This was not an isolated incident. This is the latest in a series of similar attacks in Ukraine," ESET said in a Friday report, suggesting the reason other countries were hit was because the hackers had underestimated the power of their malware and it had spun out of control.

Attributing cyberattacks is a particularly difficult process, but Ukraine has repeatedly accused Russia of sponsoring electronic intrusions, including the hack of Ukraine's voting system ahead of a 2014 national election and assaults that knocked parts of its power grid offline in 2015 and 2016. Relations between the two countries collapsed when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and began backing separatists fighting Ukrainian forces in the country's east.

Major companies beyond Ukraine that reported being hit by NotPetya included Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk, Russian state-owned oil behemoth Rosneft and FedEx subsidiary TNT.

Several of those affected are still struggling to get back online. A.P. Moller-Maersk's chief operating officer, Vincent Clerc, has told The Wall Street Journal that he expects his firm to return "to some kind of normalcy" by Monday.

On the streets of Kiev, Ukraine's capital, there were signs that Ukraine had yet to fully recover from the attack as well.

Alexander Havrilenko, 43, said his wife hadn't been paid as expected because her office at Ukraine's

state-owned Oschadbank was still closed.

"She was told to come in Wednesday — maybe," he said.

As for who was responsible, Havrilenko didn't hesitate to echo the Ukrainian government's line.

"It's Russia," he said.

AP Cybersecurity Writer Raphael Satter in Kiev, Ukraine, contributed to this report.

Pope removes German cardinal as sex abuse crisis catches up

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis sacked the head of the Vatican office that handles sex abuse cases Saturday, just days after he released another top Vatican cardinal to return home to stand trial for alleged sexual assault.

The developments underscored how the Catholic Church's sex abuse crisis has caught up with Francis, threatening to tarnish his legacy over a series of questionable appointments, decisions and oversights in his four-year papacy.

Perhaps sensing a need to change course, Francis declined to renew the mandate of German Cardinal Gerhard Mueller as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican office that processes and evaluates all cases of priests accused of raping or molesting minors.

Francis named Mueller's deputy, Monsignor Luis Ladaria Ferrer, a Spanish Jesuit, to run the powerful office instead.

During Mueller's five-year term, the congregation amassed a 2,000-case backlog and came under blistering criticism from Irish abuse survivor Marie Collins, who had been tapped by Francis in 2014 to advise the church on caring for abuse victims and protecting children from pedophile priests.

Collins resigned from the papal commission in March, citing the "unacceptable" level of resistance from Mueller's office to heeding the commission's proposals.

In May, Francis said her criticism of the slow pace in processing abuse cases was justified and announced he was adding more staff to handle the overload. Earlier this year he also named Cardinal Sean O'Malley as a member of the congregation in hopes of ensuring better cooperation.

Mueller's ouster was the second major Vatican shake-up this week.

On Thursday, Francis granted another Vatican hardliner, Cardinal George Pell, a leave of absence to return to his native Australia to face trial on multiple charges of sexual assault stemming from years ago.

Pell has denied the charges. Still, Francis has come under criticism for having named him to the powerful position of the Vatican's money czar in 2014 in the first place, given that accusations of wrongdoing had dogged him even then. Pell has been widely denounced at home for mishandling abuse cases while he was a bishop and of having treated victims harshly in seeking to protect the church from abuse-related civil litigation.

"In the church's current emergency, with its third-ranking prelate soon to appear in an Australian court on child abuse charges, Pope Francis needs a CDF prefect who will work with Cardinal Sean O'Malley on the church's abuse crisis, not against him," said Terence McKiernan of BishopAccountability.org, an online resource of abuse documentation.

Mueller and Pell were two most powerful cardinals in the Vatican, after the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin. Their absences, coupled with Francis' earlier demotion of arch-conservative Cardinal Raymond Burke as the Vatican's chief justice, will likely create a power vacuum for the conservative wing in the Holy See hierarchy.

The week's events could be seen as an attempt by Francis to turn the page, given his legacy has already been sullied by repeated failings to make good on his "zero tolerance" pledge for abuse.

Take for example the case of the Rev. Mauro Inzoli, a well-known Italian priest defrocked by the Vatican for having abused children as young as 12. He had his sentence reduced on appeal to a lifetime of penance and prayer in 2014 after what his bishop said was a show of mercy from the pope.

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But in November, an Italian judge convicted Inzoli of abusing five children aged 12-16 and sentenced him to four years, nine months in prison. The Vatican opened a new church trial against him and his bishop announced this week that he had been definitively defrocked.

Aside from the sex abuse case backlog, Francis and Mueller had sparred over Francis' divisive 2016 document on family life in which the pope offered a cautious opening to letting divorced and civilly remarried Catholics receive Communion.

Church teaching holds that unless these Catholics receive an annulment, or a church decree that their first marriage was invalid, they are committing adultery and cannot receive Communion unless they abstain from sex.

Four conservative cardinals have attacked the pope's document as vague and confusing and publicly requested that Francis clarify it. Mueller didn't join their campaign but made it clear that he disagrees with Francis' suggestion that any such decisions could be arrived at in the realm of personal discernment.

This version has been corrected to show that Mueller is turning 70 in December, not 75.

In final stages of Mosul fight, US plays larger role

By SUSANNAH GEORGE

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — The day after Iraq's prime minister declared an end to the Islamic State group's caliphate, U.S. Army Col. Pat Work and a small team of about a dozen soldiers drove through western Mosul in two unmarked armored vehicles to warn Iraqi forces of a pressing threat: friendly fire.

The American colonel had a series of urgent face-to-face meetings with generals from the Iraqi Army, the federal police and the Iraqi special forces ahead of a major offensive Saturday morning to drive out the remaining IS positions in Mosul.

American troops are taking on an increasingly prominent role in the fight. Once largely restricted to working within highly fortified Iraqi bases, U.S. commanders now travel in and around Mosul with small teams of soldiers, sharing intelligence and advising plans of attack, revealing how the U.S. role in Iraq has steadily deepened throughout the operation to retake the country's second largest city.

The gains in the Old City bringing Iraqi troops closer to victory against IS in Mosul have also meant the three branches of the country's security forces are now fighting in closer quarters than ever before.

Weaving in and out of civilian traffic along the city's main thoroughfares, thick plumes of black smoke from airstrikes and artillery were just visible on the horizon from Work's convoy. He explained that the new battle space and lingering communication shortcomings mean Iraqi ground troops are at increased risk of being hit by non-precision fire like mortars and artillery launched by their partner Iraqi forces.

"We're helping (Iraqi forces) see across the boundaries between their different units... just helping them understand where they are and how rapidly things might be changing," said Work.

Throughout the course of the day Work shuttled between bases, meeting with Iraqi commanders deep inside Mosul. While the U.S.-led coalition has closely backed Iraqi forces with airstrikes in a number of fights against IS, the Mosul operation is the first time U.S. troops have openly partnered with Iraqi forces on the ground within just a few kilometers (miles) frontline fighting.

"It's a very violent close fight," said Work, the commander of the 82nd Airborne's 2nd Brigade Combat Team who deployed to Iraq in January. "When the bullets aren't enough the (Iraqi) commanders want to turn to high explosives which might be mortars or artillery... so understanding where the other guy is all the time is kinda rule number one, so the lethal effect is directed at the target and not accidentally at another player that's on your team."

The various forces that make up Iraq's military have long struggled with coordination. While the Mosul operation is overseen by a joint operations command and the prime minister, forces on the ground maintain independent command structures, standards and cultures. The Mosul fight is the first time all three forces have had to cooperate in an urban environment and throughout the operation the army, federal police and special forces have faced deadly setbacks when they acted independently, allowing IS fighters

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to concentrate their defenses on a single front.

One of Work's stops was at a modest house in a residential west Mosul neighborhood. About a dozen U.S. troops and Iraqi soldiers were hunched over computers identifying IS targets just a few hundred meters away ahead of the next day's operation. The presence of U.S. forces at the small patrol base deep inside Mosul is a level of support that had not been authorized when the Mosul fight first began.

Under the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis moved U.S. combat advisers closer to the fight by authorizing U.S. troops to partner with Iraqi forces at the battalion level.

The U.S.-led coalition's fight against IS in Iraq has slowly expanded over the past three years from a campaign of airstrikes carried out by coalition forces who largely stayed within heavily fortified bases to an operation with some 6,000 American troops on the ground, many operating close to frontline fighting. The evolution suggests that despite a large training program designed to generate enough soldiers to retake Mosul, Coalition officials assessed Iraqi forces lacked the tactical skills to conduct the operation without close support.

Between meetings, as Work's vehicle rolled through a traffic circle in western Mosul, he said being on the ground beside his Iraqi counterparts is essential.

"For any commander there is no substitute for seeing it with your own eyes... for talking to the stake holders who are in it making the decisions every day," he said. "ISIS has no boundaries, so our adviser network can't have any boundaries. And so part of it is getting out there daily to see it."

Work's one-on-one meetings inside Mosul come with a huge operational footprint. During his visit Friday a team of dozens of U.S. soldiers — most young men on their first deployment — provided him security and handled logistics. At each patrol base inside Mosul where U.S. troops work with Iraqi forces there can be dozens to over a hundred soldiers deployed to protect a team of just 10 advisers.

With the vast majority of Mosul retaken from IS, soldiers trained by the coalition to fight in combat are now transitioning to act as hold forces to help provide security. Even after the last pockets of the city are retaken, Work said he doesn't expect that will necessarily mean an end to the U.S. role in Mosul.

"Mosul is going to be a challenge, ISIS is going to continue to challenge the hold," he said using an alternative acronym for the Islamic State group. He said U.S. troops would continue to facilitate coordination and provide advice to security forces in Mosul just as they did during the offensive.

"We will continue to help Iraqi commanders recognize that this is what you fought for."

World leaders, ordinary Germans bid farewell to Helmut Kohl

By **MICHAEL PROBST** and **FRANK JORDANS**, Associated Press

SPEYER, Germany (AP) — Germany bid farewell Saturday to Helmut Kohl, the former chancellor who steered his country toward reunification in 1990 and whose tireless efforts to ensure peace and stability in Europe shape the continent to this day.

Hundreds of dignitaries attended a requiem Mass at Speyer Cathedral in Kohl's home region of Rhineland-Palatinate in southwest Germany.

Earlier in the day, past and present leaders from around the world paid tribute to Kohl at the European Parliament's seat in the French city of Strasbourg.

Kohl, who died June 16 at the age of 87, is the first person to be honored with an official memorial event by the European Union.

EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said the ceremony in Strasbourg, close to the border with Germany, was Kohl's own choice.

"Helmut Kohl was a German patriot but at the same time a European patriot," said Juncker, recalling how Kohl had wept tears of joy when the bloc agreed in December 1997 to begin accepting members from the formerly Communist countries in Eastern Europe.

During his 16-year term as Germany's leader, stretching from 1982 to 1998, not only did Kohl oversee his country's reunification but also spearheaded the creation of the euro currency, which is now used by 19 nations.

"Helmut Kohl gave us the chance to be involved in something bigger than ourselves," said former U.S.

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President Bill Clinton, citing Kohl's willingness to put international cooperation before national interests at key moments in history.

Kohl is widely regarded as having skillfully overcome the fears of Germany's neighbors when an end to the country's decades-long division into a communist east and a democratic west first became a realistic possibility in the late 1980s.

Drawing on his friendships with several world leaders, often forged over hearty meals, Kohl assured the Allied nations that had beaten Nazi Germany in World War II that his country no longer aspired to dominate others.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Kohl's vision and persistence had paid a historic dividend.

"Without Helmut Kohl, the lives of millions of people who lived behind the (Berlin) Wall until 1990 would have taken a completely different course, including mine," said Merkel, who grew up in communist East Germany. "Thank you for the opportunities you gave me."

EU Parliament President Antonio Tajani said Kohl deserved "a place of honor in the European pantheon" for unhesitatingly extending the hand of friendship to fledgling democracies in Eastern Europe following the fall of the Iron Curtain.

French President Emmanuel Macron noted that it was one of his predecessors, Francois Mitterrand, and Kohl — two men who had experienced the suffering of World War II on opposing sides — who were able to "overcome the terrible memories of their generation." Macron pledged to continue their work in forging a united Europe, working together with Merkel.

Several speakers recalled the poignant gesture of reconciliation in 1984, when Mitterrand and Kohl held hands during a ceremony at a World War I cemetery in Verdun, France.

Following Saturday's ceremony in Strasbourg, Kohl's coffin was transported by helicopter to Germany and then taken down the Rhine river to Speyer, with thousands of people lining the roads and riverbanks to bid their farewell.

The requiem Mass in Speyer ended with a rare funeral toll from the Cathedral's Emperor Bell — named after the eight Holy Roman Emperors buried in the city — after which his flag-draped coffin was carried out into the open for military honors.

Kohl was to be laid to rest in a private ceremony at a cemetery in Speyer.

Jordans contributed from Berlin.

Trump jumps into health debate _ repeal now, replace later

By ERICA WERNER and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has barged into Senate Republicans' delicate health care negotiations with a suggestion bound to muddle things: If you can't cut a deal on repealing the Obama-era law, then repeal it right away and then replace it later.

Trump is trying to revive an approach that GOP leaders and the president himself considered but dismissed months ago as impractical and politically unwise.

And it's likely to further complicate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's task as he struggles to bridge the divide between moderates and conservatives. Senators have left Washington for the Fourth of July break without voting on a bill as planned.

"If Republican Senators are unable to pass what they are working on now, they should immediately REPEAL, and then REPLACE at a later date!" Trump wrote early Friday.

Later that day, McConnell told reporters after an event in his home state of Kentucky that the health bill was challenging but "we are going to stick with that path."

He added: "It's not easy making America great again, is it?"

The president tweeted his message shortly after Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., had appeared on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" to discuss a letter he'd sent to Trump suggesting a vote on repealing former President Barack Obama's health law, followed by a new effort at a working out a replacement.

Trump's suggestion has the potential to harden divisions within the GOP as conservatives like Paul and

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Sasse complain that McConnell's bill does not go far enough in repealing Obama's health care law while moderates criticize it as overly harsh in kicking people off insurance rolls, shrinking the Medicaid safety net and increasing premiums for older Americans.

McConnell has been working to make deals with members of both factions in order to finalize a rewritten bill lawmakers can vote on when they return to the Capitol the second week of July. Even before Trump weighed in, though, it wasn't clear how far he was getting. Trump's tweet did not appear to suggest a lot of White House confidence in the outcome.

"McConnell's trying to achieve a 50-vote Venn diagram between some very competing factions," said Rodney Whitlock, a veteran health policy expert who worked as a Senate GOP aide during passage of the Democrats' Affordable Care Act.

"So what the president tweeted takes one side of that Venn diagram and pushes it further away, and actually puts on the table an option that will probably drive that group away from seeking compromise with the other side of the Venn diagram."

Even before Trump was inaugurated in January, Republicans had debated and ultimately discarded the idea of repealing the overhaul before replacing it, concluding that both must happen simultaneously. Doing otherwise would invite accusations that Republicans were simply tossing people off coverage and would roil insurance markets by raising the question of whether, when and how Congress might replace Obama's law once it was gone.

The idea also would leave unresolved the quandary lawmakers are struggling with now, about how to replace Obama's system of online insurance markets, tax subsidies and an expanded Medicaid with something that could get enough Republican votes to pass Congress. House Republicans barely passed their version of a replacement bill in May, and the task is proving even tougher in the Senate, where McConnell has almost no margin for error.

Moderates were spooked as the week began with a Congressional Budget Office finding that McConnell's draft bill would result in 22 million people losing insurance over the next decade, only 1 million fewer than under the House-passed legislation which Trump privately told senators was "mean." But conservatives continue to insist that the bill must go further than just repealing some of the mandates and taxes in Obama's law.

"It's distressing to see so many Republicans who've lied about their commitment to repeal," Ken Cuccinelli, president of the Senate Conservatives Fund, said in a conference call Friday.

Underscoring the fissures within the GOP, conservative group leaders on that call welcomed Trump's suggestion but said it didn't go far enough because it could open the door to a subsequent bipartisan compromise to replace Obama's law. At the same time, a key House Republican, Rep. Kevin Brady, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, rejected Trump's suggestion, contending that it "doesn't achieve what President Trump set out to do."

"I really think the Senate's approach — certainly in the House — of not simply repealing but to start to put into place the elements that can make health care affordable, that's what the president set out to do," Brady said in an interview on C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" program.

This story has been corrected to reflect that McConnell said during an appearance in Kentucky on Friday night, "It's not easy making America great again, is it?" The quote that has been replaced in the story had used "American" instead of "America."

Microsoft, Trump administration clash over email searches

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the surface, the investigation was routine.

Federal agents persuaded a judge to issue a warrant for a Microsoft email account they suspected was used for drug trafficking.

But U.S.-based Microsoft kept the emails on a server in Ireland. Microsoft said that meant the emails were beyond the warrant's reach. A federal appeals court agreed.

Late last month, the Trump administration asked the Supreme Court to intervene.

The case is among several legal clashes that Redmond, Washington-based Microsoft and other technology companies have had with the government over questions of digital privacy and authorities' need for information to combat crime and extremism. Privacy law experts say the companies have been more willing to push back against the government since the leak of classified information detailing America's surveillance programs.

Another issue highlighted in the appeal is the difficulty that judges face in trying to square decades-old laws with new technological developments.

In the latest case, a suspected drug trafficker used Microsoft's email service. In 2013, federal investigators obtained a warrant under a 1986 law for the emails themselves as well as identifying information about the user of the email account.

Microsoft turned over the information, but went to court to defend its decision not to hand over the emails from Ireland.

The federal appeals court in New York agreed with the company that the 1986 Stored Communications Act does not apply outside the United States.

The administration's Supreme Court appeal said the decision is damaging "hundreds if not thousands of investigations of crimes — ranging from terrorism, to child pornography, to fraud."

The emails, the administration noted, may reside on a server somewhere, but said Microsoft can retrieve them "domestically with the click of a computer mouse."

Microsoft's president, Brad Smith, said in a blog post following the high court appeal that the administration's position "would put businesses in impossible conflict-of-law situations and hurt the security, jobs, and personal rights of Americans."

Technology companies and privacy experts are among those watching the case closely.

"This is a big deal in an era of a global internet. Servers are not just in the United States. They're all over the world, and figuring out the rules for foreign-stored data is really important, not just for us, but for foreign governments," said Orin Kerr, a George Washington University law professor whose work is cited in the appellate ruling.

One problem identified by Kerr and other privacy scholars is that courts might not be the best place to resolve these issues.

Should the same rules apply to the emails of an American citizen and a foreigner? Does it matter where the person is living?

"The Supreme Court can't answer these questions in the nuanced way that's needed," said Jennifer Daskal, an American University law professor.

Even Judge Gerard Lynch on the New York panel that sided with Microsoft called for "congressional action to revise a badly outdated statute."

The Stored Communications Act became law long before the advent of cloud computing. To the extent personal information was kept online, it was mainly on personal computers.

Today, companies build data centers around the world to keep up with their customers' demands for speed and access.

Members of Congress have introduced legislation to update the law, but nothing has been enacted.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, opposes the administration's appeal, but said in a statement that "Congress can and should modernize data privacy laws to ensure that law enforcement can access evidence in a

timely manner.”

Microsoft also supports revising the law. The company also is among those challenging “gag orders” that prevent service providers from notifying customers that their data have been turned over to the government under court order.

Companies have been more willing to assert their customers’ and their own privacy interests since former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden’s leak of classified U.S. material about America’s surveillance programs, Kerr said.

The technology companies wield enormous power, perhaps more than governments do, in shaping the scope of digital age privacy rights, Daskal said.

The companies decide “what to retain, where to keep it, for how long, and whether to encrypt it,” she said. And when governments produce court orders for customers’ information, it’s the companies’ call about “when to comply and when to resist,” Daskal said.

The justices won’t decide whether to hear U.S. v. Microsoft, 17-2, before the fall. If they do, argument wouldn’t occur until next year.

AP FACT CHECK: When a swoopy line on a chart misleads

By CALVIN WOODWARD and JIM DRINKARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oh, those charts.

President Donald Trump passed one around on Twitter in recent days, and it showing spending on Medicaid rising for years in the future under the stalled Republican health care bill. You’d never know from his chart’s mountain-climbing line, or his rhetoric, that the bill would inflict deep cuts in the program.

A drawing can be made to show what the person making the display wants people to see, even using correct numbers, but in a way that obscures reality. Similarly, Vice President Mike Pence had a chart on-stage weeks ago showing how enrollment under the Obama-era health law fell far short of predictions. That’s only because Pence and his chart ignored the estimated 12 million low-income people covered under the overhaul’s Medicaid expansion.

Trump’s tweet came during a week of tussling over the Senate Republican health bill, a White House cheerleading session for U.S. energy and assertions by the president on trade — subjects producing a variety of statements that call for scrutiny.

A sampling:

TRUMP: “For many, many years, the United States has suffered through massive trade deficits. That’s why we have \$20 trillion in debt. So we’ll be changing that.” — Remarks Friday in meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and aides.

THE FACTS: Trump’s comments suggest he could use a refresher in how the economy works. Trade deficits are not why the U.S. has nearly \$20 trillion in national debt.

Because the U.S. imports more than it exports, it has a negative trade balance, or a deficit. Of course, many of the goods that the U.S. imports are popular with consumers so a deficit isn’t necessarily negative. Americans may buy coffee from Central America, electronics from China, cars from South Korea and jeans sewn in Turkey.

The national debt is a separate thing. It’s the debt accumulated from budget deficits year after year, when the federal government must borrow because it spends more than it collects in taxes. The total public debt outstanding is \$19.8 trillion.

If Trump seeks to reduce that figure, he would probably need to do some combination of cutting spending, increasing tax revenues and fueling significantly faster economic growth.

TRUMP: “Democrats purposely misstated Medicaid under new Senate bill - actually goes up.” — tweet Wednesday, with chart.

KELLYANNE CONWAY, White House senior adviser: “These are not cuts to Medicaid, George. This slows

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the rate for the future and it allows governors more flexibility with Medicaid dollars because they're closest to the people in need." — Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

THE FACTS: The stalled Senate bill would cut Medicaid — by phasing out ex-President Barack Obama's expansion of the program and reducing over time the number of people who can be on it.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates the program would cover 15 million fewer people by 2026, a 16 percent reduction. Although Trump and Conway are correct that Medicaid spending overall would continue to rise, and at a slower rate than projected, the effect would be a significant cut in the program.

Governors would have more flexibility, but they also would have to dig deeper into their state budgets to make up missing money from Washington or scale back the program.

The Republican emphasis on spending growth is a sleight of hand that both parties resort to when it suits their political purposes.

Obama's law slowed the growth of Medicare spending, primarily by reducing projected payment increases to hospitals and other providers, and Republicans roundly denounced that as the cut that it was.

TRUMP: "Our new American Energy Policy will unlock MILLIONS of jobs & TRILLIONS in wealth. We are on the cusp of a true energy REVOLUTION." — tweet Friday.

THE FACTS: It's hard to see how any government policy could yield the results Trump predicts. Despite a recent boom, the energy sector employs fewer workers than it did a decade ago. The Labor Department said there are 655,300 jobs in mining coal and extracting oil and natural gas, down from a peak of 1.18 million jobs in 1981. And a report in January from the authoritative Energy Information Administration shows that the entire energy generation sector - including solar, wind, hydroelectric, nuclear and bioenergy - employs 2 million people.

TRUMP: "As you all know, I approved the Keystone XL pipeline and the Dakota Access pipeline in my first week. Thousands of jobs, tremendous things are happening." — remarks Thursday on energy.

THE FACTS: His timing is off and his boast about jobs leaves out the fact that almost all the employment is temporary.

In his first week, Trump signed orders asking TransCanada to resubmit its application to build Keystone XL and requiring the Army Corps of Engineers to reconsider its earlier refusal to grant an easement needed to finish the Dakota Access project. Both projects had been blocked by the Obama administration and Trump undoubtedly revived them, but his Jan. 24 orders did not approve them. That came later.

The U.S. government estimated Keystone XL will create 42,100 jobs directly and indirectly in the U.S. for up to two years. Once the pipeline is complete, operating it would support an estimated 50 jobs. The recently completed Dakota Access pipeline is expected to support several dozen permanent jobs.

TRUMP, on how he braced for trouble when he revived the pipeline projects: "I thought I'd take a lot of heat. I didn't take any heat. I approved them and that was it. I figured we'd have all sorts of protests. We didn't have anything." — remarks on energy.

THE FACTS: Hundreds of authorities went into the Standing Rock protest camp in late February, clearing it out and arresting 46 people. Trump is wrong to say there were no protests. But they were much diminished by the time he took his action. Protesters had declared victory in December when the Army Corps ruled against the easement, freezing the project. The Standing Rock Sioux, the tribe at the center of the protests in North Dakota, told demonstrators through the winter that it was time to go home.

TRUMP: "The #AmazonWashingtonPost, sometimes referred to as the guardian of Amazon not paying internet taxes (which they should) is FAKE NEWS!" — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: This convoluted accusation of fake news from The Washington Post sideswipes Amazon for supposedly not paying "internet taxes," which are not really a thing. In any event, Amazon.com collects state sales taxes in all 45 states that have such taxes, as well as the District of Columbia, according to

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its website. State governments have sought to capture sales taxes lost to internet retailers, though they have struggled with a 1992 Supreme Court ruling that retailers must have a physical presence in a state before officials can make them collect sales tax.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos bought The Washington Post in 2013, without the involvement of Amazon.com Inc.

HOUSE SPEAKER PAUL RYAN, R-Wis.: "They want government-run health care. Government-run health care is collapsing as we speak. It's not working." — Fox News interview on Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Obama's overhaul is not government-run health care like many other economically advanced countries have, but a U.S.-style hybrid involving the government, private companies and individuals.

His law kept the system centered on private insurance companies, doctors in private or group practice and employer-subsidized coverage, with new subsidies for private insurance and an expansion of the government-financed Medicaid program that's been in place since 1965.

Obama introduced more standards and controls, like the prohibition on denying insurance to sick people, which Republicans want to maintain. Most Democrats are not pushing for a single-payer system of universal coverage with the government paying for the care.

REP. KATHY CASTOR, D-Fla.: "Most children in the country receive their basic medical care through Medicaid. And if a child is born with a complex condition or, God forbid, your child is diagnosed with childhood cancer, it's Medicaid that makes sure that you not live a life of poverty." — remarks to media Tuesday.

THE FACTS: More children are covered by private insurance than by Medicaid. Employer-based and other private plans cover 54 percent of children and Medicaid covers 39 percent, according to 2015 statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Also, Medicaid is not designed as an escape from poverty. The health coverage is generally only a safety net for those who are on it. It doesn't catch low-income people who suddenly face catastrophic costs driving them into poverty. They have to be poor to qualify for Medicaid.

SEN. RAND PAUL, R-Ky.: "President Obama, I thought, was trying to do the best for people. He really did try to help get more people health care. It didn't work but I don't think he was trying to kill people." — Fox News interview Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Obama did more than try to expand health care. Millions of Americans gained coverage either through the health care law's insurance exchanges — most of it subsidized — or through the expansion of Medicaid in states that opted to do so with additional federal money. The uninsured rate dropped to a historic low, about 9 percent.

It's also premature to conclude that the law "didn't work," as Paul asserted. Premiums have risen, in some states dramatically, and coverage choices have dwindled in many areas. But the most recent assessment by the Congressional Budget Office found that the law's exchange markets are "stable" overall. And Republican governors who have adopted Obama's Medicaid expansion are lobbying to preserve it.

SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, White House spokeswoman, on why she thinks the Congressional Budget Office is credible on matters involving revenue and spending but not reliable in predicting 22 million people would lose coverage under the Republican bill: "The CBO is a budget office ... We don't always agree that it does a great job predicting coverage." She added: "I think when they focus on the budget side, that's probably a good thing." — briefing Tuesday.

THE FACTS: She's cherry-picking. It's a Washington ritual to talk up favorable findings from the CBO and talk down negative ones.

She likes the office's budget projections because they anticipate a cut in the deficit and health-related taxes as a result of the legislation. She dislikes the nonbudget projections that anticipate a substantial rise in the uninsured.

But the two cannot be unlinked: A law's effects on the budget can only be forecast if analysts make assumptions on how that law changes people's behavior. The expectation that fewer people would buy

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health insurance under the Republican bill is central to measuring the bill's impact on federal finances.

The CBO is highly respected on Capitol Hill for its impartiality, and its projections, while sometimes far off, are considered more reliable than those by other analysts. But that doesn't stop partisans from assailing the office's credibility when it suits them — Democrats did the pummeling when they didn't like CBO forecasts on Obama's law.

As Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina put it earlier this year: "We like the CBO when they agree with us. When they don't, they're a bunch of losers."

SEN. PAT ROBERTS, R-Kan., reaching for an analogy to illustrate how difficult it is to negotiate health care: "Once in Glacier National Park I saw two porcupines making love. I'm assuming they produced smaller porcupines. They produced something. It has to be done carefully. That's what we're doing now." — after GOP luncheon Wednesday.

THE FACTS: He is correct, porcupine mating is tricky and potentially prickly. But, unlike lawmakers, porcupines have their mission figured out.

Porcupine spines are an intimidating mechanism to protect the animals from predators. But when it comes time to mate, they have the ability to let down their defenses, said Duke University biologist Stuart Pimm. Courtship rituals can be aggressive but when the animals have negotiated the art of the deal, the females relax and reposition their quills.

It's not entirely different from people, Pimm said. "We humans are quite capable of arming ourselves with the most ferocious weaponry but I don't take my broadaxe to bed with me."

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Seth Borenstein, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Andrew Taylor in Washington; Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, North Dakota, and Doug Glass in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

Find AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbx8bd>

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By The Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular, but completely untrue, headlines of the week. None of these stories are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked these out; here are the real facts:

NOT REAL: Whataburger files for bankruptcy; all locations to close by August 1.

THE FACTS: The Texas-based fast food chain has taken to social media to quash a series of false stories claiming it was going out of business. When clicked, the stories inform the reader that the headline is a prank. Nevertheless, Whataburger posted messages on Facebook and Twitter on Wednesday saying the article "is a hoax" and "we aren't going anywhere."

NOT REAL: UNREAL: A Drastic INCREASE Of Monthly Payments - Social Security Recipients Delighted

THE FACTS: Stories posted by several conservative-leaning sites credit President Donald Trump with boosting Social Security payments earlier this year. A cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security payouts with a 0.3 percent increase did go into effect in January, but it was announced in October, weeks before Trump was elected.

NOT REAL: Italian Investigators Confirmed: Obama Used Fake Birth Certificate

THE FACTS: A story based on former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio's conclusion that former President Barack Obama's Hawaiian birth certificate is a forgery has been shared by several conservative-leaning websites. The account doesn't elaborate on the supposed Italian investigation. Hawaii officials have re-

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peatedly confirmed Obama's citizenship. In 2012, they said Arpaio's allegations are "untrue, misinformed, and misconstrue Hawaii law."

NOT REAL: Pence Calls Gays To Voluntarily Quit Jobs With God-Fearing Employers "So We Can Avoid Laws That Reject Them"

THE FACTS: This article from the Newslo group of admitted satire sites first published in November claims that during an interview with Fox News, then-Vice President-elect Mike Pence called on gays to quit working so they won't get fired by conservative employers. There's no evidence such an interview exists. Newslo bills itself as "the first hybrid News/Satire platform on the web."

NOT REAL: A Man Just Caught A Giant Great White On the Great Lakes!

THE FACTS: This story about a fisherman catching a massive great white shark in Lake Michigan has been floating around in online circles for more than a year. It claims the U.S. Coast Guard commented that the fish could explain the disappearance of hundreds of people. Coast Guard spokesman Chris Yaw tells the AP the agency never said such a thing and the story is a work of fiction.

This weekly fixture is part of The Associated Press' ongoing efforts to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/APFactCheck>

NHL free agents take high-priced hit in stagnant cap era

By JOHN WAWROW, AP Hockey Writer

Aside from defensemen Kevin Shattenkirk and Karl Alzner attracting \$20 million-plus contracts, NHL free agency isn't what it used to be. Not in a stagnant salary-cap era.

Though plenty of players switched teams once the signing period opened Saturday, missing were the high-priced, long-term contracts that were once the norm.

Shattenkirk, considered the top free agent available, signed a four-year, \$26.6 million contract with the New York Rangers. And after nine seasons in Washington, Alzner signed a five-year, \$23.1 million deal with Montreal.

Shattenkirk noted he turned down a more lucrative offer to sign with the Rangers, in part for the opportunity to play closer to his hometown of New Rochelle, New York. And Alzner noted he had few options beyond Montreal, which was the only city he visited this past week.

The expansion Vegas Golden Knights stayed busy by trading defenseman Alexei Emelin to Nashville for a 2019 third-round draft pick. Vegas selected Emelin from Montreal in the expansion draft last month. The Golden Knights also addressed secondary depth needs by signing six free agents, including forward Stefan Matteau. He's the son of Stephane Matteau, a member of the 1994 Stanley Cup champion Rangers.

The most lucrative deals inked were a pair of contracts to retain young stars. San Jose Sharks locked up defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic with an eight-year, \$56 million contract, and Anaheim signed defenseman Cam Fowler to an eight-year, \$52 million deal. The Sharks also extended the contract of goalie Martin Jones by signing him to a six-year, \$34.5 million deal.

That's a drastic change from a year ago, when three free agents signed seven-year contracts, including aging veteran Milan Lucic's \$42 million deal with Edmonton.

"There's a whole lot of factors," Detroit Red Wings general manager Ken Holland said, noting age was one and so were the moves by teams to sign their players to extensions well before they might have hit the market.

As for a primary factor, Holland said: "The cap used to go up \$4-5 million a year."

Long-time player agent Steve Bartlett said teams are handcuffed by long-term deals and a flat cap, while Rangers GM Jeff Gorton noted there was a limit on how high he would go to sign Shattenkirk.

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"We try to stay away from those five, six, seven, eight-year deals right now and figure out where the cap's going," Gorton said.

Stars general manager Jim Nill said the expansion draft also played a role because it added another element in which teams had to shift assets — including draft picks — to protect certain players from being selected. That led to teams having to fill those losses with short-term fixes.

The cap has barely budged, going from \$69 million in 2014-15 to \$75 million next season.

Teams are instead resorting to a payroll model used by the Pittsburgh Penguins and Chicago Blackhawks. It's one in which teams commit high salaries to their best players — such as Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin and Chicago's Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane — and fill secondary needs with youngsters and lower-priced journeymen.

That's the approach Sharks GM Doug Wilson took in re-signing Vlasic, Jones as well as Norris Trophy-winning defenseman Brent Burns in November.

"These are guys who fit for now and the future," Wilson said. "They are core pieces for our team at key positions. Getting these guys under contract was a really high priority."

And they were signed at the risk of San Jose losing aging stars Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau in free agency.

The Edmonton Oilers will soon find themselves in a similar fix with youngsters Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl both completing their fixed, entry-level rookie deals.

The pace of signings didn't change with more than 30 players switching teams within the first 90 minutes.

Nick Bonino left the Stanley Cup-champion Penguins to sign a four-year, \$16.4 million deal with Western Conference champion Nashville. The Predators freed up cap space to sign Bonino by trading center Colin Wilson to Colorado for a 2019 fourth-round draft pick.

The Penguins restocked by signing defenseman Matt Hunwick and goalie Antti Niemi. Hunwick takes over after Ron Hainsey signed with Toronto. Niemi fills the spot vacated after Marc-Andre Fleury was selected by Vegas. Pittsburgh also re-signed defenseman Justin Schultz, a restricted free agent, to a three-year, \$16.5 million contract.

The Wild lost center Martin Hanzal when he signed a three-year, \$14.25 million contract with Dallas.

Vancouver was busy. The Canucks signed center Sam Gagner (three years, \$9.45 million), defenseman Michael Del Zotto (two years, \$6 million) and goalie Anders Nilsson (two years, \$5 million).

Several players returned to familiar surroundings.

Like Brandon Saad, Patrick Sharp is back in Chicago. He signed a one-year \$800,000 contract after the forward spent the previous two seasons in Dallas.

Justin Williams signed a two-year, \$9 million contract to return to Carolina, where he won a Stanley Cup with the Hurricanes in 2004. Williams spent the past two seasons with the Washington Capitals, where he combined for 46 goals and 100 points.

AP Hockey Writers Larry Lage, Stephen Whyno and Greg Beacham, and Sports Writers Josh Dubow, Joedy McCreary and Pat Graham contributed to this report.

More AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey>

Home runs set record in June, topping even Steroids Era high

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

Justin Smoak's opposite-field drive dropped over the left-field wall in Toronto, and an eye-popping record had been set: Batters reached a home run mark for a month, shattering the syringe-fueled high of the Steroids Era.

Hitters went deep 1,101 times in June, topping the 1,069 of May 2000, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"Global warming! The warmer it is, the farther the baseball's going to fly," joked Chicago Cubs manager

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Joe Maddon.

Humor aside, it became clear that far more than just weightlifting gave batters a lift as the 20th century ended. Offense declined after drug testing with penalties started in 2004 and amphetamines were banned in 2006.

But batters have perked up since the second half of the 2015 season. Four of the top six home-run months have occurred in 2017 or last year, with June joined by this May (1,060) along with last August (1,053) and June (1,012).

"I cannot offer you a concrete explanation for the increase in home runs," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred wrote Friday in an email to The Associated Press.

"We have tested the baseball extensively and are convinced that is not the answer. We have significantly increased our drug testing and are comfortable that PEDs are not the answer. Given these efforts, I feel that the increase in HRs is attributable to changes in the game and the approach of hitters that have been well documented."

June's average of 2.70 homers per game also set a mark, topping the 2.64 in May 2000.

"There's a weirdness to this season," Cincinnati manager Bryan Price said. "Everybody throws 100 mph, and everybody hits 24 homers in 60 games."

Baseball offense is becoming all or nothing. Strikeouts have set records for nine consecutive years, with last season's average 8.02 per team per game up 27 percent from the 6.30 average in 2007. This season's average is 8.23, on track for another high.

"The game has turned into more of a max-effort affair on a number of fronts," said Baltimore's Mark Trumbo, who led the major leagues with 47 homers last year. "The home run is in fashion, and I'd say guys are taking their rips at it."

Tampa Bay pitcher Jake Odorizzi suspects a more nefarious explanation.

"I know a lot of times I get balls back, regardless of the result, and there's a dent in them. I just think that's how they changed it and didn't really divulge it to anybody," he said. "But it's kind of a speculation kind of thing until something officially comes out."

MLB has UMass-Lowell's Baseball Research Center test the Rawlings balls periodically. Pryce had a tongue-in-cheek scientific solution.

"We'll weigh it. We'll measure it. We'll saw it in half, and we'll define if it's wound tighter, if there's a magic pill in the middle of it that's making it shoot an extra 40 yards when it's put in play," Price said. "I would think that would be the simplest thing to do."

Aaron Judge, whose major league-leading 27 home runs is two shy of the Yankees' rookie record set by Joe DiMaggio in 1936, maintains video and analytics have tilted the balance to batters in recent years.

Clouts have become prized over mere contact.

"Instead of just putting the ball in play, they want to do damage now. They want to hit the ball with purpose, barrel the ball up," the 6-foot-7, 282-pound Judge said.

"There are players emerging on a yearly basis who are just bigger, stronger and faster," Colorado manager Bud Black said.

Judge's drive off Baltimore's Logan Verrett on June 11, which cleared Yankee Stadium's left-field bleachers and would have traveled 495 feet unimpeded, is the longest this season.

Chad Pinder hit what was thought to be just the fifth home run into the second deck at Oakland since the level opened in 1996, a May 20 shot against Boston that Statcast pegged at 460 feet.

An emphasis on increased pitching velocity may be tied to power.

"You hit something that's going faster, it's going to exit faster, which in turn causes it to go farther," New York Mets outfielder Jay Bruce said.

Even Clayton Kershaw has been impacted. The Los Angeles Dodgers ace pitcher, regarded by many as baseball's best, has given up 17 home runs this year — one more than his previous high for a season.

"I think guys are fixated on the home runs across the game," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said. "We've seen that change over time, OPS, power, homers, a lot of big swings, very few two-strike approaches,

launch angle.”

Atlanta’s Matt Kemp, who hit 39 homers in 2011, feels left behind. He went deep just twice in June. “High home run month for everybody else,” he said chuckling, “except me.”

AP Sports Writers Mike Fitzpatrick, David Ginsburg, Joe Kay, Janie McCauley, Kristie Rieken and Noah Trister contributed to this report.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Trump’s White House all but ignoring Spanish speakers

By JILL COLVIN and LUIS ALONSO LUGO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump White House no habla español. Well, un poquito.

After a succession of administrations that embraced Spanish-language content, President Donald Trump’s White House is all but ignoring Spanish speakers even though he has a robust online presence in English.

His administration has yet to offer a Spanish White House website. It has eliminated the position of director of Hispanic media outreach. And its Spanish-language Twitter account is heavy with English text and features sloppy translations.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said in January that the administration had its “IT folks working overtime” to roll out a new Spanish language site after WhiteHouse.gov/espanol went dark in the hours after Trump took office.

“Trust me, it’s going to take a little bit more time, but we’re working piece by piece to get that done,” Spicer said at the time. More than five months later, the site still urges readers to “STAY TUNED.”

The White House’s Spanish twitter account, @LaCasaBlanca, is also far less active in the Trump era.

The account has tweeted just 41 times since Trump’s inauguration; more than one-third of those posts came on the day of his address to a joint session of Congress on Feb. 28. Of the 41 tweets, about half were written in English. The Spanish tweets are sprinkled with typos — 11 in all. While most mistakes are minor flubs such as missing accents, those accents often change the meaning of words significantly. For instance, they turn “medical” into “medicate” or “is” into “this.”

Notably, one of the first agencies to expand Spanish-language content during the Trump era has been U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The agency better known as ICE is responsible for carrying out deportations. Last month, it announced that it was expanding the Spanish section of its website and started a new Spanish twitter feed, @ICEespanol.

The White House director of media affairs, Helen Aguirre Ferre, said she expects a Spanish website to launch later this year. She noted the Obama administration took nine months to launch its version, adding that “the priority remains to improve the English language website.”

She said there was no plan to hire a press officer solely dedicated to Spanish-language media at this time. She said she and another staffer in the communications operation are bilingual and conduct interviews in Spanish. Spanish-language media are also invited to participate in press briefings, background briefings and other events, along with their English-language colleagues, she said.

Former President George W. Bush began the tradition of a Spanish-language website. The Obama administration followed suit.

Luis Miranda, director of Hispanic media at the White House during the Obama administration, said the Obama-era Spanish-language website was not just a translation of the English site, but included information geared to Latinos on topics such as immigration, health issues, banking and veterans affairs.

“For us it was important that all of our constituents across the board were getting as much information as possible about what we were doing,” he said.

Still, the Obama White House received some criticism for using Spanglish in its initial website on his health overhaul.

Activists see the lack of Spanish content as part of a larger pattern by Trump and the administration.

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"I believe they have written off the Latino vote as, 'I'm never going to get it, so why should I even bother?'" said Luis A. Miranda Jr., a Democratic strategist who has worked for Democrat Hillary Clinton as well as Republican Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York. (The two Mirandas are not related.)

During his campaign, Trump turned off many Latinos with his harsh anti-immigration rhetoric. He criticized rival Jeb Bush for answering a reporter's question in Spanish, saying the former Florida governor "should really set the example by speaking English while in the United States."

"We have a country, where, to assimilate, you have to speak English. And I think that where he was, and the way it came out didn't sound right to me," Trump said during one Republican primary debate.

Trump still won about 28 percent of the Latino vote, similar to Mitt Romney in 2012, according to exit polls.

Roberto Izurieta, director of Latin American Projects at George Washington University, said that since Trump began his campaign, his rhetoric has been "very aggressive and very anti-Hispanic."

"The president decided on Day One to stay with his electoral base. It means he will keep his divisive rhetoric and stay with his base, which is anti-immigrant," he said.

Javier Palomarez, president of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, was a vocal critic of Trump during the campaign. But he said he has been pleasantly surprised by the administration's other Hispanic outreach efforts.

While Spanish-language communication is "important in terms of optics," he said, "at the end of the day, where the rubber meets the road for us and what matters to us is what kind of policy are you enacting, are you engaged with us."

He said his members' conversations with the White House have been "constant, consistent and ongoing," with numerous in-person meetings with White House and Cabinet officials, including Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and weekly phone calls with Jennifer Korn, deputy director for the White House Office of Public Liaison.

"They have been more than willing to talk to us and engage us," he said. "This is the same level or more access that we had with the Obama administration."

Follow Colvin and Alonso Lugo on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/luisalonsolugo>

Trump upset states not fully cooperating with voting panel

By ADAM KEALOHA CAUSEY and HOLLY RAMER, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — President Donald Trump is upset that all states aren't fully cooperating with his voting commission's request for detailed information about every voter in the United States.

Some of the most populous ones, including California and New York, are refusing to comply. But even some conservative states that voted for Trump, such as Texas, say they can provide only partial responses based on what is legally allowed under state law.

"Numerous states are refusing to give information to the very distinguished VOTER FRAUD PANEL. What are they trying to hide?" Trump said in a tweet Saturday.

Given the mishmash of information Trump's commission will receive, it's unclear how useful it will be or what the commission will do with it. Trump established the commission to investigate allegations of voter fraud in the 2016 elections, but Democrats have blasted it as a biased panel that is merely looking for ways to suppress the vote.

New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner, a Democrat who is a member of Trump's Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, defended the request Friday. He said the commission expected that many states would only partially comply because open records laws differ from state to state.

"If only half the states agree, we'll have to talk about that. I think, whatever they do, we'll work with that," said Gardner, adding that the commission will discuss the survey at its July 19 meeting.

He said he has received calls from unhappy constituents who said they didn't want Trump to see their personal information.

"But this is not private, and a lot of people don't know that," he said.

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White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders blasted the decision by some governors and secretaries of state not to comply.

"I think that that's mostly about a political stunt," she told reporters at a White House briefing Friday. It's not just Democrats bristling at the requested information.

Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, a Republican serving his third term, said in a statement he had not received the commission's request.

If he does receive it?

"My reply would be: They can go jump in the Gulf of Mexico, and Mississippi is a great state to launch from," he said. "Mississippi residents should celebrate Independence Day and our state's right to protect the privacy of our citizens by conducting our own electoral processes."

In a federal court case after a contentious U.S. Senate primary in Mississippi in 2014, a group called True the Vote sued Mississippi seeking similar information about voters. Hosemann fought that request and won.

No state election official planned to provide the commission with all of the information requested — even Kansas, where commission vice chairman Kris Kobach is secretary of state. He sent the letter asking for the names, party affiliations, addresses, voting histories, felony convictions, military service and the last four digits of Social Security numbers for all voters.

A spokeswoman for Kobach's office said the last four digits of Social Security numbers are not publicly available under Kansas law and would not be handed over. That was the case in many other states, noted in statements from top election officials and responses to queries from reporters for The Associated Press.

Officials in 10 states and the District of Columbia said they would not comply at all with the request. Those states are California, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee and Virginia.

Oklahoma, where nearly two-thirds of the vote in the November presidential election went to Trump, will provide nearly all the commission's request, save for one bit of information: Social Security numbers.

"That's not publicly available under the laws of our state," said Bryan Dean, spokesman for the Oklahoma State Election Board.

Dean said the commission's request will be treated like any other from the general public. The election board will tell the panel to fill out an online form asking for the information. Oklahoma's voter roll is routinely provided to political campaigns, the press and other groups that ask for it.

The letter from the presidential commission gives secretaries of state about two weeks to provide the voter data and other information, including any evidence of fraud and election-related crimes in their states. It also asks for suggestions on improving election security.

Some Democratic officials have refused to comply with the data request, saying it invades privacy and is based on false claims of fraud. Trump, who created the commission through executive order in May, lost the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton but has alleged without evidence that up to 5 million people voted illegally.

Ramer reported from Concord, New Hampshire. Associated Press writers Jill Colvin in Washington, D.C.; Roxana Hegeman in Wichita, Kansas; Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey; Blake Nicholson in Bismarck, North Dakota; and Kyle Potter in St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this report.

Follow Adam Kealoha Causey on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/akcausey> and Holly Ramer at: <http://twitter.com/hramer>

'Scared' a year ago, Federer back at Wimbledon, eyeing No. 8

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Write off Roger Federer at your own peril.

The guy's been considered done by some folks at various times over the years, whether because of age or a bad back or a bum knee or a — gasp! — 4½-season drought without a Grand Slam title.

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And yet here he is, about to turn 36 next month, about to tie a record by playing in his 70th major tournament and, lo and behold, back to his old status as a popular pick to take home the title when Wimbledon begins on Monday.

He is seeking an unprecedented eighth men's championship at the All England Club.

"A player like Roger, as long as he's playing, you know, he's going to have a chance to win a Grand Slam. The day he will stop playing, that's when he will have no chance to win," said Stan Wawrinka, a three-time major champion who has played much of his career in his Swiss countryman's considerable shadow.

"We all know as players, we all see on the court, we all see when we practice against him," said Wawrinka, who is friends with Federer and has teamed with him to win a Davis Cup title and an Olympic gold in doubles.

"For sure, he had some years (that were) a little bit down — with some injury, with some tough results for him. That's part of a long career."

The lasting image of Federer at Wimbledon a year ago was of him face-down on the Centre Court turf during the fifth set of a semifinal loss, betrayed by a surgically repaired left knee.

Also tough to forget: The consecutive double-faults in the last game of the fourth set.

He seemed more vulnerable than the tennis world had seen him in more than a decade.

"The fall just really scared me," Federer said Saturday, fingers clasped as he leaned forward.

Afterward, he recalled, he consulted with several doctors. Federer figured he would need a month off, maybe two. He was told that at least four months off was the proper way to heal. That meant no Olympics, no U.S. Open, no matches at all for the rest of 2016.

All he's done since coming back this year is go 24-2 with four titles, including a record-extending 18th at a Grand Slam tournament by erasing a fifth-set deficit to beat Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final in January.

That was Federer's first major championship since Wimbledon in 2012, when he was a mere 30 years old.

Some more time off would come during this season: Federer skipped the clay-court circuit, including the French Open, despite being healthy.

"I was ready to play in Paris," he said. "I just didn't feel ready to go yet."

Federer wanted, he explained, to give himself the best chance to succeed on his best surfaces, grass and hard courts.

"We all felt the same way, that it's better to save myself and give it all I have for the rest of the season — not just the grass-court season, but looking beyond that, too, all the way to the American summer, staying on a 'fast-court tennis' sort of mindset," he said.

Leaning back in his chair with arms crossed, he said of missing the French Open: "I kind of never regretted it, even though it hurt."

He tuned up for Wimbledon by winning a grass-court tournament in Halle, Germany. In the final, he walloped one of the game's up-and-coming talents — Alexander Zverev, someone 15 years his junior — as if to prove that the kids can wait their turn.

Tennis' old guard is still in charge of the sport.

Federer, 31-year-old Nadal, and Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, both 30, are the top four seeds at Wimbledon. They've combined to win the past 14 titles at the All England Club.

"It's very even, when we put it all out on the line," Federer said about the so-called Big 4.

This is Federer's 19th appearance at Wimbledon, two shy of Jimmy Connors' record in the Open era. Federer enters with 84 match wins, equal with Connors for the most.

There are concessions to time, Federer acknowledges.

He tried to get through practice Saturday as quickly as possible — "short and sweet, just to get it done" — and then planned to take Sunday off before the grind begins.

The philosophy is the same during matches. An attacking style to shorten points, the occasional serve-and-volley, and the more powerful backhand he displayed in Australia against Nadal all can help save energy.

"I don't want to be at the mercy of my opponent. I want to take charge, play aggressive myself," Federer

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said. "So for that, I need to be fast on my feet and quick in my mind. I just need enough rest so I can play enough inspired tennis."

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2017. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

On this date:

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1867, New York's first elevated rail line, a single track between Battery Place and Greenwich Street, went into operation.

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1892, the Populist Party (also known as the People's Party) opened its first national convention in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Illinois, as white mobs attacked black residents; nearly 50 people, mostly blacks, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1926, the United States Army Air Corps was created.

In 1955, "The Lawrence Welk Show" premiered on ABC-TV under its original title, "The Dodge Dancing Party."

In 1961, author Ernest Hemingway shot himself to death at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

In 1977, Russian-American author Vladimir Nabokov, 78, died in Montreux, Switzerland.

In 1987, 18 Mexican immigrants were found dead inside a locked boxcar near Sierra Blanca, Texas, in what authorities called a botched smuggling attempt; a 19th man survived.

In 1997, Academy Award-winning actor James Stewart died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 89.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush commuted the sentence of former aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, sparing him a 2-1/2-year prison term in the CIA leak case. Russian President Vladimir Putin concluded his visit to Kennebunkport, Maine, where he'd held talks with President Bush. Opera singer Beverly Sills died in New York at age 78.

Five years ago: Jim Yong Kim began his new job as president of the World Bank, promising to immediately focus on helping poor countries navigate a fragile global economy. The U.S. Justice Department said British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline would pay \$3 billion in fines for criminal and civil violations involving 10 drugs taken by millions of people. Former NBC president Julian Goodman, 90, died in Juno Beach, Florida.

One year ago: Hillary Clinton was voluntarily interviewed for 3 1/2 hours by the FBI at the agency's Washington headquarters about her use of a private email server as secretary of state. Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel (EL'-ee vee-ZEHL'), 87, died in New York. Oscar-winning director Michael Cimino, 77, died in Beverly Hills, California.

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 88. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 87. Actor Robert Ito is 86. Actress Polly Holliday is 80. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 80. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 78. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 75. Writer-director-

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comedian Larry David is 70. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 70. Actor Saul Rubinek is 69. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 68. Rock musician Gene Taylor is 65. Actress Wendy Schaal is 63. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 61. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 56. Country singer Guy Penrod is 54. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 52. Actress Yancy Butler is 47. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 41. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 39. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 38. Singer Michelle Branch is 34. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 33. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 33. Actor Nelson Franklin is 32. Actress-singer Ashley Tisdale is 32. Actress Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 31. Actress Margot Robbie is 27.

Thought for Today: "Let all of life be an unfettered howl. Like the crowd greeting the gladiator. Don't stop to think, don't interrupt the scream, exhale, release life's rapture." — Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977).