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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**

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Garbage Pickup in Groton will still be on Tuesday of this week.

It is a state holiday so all state, county and city offices are closed today. However, it is not a federal holiday so the post office will be open and delivering mail and most banks will be open.

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.

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FOURTH OF JULY

Senior Menu: NO MEAL.

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

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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

Jr. Legion: at Redfield, 1 game, 6 p.m.

Olive Grove: Men's League, 6 p.m.

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You can
dance
anywhere,
even if
only in
your heart.

-Author Unknown

@ChickenSoupSoul
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Uncle Terry wants you!



Terry Kenny is the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Groton. On Sunday, he dressed up as "Uncle Sam." He said, "I dress up for Memorial Day and Independence Day. It's a time to reflect on our military and our freedom." Uncle Sam is that guy on the ad that says, "I want you!" Kenny added, "If we all do our part for America, it would be a better place." He said that it is fun to dress up as Uncle Sam. (Photos by Ron Rehfluss)

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



South Dakota's Presidential Independence Day

It was an eventful Fourth of July week 90 years ago when President Calvin Coolidge spent the holiday in the Black Hills. He and First Lady Grace Coolidge came to the State Game Lodge at Custer State Park that summer to escape the noise and congestion of Washington, D.C. Arriving in mid-June, they planned to stay for three weeks but enjoyed South Dakota so much they extended their stay to three months.

There were two birthdays being celebrated that July Fourth: the nation's and President Coolidge's. Coolidge turned 55. In his recently released book, "Calvin Coolidge in the Black Hills," Seth Tupper describes the events of that day.

A crowd gathered outside the Game Lodge and a Montana cowboy band played some western tunes. When the Coolidges emerged from the lodge, a local Boy Scout troop gave the president a gift: a mare with a white star on her forehead. To go with the horse, the Boy Scouts also gave the President a saddle, bridle, boots, a red western shirt and a purple neckerchief. Coolidge also received a gift from the cowboy band: a pair of white chaps with "Cal" sewn on them.

After the gathered crowd had enjoyed a picnic lunch and cakes prepared by White House staff and volunteers, Coolidge put on his new western gear and modeled it for the crowd.

The next day, on July 5, 1927, the Coolidges traveled to the northern hills to watch the Belle Fourche Roundup. It was literally their first rodeo and Cal donned a ten-gallon hat which had been presented to him by the event's organizers. The President probably didn't know what to think at first. But after the "wild cow milking" event – where a group of cowboys competed to be the first to fill a jar with milk from beef cattle – it was clear he was having a good time.

The following week, one of Coolidge's aides, Edward T. Clark observed, "He is actually enjoying himself in these strange clothes and with a new kind of people. It seems to me that for the first time in his life he is actually playing."

There are many unique ways to celebrate Independence Day here in South Dakota. However you are spending this Fourth of July – whether by attending the Belle Fourche rodeo, the Lennox parade or the Fort Pierre fireworks display, I hope you take some time to enjoy yourself. Like our thirtieth president did, get out and play. Our Independence Day is truly a cause for celebration.



Farm Policy is about Food

Trying to explain the agriculture industry in D.C. is always interesting, but it's important more people – especially those who can vote on farm policy – understand where their food comes from. They should know the kind of capital farmers bury in the ground each spring in the form of seed and fertilizer with the hope of getting the crop and prices needed to keep their operation going. Lawmakers ought to understand the risk that comes with running a ranch – and the devastating blow a drought can deal to a family who's been in the business for generations.

It's been a tough year. Good portions of our commodities – corn, soybeans, wheat and oats – have been rated as poor or very poor already. The drought has devastated pastures, creating a feed shortage that's forced some ranchers to begin selling off yearlings and cow-calf pairs.

The safety nets provided through the Farm Bill are built for years like this. During the 2014 Farm Bill debates, for instance, I fought hard to preserve the Livestock Forage Program (LFP) and make it permanent. The program has now been triggered for several South Dakota counties that have been categorized in extreme drought and I've urged the USDA to act quickly to provide these ranchers relief.

Additionally, after a personal request to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, I was grateful to see the USDA open South Dakota CRP acres for grazing in some areas. The agency has also allowed CRP contract holders to donate the hay harvested for mid-contract management purposes to livestock producers in drought-stricken areas. I'm hopeful these changes will give ranchers a few more options.

While fighting for immediate relief in the face of drought, I'm also focused on producing long-term gains for South Dakota's ranchers.

Around 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside U.S. borders, so gaining access to outside markets is critical.

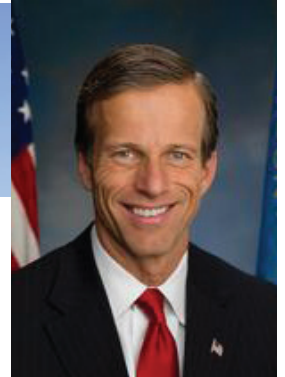
Most recently, the Trump administration announced the end of a 13-year ban on U.S. beef imports to China. Today, the Chinese beef import market totals around \$2.5 billion and I'm hopeful American-grown beef will gain a significant share of that market.

Additionally, in my role as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, I've put pressure on the U.S. Trade Representative to strengthen agriculture provisions during the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiation. Since the agreement first took effect in the mid-1990s, South Dakota's exports to Canada and Mexico have increased 969 percent; I'd like to see that growth continue.

It's getting increasingly difficult to find lawmakers who understand what life is like for those involved with agriculture. In fact, this Congress, just 26 of the 535 members of Congress claim farming or ranching as an occupation. What's more, a survey conducted for the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy recently received nationwide attention after finding that nearly one in 10 adults believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows. You can't make this stuff up!

It sounds silly, but if people can't understand how chocolate milk is produced, imagine how difficult it will be to explain the need for a Livestock Forage Program or an ag-friendly NAFTA. We need to take the time to educate folks about where their food comes from. Farm policy is food policy. And if Americans are going to continue to have the world's safest and most reliable food supply, we need to make sure the farmers and ranchers growing that food have the safety nets and strong markets needed to survive from one generation to the next.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Drought Assistance is on the Way

The Fourth of July is one of my favorite holidays, and I know I'm not alone. Not only do we get to spend quality time with family and friends, but we get to celebrate everything that's great about America. For most folks, the holiday usually means backyard barbecues, parades, fireworks, and a break from the usual nine-to-five grind. Unless you're a farmer or rancher, that is. Every day is a workday. Livestock need tending, and the fields won't work themselves.

Even during the best of times, farming and ranching is a tough business. And during the worst of times, things can get really, really tough. Extreme weather often plays a role, which is exactly what's happening in South Dakota today with the drought that's damaging crops and pastures in more than 90 percent of the state. The hard-working folks who make agriculture the state's top industry are always up for a challenge, but they need a little help from time to time so they can sustain their operations. Now is one of those times.

I've been working with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue to identify ways that we can get some much-needed assistance to livestock producers faster and break down unnecessary bureaucratic barriers that make farming and ranching more difficult, particularly now during the drought.

A great example is USDA's recent dueling announcements about Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage. On one hand, USDA was telling producers to destroy useable hay on some CRP-enrolled acres. On the other hand, it was telling producers to use hay on other CRP-enrolled acres to graze livestock. These completely contradictory announcements made no sense and led to disbelief from producers that USDA would actually require destruction of useable hay during a drought.

Shortly after the announcement about hay destruction, I shared a bit of South Dakota commonsense with Secretary Perdue: You should never destroy hay when it could be used to feed cattle and help livestock owners who are struggling, especially during a severe drought. I strongly encouraged the secretary to reverse this order so the hay could be used to help folks who need it. I also encouraged him to authorize emergency haying and grazing on CRP-enrolled land in all counties that have a border within 150 miles of a county that's been approved for emergency haying or grazing of CRP. The secretary quickly approved both of my requests, which proves that a little commonsense goes a long way.

The result of the secretary's decision means no one will be forced to destroy useable hay that's removed from CRP-enrolled land. It also means every single county in South Dakota will be immediately opened to grazing on CRP-enrolled land subject to mid-contract management and will be opened to emergency haying on August 1. All of South Dakota and North Dakota, two-thirds of Montana, half of Wyoming and Nebraska, and portions of Iowa and Minnesota are now available for emergency grazing on certain CRP land. That's a big win for South Dakota farmers and ranchers and the livestock on which their livelihoods depend.

I will continue to work with USDA – and hold the agency's feet to the fire when necessary – to ensure it's doing all it can to assist South Dakota's producers during these difficult times. In the meantime, I encourage those with CRP acres they want to use for haying or grazing to contact their local Farm Service Agency office as soon as possible to begin the approval process for this assistance.

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This 4th of July, Let's Focus on our Commonalities

In South Dakota, the Fourth of July is a time to spend with friends and family, whether that be boating, camping, attending parades or grilling out and lighting fireworks. It is a holiday filled with joy and tradition that allows us to celebrate the liberties and freedoms unmatched by any other country in the world. It is also a reminder that we continue to be the greatest, strongest, most resilient country that has ever existed and can overcome any challenge we may face.

Unfortunately, it can often be too easy to lose sight of these principles amidst cable news stories of partisan gridlock and party infighting. During trying times, it is important to remember that what unites us as Americans will always be far greater than what divides us.

Having been working in Washington for two-and-a-half years, I can tell you that everyone I have met has good intentions. We all share the same goal of leaving our country better for future generations, we just sometimes disagree on how to get there. And that's ok. Having healthy, robust debates among elected leaders is a cornerstone of our democracy. As long as we remain respectful and understand that we all want what's best for our nation, there is no challenge we cannot overcome.

One area in which we continue to see common ground is in our support for our veterans and the men and women in uniform. Just before the Senate recessed for the Fourth of July holiday, I'm pleased that the Armed Services Committee, on which I serve, once again came together in a bipartisan fashion to pass the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The NDAA is the annual bill that supports our military operations and personnel within the Department of Defense. It is one of the most important bills we pass each year in Congress, and it is one of the rare instances in which members truly check their party ID at the door to put the defense of our nation, our troops and their families before all else. In fact, the NDAA has been signed into law for more than 50 years in a row, despite changing parties at the White House and amidst an ever-changing political climate in Washington. I'm honored to do my part in continuing that effort and to stand with our men and women in uniform.

We are fortunate to live in the freest country in the world, a country that protects our individual right to express ourselves through free speech. The recent shooting involving Members of Congress, Capitol Police and Capitol Hill staff in Alexandria, Virginia, is a tragic reminder for all of us that while there is still evil in the world, we cannot and will not tolerate violent extremism.

Former President Bill Clinton said in his first inaugural address that "there is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by what is right with America." I wholeheartedly agree. This year, as we celebrate Independence Day, let us all strive to put aside our differences and celebrate the commonalities we share as Americans.

How to Save Money While Welcoming a New Pet to Your Home By Nathaniel Sillin

Whether it's a dog, cat or another furry (or scaly) friend, many people have pets who are more than just animals – they're part of the family.

Pets can be friends, they can offer nonjudgmental companionship when you're feeling down and they can put a smile on your face. To provide the best care for a pet, you'll want to be able to afford their needs, including the basics like food and healthcare. With this in mind, think carefully and review your budget before deciding to welcome an animal into your family.

Choose a pet that you can afford. While the initial cost of adopting or buying a pet is relatively small compared to the long-term expenses, the type of pet you choose does matter.

Admittedly, you might visit the pound and fall in love with a dog or cat. What can you do? The heart wants what the heart wants. Research is a must if you want to take cost-saving measures, though. For example, larger animal breeds may be more expensive to care for, partially because they simply eat more food. And if you're taking in a dog you'll want to consider the cost of training, which could set you back several hundred dollars.

Lifespan is another consideration. Hamsters, gerbils and some types of fish may only live a couple of years. A pet turtle, on the other hand, could live several decades.

Keep your pet healthy and happy. Health care can be one of the most expensive aspects of pet ownership. As with humans, it's often best to invest in preventative care rather than treat emergencies.

Follow your pet's recommended vaccination schedule and treatments, spay or neuter cats and dogs and visit the vet at least once a year for a checkup. Finding and dealing with health problems early on isn't only less expensive, you may be able to prevent serious problems and improve your pet's quality of life.

Some types of preventative care don't require a visit to the vet, although you can still ask for recommendations. For example, brushing your dog's teeth (with special toothpaste) can help prevent teeth and gum problems.

Consider pet insurance to cover emergencies. When a pet is part of the family, you'll do anything to help him or her. You may want to have an insurance policy to help cover emergencies that you might not be able to afford otherwise. Particularly if you have a high-risk breed, a pet that tends to escape or you live in an area with a lot of other potentially aggressive animals.



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Before buying a policy, read up on how pet insurance works. There can be important differences between pet and human policies.

Save money on nutritious food. Once you bring a pet home, it's your responsibility to provide for them. You can ask your vet for food recommendations (and free samples) based on the pet's type and age. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has general nutrition tips for dogs and cats, including age-based diet recommendations.

Once you've found a food that you and your pet likes, you may be able to get a discount by signing up for a subscription delivery service online. Or, if you don't mind the workout, consider buying in bulk at a warehouse club.

Have a plan for when you're unavailable. Another responsibility pet owners take on is making sure their pet is looked after while they're away. The least expensive option may be to find a neighbor or friend who also has a pet and exchange free pet-sitting services.

Otherwise, you can look for a well-reviewed doggy daycare center or boarding service. You could try one of the several apps that connect you with someone who can feed, walk or play with your pet. If you're away for several days, the apps can also help you find someone who will spend the night or take your pet to their home.

Bottom line: Taking a pet into your home and caring for them can be a rewarding and wonderful experience. It can also be life changing. Review the potential immediate and long-term costs to help ensure that you'll be able to provide for a pet once they join your family.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

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Today in Weather History

July 3, 1959: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast after destroying a farm building at the western edge of Java, Walworth County. Elsewhere in the area, high straight line winds caused property damage while hail damaged crops. The largest hail was 2.75 inches in diameter and was observed 9 miles NNW of Timber Lake.

July 3, 2003: A supercell thunderstorm moved southeastward across western Jackson County and Bennett County. The storm dropped up to golf ball sized hail and produced an F2 tornado north of Tuthill in Bennett County. The tornado touched down about a mile north of the junction of highways 18 and 73, where it destroyed a garage. The tornado moved south-southeast and destroyed a mobile home just to the southeast of the highway intersection and then dissipated just north of Tuthill. No one was injured.

Also on this day, a line of severe thunderstorms with hail up to the size of golf balls and winds over 80 mph at times brought widespread property and crop damage to far northeast Brown, across Marshall and Roberts counties. The wind and hail caused the most damage to crops in a 20 mile to a 70-mile long area from north of Britton over to Sisseton and into west central Minnesota. Much of the crops were shredded to the ground. In fact, approximately 30 percent (70,000 acres) of Marshall County's 227,000 acres of crops were damaged or destroyed. Cities receiving the most damage from the line of storms were, Hecla, Andover, Britton, Kidder, Veblen, Roslyn, Langford, Lake City, Claire City, Sisseton, Waubay, Rosholt, and Wilmot. Storm damage mostly included trees and branches down, power lines and poles down, roof and siding damage from hail and fallen trees, some farm outbuildings damaged or destroyed, and many windows broke out of homes and vehicles. Also, many boats, docks, and campers received some damage in the path of the storms. Specifically, an aerial crop spraying plane at the Sisseton airport was picked up and thrown 450 feet and landed upside down. In Claire City, a 55,000-bushel grain bin was blown off of its foundation and flattened. On a farm five miles north of Amherst, three large grain bins were blown over and damaged.

July 3, 2010: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds to parts of central South Dakota, especially to Lyman County. Eighty mph winds moved a building off the foundation at the Presho Municipal Airport. Eighty mph winds also destroyed or damaged many grain bins and caused damage to several other buildings in and around Presho. A large sign, twenty power poles, along with many trees were downed in Presho. There were also several broken houses and car windows from hail and high winds. Seventy mph winds tore a garage door loose, bent a flagpole over, and downed many large tree branches in Kennebec. The winds also caused some damage to homes, sheds, and grain bins in Kennebec.

1873: A tornado in Hancock County, in far west central Illinois, destroyed several farms. From a distance, witnesses initially thought the tornado was smoke from a fire. A child was killed after being carried 500 yards; 10 other people were injured. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Illinois Genealogy Trails.


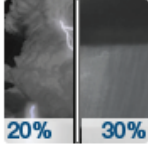





1975: Up to 3 inches of rain caused flash flooding throughout Las Vegas, NV. The main damage occurred to vehicles at Caesars Palace with approximately 700 damaged or destroyed with several cars found miles away. North Las Vegas was hardest hit with \$3.5 million in damage. Two people drowned in the flood waters.

2000: There is a certain irony about one of the driest places getting the greatest rainfall, and yet that is what happened at usually rain-sparse Vanguard, Saskatchewan on July 3 when a carwash-like down-pour flooded the community of 200 people, some 65 km southeast of Swift Current. As much as 375 mm (14.76") of rain fell in eight hours, the greatest storm for that duration on the Canadian Prairies and one of the largest rainfall intensities ever recorded in Canada.

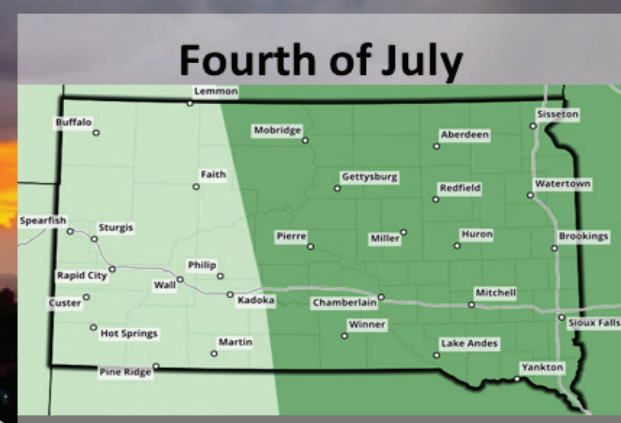
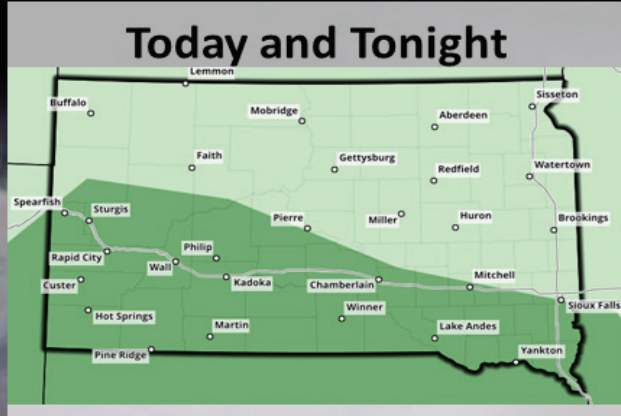
The spectacular thunderstorm produced more cloud-to-ground lightning strikes than that part of southern Saskatchewan would expect in two years. A year's amount of rain left crops in the field drowning and rotting, and roads and rail lines under water. The force of the water crushed cars and farm implements swept away grain bins and soaked large bales. Stranded residents had to be rescued by boat, which rapidly became the carrier of choice on the main street in Vanguard. The flash flood also carried away herds of cattle and drowned dozens of deer and antelope. Some further irony, when millions of liters of contaminated water submerged the water-treatment plant and backed up into homes and businesses, officials had to ship in bottled water from Swift Current.



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Today	Tonight	Independence Day	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Partly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Hot
High: 85 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 95 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 92 °F

Thunderstorms Possible through the Fourth of July



Thunderstorm Type/Risk	
General	Marginal
Thunderstorms Possible	Isolated Severe Storms Possible Hail up to 1" Wind up to 60 mph Locally Heavy Rain
	



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

7/3/2017 4:28 AM Central

Published on: 07/03/2017 at 4:37AM

Have outdoor plans? Stay weather aware as thunderstorms are in the forecast. The greatest risk of severe weather will be Tuesday over eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. The main threats Tuesday will be heavy rain, hail, and gusty winds. www.weather.gov/abr

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.3 F at 4:36 PM

Low Outside Temp: 56.3 F at 6:15 AM

High Gust: 16.0 Mph at 11:03 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1949

Record Low: 39° in 1917

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.31

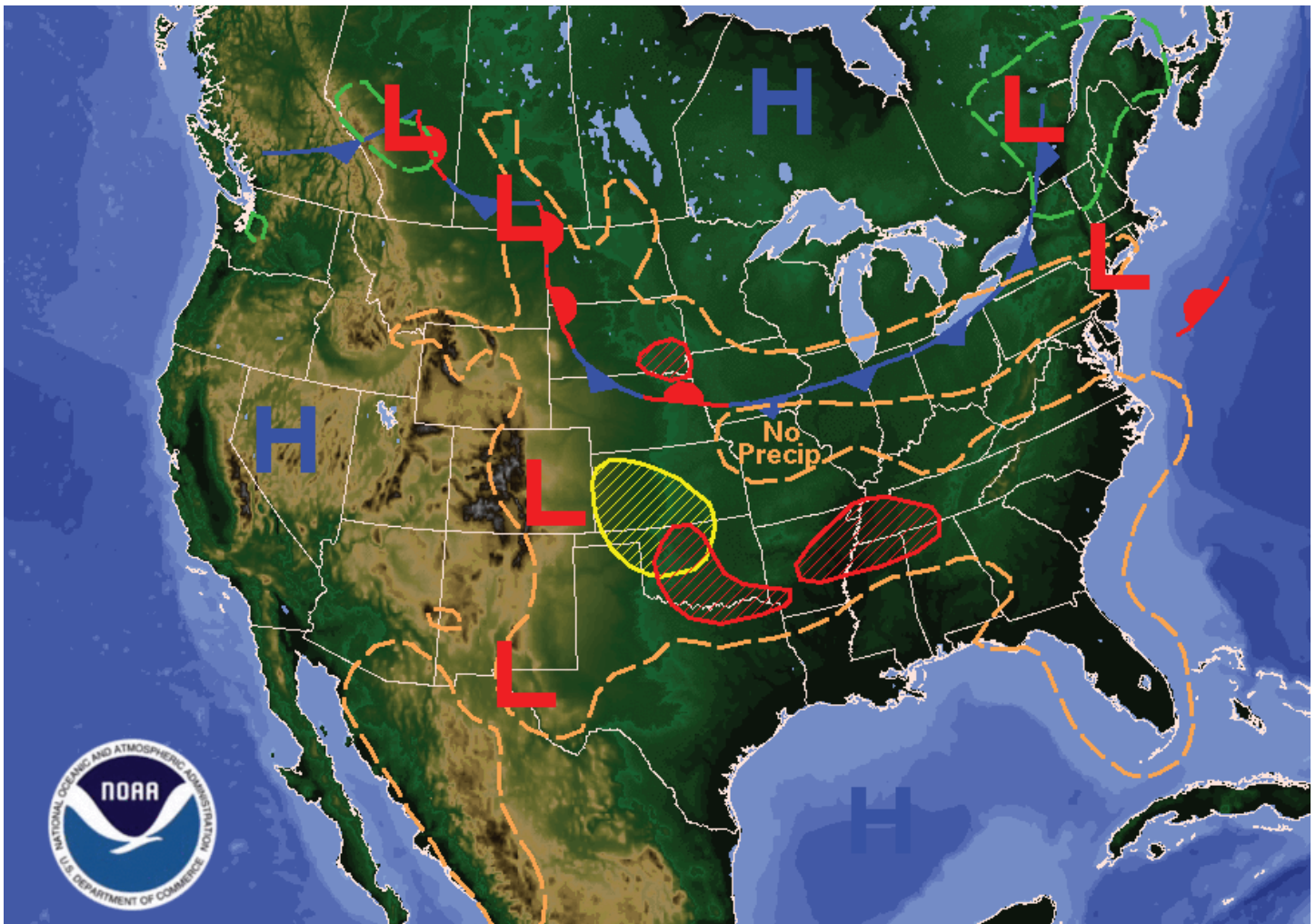
Precip to date in July: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 11.15

Precip Year to Date: 5.77

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jul 03, 2017, issued 5:09 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WE ARE WHAT WE THINK

There is a parrot in Brazil that changes its color from green to red or even yellow when it is fed certain fish. And there are some canaries whose yellow feathers will cast off a red hue if they are fed cayenne pepper when they are molting. What is true in the natural realm is also true in the spiritual realm. We become what our minds "feed" upon.

"The Lord's promises are pure," said David "...therefore we know that you will protect the oppressed." David knew that God's promises were true and that He would honor His word. But what does that mean? That he will simply "protect" the oppressed and keep them that way? That certainly does not make any sense. Why would God only "protect" them?

The word "protect" means "to watch over." It carries with it the same significance as the promise to Jeremiah: "I am ready to perform My word." Moreover, God preserves (or performs) His words "from this generation forever" – that is, from now until eternity. The word of our God stands forever!

Because the Word of God stands forever, we know that its contents are true and reliable; it is God-glorifying in its message, Christ-honoring in its contents and comes to life through the Holy Spirit's power.

If we nourish our souls on its promises and feed our minds on its message our lives will reflect the grace of God. The message of the Bible will keep us from sin or sin will hide the message of the Bible from our eyes.

Prayer: We ask, Father, for Your Spirit to speak to us and open our hearts, control our minds and direct our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 12:6 And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times.

News from the Associated Press

Healthy growth expected in Midwest, Plains states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of business leaders suggests the economy will pick up over the next few months in nine Midwest and Plains states because manufacturing remains strong.

The overall economic index for the region increased to 62.3 in June from May's solid 55.5. Any score above 50 suggests growth.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor, while a score below that suggests decline.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says the Federal Reserve's recent interest rate hike didn't dampen business leaders' confidence in the economy.

The survey released Monday covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

'Pink slime' defamation trial boosts some area businesses

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (AP) — The trial to determine whether ABC defamed a South Dakota meat producer's products that critics dubbed "pink slime" provided a boost to area business before it ended with a settlement.

The Sioux City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2teDyHH>) the biggest beneficiaries from the case that lasted more than four weeks were hotels and restaurants in the Sioux City area where the legal teams for ABC and Beef Products Inc. stayed.

The trial that was held in Elk Point, South Dakota, wrapped up last week.

ABC's team used 30 to 35 rooms at the Marina Inn Hotel and Conference Center in South Sioux City, Nebraska. Hotel manager Ralph Bobian says the trial provided a nice boost to business.

BPI's team stayed at the Hilton Garden Inn in Sioux City.

___ Information from: Sioux City Journal, <http://www.siouxcityjournal.com>

South Dakota student accepted into 7 Ivy League schools

By ABBY PETERSEN, Rapid City Journal

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — He picked up the hitchhiker near Pine Ridge after school. It was something he wasn't supposed to do, according to his parents, who warned him about murderers and muggers disguised as people just seeking a ride.

Dusk had begun to fall over the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and the hitchhiker was drunk. Red Cloud Indian School student Jacob Rosales gave him a ride anyway.

Through slightly slurred speech, the hitchhiker pointed out landmarks and sacred sites until Rosales dropped him off in Kyle. Before leaving, the hitchhiker asked Rosales if he planned to go to college. Yes, Rosales said. The man smiled, said a prayer for him and gave him a feather.

Rosales handed him \$10 for food and drove home.

In June 2017, one month after graduating from high school, the hitchhiker's feather is still with Rosales in Maryland, where he works as an intern for the National Institutes of Health. In the fall, that feather will follow Rosales to Yale University, one of seven Ivy League schools to which the Red Cloud graduate was accepted.

Rosales was born in Filderstadt, Germany, the son of a German woman who fell in love with an Oglala Lakota man during gardening classes at Oglala Lakota College.

Rosales' mother, Gabriele, shuffled him back and forth between Germany and the U.S. for the first years of his life. Six months here. Six months there. A year at Martin Grade School. Some time in classes at Interior School. Eventually, his mother received permanent residency and his family settled near Kyle until

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his parents divorced when he was 6.

Gabriele had heard about Red Cloud Indian School and wanted her son to have the same opportunities, so Rosales went to Red Cloud High School, about 50 miles from Kyle. Gabriele rented him a room near Wounded Knee, where he lived with a classmate and her mother. He caught the bus to and from school during the week and drove home on the weekends.

For the first few years, Rosales plowed through classes and exams to make his mother happy. But his motivation grew from making his mother proud to making his family proud to eventually representing the Lakota culture he now saw as his own.

Rosales' initial career goals were to become a marine biologist — an unusual choice coming from land-locked South Dakota. He wanted to go to Brown University in Rhode Island, an Ivy League school with an acceptance rate of only 9.3 percent. With the help of Red Cloud student mentor Dominique Fenton, Rosales sent in applications to several Ivy League schools in the hope of getting good financial aid. Rosales also sent in an early application to Yale, which has a 6.3 percent acceptance rate.

While on Christmas break in December, Rosales was lying on his bed browsing the web on his iPod when he got an email from Yale saying his status portal had been updated. Nervously, Rosales logged into his Yale account. A congratulations video began to play with the Yale fight song.

"I just felt this huge sense of relief," Rosales told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2u9pu1c>).

But the acceptance letters didn't stop coming. In March, he received a phone call during class from someone at Harvard University, telling him he'd been accepted two weeks prior. Then Brown, the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Dartmouth College and Cornell University, all of which have acceptance rates lower than 15 percent.

Although there are no hard cut-offs for test scores, the most recent freshman class at Yale had ACT scores of 32-35. Rosales scored a 28.

Rosales doesn't credit his acceptance to each of the seven schools to his academics; he credits his success to the essays he had to write for his application, many of which focused on kindness. Rosales wrote about the hitchhiker.

"Aside from being a good student, I want to become a good person," Rosales said.

Fenton thinks Rosales is being humble for not crediting his academic success.

"He's such a naturally gifted kid," Fenton said. "His essays, he wrote them and they were perfect, pretty much."

Red Cloud School Principal Clare Huerter taught Rosales in English when he was a freshman. She admired his desire to learn — not just get good grades — which she thinks is the backbone of his journey to Yale.

"He's somebody who's intellectually competent but also very grounded," Huerter said.

Red Cloud serves about 220 high school students annually, and two of this year's 52 graduates are going to Ivy League schools. Huerter noted that three 2016 graduates went to Ivy League schools as well, which she attributes both to the attractiveness of multicultural resources at these schools as well as the schools' attempts to diversify.

Rosales ultimately chose Yale after visiting the Native American Cultural Center on campus and decided to pursue pre-medicine in hopes of becoming a general practitioner and returning to his community.

Rosales' grandmother, who spoke fluent Lakota, died before she could teach him. Rosales plans to build on the Lakota he knows at Yale, which offers Lakota language classes.

This summer, Rosales is examining proteins at the National Institutes of Health and preparing for his first semester at Yale. He stays motivated by all he hears from people back on the reservation, such as messages from people he's never met, praising him for the example he's setting.

"I mean in simplest terms, I guess, I am who I am right now because I've had all these opportunities to meet these other people," Rosales said.

He also holds on to the hitchhiker's feather.

"When I first found out I got in, it was a huge mixture of relief," Rosales said. "I was obviously super happy . and then there was just hope."

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

Victims and families on sidelines in plea agreements

By MARK WALKER, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — If Aimee Strauser got her way, her son's killer would spend his life in prison. Instead, a plea deal with the state means Wilson Hughes could be out on parole in as little as 15 years after his sentencing.

"They said it was the best way to do it," said Strauser, who expressed disappointment with the outcome of a recent hearing at the Minnehaha County courthouse.

A crime-victim's rights law passed by South Dakota voters in November established new rights for victims and their families, but they are still generally on the sidelines when it comes to negotiating plea agreements.

In a plea deal, a person charged with a crime agrees to plead guilty in exchange for a lesser sentence than what they might have faced if found guilty at trial. The arrangements save time and money and limit risk for everyone involved.

But they can also leave victims and family members unsatisfied.

Strauser's son Arick was beaten to death on a Sioux Falls driveway last July in a late-night fight police say involved more than half a dozen teenagers. Hughes was charged with three counts of manslaughter.

Attorneys in Minnehaha County states Attorney Aaron McGowan's office negotiated a plea deal for the state in which Hughes admitted to one count and a maximum 30 year sentence. Strauser said she reluctantly gave McGowan's office her blessing.

"I gave them my input and they didn't agree," Strauser told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2rUZB5E>). "Basically it boils down to something is better than nothing."

Strauser said she doesn't blame the state's attorney's office but wishes the criminal justice system offered more punishment in a case like her son's killing.

McGowan said his office invites victims to share what they would like to see as an outcome in cases, but other factors have to be weighed.

"Although we have great empathy for the victims and give credence to their wishes, we have responsibilities beyond the goals of our victims," McGowan said.

He said his office works closely with victims and families to explain the process, including what outcomes are reasonable to expect under the law, the obstacles prosecuting a case could present and the likelihood of winning at trial.

The state's attorney and defense attorney will negotiate deals based on a defendant's age and chances of rehabilitation, the limits of the law and strength of their cases.

Minnehaha County Public Defender Traci Smith said the facts and circumstance of every case are different. Victims should make their wishes known and stay informed of the law and evidentiary circumstances that might lead to certain plea deals.

It is important to prevent victims from developing unrealistic expectations, she said.

"Victims have an absolute right to have their voices heard and their wishes considered, but the law does not give them a right to veto a prosecution or demand a certain result," Smith said.

The criminal justice system does have a built-in protection to make sure plea agreements are fair and take the impact of the victim into consideration: judges.

Second judicial circuit court administrator Karl Thoennes said judges can approve or reject a plea agreement. The latter doesn't occur very frequently, he said.

Thoennes said a judge will review information about a case and the impact it had on victims through a pre-sentence report prepared by prosecutors and victim's witness assistants.

"Judges do frequently get input from families in various way," Thoennes said.

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July Fourth holiday brings mixed feelings for minorities

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — As many in the United States celebrate the Fourth of July holiday, some minorities have mixed feelings about the revelry of fireworks and parades in an atmosphere of tension on several fronts.

How do you celebrate during what some people of color consider troubling times?

Blacks, Latinos and immigrant rights advocates say the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election, recent non-convictions of police officers charged in the shootings of black men, and the stepped-up detentions of immigrants and refugees for deportation have them questioning equality and the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the United States.

Filmmaker Chris Phillips of Ferguson, Missouri, says he likely will attend a family barbecue just like every Fourth of July. But the 36-year-old black man says he can't help but feel perplexed about honoring the birth of the nation after three officers were recently cleared in police shootings.

POLICE SHOOTINGS

Since the 2014 police shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, officer shootings — of black males in particular — have drawn scrutiny, sparking protests nationwide. Few officers ever face charges, and convictions are rare. Despite video, suburban St. Paul, Minnesota, police officer, Jeronimo Yanez, was acquitted last month in the shooting of Philando Castile, a black man. The 32-year-old school cafeteria worker was killed during a traffic stop July 6, almost a year ago.

"Justice apparently doesn't apply to all people," said Phillips, who saw the protests that roiled his town for weeks following Brown's death. His yet-unreleased documentary "Ferguson 365" focuses on the Brown shooting and its aftermath. "A lot of people have lost hope."

Unlike Phillips, Janette McClelland, 55, a black musician in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said she has no intention of celebrating July Fourth.

"It's a white man's holiday to me. It's just another day," McClelland said. "I'm not going to even watch the fireworks. Not feeling it."

McClelland, who grew up in Los Angeles before the urban unrest of the 1960s, said she fears cities may see more violence amid a feeling of helplessness. "I'm praying and trying to keep positive," she said.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration was a key issue during the presidential campaign for both parties. Since then, Trump's administration has stepped up enforcement and instituted a scaled-back partial travel ban that places new limits on entry to the U.S. for citizens of six Muslim-majority countries. The temporary ban requires people to prove a close family relationship in the U.S. or an existing relationship with an entity like a school or business. On Friday, the administration announced that Immigration and Customs Enforcement would arrest people - including relatives - who hire smugglers to bring children into the U.S. illegally.

Patricia Montes, a Boston resident and immigrant from Honduras, said she's grateful for the opportunities and security the United States has given her. Yet this year, she doesn't know how to approach the Fourth of July holiday.

"I fell very conflicted," said Montes, an immigrant advocate. "I mean, what are we celebrating? Are we celebrating democracy?"

Montes said it pains her to see children fleeing violence get turned away and deported back to Central America without due process. She also is disturbed by recent immigration raids in Latino and Muslim communities that spark more fear and uncertainty.

In Texas, Latino activists have been protesting a state law that forces cities and towns to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. In New Mexico and Michigan, immigrant advocates have been rallying on behalf of Iraqi refugees facing deportation.

"There's a lot not to be proud about when celebrating the Fourth of July," said Janelle Astorga Ramos,

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a University of New Mexico student and daughter of a Mexican immigrant. "Even though it's a time to celebrate as a country and (for) our unity, it's definitely going to be on the back of our minds."

Despite those problems and concerns, Ramos said her family will recognize the holiday and visit Elephant Butte, New Mexico, a popular summer destination. "This is our home," Ramos said.

Isabella Baker, a 17-old Latina from Bosque Farms, New Mexico, said she'll celebrate the holiday based on her own views of patriotism.

"More people are standing up because of the political climate," Baker said. "That makes me proud."

PROTEST AGAINST PIPELINE

For months, members of the Standing Rock Sioux were at the center of a protest against an oil pipeline in North Dakota. A protest camp was set up. The tribe said the Dakota Access oil pipeline plan could pose a threat to water sources, if there were a leak, and cause cultural harm. Police made more than 700 arrests between August 2016 and February 2017. The Trump administration approved the final permit for the \$3.8 billion pipeline, which began operating June 1. The pipeline moves oil from western North Dakota to a distribution point in Illinois. Four Sioux tribes are still fighting in federal court to get the line shut down.

Ruth Hopkins, a member of South Dakota's Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe, said Native Americans have always viewed the Fourth of July with ambivalence, and this year will be no different.

However, there will be celebrations.

Her Lake Traverse Indian Reservation holds an annual powwow on July 4 to honor veterans as a way to take the holiday back, she said.

"Also, a lot of people up here use fireworks and the holiday to celebrate victory over Custer for Victory Day," said Hopkins, referring to Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse defeating George Custer and his 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Still, the holiday comes after tribes and others gathered in North Dakota to support the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and its fight against the pipeline, Hopkins said. Because of that, water and land rights remain on peoples' mind, Hopkins said.

Gyasi Ross, a member of Montana's Blackfeet Nation and a writer who lives on the Port Madison Indian Reservation near Seattle, said all the tensions this Fourth of July are a blessing because it has awakened a consciousness among people of color.

"The gloves are off," Ross said. "We can't ignore these things anymore."

However, Ross said he wants his young son to be hopeful about the future. They will likely go fishing on the Fourth of July.

"I still worry about getting shot or something like that," Ross said. "All this stuff is so heavy to be carrying around."

This story has been corrected to say that Janette McClelland, a black musician in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is 55 years old, not 65. The story has also been corrected to say that McClelland grew up in Los Angeles before the urban unrest of the 1960s.

Follow Russell Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras>

Woman accused of shooting at a car in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say a woman is accused of shooting at a car during a road rage incident in Sioux Falls.

The Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2tAnrPY>) two vehicles were near an intersection Friday when the driver of one vehicle fired one shot at the other.

Police say the two vehicles came to a stop in a parking lot, where an additional two shots were fired at the second vehicle.

Soon after, police says they arrested a 31-year-old woman. She is facing charges of aggravated assault,

reckless discharge of a firearm, reckless driving and possession of marijuana.

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

Mug shots of felons for sale in South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Mug shots of felon inmates in South Dakota are now available to be sold to the public.

Under a new law that took effect Saturday, law enforcement entities are allowed to charge a fee per photo released. The fee was set at \$8 per photo in Pennington and Minnehaha counties.

South Dakota is the 49th state to categorize certain mug shots as public records, leaving Louisiana as the only state that does not.

The law allows only the release of mug shots related to felony arrests, whether the individual is incarcerated or not, and only within a period of the last six months.

Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom told the Rapid City Journal reports that he would have preferred to be able to release the photos for free, as is commonly done in neighboring states like North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. But he said the \$8 fee is necessary because his staff will have to spend 30 to 60 minutes a day updating and maintaining the database where the photos will be stored.

Some online entrepreneurs have formed a cottage industry in recent years around collecting mug shots, selling them, and in some instances, charging hundreds of dollars to have them removed from the internet.

Thom and Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead said charging a fee will make it harder for those kinds of websites to gain a foothold in South Dakota.

"There will be people who are innocent or who have charges dismissed or who are found not guilty whose mug shots will live forever on these search engines unless they pay, sometimes a considerable amount of money, for them to be taken off," Milstead said.

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

2 killed, 2 injured after Interstate 90 collision

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says two people were killed and two others were injured when a pair of vehicles collided on Interstate 90.

The patrol says the crash happened at about 2 a.m. Saturday near Brandon.

Authorities say a 38-year-old woman driver and 44-year-old male passenger were ejected from one vehicle, and were pronounced dead at the scene. An 11-year-old girl in the vehicle received non-life-threatening injuries.

Their names are not being released pending notification of family.

The 39-year-old man who was driving the second vehicle received life-threatening injuries.

The patrol says charges are pending against him.

Rapper who performed at Little Rock club arrested in Alabama

By SEAN MURPHY and KELLY P. KISSEL, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A rapper whose concert in Little Rock was the site of a shooting that left 28 people injured has been arrested on unrelated assault charges outside an Alabama club where he was performing just 24 hours later, and authorities said several firearms were recovered during the arrest.

Ricky Hampton, 25, of Memphis, Tennessee, also known as Finesse 2Tymes, was arrested early Sunday on outstanding charges of aggravated assault with a gun out of Forrest City in eastern Arkansas, the U.S. Marshals Service said. A second man also was taken into custody, and two handguns and an assault rifle were seized from the Mercedes in which the two men were riding, said Cliff LaBarge with the U.S. Marshals Service in Alabama.

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The firearms will be sent to a crime lab in Arkansas to determine whether they match shell casings found at the scene of the shooting early Saturday at the Power Ultra Lounge, said Little Rock Police Lt. Steven McClanahan.

McClanahan described Hampton as a "person of interest" and said the rapper will be extradited to Arkansas so that police can interview him.

McClanahan said no arrests have been made in the shooting in which 25 people between the ages of 16 and 35 suffered gunshot wounds, and three others were hurt afterward. He said police did not recover any weapons at the scene of the shooting, which authorities believe may have been gang-related.

"We are definitely looking at that possibility," McClanahan said. "We know that gang members were present inside."

Prison records from the Tennessee Department of Corrections show a Ricky Hampton with the same date of birth, home town and a similar appearance was released from prison in August 2016 after serving six years for two counts of aggravated robbery.

Material advertising the concert by Finesse 2Tymes showed a man pointing a gun at a camera, drawing a rebuke from Mayor Mark Stodola.

Hampton was being held Sunday without bond in Alabama. A message posted on the rapper's Facebook page Saturday offered 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."

A woman who answered a phone number listed on Finesse 2Tymes' Instagram account for booking said the rapper didn't consider canceling the Birmingham show, despite the shooting, because he wasn't responsible for what happened. The woman didn't give her name before hanging up.

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.

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 Saturday, and a representative for the landlord's office later 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."

About 30 people attended a news conference Sunday with Arkansas Stop the Violence, which is seeking more resources to fight poverty and crime in the southern half of the city. The event was held in front of a police station near where a boy was shot in a drive-by last week.

Murphy reported from Oklahoma City. Associated Press reporters Andrew DeMillo and Tafi Mukunyadzi also contributed from Little Rock, Arkansas.

18 feared dead in fiery Bavarian bus crash; 30 injured

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Eighteen people are feared dead after a bus carrying a group of German senior citizens crashed into a truck on a highway in Bavaria early Monday and burst into flames, police said.

Thirty people were injured in the early-morning accident, some seriously, while 18 still considered missing "are believed to have died on the burning bus," police said in a statement.

Some 200 emergency crews were at the scene and helicopters whisked away the injured to nearby hospitals. Simple wooden coffins were wheeled in for the remains recovered from the blackened, twisted wreckage of the bus.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel thanked the emergency crews involved and sent the government's transport minister, Alexander Dobrindt, to the scene.

"Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and we wish all those who were injured a speedy recovery," she said.

Authorities said forensic specialists were being brought in from Germany's federal police office to remove

and identify bodies from the charred vehicle. Police spokeswoman Irene Brandenstein said the work was labor intensive because the bus was so badly damaged by the fire.

"The investigation of the accident is very complex and time-consuming," Brandenstein told The Associated Press.

The accident took place around 7 a.m. when the bus rear-ended the trailer-truck at the end of a traffic jam on the A9 highway near Muenchberg in Bavaria, not far from the Czech border.

The accident led to long traffic jams on the A9, the main thoroughfare from Berlin to Munich. The highway remained closed on both sides for hours and police tweeted later that the road leading south would be shut down for the entire day.

It was not immediately clear what caused the initial traffic jam.

Two drivers and 46 passengers were on the bus, Brandenstein said, adding it was not known if the person driving the bus at the time was dead or alive.

By the time firefighters arrived and extinguished the flames, the bus was a black, smoking skeleton.

Police said the group on the bus was seniors from Saxony in eastern Germany. The German news agency dpa reported that all passengers were Germans.

A phone number was activated to provide family members with information.

IS women suicide bombers hit back in Mosul; 15 die in Iraq

By ANDREA ROSA, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — The Islamic State group is striking back as Iraqi forces are on the cusp of full victory in Mosul, sending women suicide bombers to target soldiers as the battle for the country's second-largest city nears its end. At least 15 people were killed in the latest assaults across Iraq, officials said Monday.

The attacks underscore the intense violence still plaguing the battered nation and the perils that will remain even after IS militants are pushed out of Mosul.

On Monday morning in Mosul's Old City neighborhood — the scene of IS' last stand, where soldiers are fast closing in on the last remaining pocket of militants — two women suicide bombers, hiding among a group of fleeing civilians, targeted Iraqi troops, killing one soldier and wounding several others.

And at a camp for displaced people in Iraq's western Anbar province, a suicide bomber dressed in a woman's all-covering robe killed 14 on Sunday evening, a provincial official said.

After days of fierce battles, the militant-held territory in Mosul is rapidly shrinking, with IS now controlling just over 1 square kilometer in all, or about 0.40 square miles.

Using women as suicide bombers is apparently the latest tactic by the militants, Sgt. Ali Abdullah Hussein told The Associated Press as he returned from the front line, his troops carrying the body of their slain comrade wrapped in a blanket.

"They appeared from the basement (of a building) and they blew themselves up," Hussein said of the two women bombers.

The attack happened in the area of the destroyed al-Nuri Mosque, which was the focus of the Iraqi forces' push last week.

Over the past three days, Hussein said at least four such attacks have targeted Iraqi forces as hundreds of Mosul's civilians are fleeing the battles in the Old City's congested streets.

After the explosion on Monday, another group of civilians appeared on the main road, prompting the Iraqi soldiers to immediately draw their weapons. They then yelled to the group of mostly women and children to back away and take another route out.

IS overran Mosul in a matter of days more than three years ago. The U.S.-backed offensive to retake the city was launched last October and has lasted nearly nine months, although Iraqi political and military officials had vowed that victory would be declared by the end of 2016.

Iraqi forces launched the operation to retake the Old City in mid-June and after a dawn push last Thursday, they retook the area around the al-Nuri Mosque, which the militants had blown up just a few days earlier.

The 12th century mosque is hugely symbolic — it was from a pulpit of this mosque that IS leader Abu

Bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed the IS caliphate in July 2014.

After the Iraqi forces retook the landmark al-Nuri Mosque, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared an end to IS' so-called caliphate and pledged victory was "near."

The suicide bombing in Anbar took place at dusk on Sunday, as authorities were accommodating families that had fled from the Islamic State-held town of Qaim, in western Iraq, according to Councilman Taha Abdul-Ghani.

Abdul-Ghani said a police colonel was among the 14 dead, and at least 20 were wounded in the explosion.

The death toll could have been higher, Abdul Ghani said, but the colonel had become suspicious about the person in the long robe and walked up to the attacker, embracing him — presumably to reduce the number of casualties — as he detonated his explosives.

Iraqi forces have pushed IS out of most of Anbar, and though there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the camp attack, it had all the hallmarks of IS, which has in the past months staged large-scale attacks elsewhere in Iraq to distract from its losses in Mosul.

Associated Press writer Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad contributed to this report.

Arab nations extend deadline in Qatar crisis by 48 hours

By MAGGIE HYDE, Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — A group of Arab nations early on Monday extended a deadline for Qatar to respond to their list of demands in a diplomatic crisis roiling the Gulf by 48 hours, saying Kuwait's emir requested the delay as part of his efforts to mediate the dispute.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut off ties with 2022 FIFA World Cup host Qatar on June 5, restricting access to their airspace and ports and sealing Qatar's only land border, which it shares with Saudi Arabia.

They issued a 13-point list of demands to end the standoff June 22 and gave the natural gas-rich country 10 days to comply.

The joint statement early Monday by the four Arab nations said they expected Qatar to respond to their demands later in the day. The new deadline would expire late Tuesday or early Wednesday. Foreign ministers of the four Arab nations will meet Wednesday in Cairo to discuss their next moves, Egypt said Monday.

"The response of the four states will then be sent following the study of the Qatari government's response and assessment of its response to the whole demands," the statement said.

U.S. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, spoke with Qatar's emir, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as well as King Salman of Saudi Arabia and Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the crown prince of the Emirati capital, Abu Dhabi.

The White House said Trump urged unity and reiterated the importance of stopping terrorist financing and discrediting extremist ideology. A separate statement carried on the official Qatar News Agency said the emir's discussion with Trump touched on the need to fight terrorism and extremism in all its forms and sources, and was a chance for the countries to review their bilateral strategic relations.

Qatar, like the countries lined up against it, is a U.S. ally. It hosts the some 10,000 American troops at the sprawling al-Udeid Air Base. The desert facility is home to the forward headquarters of the U.S. Central Command and has been a key staging ground for the campaign against the Islamic State group and the war in Afghanistan.

The four nations cut ties to Qatar over allegations it supports extremists and over worries it maintains too-close ties to Shiite power Iran. Qatar has long denied sponsoring extremist groups and maintains ties to Iran as it shares a massive offshore natural gas field with the country.

"Qatar is not an easy country to be swallowed by anyone. We are ready. We stand ready to defend our country. I hope that we don't come to a stage where, you know, a military intervention is made," Qatari Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah told Sky News.

Qatar's main QE stock index lost more than 3 percent when it reopened Sunday following a weeklong

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hiatus for the Eid al-Fitr holiday break — its first session since the demands were laid out. It eventually recovered some of its losses later in the trading session to close down 2.3 percent at 8,822.15.

Qatari supermarkets saw panic buying when the four countries initially cut ties. But the capital, Doha, was largely calm Sunday as residents waited to see how the crisis would play out.

Abdelaziz al-Yafaei, a Qatari out for an evening walk along the city's bayside, said he was reassured that things would be fine, regardless of what happens over the course of the next days.

"We have a government, thank God, that is wise and knows how to provide for all of our needs, how to maintain security," he said. "We have enough funds in the country, on the economic side. All of the affairs are headed for the better."

Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, showed no signs of backing down in during a press briefing in Rome on Saturday, saying the demands were never meant to be accepted and that his country "is prepared to face whatever consequences."

While in Rome, Al Thani met with Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, who gave his backing to on-going mediation efforts led by Kuwait. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has also tried to resolve the dispute, with the U.S. last week urging Saudi Arabia and its allies to stay "open to negotiation" with Qatar.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has separately spoken with the leaders of Qatar and Bahrain, urging direct dialogue among all the states involved, according to statements released by the Kremlin on Saturday.

On Monday, Al Thani traveled to Kuwait City, carrying a handwritten note from his nation's ruler for 88-year-old Kuwaiti Sheikh Sabah Al Sabah, according to the state-run KUNA news agency. There was no immediate word on what the letter said, though Sheikh Sabah is trying to mediate the crisis.

Associated Press writers Adam Schreck and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

White House: Trump backs repeal-only health bill as 'option'

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is pressuring wavering senators to back a Republican bill to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law but is holding open a repeal-only option if Republicans can't reach agreement over the July 4 recess, Trump's top legislative aide says.

Marc Short, the White House's legislative director, said Trump was making weekend calls and believed senators were "getting close" on passing a bill. But Short maintained that Trump continues to believe that repeal-only legislation should also be considered. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has dismissed the suggestion.

McConnell says he intends to proceed with GOP legislation being negotiated during the week-long recess. He has previously said if Republicans don't reach agreement, he will have to turn to Democrats, who want to fix Obama's health care law without repealing it.

"Our preference is to pass the bill the Senate has right now," Short said. But he added: "If the replacement part is too difficult for Republicans to get together, then let's go back and take care of the first step of repeal."

"That's an option," Short emphasized.

Trump on Friday tweeted the suggestion to repeal the Obama-era law right away and then replace it later, an approach that GOP leaders and the president himself considered but dismissed months ago as impractical and politically unwise. The tweet came amid continuing signs of GOP disagreement among moderates and conservatives over the bill. Republicans hold a 52-48 majority in the Senate. Just three GOP defections would doom the legislation, because Democrats are united in opposition.

Trump's suggestion had the potential to harden divisions within the GOP as conservatives 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.

"It's not easy making America great again, is it?" McConnell said late Friday.

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Short said the White House remained hopeful after Senate Republicans submitted two versions of the bill to the Congressional Budget Office for scoring over the recess. Texas' Sen. Ted Cruz is pushing a conservative version that aims to aggressively reduce costs by giving states greater flexibility to create separate higher-risk pools. The other seeks to bolster health care subsidies for lower-income people, perhaps by preserving a tax boost on high earners.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said negotiations over the Senate bill were focusing on ways to address the issue of Medicaid coverage so that "nobody falls through the cracks," combating the opioid crisis, as well as giving families more choice in selecting their insurance plan.

"We think that Leader McConnell and his senators within the Senate are working to try to get this piece of legislation on track," Price said.

But conservative Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said he didn't think a repeal-and-replace bill could win 50 votes. Both he and Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., have been urging McConnell to consider a repeal-only bill first.

"I don't think we're getting anywhere with the bill we have. We're at an impasse," Paul said. He said Senate leaders were unwisely seeking to win over moderates with multibillion dollar proposals to combat the opioid epidemic and boost tax subsidies to help lower-income people get coverage.

"The bill is just being lit up like a Christmas tree full of billion-dollar ornaments, and it's not repeal," Paul said. "I think you can get 52 Republicans for clean repeal."

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 roil insurance markets by raising the question of whether, when and how Congress might replace Obama's law once it was gone.

But at least nine GOP senators expressed opposition after a CBO analysis last week found 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 that Trump privately told senators was "mean."

Paul said Senate Republicans can do a repeal-only bill concurrently with a bill "they can call 'replace.'"

Sasse, meanwhile, said he would like to see a bill that would repeal Obamacare "with a delay."

"If we can do a combined repeal and replace over the next week, that's great," Sasse said. "If we can't, though, then there's no reason to walk away."

"I would want a delay, so that we could get straight to work. And then I think the president should call on the Senate to cancel our August" recess, Sasse said.

Short and Paul appeared on "Fox News Sunday," Price was on NBC's "Meet the Press," and Sasse spoke on CNN's "State of the Union."

Associated Press writer Michele Salcedo contributed to this report.

GOP voters blame Congress, not Trump, for lack of progress

By STEVE PEOPLES and THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In firm control of the federal government, President Donald Trump and his Republican Party have so far failed to deliver on core campaign promises on health care, taxes and infrastructure. But in New York's Trump Tower cafe, the Gentry family blames Congress, not the president.

Like many Trump voters across America, the Alabama couple, vacationing last week with their three children, says they are deeply frustrated with the president's GOP allies, faulting them for derailing Trump's plans. As the family of five lunched in Trump Tower, Sheila Gentry offered a pointed message to those concerned with the GOP's ability to govern five months into the Trump presidency.

"Shut up. Get on board. And let's give President Trump the benefit of the doubt. It takes a while," said the 46-year-old nursing educator from Section, Alabama.

"They just need a good whoopin'," said her husband, Travis Gentry, a 48-year-old engineer, likening congressional infighting to unruly kids in the back seat of the car.

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As Washington Republicans decry Trump's latest round of Twitter attacks, Republicans on the ground from New York to Louisiana to Iowa continue to stand by the president and his unorthodox leadership style. For now at least, rank-and-file Republicans are far more willing to blame the GOP-led Congress for their party's lack of progress, sending an early warning sign as the GOP looks to preserve its House and Senate majorities in next year's midterm elections.

Inside and outside the Beltway surrounding the nation's capital, Republicans worry their party could pay a steep political price unless they show significant progress on their years-long promise to repeal and replace Democrat Barack Obama's health care law. Even more disturbing, some say, is the Republican Party's nascent struggle to overhaul the nation's tax system, never mind Trump's unfulfilled vows to repair roads and bridges across America and build a massive border wall.

"It's a problem for Republicans, who were put in place to fix this stuff. If you can't fix it, I need someone who can," said Ernie Rudolph, a 72-year-old cybersecurity executive from suburban Des Moines, Iowa.

There is no easy path forward for the Republican Party.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts that health care legislation backed by House and Senate Republican leaders — and favored by Trump — would ultimately leave more than 20 million additional Americans without health care, while enacting deep cuts to Medicaid and other programs that address the opioid epidemic. In some cases, the plans would most hurt Trump's most passionate supporters.

Just 17 percent of Americans support the Senate's health care plan, according to a poll released last week, making it one of the least popular major legislative proposals in history.

The president on Friday injected new uncertainty into the debate by urging congressional Republicans simply to repeal Obama's health care law "immediately" while crafting a replacement plan later, which would leave tens of millions of Americans without health care with no clear solution.

That shift came a day after several Republicans in Congress condemned Trump's personal Twitter attack against MSNBC hosts Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, which was viewed across Washington as an unwanted distraction in the midst of a sensitive policy debate.

Trump's nationwide approval rating hovered below 40 percent in Gallup's weekly tracking survey, even before the tweet. At the same time, just one in four voters approve of Republicans in Congress, Quinnipiac University found.

Democrats, meanwhile, report sustained energy on the ground in swing districts where Republicans face tough re-election challenges. Democrats need to flip 24 seats to win the House majority next fall, a goal that operatives in both parties see as increasingly possible as the GOP struggles to govern.

A former Obama administration national security aide, Andy Kim, is among a large class of fresh Democratic recruits.

"People are fired up," said Kim, who's challenging Rep. Tom MacArthur, R-N.J. "It's not just about the health care bill. It's not just about Trump. ... They're concerned about the ability of this government to put together any credible legislation going forward."

Republicans are also concerned.

In Iowa's Adair County, GOP Chairman Ryan Frederick fears that Republican voters will begin to lose confidence in their party's plans for taxes, infrastructure and immigration should the health care overhaul fail.

"Everyone I know looks at trying to get Obamacare repealed and says, 'If we're making this much of a pig's breakfast out of that, what are we going to do with tax reform?'" Frederick said.

"We've dreamed of killing Obamacare for seven years. And we have the House, the Senate and the presidency, and we can't do it?" he continued. "What's the deal, guys?"

Louisiana Republican Party Chairman Roger Villere bemoans "factionalism" in his party. Intraparty divisions are holding up health care, he says, which in turn keeps the GOP-led government from tackling other priorities.

He's looking to Trump for leadership.

"He's the ultimate negotiator," Villere said. "We'll see how good he is."

Back in Trump Tower, Sheila Gentry conceded that Trump's tweets sometimes make her cringe, but she

still has confidence in her president. She can't say the same for congressional Republicans.

"The Republicans who are in there now that aren't being very supportive, they're going to find themselves without a job soon if they don't step it up," she said.

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio contributed to this report.

Trump tweets mock video of him beating CNN, sparks criticism

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump crowned his weekend rage against the news media with a mock video that shows him pummeling a man in a business suit — his face obscured by the CNN logo — outside a wrestling ring.

It was not immediately clear who produced the brief video, which appears to be a doctored version of Trump's 2007 appearance on World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. The 28-second clip was posted on Trump's official Twitter account Sunday morning, with the message: "#FraudNewsCNN #FNN."

Trump, who has branded the media as the "opposition party" and CNN as "fake news," stayed on the attack later in the day, stating on Twitter that "the dishonest media will NEVER keep us from accomplishing our objectives on behalf of our GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE!"

Bruce Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, condemned the video as a "threat of physical violence against journalists." He said Trump's tweet was "beneath the office of the presidency."

A White House aide insisted the tweet should not send a chill across the media landscape.

"I think that no one would perceive that as a threat," homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said. "I hope they don't. But I do think that he's beaten up in a way on cable platforms that he has a right to respond to."

CNN accused Trump of engaging in "juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office."

White House officials traveling with Trump during his weekend stay at his New Jersey golf club did not immediately respond to questions about the video. It appeared to be a doctored version of an appearance Trump made on a World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. show called "Battle of the Billionaires" in 2007, in which Trump appears to attack WWE CEO Vince McMahon.

McMahon's wife, Linda, who founded and built the company with her husband, now heads the Small Business Administration for Trump and was a donor to his campaign.

The video was posted several days ago by a Reddit user with the title, "Trump takes down fake news." It was not clear whether that was where it originated or how Trump found it. Still, the user wrote Sunday about being "honored" Trump had tweeted the video. The user who posted the video has a history of posts using anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant language.

The president's verbal shots against news outlets and individual members of the media have grown increasingly personal in recent days even as lawmakers in both parties say the insults only threaten to undermine his political agenda.

Smackdown! Trump's insult act comes from pro wrestling hype

By JAKE PEARSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Making bombastic boasts. Dropping signature catch phrases. Attaching insults to rivals' names. Shouting down perceived enemies.

If President Donald Trump's recent attacks on television personalities, journalists and political rivals feel like something straight out of the pro wrestling circuit, it may not be a coincidence.

Wrestling aficionados say the president, who has a long history with the game, has borrowed the time-tested tactics of the squared circle to cultivate the ultimate antihero character, a figure who wins at all

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costs, incites outrage and follows nobody's rules but his own.

"In our terminology, he's playing it to the hilt," said former World Wrestling Entertainment writer Dan Madigan.

On Sunday, Trump's apparent fondness for wrestling emerged in a tweeted mock video that shows him pummeling a man in a business suit — his face obscured by the CNN logo — outside a wrestling ring. It was not clear who produced the brief video, which appeared to be a doctored version of Trump's 2007 appearance on World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. But it was tweeted from the president's official Twitter account.

Madigan was first struck by the parallels last summer when Trump was introduced at the Republican National Convention. There was a backlit Trump, unveiled in stark silhouette, who then sauntered onto stage at the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, just like wrestling's most infamous antihero, The Undertaker.

"His demeanor, duration of his walk to the podium, his playing to the crowd. ... Pure Undertaker," Madigan said.

And Trump's tiger-like pacing on stage behind Hillary Clinton during the second presidential debate last fall in St. Louis? That's how wrestlers stalk their opponents during pre-match taunting sessions.

In subsequent months of Trump's tweets and public feuds, it became clear to Madigan and other former WWE writers that, consciously or not, Trump was channeling professional wrestling in his politics.

"The parallels are uncanny," said Domenic Cotter, a producer who in the mid-2000s cut backstage segments for WWE.

Depending on your political affiliation, the writers said, Trump is playing one of two classic wrestling characters: The "heel," or ultimate bad guy, who wins at all costs; or the modern-day wrestling protagonist, dubbed a "face" or "baby face," in wrestling parlance.

"I think of Donald Trump as the ultimate baby face," Cotter said, "almost in the ilk of 'Stone Cold' Steve Austin, who was this rage-against-the-machine, anti-authority and establishment figure."

Cotter saw Trump employ a classic pro wrestling tactic during his first news conference as president-elect, when he ordered CNN reporter Jim Acosta to be quiet and barked, "You are fake news!"

"In wrestling terminology, he cut a promo on that CNN reporter and got over him, basically," Cotter said. "In wrestling, some swarmy heel is going on and on and on and the baby face quips a response right back and the audience goes crazy."

Perhaps Trump comes by it naturally. He hosted back-to-back WrestleMania events in his Atlantic City, New Jersey, Trump Plaza in 1988 and 1989. And then, most famously, there was a mock "Battle of the Billionaires" in 2007 when he body-slammed and then shaved the head of WWE boss Vince McMahon.

Most recently, he picked McMahon's wife, Linda, who ran twice unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in Connecticut, to head the Small Business Administration.

Ranjan Chhibber, a humanities and film studies professor at Florida State College in Jacksonville who has written about pro wrestling, said Trump is most clearly portrayed in the ring by the industry's current bad-boy-turned-hero: CM Punk, a brash 38-year-old wrestler whom writers have dubbed the "Voice of the Voiceless."

CM Punk's character often says he will say things no one else dares to say, and wrestling writers have created a new narrative for him that's almost tailor-made for the current political environment of leaked emails and unauthorized dossiers: revealing the secrets of what happens backstage.

"This is pro-wrestling writing genius," Chhibber said.

In wrestling, writers create season-long dramas that turn the mat into a stage for fantasy. Narratives pit good against evil, stronger personalities win over more subdued ones, and announcers legitimize the at-any-costs tactics of the "heels."

When Trump publicly supports Russia's Vladimir Putin, depicted by the U.S. intelligence services as a sort of global "heel," he is effectively playing the role of the announcer who builds up the bad boy in the ring, justifying his alpha-dog behavior, Madigan said.

And when Trump assigns prefixes to his political rivals' names (think "low I.Q. Crazy Mika" Brzezinski or "Crooked Hillary" Clinton) he is effectively emulating the longtime wrestling announcer Bobby "The Brain"

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Hennan, who cheered on “heels” over rule-following “baby face” wrestlers he disparaged.

“The hero is boring. He does the same vanilla thing,” Madigan said. “You always watch what the bad guy says and does.”

Arab nations extend deadline in Qatar crisis by 48 hours

By MAGGIE HYDE, Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Arab nations extended a deadline early Monday for Qatar to respond to their list of demands in a diplomatic crisis roiling the Gulf, saying Kuwait’s emir requested the delay as part of his efforts to mediate the dispute.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut off ties with 2022 FIFA World Cup host Qatar on June 5, restricting access to their airspace and ports and sealing Qatar’s only land border, which it shares with Saudi Arabia.

They issued a 13-point list of demands to end the standoff June 22 and gave the natural gas-rich country 10 days to comply.

The joint statement early Monday by the Arab nations said they expected Qatar to respond to their demands on Monday. The new deadline would expire late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

“The response of the four states will then be sent following the study of the Qatari government’s response and assessment of its response to the whole demands,” the statement said.

The four nations cut ties to Qatar over allegations it supports extremists and over worries it maintains too-close ties to Shiite power Iran. Qatar long has denied sponsoring militants and maintains ties to Iran as it shares a massive offshore natural gas field with the country.

“Qatar is not an easy country to be swallowed by anyone. We are ready. We stand ready to defend our country. I hope that we don’t come to a stage where, you know, a military intervention is made,” Qatari Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah told Sky News.

Qatar’s main QE stock index lost more than 3 percent when it reopened Sunday following a weeklong hiatus for the Eid al-Fitr holiday break — its first session since the demands were laid out. It eventually recovered some of its losses later in the trading session to close down 2.3 percent at 8,822.15.

Qatari supermarkets saw panic buying when the four countries initially cut ties. But the capital, Doha, was largely calm Sunday as residents waited to see how the crisis would play out.

Abdelaziz al-Yafaei, a Qatari out for an evening walk along the city’s bayside, said he was reassured that things would be fine, regardless of what happens over the course of the next days.

“We have a government, thank God, that is wise and knows how to provide for all of our needs, how to maintain security,” he said. “We have enough funds in the country, on the economic side. All of the affairs are headed for the better.”

Qatar’s foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, showed no signs of backing down in during a press briefing in Rome on Saturday, saying they were never meant to be accepted and that his country “is prepared to face whatever consequences.”

While in Rome, Al Thani met with Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, who gave his backing to ongoing mediation efforts led by Kuwait. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has also tried to resolve the dispute, with the U.S. last week urging Saudi Arabia and its allies to stay “open to negotiation” with Qatar.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has separately spoken with the leaders of Qatar and Bahrain, urging direct dialogue among all the states involved, according to statements released by the Kremlin on Saturday.

Associated Press writers Adam Schreck and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

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10 things to Know for Monday

By The Associated Press

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

1. TRUMP'S MOCK VIDEO DRAWS REBUKES

The president tweeted a sham video depicting him pummeling a man whose face is obscured by the CNN logo.

2. WHITE HOUSE PUSHES GOP ON OBAMACARE REPLACEMENT

A top presidential aide says a repeal-only option also remains in play if Republicans can't reach agreement.

3. RAPPER ARRESTED ON UNRELATED CHARGES AFTER LITTLE ROCK SHOOTINGS

Finesse 2Tymes is being held for aggravated assault with a gun, the U.S. Marshals Service says.

4. QATAR'S STOCK MARKET DROPS AS DEADLINE LOOMS

The tiny Persian Gulf nation braces for a cutoff date to accept demands from four Arab countries over what they allege is its support for extremist groups.

5. WHY JULY 4 STIRS MIXED FEELINGS IN MINORITIES

Blacks, Latinos and immigrant rights advocates say the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election — as well as police shootings and deportations — have them questioning the promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in the United States.

6. TRUMP PLAN TO END HEATING AID GETS COOL RECEPTION

Lawmakers from cold-weather states line up against the proposal to kill the program, which has distributed \$3.4 billion to about 6 million households this fiscal year.

7. HOW FACEBOOK HOPES TO USE DRONES TO PROVIDE 'NET ACCESS

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg envisions a fleet of solar-powered drones "that will beam internet connectivity across the world."

8. WHERE RARE BUTTERFLY THRIVES AMID WAR MACHINES

The frosted elfin finds a home at several defense installations across the country where the military manages open spaces with controlled burns, says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

9. SAMSUNG TO SELL RECYCLED NOTE 7 PHONE IN SKOREA

The company recalled the original Note 7 after reports emerged that its batteries were prone to overheat and catch fire.

10. ANDY MURRAY DEFENDS WIMBLEDON TITLE

The No. 1 seed is dealing with a sore hip and a new child on the way as he prepares for the grass court opening match.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 3, the 184th day of 2017. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.

On this date:

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state of the Union.

In 1913, during a 50th anniversary reunion at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Civil War veterans re-enacted Pickett's Charge, which ended with embraces and handshakes between the former enemies.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg by dedicating the Eternal Light Peace Memorial.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

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In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1962, French President Charles de Gaulle signed an agreement recognizing Algeria as an independent state after 132 years of French rule.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1976, Israel launched its daring mission to rescue 106 passengers and Air France crew members being held at Entebbe (en-TEH'-bee) Airport in Uganda (yoo-GAHN'-dah) by pro-Palestinian hijackers; the commandos succeeded in rescuing all but four of the hostages.

In 1987, British millionaire Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand became the first hot-air balloon travelers to cross the Atlantic, parachuting into the sea as their craft went down off the Scottish coast.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

In 1992, the first U.S. Air Force C-130 transport planes from Operation Provide Promise arrived in the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush refused to rule out an eventual pardon for I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby after already commuting his prison sentence in the CIA leak case (as it turned out, Bush left office without pardoning Libby). Japan's defense minister (Fumio Kyuma) resigned after drawing furious criticism for suggesting the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were inevitable. The Alinghi team from Switzerland succeeded in defending sailing's coveted America's Cup, beating Emirates Team New Zealand 5-2. Saxophonist Boots Randolph ("Yakety Sax") died in Nashville at age 80.

Five years ago: A federal judge in Amarillo, Texas, found Clayton F. Osbon, a JetBlue Airways pilot who left the cockpit during a flight and screamed about religion and terrorists, not guilty by reason of insanity of interfering with a flight crew. Andy Griffith, 86, who made homespun American Southern wisdom his trademark as the wise sheriff in "The Andy Griffith Show," died at his North Carolina home.

One year ago: A devastating truck bombing on a bustling commercial street in downtown Baghdad killed nearly 300 people. A 19-year-old tourist from Virginia lost his left foot in a blast that occurred when he stepped on a plastic bag filled with explosive chemicals in New York's Central Park. Actress Noel Neill, who played Superman's love interest, Lois Lane, in both a movie serial and on TV, died in Tucson, Arizona, at age 95.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tim O'Connor is 90. Playwright Tom Stoppard is 80. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 78. Actor Michael Cole (TV: "The Mod Squad") is 77. Attorney Gloria Allred is 76. Folk singer Judith Durham (The Seekers) is 74. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 74. Country singer Johnny Lee is 71. Humorist Dave Barry is 70. Actress Betty Buckley is 70. Rock singer-musician Paul Barrere (bah-RAYR') (Little Feat) is 69. Actress Jan Smithers is 68. Actor Bruce Altman is 62. Talk show host Montel Williams is 61. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 59. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Erasure) is 57. Actor Tom Cruise is 55. Actor Thomas Gibson is 55. Actress Hunter Tylo is 55. Actress Connie Nielsen is 53. Actress Yearley Smith is 53. TV chef Sandra Lee is 51. Singer Ishmael Butler is 48. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 48. Actress-singer Shawnee Smith is 48. Actress-singer Audra McDonald is 47. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 46. Actor Patrick Wilson is 44. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 42. Actress Andrea Barber is 41. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 41. Actor Ian Anthony Dale is 39. Actress Elizabeth Hendrickson is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tonia Tash (Divine) is 38. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 37. Actress Olivia Munn is 37. Actress Shoshannah Stern is 37. Rock singer-songwriter Elle King is 28. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 26. Actress Kelsey Batelaan is 22.

Thought for Today: "A timid person is frightened before a danger; a coward during the time; and a courageous person afterward." — Jean Paul Richter, German author (1763-1825).