

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sun., July 9, 2017

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## Official Notices

**Groton Area School Book**  
**Brown County Official Notices Book**  
**Groton City Official Notices Book**  
**Other Official Notices Book**  
**Claremont Town Official Notices Book**  
**Frederick Area School 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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## Sunday, July 9

**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship, 9 a.m.  
**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m.  
**United Methodist Church:** Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.  
**Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.  
**Heaven Bound Ministries:** Worship at 10 a.m. in Pierpont  
**First Presbyterian:** Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.  
**Legion:** hosts Claremont, 2 p.m., DB

## Monday, July 10

**Senior Menu:** Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, Mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.  
**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.  
**Groton School:** School board meeting, 7 p.m.  
**Groton City:** City Council meeting, 7 p.m., Groton Community Center  
**Jr. Teener:** at Redfield, 6 p.m., DH  
**U12:** vs. Kusler at Manor Park, Aberdeen, 6 p.m., DH  
**U8R/B:** at Britton, 2 p.m., DH  
**Softball:** host Webster (U8 at 5:30 p.m., U10 at 6:30 p.m., U12 at 7:30 p.m.)  
**United Methodist:** PPRC meeting in Groton, 7 p.m.  
**Olive Grove:** Kid's Lessons

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

**605-725-WOOD**

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



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A silhouette of a person holding an umbrella against a sunset sky. The person is on the left, holding the handle of a dark umbrella that is open and tilted. The background is a warm, orange-pink sky with silhouettes of trees at the bottom. The quote is written in a large, dark, serif font on the right side of the image.

“Always walk  
through life  
as if you have  
something new  
to learn and  
you will.”

- Vernon Howard

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul<sup>®</sup>

## Meet the face in the booth



If you have been to any of the Groton baseball games, you will meet Katie Hansen. Katie is originally from Harrisburg and her husband, Brian Hansen, is from Vermillion. The couple moved to Bath in 2014 and Kattie is a PE teacher at CCLee Elementary School in Aberdeen and Brian is a lineman at Northern Electric.

Brian was playing on the Groton Amateur baseball team until an injury has set him out. Katie got ahold of Mitch Locke about the opening for a gatekeeper at the Groton baseball complex. "I heard about the opening and talked with Mitch about it." Her experience as a gate keeper has been "fun. I like the small town vibe and it gives me something to do. Everyone is really nice."

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Crews were busy working on the south lane of US 12 in Groton Saturday morning. They are trying to get everything done so it can be poured by Thursday of this upcoming week.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The chairs from the old Metro Dome in Minneapolis have been getting a lot of use in front of the Grand Stand. It is nice and shady there with a slight breeze to keep everyone cool and it's a place to stretch out your legs and be comfortable.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Ryder Johnson sizes up the batter for Groton Blue's game with Claremont on Friday.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jarrett Erdmann gets ready to throw the ball infield during Claremont's game on Friday.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Keegen Tracy hits the ball, but couldn't quite get to first fast enough.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Alex Morris tags out Peyton Osborn at home as Osborn tried to steal home.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**Wyatt Locke tried to steal home on a pass-ball and is called out by Mitchell Locke at home as he is tagged out by Leyton Rohlf.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Redfield's Gage Clausen got caught in a rundown between second and third. Caleb Furney ran down Clausen and tagged him out.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**Korbin Blackmun makes a tough catch in front of Austin Jones to get an out for Groton's Junior Legion game with Redfield on Saturday.** (Photo by

Paul Kosel)



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**Peyton Johnson makes the catch in time as Dillon Hier is called out at first base.** (Photo

by Paul Kosel)



**The dust from the agrilime was flying as Korbin Blackmun stole third base. Also pictured is Coach Mason Madsen.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Hunter Schaller gets ready to throw a pitch in Groton's Junior Legion game with Redfield on Saturday at Locke-Karst Field in Groton.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Umpire Mitchell Locke takes a little break during Groton's game with Redfield on Saturday.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Kaedy Bonn keeps her eye on the ball during T-Ball action Friday in Groton.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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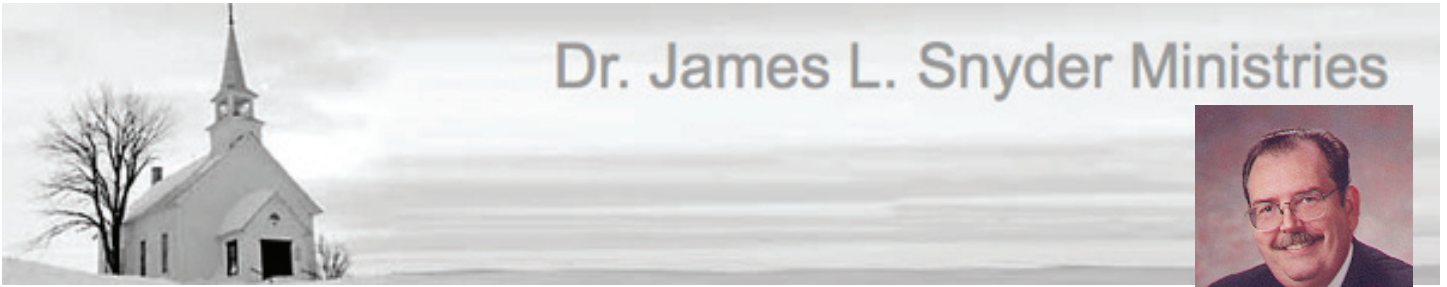
**Tyler Hollinsworth was the acting superintendent for JDH Construction on the day GDILIVE.COM was filmed last week. He is reviewing the set of plans at the headquarters on the Groton Area Elementary School grounds.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The dad Manikin is holding his daughter manikin at the Terry Kenny yard on Main Street.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



## Did I Just Blow My Cover?

This month I celebrate another birthday. At my age, I cannot remember exactly which one but that does not really matter. The number of the birthday, in my point of view, does not influence the celebration of the birthday.

Life has been rather good to me in many respects. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I are a wonderful team and have been for so many years; I'm not allowed to say how many.

As a team, she can fix anything and I can break anything. That certainly goes hand-in-hand with life. No matter what I can break, she can fix. This has made life rather good.

Throughout life, I have gone under the ruse that when it comes to fixing things I am all thumbs and no fingers. I cannot seem to fix anything. Of course, if it can be fixed with a hammer I might try. When anything goes wrong in our house, I offer to fix it and my wife steps in most gallantly and retires me to my easy chair.

When I try to fix something it usually turns out worse than when I started.

I am not sure if I have created this ruse or if I really am "all thumbs."

Regardless of the situation, as long as she can fix it, I'm comfortable in breaking it.

Don't get me wrong, I don't break things on purpose. At least, I do not think I do. At my age, what's thinking got to do with anything? It just happens that I have the knack of breaking things.

Nobody has ever created anything that I cannot in some way break.

So, life has been wonderful and I hope it continues to be wonderful and it will be as long as both of us stay to our role in the marriage. When I try to take over her spot or she tries to take over my spot, there is trouble a' stirring.

Everything was going wonderfully until something happened this past week.

One thing my wife enjoys is mowing the lawn. I am not allowed to ride the lawnmower and I am not quite sure why at this point. However, if it makes her happy, it makes me happy. She spends many happy hours mowing the grass.

It is not so much that I don't like to mow, but she likes to mow much better than I do and of course, she does a much better job at it. She knows how to keep that lawnmower running and if the engine sounds a little off key, she knows exactly what's wrong and how to fix it and she does.

My responsibility is to give her a hand whenever I can. When she passes the front porch, I stand up and applaud as she goes by. It's the least I can do.

Then this past week brought in a new picture. She was mowing the grass when, unbeknownst to her, she ran over a long dog chain the neighbor had somehow got into our lawn. By the time she realized what had happened, the chain had twisted all over the blades of that mower.

She pulled the mower up to the house, turned it off and began repairing it. The wire was all twisted very tightly around one of the blades under the mower. She pulled, yanked and twisted, but nothing happened.

I walked up to her and said, "Is there anything I can do to help?"

Without even looking at me she said, "No, I got everything under control."

What I have learned throughout life is never contradict your wife. That's the recipe for a cooked goose. I let her go and about a half-hour later, I noticed the lawnmower was not running. I went around to see what was happening and found her still trying to untwist that wire from the mower blades.

I could see she was rather frustrated and had gotten nowhere with unraveling that wire.

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"Why don't you let me look at it?" I asked as calmly as possible.

"You can look at it," she said kind of exasperated, "but I don't think there's anything you can do."

I try to help whenever I can and I know that my "help" is rather limited compared to hers. I thought I owed it to her to look at it and exclaim, "Wow, that sure is twisted."

I looked at it for a while, began juggling with some of the wires and discovered one wire that seemed to be a little looser than any of the other wires. I tugged and pulled at it and within about five minutes, I had all of the wire unraveled from the mower blade.

"There," I said as calmly as possible. "I think I got it all fixed for you."

She looked at me rather quizzically; she got down to look at the blade and exclaimed, "My goodness. You really did fix it. This must be a first."

When she said that a light went off inside my darkened mind and I thought to myself, "This better not be the beginning of anything!"

A verse of Scripture started scampering through my mind. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

From now on, I'm going to try to keep my hands to myself.



**Lee Schinkel was program leader for last week's Kiwanis Club. Lee introduced Ron and Kathryn Rehfuss, who gave a great travelogue on several countries they have visited.**

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman  
Secretary**

## **DRAFT OR NO DRAFT, THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE SHINES ON!**

For the past few weeks, there has been a lot of buzz about the NBA draft. Strategists and newscasters chattered about the likes of Markelle Fultz, Lonzo Ball, Josh Jackson and Jayson Tatum. Who would draft them and what package would be offered? Numerous sports venues use the draft process to allocate talented players to their teams.

As I listened to that buzz word "draft" used over and over, I couldn't help but think about our military draft. From 1940 until 1973, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the United States Armed Forces. At one time, 366 blue plastic capsules containing birth dates were placed in a large glass jar and drawn by hand to assign order-of-call numbers to all men within the 18-26 age range. This process was not quite as spicy as the sports draft used today, but the country was informed of the order of the numbers drawn just as today the media informs us of player drafts.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our soldiers that were drafted would receive \$20 million for a four –five-year contract?

In our military realm, we live in a world where there is no bonus if you get to the front line (play offs). There's no superbowl ring when you win the war! There is no steak and wine after you complete your mission. No condos! No yachts! No endorsements! No audience/fans for their performance.

I wonder how many professional athletes would chow down on an MRE or live in the conditions our troops do?

For athletes it's the game, practice, team activities, summer leagues, and community involvement. They are performing in facilities that have controlled environments ---- perhaps worrying about a hotdog wrapper or two that gets on the field or water that gets spilled on the court. Much different than the environment our service members are exposed to – blasts, IED's, gas fumes, arm-to-arm combat, staring the enemy face-to-face at gunpoint, and deployments away from family for a year at a time or more.

Sports drafts take the best of the best and trickle down to the lesser known athletes as the draft process continues, but athletes still receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in their contract.

Today's service members go in on their own for a starting pay of \$24,000. Our men and women in uniform serve to serve! Duty, honor, and country drive the enlistees to defend their country!

Thank you to all the men and women who have proudly stepped up to serve this great country.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary  
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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## Today in Weather History

July 9, 1938: A deadly, estimated F4 tornado moved ESE across the eastern edge of Andover to the north of Bristol. Seventeen buildings were destroyed at Andover, and at least one home was completely swept away. Seven homes and a church also suffered damage. An elderly person was killed at the western edge of Andover, and a couple died in a home at the southern edge of town. About two hours later, another estimated F4 tornado moved ENE from 2 miles northeast of White, South Dakota in Brookings County to Hendricks, Minnesota. Only one person was injured from this storm.

July 9, 1972: Wind gusts up to 89 mph caused considerable damage in the Pierre and Oahe Dam area. A drive in movie screen was destroyed. A camper trailer was turned over pinning seven members of a family inside. Five of them were hospitalized. Numerous trees were uprooted at the Oahe Dam campground. A tourist information building was caved in. Hail broke out car windows on ten vehicles.

July 9, 2009: Severe storms developed over Fall River County and moved eastward across southwestern and south central South Dakota. The storms produced large hail and strong wind gusts. Two tornadoes were observed in Todd County, and two tornadoes touched down in southern Tripp County. A small EF-1 tornado tracked across Dog Ear Township from 311th Avenue to near the intersection of 289th Street and 312th Avenue, or a little over a one-mile track. The tornado blew down large cottonwood trees.

July 9, 2013: A pair of severe storms moved across northeastern South Dakota during the evening hours of the 9th. These storms caused extensive damage to crops, especially west of Frederick in Brown County where beans and corn fields were destroyed. As the storms moved from Barnard, through Columbia, and into the Groton area, the hail increased to baseball size. There was also some structural damage to siding along with broken windows.

1860 - A hot blast of air in the middle of a sweltering summer pushed the mercury up to 115 degrees at Fort Scott and Lawrence, KS. (David Ludlum)

1882 - Ice formed on the streets of Cheyenne, WY, during a rare summer freeze. (David Ludlum)

1936 - The temperature hit an all-time record high of 106 degrees at the Central Park Observatory in New York City, a record which lasted until LaGuardia Airport hit 107 degrees on July 3rd in 1966. (The Weather Channel)

1968 - Columbus, MS received 15.68 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1979: Hurricane Bob was born in the Gulf of Mexico, becoming the first Atlantic Hurricane to be given a male name.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Michigan. A tornado near Munising, MI, destroyed part of a commercial dog kennel, and one of the missing dogs was later found unharmed in a tree top half a mile away. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Twenty-three cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Alpena, MI, and Buffalo, NY, suffered through their sixth straight day of record heat. The percentage of total area in the country in the grips of severe to extreme drought reached 43 percent, the fourth highest total of record. The record of 61 percent occurred during the summer of 1934. (The National Weather Summary)






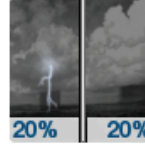

1989 - Morning thunderstorms produced very heavy rain in southern Lower Michigan and northern Indiana. Up to 5.6 inches of rain was reported in Berrien County, MI. Sioux Falls SD reported a record high of 108 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1997: Torrential rains in the Carpathian Mountains cause serious flooding in the Czech Republic, Poland, and German. In all, 104 people died as a result of the deluge. In the aftermath, authorities from each country blamed the others for the extent of the disaster. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.


2007: The Argentine capital experiences its first major snowfall since June 22, 1918, as a wet snow spreads a thin white mantle over the area. The storm hits on Argentina's Independence Day holiday thus adding to a festive air. Thousands of Argentines cheer the event, throwing snowballs in the streets. Local radio stations dust off an old tango song inspired by the 1918 snowfall: What a night! Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Guardian.com

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Slight Chance Showers	Sunny
High: 99 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 94 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 89 °F

## Hot and Breezy Today





Map showing temperatures across Western South Dakota:

- Lemmon: 100°
- Ashley: 103°
- Gwinner: 94°
- Fergus Falls: 85°
- Mobridge: 103°
- Aberdeen: 100°
- Wheaton: 89°
- Faith: 104°
- Faulkton: 101°
- Ortonville: 91°
- Pierre: 106°
- Waterbury: 93°
- Huron: 99°
- Brookings: 92°
- Marshall: 92°
- Murdo: 106°
- Chamberlain: 104°
- Mitchell: 99°
- Sioux Falls: 93°

**EXTREME  
FIRE  
WEATHER  
CONDITIONS**

Western South Dakota

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD  
[www.weather.gov/abr](http://www.weather.gov/abr)  
 Created: 7/9/2017 5:33 AM  
 @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 07/09/2017 at 5:39AM

Hot conditions are expected across the region today with highs in the 90s and 100s. A cold front sliding south will bring some thunderstorms in the eastern part of our region this afternoon and evening. Further west, breezy winds and low relative humidity values will create very high to extreme grassland fire danger this afternoon.

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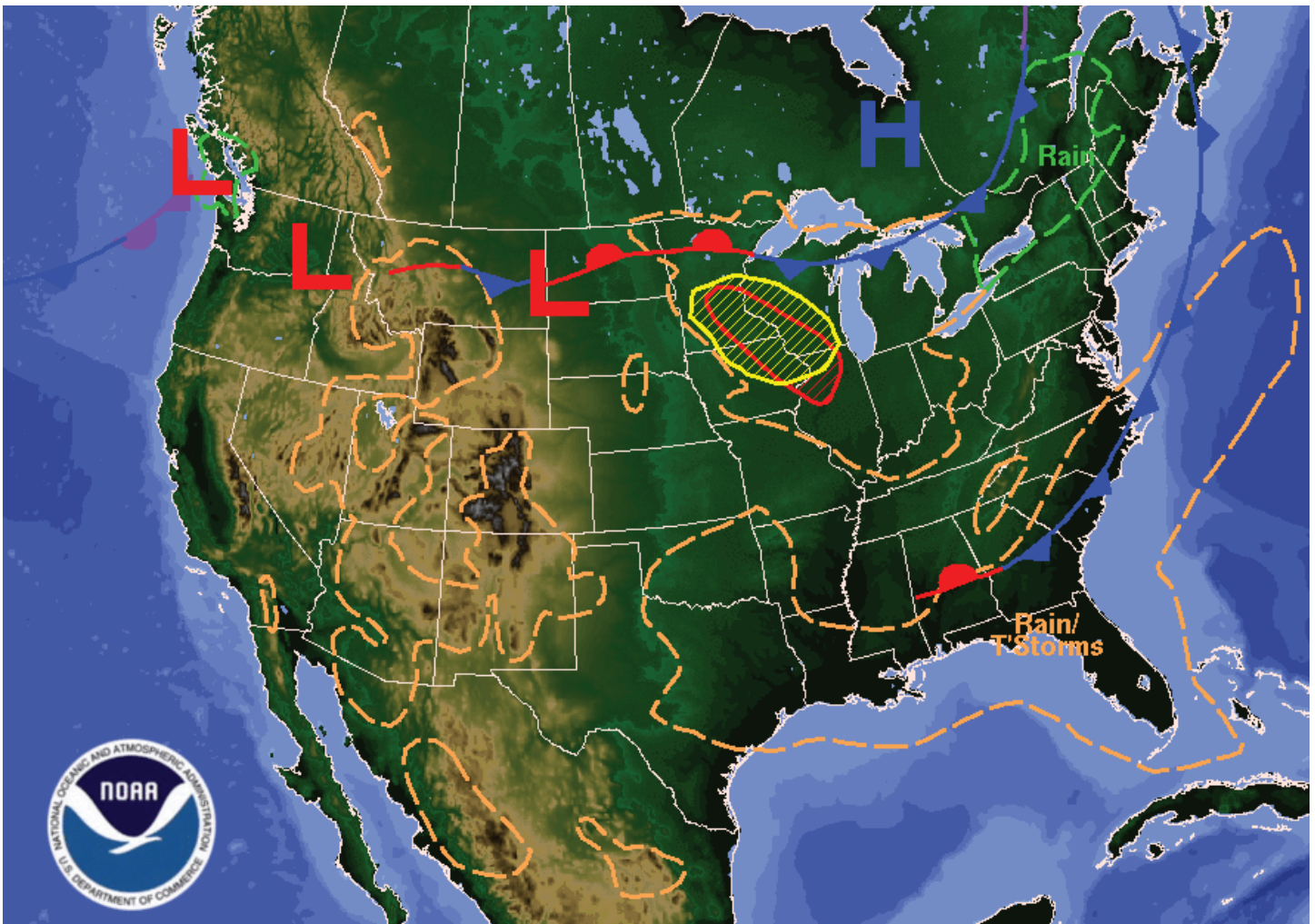
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 89.9 F at 5:35 PM**  
**Heat Index: 90.0 at 5:01 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 57.2 F at 6:17 AM**  
**High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 2:56 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 115° in 1936**  
**Record Low: 42° in 1981**  
**Average High: 83°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in July: 0.96**  
**Precip to date in July: 0.17**  
**Average Precip to date: 11.80**  
**Precip Year to Date: 5.94**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:55 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jul 09, 2017, issued 4:45 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Reinhart 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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## **DARK VALLEYS – DEATH'S SHADOW**

It takes the darkness and fear of the night to bring out the brilliance and beauty of the stars. When we face the fear of the unknown, we often find the grace of God. "Though I walk through," David said, "the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil because You are with me!"

We are all joyfully aware of God's presence when days are filled with sunshine and warmth. All of us, however, have at one time or another, entered into valleys that are filled with ill-defined shadows that we find frightening and foreboding. We look for a light to shine over the rim of the mountain to give us the assurance that there is hope. Yet, it is because of those days of sunshine and warmth that David reminds us to remember that God is also with us when all is not well and the light that faithfully guided us fades.

There are times when our "valley" may take the form of suffering. When it does, we must not forget that Jesus also suffered. So it is with us. When we face the fear and darkness of the unknown we often discover the grace of God. And when we feel abandoned and alone we must not forget that those who He spent three years training to be His disciples forsook Him. And remember – when He was laid to rest it was in someone else's tomb.

Our Savior has walked through every "dark valley" that we will ever have. He understands our grief. Now, He is in heaven with His Father and when we go to Him in prayer with our needs, we have the assurance that He understands our needs. He was there before us, understands us and will deliver us. Know that God will do for us what He did for His Son.

Prayer: We are blest, Father, by Your presence and protection as we pass through life's dark valleys. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

02-10-18-22-35

(two, ten, eighteen, twenty-two, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$314,000

Hot Lotto

08-09-12-13-46, Hot Ball: 8

(eight, nine, twelve, thirteen, forty-six; Hot Ball: eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.1 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$202 million

Powerball

08-10-29-40-59, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 2

(eight, ten, twenty-nine, forty, fifty-nine; Powerball: twenty-six; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$140 million

### Two-vehicle crash kills man in central South Dakota

BLUNT, S.D. (AP) — A 74-year-old man is dead after a two-vehicle crash in central South Dakota.

Authorities say the crash happened Friday morning east of Blunt. The man was driving a Lincoln MKX westbound on U.S. Highway 14 when he drifted across the center line and collided head-on with a Chevrolet Malibu and rolled.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety says the man was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the vehicle. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The 65-year-old woman who was driving the Malibu suffered minor injuries and was taken to a Pierre hospital. She was wearing a seat belt.

The name of the victim was not released. South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating.

### Sioux Falls police investigate body found in vehicle

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police are investigating after a body was found inside a car.

Officers were called Friday night for a medical emergency. When police arrived they found a person dead inside a vehicle as well as evidence that the person had been there for some time.

Police say there is no danger to the public. The name of the person was not released.

### Police investigate after body found in South Dakota home

PLATTE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating a death in southern South Dakota.

The state Attorney General's office says a body was found at a home in Platte on Friday morning. Authorities say the public is not at risk.

Investigative agencies include the Charles Mix County Sheriff's Office, the Platte Police Department and the state Division of Criminal Investigation.

No other details were released.

## Historic hangar in Yankton slated for demolition next year

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — One of the oldest structures on the grounds of an airport in the southeastern part of South Dakota is slated to be demolished in the next year to help make way for tarmac improvements.

The Chan Gurney Municipal Airport's oldest hangar is beyond repair, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2tu7DmF>) reported.

Yankton Regional Aviation Association Secretary Steve Hamilton said the maintenance hangar was built as part of the city's contribution to the war effort during World War II. It helped support Yankton College's naval aviation program, housed German prisoners of war during World War II and supported the airport's ongoing operations after the war.

"This hangar, and the big barrel hangar (to the west), were built in 1943 as part of the Navy cadet training program," Hamilton said. "Yankton College was one of the training facilities. The Navy brought in aircraft and trained pilots here during World War II."

He added the two facilities were heavily utilized at the time.

"The big round hangar was basically to store airplanes and the tile hangar was to maintain those airplanes," he said. "They had 15 to 20 airplanes at a time because they were doing big groups of cadets every 6 to 8 weeks."

The facility was badly damaged when a fire broke out in 1972. Repairs were made and operations continued until the building's structure was deemed unsafe about three years ago.

"The writing was pretty much on the wall several years ago," Hamilton said. "As you can see from the deterioration of the tile, it's structurally becoming very unsound and it won't be many more years before it'll actually collapse of its own accord. There's just no way to save a building of this type, except in the memory, through photographs and other documentation."

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

## Black Hills National Forest technology to monitor landslides

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — New devices have been inserted deep underground at the recreation area in the Wyoming portion of the Black Hills National Forest to monitor landslides.

Data from the devices is relayed to the smartphones of U.S. Forest Service employees, who can order an evacuation when conditions indicate the potential for a fast-moving landslide or mudslide, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2sVyLt4>) reported.

Black Hills National Forest geologist Karl Emanuel said there are numerous slow-moving landslides near Cook Lake, but one in particular on the forested hillside above the lake's southwestern shore is being monitored.

He said if the 40-acre area's movement accelerates, it could partially fill the lake with millions of tons of earthen debris or release a dangerous torrent of liquefied earth known as a mudslide.

"It'll eventually come down into the lake," Emanuel said. "You can't stop a landslide."

Nobody knows whether that'll happen today or hundreds of years from now. In the meantime, the Forest Service has closed the potentially threatened parts of the recreation area while the rest of the site remains open to public use.

Cook Lake is in the Bear Lodge Mountains, approximately 30 miles west of Spearfish. The 30-acre lake is only open to non-motorized use and was created by a dam built in 1941 on Beaver Creek.

Several large landslides occurred at the lake during the 1900s. The most recent was in 1997, when part of a slope rising nearly 300 feet above the southwestern shore of the lake collapsed. It formed a chasm near the hilltop and pushed up a mound of earth along the lake shore.

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

## Foreign doctors deem ill Chinese Nobel laureate OK to travel

By GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Two foreign specialists who visited Liu Xiaobo said Sunday that the cancer-stricken Nobel Peace Prize laureate can safely travel abroad for treatment, apparently contradicting statements by Chinese experts who say a medical evacuation would be unsafe for China's best-known political prisoner.

The American and German doctors, who saw Liu on Saturday, issued a joint statement saying that their home institutions — the University of Heidelberg and the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas — have agreed to accept Liu, but that any evacuation would have to take place "as quickly as possible."

Liu was diagnosed in May with late-stage liver cancer while serving an 11-year sentence for inciting subversion by advocating sweeping political reforms that would end China's one-party rule. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010, the year after he was convicted and jailed by a Chinese court.

The differing opinions about the feasibility of Liu traveling could further complicate the tug-of-war over the 61-year-old activist. For weeks, family and supporters have asked for Liu to be fully released and allowed to receive treatment abroad, arguing that authorities are keeping him in China only out of political considerations.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government has maintained that Liu is receiving the best treatment possible at the First Hospital of China Medical University in the northern city of Shenyang. Chinese state media have labeled Liu a convicted criminal, and the government has warned other countries to stay out of China's internal affairs.

Following international criticism, China allowed the two foreign experts, Dr. Markus W. Buchler of Heidelberg University and Dr. Joseph Herman of the MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas, to visit Liu.

Buchler and Herman said in their statement Sunday that they "acknowledged" the quality of care Liu has received in Shenyang. But they said that Liu expressed a desire to leave China, and that they judged that he "can be safely transported with appropriate medical evacuation care and support."

Hours after the foreign doctors announced their opinion, Jared Genser, a Washington-based lawyer who represents Liu internationally, said that any decision by Chinese authorities to still keep Liu would amount to "intentionally hastening his death" and "refusing to honor the wishes of a dying man to receive the treatment he desires."

"The moment that Liu Xiaobo and (wife) Liu Xia were to be allowed by the Chinese government to travel, we have a medevac ready to take them abroad," Genser said in an email.

Already criticized for letting an imprisoned Nobel laureate fall terminally ill on its watch, the Chinese government faces a public relations disaster whether Liu stays in the country or goes abroad.



**In this file image taken from Jan 6, 2008, video, Liu Xiaobo speaks during an interview in his home in Beijing, China. Two foreign specialists who visited Liu said Sunday, July 9, 2017, that the cancer-stricken Nobel Peace Prize laureate is still able to travel abroad for treatment, apparently contradicting statements by Chinese experts who say a medical evacuation would be unsafe.** (AP Photo, File)

Hu Jia, a Chinese dissident and family friend, said that Beijing is afraid of letting its most potent opposition symbol go abroad as long as he is able to speak to the media.

"As long as he can still talk, the global media will report and transmit his message to the world," Hu said. "Every sound he utters will be recorded as a force for changing China."

Shang Baojun, a former lawyer for Liu who remains close to the family, told The Associated Press on Saturday that Liu was coherent enough during the visit with the foreign doctors to say that he wanted to go abroad for treatment, preferably to Germany, although the U.S. would also be fine. At times, Liu was lucid enough to communicate in English, Shang said.

The hospital itself released a brief online statement late Saturday that quoted an unnamed Chinese expert as saying it would be unsafe for Liu to travel abroad. The hospital has previously said that Liu's liver function is deteriorating, and that blood clots are forming in his left leg and could potentially travel to the brain or the lungs, leading to death.

Phone calls to the hospital's administration department and publicity office rang unanswered Sunday.

The U.S. urged China to allow Liu to travel.

"We continue to call on the Chinese authorities to grant Mr. Liu full parole and to release his wife, Liu Xia, from house arrest, and to allow them to travel to seek specialized care that would ease his suffering in his final days," said Mary Beth Polley, the spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Hu agreed that Liu was almost certain to die soon regardless of where he was.

"Letting him fly away from his hell would be a massive psychological boost, stronger than any medicine you can give him," Hu said. "It will improve his final days, so he will die with dignity — and in the free world."

Associated Press writer Gillian Wong contributed to this report.

## Iraqi troops in Mosul mark gains in final stretch

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi troops celebrated after driving Islamic State militants from some of their last strongholds in Mosul on Sunday, but heavy fighting continued just a few blocks away.

Lt. Gen. Jassim Nizal of the army's 9th Division said his forces have achieved "victory" in their sector, after a similar announcement by the militarized Federal Police. His soldiers danced to patriotic music atop tanks even as airstrikes sent plumes of smoke into the air nearby.

Iraq launched the operation to retake Mosul in October. IS now controls less than a square kilometer (mile) of territory in Mosul's Old City, but is using human shields, suicide bombers and snipers in a fight to the death.

The militants captured Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, in a matter of days in the summer of 2014. Nizal acknowledged that many of his men were among those who fled the city at that time in a humiliating defeat for



**Iraqi Army soldiers gather to celebrate their gains as their fight against Islamic State militants continues in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq, Sunday, July 9, 2017.** (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

of those who fled the city at that time in a humiliating defeat for

the country's armed forces.

"Some things happened here, that's true," he said. "But we have come back."

Much of Mosul's Old City and surrounding areas have been devastated by months of grueling urban combat. On Sunday a line of tired civilians filed out of the Old City on foot, past the carcasses of destroyed apartment blocks lining the cratered roads.

Heba Walid held her sister-in-law's baby, which was born into war. The parents of the six-month-old, along with 15 other family members, were killed last month when an airstrike hit their home. When Walid ran out of formula, she fed the baby a paste of crushed biscuits mixed with water.

Now they are among more than 897,000 people displaced by the fighting in Mosul.

The loss of the city would mark a major defeat for the Islamic State group, which has suffered a series of major setbacks over the past year.

U.S.-backed Syrian forces have pushed into the group's de facto capital, the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, but a final victory there could be months away, and the extremists still hold several smaller towns and villages across Iraq and Syria.

Associated Press writer Salar Salim in Mosul, Iraq contributed to this report.

## California fires spread quickly; blazes tamed in Colorado

By The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — A pair of California wildfires have quickly spread, threatening hundreds of homes and forcing evacuations at a popular lakeside campground and a summer camp where flames temporarily trapped children and counselors, a fire official said.

In other parts of the West, evacuation orders were lifted in Colorado and Montana towns threatened by wildfires, while air and ground crews battled a growing grass fire in northwestern Colorado.

The fire that started early Saturday afternoon in California's Santa Barbara County had spread to both sides of Highway 154 and was "completely out of control," county fire Capt. Dave Zaniboni said. About 90 children and 50 counselors were struck at the Circle V Ranch and had to take shelter there until they could be safely evacuated.

The Santa Barbara County fire was one of three in California that grew quickly as much of the state baked in heat that broke records. A record that stood 131 years in Los Angeles was snapped when the temperature spiked at 98 degrees downtown. The previous record of 95 degrees was set in 1886, the National Weather Service said.

Excessive heat sent Southern Californians flocking to beaches and in search of water, shade and air conditioning to escape the heat.

Forecasters warned that triple-digit temperatures up to 110 degrees would be common in some inland



**A firefighter sprays water as flames from a wildfire consume a residence near Oroville, Calif., on Sunday, July 9, 2017. Evening winds drove the fire through several neighborhoods leveling homes in its path.** (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

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areas and could be deadly for the elderly, children and outdoor workers. Air quality reached unhealthy and very unhealthy in areas inland from Los Angeles.

High temps and dry gusts tripled the size of another Santa Barbara wildfire to nearly 30 square miles (about 77 sq. kilometers) over eight hours and forced evacuations of about 200 homes in a rural area east of Santa Maria, fire spokesman Kirk Sturm said.

After five years of severe drought, California got a big break with record rainfall and snowpack in parts of the state this year that has delayed the start of fire season in some places, but has also led to explosive vegetation growth that could fuel future fires.

In Northern California, a Butte County wildfire swept through grassy foothills and destroyed 10 structures, including homes, and led to several minor injuries.

Burned-out pickup trucks were left in ashes, surrounded by charred, leafless trees. The metal frame of a mobile home and a vintage stove were left standing in scorched debris at one site.

The blaze about 60 miles north of Sacramento grew rapidly to more than 4 square miles (nearly 11 sq. kilometers) and was 20 percent contained, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The area burning was about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of Oroville, where spillways in the nation's tallest dam began crumbling from heavy rains this winter and led to temporary evacuation orders for 200,000 residents downstream. On Saturday, authorities issued an evacuation for about 250 homes threatened by the fire.

In the middle of the afternoon, Santa Barbara officials sent out alerts to residents and campers near Cachuma Lake to evacuate as the fire started near Whittier Camp, Zaniboni said.

The lake, which was nearly bone dry last summer after the severe drought, is popular for camping, boating and fishing. Residents were also ordered to leave cabins in the Los Padres National Forest.

The fire burned at least 4.7 square miles (12 sq. kilometers), including a portion of the Cachuma Lake campground, and was not contained.

In Colorado, residents of nearly 500 homes outside the ski town of Breckenridge were allowed to return home Friday night. On Saturday, authorities lifted an evacuation order in Landusky, Montana, in the Little Rocky Mountains south of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

The grass fire in northwestern Colorado had burned 18 square miles (47 square kilometers) and was spreading in several directions at once because of wind patterns from passing thunderstorms, fire information officer Chris Barth said.

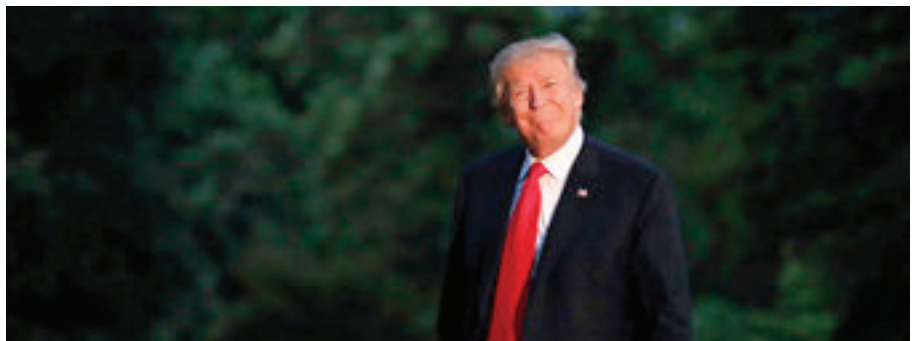
A wildfire in southern Wyoming grew to 3 square miles (8 square kilometers). An unknown number of cabins remained under evacuation orders.

## Trump says 'time to move forward' with Russia

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is tweeting that "it is time to move forward in working constructively with Russia!" after his meeting with Vladimir Putin.

Trump says after returning from a world leaders' summit in Germany that he "strongly pressed" Putin twice over Russian meddling in the 2016 election during their lengthy meeting. He says Putin "vehemently denied" the conclusions of American intelligence agencies.

Trump is not saying, though, wheth-



**President Donald Trump smiles as he walks on the South Lawn upon arrival at the White House in Washington, Saturday, July 8, 2017, from the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany.** (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

er he believes Putin, tweeting that he's "already given my opinion."

Russia's foreign minister had told reporters in Germany that Trump took Putin at his word over meddling. U.S. officials have not pushed back on that account.

Trump has said previously he believes Russia likely was involved in election hacking, but that other countries were as well.

## Activists riot against G-20 summit for 3rd night in Hamburg

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Anti-globalization activists rioted for a third consecutive night in Hamburg early Sunday even after Group of 20 leaders had already left the northern Germany city.

Police again used water cannon trucks against rioters attacking them with iron rods and pavement blocks. They arrested 186 protesters and temporarily detained another 225 people. Officials say 476 officers have been injured in the violence since Thursday. The number of injured protesters wasn't clear.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel condemned the violence, saying "Germany's reputation is severely affected internationally by the events in Hamburg."

Gabriel told Bild am Sonntag paper that a Europe-wide investigative team should search for suspects.

The overwhelming majority of the tens of thousands who took to the streets protested peacefully against the G-20 summit.



**Policemen stand behind a burning barricade in the so-called 'Schanzenviertel' area, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit, early Sunday, July 9, 2017, in Hamburg. Rioters set up street barricades, looted supermarkets and attacked police with slingshots and firebombs.** (Daniel Bockwoldt/dpa via AP)

## Cease-fire in southern Syria goes into effect

BEIRUT (AP) — An open-ended cease-fire in southern Syria brokered by the United States, Russia, and Jordan came into effect on Sunday at noon.

The agreement, announced Thursday after a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, is the first initiative by the Trump administration in collaboration with Russia to bring some stability to war-torn Syria.

It followed weeks of secretive talks in the Jordanian capital, Amman, to address the buildup of Iranian-backed forces, in support of the Syrian government, near the Jordanian and Israeli borders.

The three brokering nations did not specify mechanisms to monitor or enforce the truce.

A resident and local opposition activist in Daraa, near the Jordanian border, reported calm in the opening minutes of the truce.

"There's still a lot of anxiety," said Ahmad al-Masalmeh. "We've entered the cease-fire but there are no mechanisms to enforce it. That's what concerns people."

Six years of fighting and siege have devastated Daraa, one of the first cities to see large protests against President Bashar Assad in 2011.



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It remains contested by U.S.-backed rebels and Syrian government forces supported by Russia and Iran. Large swaths of the city have been reduced to rubble by government artillery and Russian air power.

The government maintains it is fighting against terrorist groups. The Al-Qaida-linked Levant Liberation Committee is one of the most potent factions fighting alongside rebels in Daraa.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel would welcome a "genuine cease-fire" in southern Syria so long as it doesn't enable Iran and its proxies to develop a military presence along the border.

The truce covers the Quneitra, Daraa, and Sweida provinces, where the government and the rebels are also fighting Islamic State militants, who are not included in the truce.

No cease-fire has lasted long in the six-year-old Syrian war.



**In this Friday, July 7, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 Summit, in Hamburg. A separate US-Russia-brokered truce for southern Syria, brokered by the U.S. and Russia, is meant to help allay growing concerns by neighboring Jordan and Israel about Iranian military ambitions in the area. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is at left, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is at right.** (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

## AP reporters on how North Korea, other nations view standoff

By The Associated Press

One reason North Korea is the world's most dire nuclear hotspot is that among the most important players, even allies and semi-allies have different desires and priorities. An enemy to some, a bulwark to others, a frustration to all, with decades of unfinished business coloring the picture in ways unique to each nation.

North Korea's successful launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile July 4 raised the heat on tensions that have been building for decades, leaving the international community scrambling for an answer to containing Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

Below, Associated Press journalists who cover the standoff from both Koreas, Japan, China and the U.S. explain how each country hopes it is resolved.

### NORTH KOREA

North Korea has made no secret about what its demands are. Nothing is more important to the North's ruling regime than its own survival.

To that end, it wants Washington to abandon its "hostile policy" aimed at forcing the country into collapse.

In concrete terms, Pyongyang wants direct talks toward a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War, which was halted after what was supposed to be a temporary armistice. Signing a treaty would also mean formal recognition of North Korea by the U.S. government and entail some sort of a security agreement guaranteeing Washington will not attack the North.

In the interim, the North wants an end to huge military exercises the U.S. holds each year with South Korea.

Pyongyang says it ultimately wants to see the Korean Peninsula reunited. Its often-repeated demand

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is for Washington to stay out and let Koreans decide their own fate.

Though actually achieving any of these demands would be tremendously difficult, and seems to be growing more difficult every year, North Korea has been quite consistent in what it claims to want.

And as long as its leaders feel vulnerable, it's not likely to give up much ground.

— Eric Talmadge, the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief since 2013

## UNITED STATES

The top U.S. priority, apart from defending South Korea as a treaty ally, is to rid the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons — meaning the North's weapons.

The administration of President George H.W. Bush seemed to set the stage in September 1991 when he announced the withdrawal of all naval and land-based tactical nuclear weapons, including from South Korea. Pyongyang not only persisted in its nuclear ambitions but in recent years has accelerated its program and all but closed the door to denuclearization.

That has put added — even urgent — emphasis on the other U.S. priority: stopping the North from developing a nuclear weapon capable of hitting U.S. soil, while also defending South Korea and Japan, which already are within range of the North's shorter-range missiles. That is why Washington resists talk by China and Russia of halting military exercises with South Korea in exchange for concessions by the North, or withdrawing any of the approximately 28,500 U.S. troops based permanently on the peninsula.

Washington sees little point in negotiating a formal end to the Korean War, which was halted in 1953 with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, because it sees far greater urgency in the nuclear issue.

— AP National Security Writer Robert Burns in Washington, who has covered the Pentagon and U.S. national security issues since 1990

## SOUTH KOREA

The ultimate dream for South Korea is clear: a unified Korean Peninsula, led by Seoul and its values.

The problem, of course, and the source of seven decades of animosity and bloodshed, is that North Korea harbors a mirror image of that ambition.

In the short term, what South Korea wants depends entirely on who you ask.

That group of elderly men in camouflage and combat boots who are burning an effigy of North Korea's dictator on a Seoul street won't have the same goals as the North Korea sympathizer who slashed the face of U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert in 2015.

After a decade of hard-line conservative rule, the current government in Seoul is headed by liberal President Moon Jae-in, who wants North Korea to stop conducting nuclear and missile tests so he can begin to implement an engagement policy.



**This photo on July 4, 2017, distributed by the North Korean government shows what was said to be the launch of a Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile, ICBM, in North Korea's northwest. A dictator stands on the verge of possessing nuclear missiles that threaten U.S. shores. A worried world ponders airstrikes and sanctions.** (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP, File)

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That doesn't look likely to happen any time soon.

Most South Koreans support the presence of the 28,500 U.S. troops in their country, as long as crime isn't a problem. They look with unease at North Korean provocations, but seem to worry far less than the rest of the world about Pyongyang's threats to annihilate the South.

What they really want is for the economy to soar.

— Foster Klug, AP's bureau chief in Seoul, who has covered the Koreas since 2005

## CHINA

As the closest thing to what North Korea might call an ally, China is under greater pressure than any nation to curb the regime's provocations and set it on a path to a long-term resolution of the standoff. Yet Beijing insists it doesn't have that kind of influence with Pyongyang, and has largely rejected calls to curtail two-way commerce that accounts for an estimated 90 percent of the North's foreign trade.

At the same time, Beijing would like to return to the period in the last decade when it received kudos for hosting six-nation talks in which the North's representatives sat down with the U.S. and others to discuss steps toward ending its nuclear program in return for incentives.

With no prospects for an immediate return to negotiations, China has instead been pushing for a "dual suspension" in which the North temporarily halts its nuclear and missile tests while South Korea and the U.S. put large-scale war games on hold. That could facilitate talks, calming the situation and preserving the status quo whereby North Korea continues to act as a buffer between China and the pro-U.S. South.

China's relations with Pyongyang may be in deep freeze, and the North's actions could spur rivals the U.S. and Japan to responses that could work to China's disadvantage. But ultimately, the specter of a North Korean collapse is far, far scarier to the rulers in Beijing.

— Beijing-based AP correspondent Christopher Bodeen, who has reported on China for more 15 years

## JAPAN

As a staunch American ally, Japan cooperates closely with Washington and backs it in stepping up pressure on North Korea to counter the growing threat from its missile and nuclear programs.

Japan, a non-nuclear state and home to 50,000 American troops, relies on the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" under a bilateral security treaty as a deterrent, and is wary of any escalation in military tensions in the region. It seeks to avoid becoming embroiled in U.S. military actions but is taking a leadership role with the U.S. and South Korea in lobbying other countries, especially China and Russia, to enforce economic sanctions against the North.

Given its proximity to North Korea, Tokyo has sought to exert leverage through diplomacy, such as six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program, and its own bilateral efforts to get Pyongyang to repatriate Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korea. More than a dozen Japanese nationals kidnapped and taken to North Korea decades ago to be trained as agents are still believed to be alive, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made their safe return home one of his top priorities.

While an actual attack could bring disaster, the North Korean threat lends Abe leverage in drumming up public support for a stronger military and missile defense systems.

— Tokyo-based AP correspondent Mari Yamaguchi, who covers Japanese defense and politics

## North Korea calls US practice bombing run a provocation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean state media have sharply criticized a recent practice bombing run by two U.S. B-1B bombers on the Korean peninsula, calling it a dangerous move raising the risk of nuclear war.

A commentary Sunday in the ruling party's Rodong Sinmun newspaper accused the U.S. of "reckless military provocations" and said the danger of nuclear war is reaching an extreme pitch. The commentary was reported on in English by the state Korean Central News Agency.

Two U.S. Air Force bombers released inert weapons Friday on a training range in South Korea. South

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Korean F-15 and U.S. F-16 fighter jets joined them in the drill. The bombers also flew with Japanese F-2 fighter jets over the East China Sea on their way back to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The 10-hour mission came three days after North Korea tested an intercontinental ballistic missile on Fourth of July, America's Independence Day. President Donald Trump and the leaders of South Korea and Japan, meeting during the G-20 summit in Germany, issued a joint statement condemning the launch.

U.S. military officials described the bomber mission as a defensive show of force and unity that demonstrated "the ironclad U.S. commitment to our allies."



**In this photo provided by South Korea Defense Ministry, U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bombers, left and second from left, fly with South Korean and U.S. fighter jets over the Korean Peninsula, South Korea Saturday, July 8, 2017. Two U.S. bombers flew to the Korean Peninsula to join fighter jets from South Korea and Japan for a practice bombing run as part of a training mission in response to North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programs, officials said Friday.** (South Korea Defense Ministry via AP)

## Trump, Asian allies seek counter to North Korean 'menace'

By **KEN THOMAS** and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Wrapping up his second European tour, President Donald Trump searched for consensus with Asian allies Saturday on how to counter the "menace" of North Korea after its test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

"Something has to be done about it," Trump said as he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping. In a separate meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Trump said the two were tackling "the problem and menace of North Korea."

The White House said after the meeting with Abe that the U.S. was "prepared to use the full range of capabilities" in defense of Japan. Trump and Abe committed, the White House said, "to redoubling their efforts to bring all nations together to show North Korea that there are consequences for its threatening and unlawful actions."

The Trump administration has tried to press Beijing to rein in North Korea, a major trading partner of China, and halt Kim Jong Un's development of nuclear weapons before they can threaten U.S. territory. Trump has voiced his frustration in recent days that China hasn't done more, suggesting he may take steps of his own.

But during his meeting, Trump told Xi, "I appreciate the things that you have done relative to the very substantial problem that we all face in North Korea."

Xi said during the meeting that "sensitive issues remain" in the China-U.S. relationship and more work needed to be done. But he said he had built with Trump a "close contact."

Trump's extensive slate of meetings with Abe, Xi, British Prime Minister Theresa May and others came on the final day of the annual Group of 20 summit, which has been marked by violent demonstrations

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by anti-globalization activists. Trump also had a brief, unscheduled meeting with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan about the situation in Syria.

Abe, speaking through a translator, noted that the security situation in the Asia Pacific region has become "increasingly severe" due to North Korea's push to develop its ballistic missile and nuclear program. Abe said he wanted to "demonstrate the robust partnership as well as the bonds" between Japan and the U.S. on the issue.

North Korea's successful test launch of an ICBM was a milestone in its long-term effort to build a missile that could carry a nuclear warhead to attack the United States.

The issue was a frequent topic of discussion at the summit, and the White House said earlier that the U.S., South Korea and Japan were pressing for additional measures against North Korea to demonstrate the "serious consequences" for its latest provocations.

The three nations have been calling for "early adoption" of a new U.N. Security Council resolution and additional sanctions to demonstrate to Pyongyang the consequences of its actions.

Bringing China on board is a key part of the plan. The administration wants China to fully enforce international sanctions intended to starve Pyongyang of revenue for its nuclear and missile programs. But Trump has been dissatisfied with China's response.

Earlier in the week, he vented on Twitter that trade between China and North Korea had grown nearly 40 percent at the start of 2017. "So much for China working with us - but we had to give it a try!"

Trump officials said later that the president hadn't given up on the relationship.

Trade was also a key part of the discussions. The Trump administration is investigating the possibility of putting new barriers on steel imports based on national security considerations, a move that could target China, which has flooded international markets with cheap steel exports.

"Many things have happened that have led to trade imbalances and we're going to turn that around," Trump said during the meeting with Xi. Trump said he wanted a new arrangement that is "equitable" and "reciprocal."

Meeting with May, the British leader, Trump pointed to their "special relationship," and said the two countries were working on a trade agreement.

May was the first foreign leader to visit Trump at the White House and he told her he would soon "be going to London" once details were worked out. Independent trade negotiations between the two countries are a possibility as Britain exits the European Union — a move Trump has supported.

Earlier, Trump said Saturday he had a "tremendous meeting" with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, his first comments on the talks with the Russian leader. Trump raised the issue of Russia's meddling in the 2016 elections and discussed plans for a cease-fire agreement in Syria.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Friday that Trump and Putin had a "robust and lengthy" discussion about Russian election interference but Putin denied any involvement.



**US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, arrive for a meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, Saturday, July 8, 2017.**

(Saul Loeb/Pool Photo via AP)

Putin, in a news conference Saturday, offered his version of events and said he thought Trump believed his in-person denials of Russian meddling. White House officials traveling aboard Air Force One did not dispute that account.

Tillerson, who took part in the meeting, said Trump had been "rightly focused on how do we move forward from something that may be an intractable disagreement at this point?"

In Washington, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi criticized Trump and called his response to the Russian threat "nonsensical and absurdly inadequate." In a written statement, she said reports of Trump's meeting with the Russian leader "leave the American people asking why the President continues to fawn over Putin instead of standing up for the integrity of America's democracy."

Trump also joined a women's entrepreneurial finance event, a project spearheaded by his daughter and senior adviser Ivanka Trump. He lauded his daughter's efforts to help female entrepreneurs, joking that "if she weren't my daughter, it would be so much easier for her."

Trump returned to Washington on Saturday evening after the conclusion of the annual G-20 meetings. He won't be stateside for long: The president is scheduled to return to Europe next week to attend Bastille Day celebrations in Paris.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Vivian Salama in Washington contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Superville at <https://twitter.com/dsupervilleAP> and Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

## State election officials worry about 2018 election security

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — State election officials voiced doubt Saturday that adequate security measures can be adopted before 2018 elections to safeguard against the possibility of a foreign government interfering in U.S. elections.

That's according to attendees at a weekend gathering of the National Association of Secretaries of State, whose conference was held amid an uproar over a White House commission investigating President Donald Trump's allegations of voter fraud and heightened concern about Russian attempts to interfere in U.S. elections.

The Department of Homeland Security said last fall that hackers believed to be Russian agents targeted voter registration systems in more than 20 states. And a leaked National Security Agency document from May said Russian military intelligence had attempted to hack into voter registration software used in eight states.

But both Republican and Democratic Secretaries of State, who are responsible for carrying out elections in many states, said they have been frustrated in recent months by a lack of information from federal



**Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft looks at notes during a voter registration meeting at the the National Association of Secretaries of State conference, Saturday, July 8, 2017, in Indianapolis.** (AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

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intelligence officials on allegations of Russian meddling with the vote. They say that despite the best efforts by federal officials, it may be too late in to make substantive changes.

"I'm doubtful," said Maine Secretary of State Matt Dunlap, a Democrat. "We shouldn't feel like we've been tied to a chair and blindfolded ... It's very hard to help further instill public confidence that you know what you're doing if you don't have any information."

The conference in Indianapolis, which began Friday, is being attended by officials from 37 states. The FBI and Homeland Security attempted to allay fears by holding a series of closed-door meetings Saturday on voting security.

"This is a new thing and it takes a while to get things running and everybody talking," said Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, a Republican. "I think this is something we will build on and it will get better over time."

There is no indication so far that voting or ballot counting was affected in the November election, but officials are concerned that the Russians may have gained knowledge that could help them disrupt future elections.

The gathering took place while Trump was in Germany for the Group of 20 summit, which included a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who said Saturday that he thinks Trump accepted his assurances that Russia didn't meddle in the U.S. presidential election.

It also comes one week after the commission investigating Trump's allegations of election fraud requested voter information from all 50 states, drawing bipartisan blowback. The request seeks dates of birth, partial Social Security numbers, addresses, voting histories, military service and other information about every voter in the country.

Trump has repeatedly stated without proof that he believes millions of fraudulent ballots were cast in the November election, when he carried the Electoral College but lost the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

The commission was launched to investigate those claims and is being chaired by Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who sent the information requests.

"I do think that this is an odd time to be forming a national database of some kind if we're so concerned about security," said Connecticut Secretary of State Denise Merrill, a Democrat.

The U.S. does not have a federalized voting system, relying instead on 9,000 different voting jurisdictions and more than 185,000 individual precincts. Officials believe that makes it difficult for hackers to have any major effect on the vote. If Kobach succeeds in obtaining the information he seeks, it could gather voter data for the entire U.S. in one centralized place.

Kobach was not in attendance at the weekend event and could not be reached for comment, prompting Democrats to reiterate their skepticism of the commission's intent. They expressed concern that the information could be used to justify stringent new voter security procedures making it more difficult for people to cast a ballot.

Dunlap, who is a member of Trump's commission, says Kobach's push for the voter data "spooked" people because it impacts "how individual citizens feel about their sovereign right to democratic self-governance."

That includes some of Kobach's fellow Republicans.

"We still have some questions that need to be answered that only Kris Kobach can answer," said Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill, a Republican who has yet to determine whether his office will release the data. "I don't think he made a good decision in this effort because of the way he chose to go through with it."

It remains unclear exactly how the data will be used for. Pence spokesman Marc Lotter said the commission will look for potential irregularities in voter registrations and advise states on how they can improve their practices.

But many secretaries of state say all or parts of the requested data are not public in their states. Some Democrats have said the commission is merely trying to provide cover for Trump's unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud.

Sixteen states and the District of Columbia have said they will refuse to provide the information sought

by the commission. The other states are undecided or will provide some of the data, according to a tally of every state by The Associated Press.

Associated Press writer Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, contributed.

## Jailed Venezuela opposition leader Lopez given house arrest

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez was released from prison and placed under house arrest Saturday after more than three years in a military lockup, a shock reversal by the government that fueled hopes for a broader amnesty for dozens of jailed activists in a country sliding ever deeper into political turmoil.

A euphoric Lopez briefly greeted a few dozen supporters gathered outside his home in Caracas in the afternoon. Climbing atop a wall dressed in a white shirt, he clutched and then kissed a Venezuelan flag and raised his right fist in a show of defiance.

Lopez vowed that he is prepared to return to jail rather than give up his fight to remove socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

"This is a step in the march toward freedom," Lopez said in a statement read by close ally and lawmaker Freddy Guevara. "I carry no resentment, nor will I give up my beliefs. My position against this regime is firm as are my convictions to fight for a real peace, coexistence, change and freedom."

Venezuela's government-stacked Supreme Court said in a statement that it granted Lopez the "humanitarian measures" for health reasons and also for "serious signs of irregularities" in the handling of the case that it did not specify.

As his backers celebrated, relatives of dozens of other jailed activists gathered at a jail in Caracas run by Venezuela's intelligence police in hopes that their loved ones might also be released in the coming hours.

Speculation that Lopez's pre-dawn transfer may have been part of a larger deal was sparked in part by a government truth commission statement saying that as part of its work to defuse tensions, it had asked the judicial system to evaluate applying "alternative formulas" for those imprisoned for violent acts.

The opposition has been demanding the release of dozens of activists it consider political prisoners in order to initiate talks aimed at resolving a three-month-old political crisis that has left more than 90 people dead and hundreds injured.

But Lopez, the most prominent and rebellious of those behind bars, was seen as the last person likely to leave jail, and the opposition went to lengths to dismiss talk that it had secretly offered anything in return for the government concession. Some government supporters expressed dismay over his release.



**Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez holds a Venezuelan national flag as he greets supporters outside his home in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, July 8, 2017. Lopez was released from prison and placed under house arrest Saturday after more than three years in military lockup. Climbing atop a wall, Lopez briefly greeted a few dozen supporters gathered outside home.** (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)



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The 46-year-old former Caracas-area mayor was sentenced in 2015 to nearly 14 years in prison after being convicted of inciting violence during anti-government protests in which three people died and dozens were wounded.

"We spoke for like 40 minutes. He's hugging his children, he's with his wife. .... I'm sure they are celebrating," Lopez's father, who shares his son's name, said from exile in Spain. He said in recent days Lopez had been isolated in his prison cell without food and attributed his son's transfer to international pressure on Maduro's government.

"He told me himself recently: 'Dad, it's always darkest right before the break of dawn,'" the elder Lopez added.

Venezuela has been rocked by near-daily protests since late March, fueled by widespread discontent over shortages of basic goods, galloping inflation and allegations that Maduro is undermining democracy in the country.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy was the first to break the news of Lopez's transfer, which was brokered by his predecessor, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. Zapatero has been traveling back and forth to Venezuela for months trying to secure the release of jailed opposition leaders and jumpstart dialogue between the government and opposition.

The Supreme Court statement pointing to possible "irregularities" in the Lopez case surprised government supporters and foes alike because the high court has not previously shown any signs of misgivings about its rulings. Some suggested it may have been a slight aimed at chief prosecutor Luisa Ortega Diaz, a longtime government loyalist who oversaw the trial against Lopez but is now being lionized by the opposition for her break with Maduro over his push to rewrite Venezuela's constitution.

Foreign governments and human rights groups have long criticized Lopez's detention as politically motivated, and one of the prosecutors on the case who later sought asylum in the United States said he was ordered by the government to arrest Lopez despite a lack of evidence. The judge in the case was later sanctioned by the Obama administration.

But Maduro and his supporters said the decision in no way exonerated Lopez or the opposition for attempts to destabilize the government.

"You know the deep and profound differences I have with Mr. LL," Maduro said at a televised event, referring to Lopez by his initials. "After almost four years in Ramo Verde (prison) hopefully this measure will be understood and he'll send a message in support of peace, because that's what the country wants."

Concern about Lopez's health had been growing after reports in May that he had been hospitalized in very serious condition. More recently, supporters claimed he was being tortured and held in solitary confinement for 32 days for his refusal to call for an end to the latest protests against Maduro — claims the government has denied.

But in his brief appearance before supporters Lopez exhibited a muscular physique honed from exercise in jail.

Lilian Tintori, Lopez's wife, has campaigned in Venezuela and abroad to try to win freedom for her husband and met with President Donald Trump in February. Afterward Trump tweeted a photo of the Oval Office encounter and called for Lopez to be released "immediately." The White House on Saturday welcomed Lopez's release from prison but said more needs to be done to clear his name and that of other prisoners held unfairly by the Maduro "regime."

"This is a major capitulation by Venezuela's government, which just days ago allowed armed thugs to assault the National Assembly and beat up opposition lawmakers," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at Human Rights Watch. "It's a sign that the massive street protests — plus the calls by democratic leaders throughout Latin America to end the repression — are having an impact."

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Associated Press writers Joshua Goodman in Bogota, Colombia, and Joseph Wilson in Barcelona, Spain, contributed to this report.

## American gored at Pamplona bull run promises to run again

By JOSEPH WILSON, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — One of the two Americans gored Saturday during this year's second running of the bulls in the Spanish city of Pamplona is swearing that he will run again before the festival is over.

Bill Hillmann, a 35-year-old writer who also was gored three years ago at the San Fermin festival, was in stable condition. The bull that led the pack thrust its horn into Hillmann's buttocks before flipping him onto the street.

"In a split second he was on me. I tried to jump, but he hit me in the butt," the Chicago resident told The Associated Press by telephone from a hospital in Pamplona.

"I flew up in the air and landed on my back. I didn't know I was gored at first," he said. "Then people started telling me I was gored and pulled me over to the medics. I pulled down my pants and there was blood."

Despite his run-in, Hillmann says his love for the chaotic and treacherous spectacle of Pamplona's rampaging bulls hasn't wavered.

"I am probably going to run tomorrow or the next day, sure at this festival," he said. "I am already walking. The first time, I wasn't walking for a week."

Hillmann's wound was less severe than those of a 22-year-old American who also was gored on Saturday. Identified by the regional government of Navarra only with the initials J.C., he was in serious condition after his left arm was impaled and he was dragged for several meters (yards) before the bull flung him off and stormed over him. WBBM Chicago identified him as Jack Capra, of California, who told the station it had been his first running with bulls.

Three other Americans, two Frenchmen and three Spaniards — all men — needed hospital treatment for injuries received during Saturday's frantic and crowded run of thrill-seekers. Two Americans and a Spaniard also were gored on Friday.

Hillmann was in Pamplona for a 12th consecutive year to brave the bulls and ran on Friday.

He was gored in the early stages of the run, when the bulls from the ranch of Jose Escolar confirmed their reputation as being unpredictable.

The bulls completed the 930-yard (850-meter) cobbled-street course in just over four minutes — well over the average of three minutes — because one bull broke away from the rest and turned around.

The other five plowed into the slower-moving crowds, knocking many runners down as they maneuvered through the narrow streets and wooden barricades.

Hillmann described this second goring as "just a tick" compared to his first one in 2014, which produced two thigh wounds he called "traumatic."

Hillmann, like scores of foreigners, discovered the San Fermin festival thanks to Nobel Literature laureate Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises."

"It changed my life. It made me want to be a writer, to run the bulls, to come to Spain," he said. "When



**A revellers falls in front of Jose Escolar fighting bulls during the second running of the bulls at the San Fermin Festival, in Pamplona, northern Spain, Saturday, July 8, 2017. Revellers from around the world flock to Pamplona every year to take part in the eight days of the running of the bulls.** (AP Photo/Alvaro Barrientos)

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I got here everything in the book was still here, but a thousand times more. And it just keeps getting more interesting. People think this is just crazy people running. There is real art. If you pay attention, you can see it."

Hillmann claims to have participated in over 300 bull runs across Spain at traditional summer festivals. He has written a guide on bull running, along with a novel, and was back in Pamplona to make a documentary featuring him as a bull runner.

"The thing is that when you run, you always have doubts because you are taking a decision that can end your life," he said. "There is a shadow that follows you. Sometimes I don't run because I don't feel right. I usually get premonitions. Not today. I felt good today, but it didn't go my way."

## G-20 shut Trump out on climate, strike deal on trade

By DAVID McHUGH and GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — World powers lined up against U.S. President Donald Trump on climate change, reaffirming their support for international efforts to fight global warming.

The Group of 20 summit that ended Saturday in Hamburg also revealed tensions on trade, as the U.S. administration and international partners forged a deal that endorsed open markets but acknowledged countries had a right to put up barriers to block unfair practices

The summit's final statement made clear that the other countries and the European Union unanimously supported the Paris climate agreement rejected by Trump. They called the deal to reduce greenhouse gases "irreversible" and vowed to implement it "swiftly" and without exception.

The other countries, from European powers such as Germany to emerging ones such as China and energy producers such as Saudi Arabia, merely "took note" of the U.S. position, which was boxed off in a separate paragraph that the summit host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, made clear applied only to the United States.

She said the U.S. position was "regrettable" but that the summit had achieved "good results in some areas," and cited a hard-won agreement on trade that included Trump and the United States but did not erase the differences over the issue. She said the talks had been at times "difficult."

Trump's chief economic adviser played down tensions between the U.S. and other nations as the president headed home from his first G-20 summit.

Gary Cohn told reporters aboard Air Force One that while communiqués "are never easy," he thought this one "came together pretty reasonably. He said having "a diversity of opinions in a group of 20" was not unexpected.

"To get 20 of your friends to agree to have dinner tonight is pretty hard," Cohn said.

Cohn added that while the U.S. obviously has chosen to get out of the Paris agreement, "we do go out



**Leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, and their partners attend a concert at the Elbphilharmonie concert hall on the first day of the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany, Friday, July 7, 2017.** (Kay Nietfeld/Pool Photo via AP)

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of our way to say in there that that doesn't mean we don't support the environment and we're still working for the environment."

On trade, the talks preserved the G-20's condemnation of protectionism, a statement that has been a hallmark of the group's efforts to combat the global financial crisis and the aftereffects of the Great Recession.

The group added new elements, however: an acknowledgment that trade must be "reciprocal and mutually advantageous" and that countries could use "legitimate trade defense instruments" if they are being taken advantage of.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there was "incredible consensus" on the issue and that the U.S. pushed to include the phrasing about "reciprocal" trade.

The wording echoes concerns voiced by Trump, who has said trade must be fair as well as open and must benefit American companies and workers. He has focused on trade relationships where other countries run large surpluses with the U.S., meaning they sell more to U.S. consumers than they buy from American companies.

That's in contrast to the approach favored by Merkel and the EU, who stress multilateral trade frameworks such as the World Trade Organization.

More broadly, concerns about trade and its impact on workers figured large in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and in Britain's referendum vote to leave the European Union, a free-trade bloc.

Yet pro-trade officials from the European Union pointed out that the language in the G-20 statement contains no departure from the current global system of regulation, which already allows countries to take defensive measures within the rules of the WTO. Those can include import taxes that offset unfair practices such as government subsidies or below-cost pricing.

Despite the trade agreement, the summit was marked by clashing visions, especially where Washington and the European Union were concerned.

The EU demonstrated its willingness to move ahead with free trade despite Trump by announcing a trade agreement with Japan on the eve of the summit.

On climate, summit deputies worked until shortly before the ending news conferences to hash out a three-part fudge that everyone could sign. That meant a first section with a broad pledge to fight climate change in general; a separate paragraph carved out that acknowledged the U.S. did not support the Paris deal; and a third paragraph in which the other 19 members reaffirmed their support for the deal.

Advocates for efforts against global warming expressed relief that the other countries had remained unanimous in support of the Paris accords.

"The U.S. has obviously been clear about where it stands with the Paris Agreement, but it is heartening that 19 other countries reaffirmed their commitment to the agreement," said Thoriq Ibrahim, minister of energy and environment for the Maldives and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, a group of countries vulnerable to the effects of global warming.

The results of the summit aren't absolutely decisive, on either the trade or the climate issue. The no-protection pledge was often violated, increasingly in harder-to-detect ways such as tax breaks for home industries rather than obvious import taxes.

Meanwhile, failure to agree on climate doesn't stop countries from moving ahead in meeting the Paris agreement's goals, or exceed them if they want to. Additionally, U.S. states and private companies can pursue lower emissions on their own.

G-20 agreements are statements of intent and rely on governments themselves to follow through. Still, they set the tone for global policymaking and enable peer pressure when they're not followed.

Other deals at the summit included an agreement to press internet providers to detect and remove extremist content as a way of fighting terrorist incitement and recruiting.

John Kirton, co-director of the G-20 Research Group at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, called the summit a "very solid success." He pointed to broad agreement on the agenda, much of it focusing on less controversial issues such as women's empowerment and promoting digitalization.

Over the long term, the G-20 implements 72 percent of its promises, and has implemented 80 percent of them since last year's summit in Hangzhou, China, according to Kirton.

The meetings competed for attention with rioting by anti-capitalist demonstrators outside the heavily secured Hamburg Messe convention center. Rioters set up street barricades, looted supermarkets and attacked police with slingshots and firebombs.

The G-20 comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, France, Britain, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the U.S. and the European Union.

## Iraq says forces are 'tens of meters' from retaking Mosul

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi commanders said Saturday their forces are "tens of meters" away from defeating the Islamic State group in Mosul, a day after a major counterattack by the militants.

The Joint Operations Command "our units are still continuing to advance... Not much is left before our forces reach the river."

Iraqi officials have made similar pronouncements over the past week as security forces have bottled the militants up in a sliver of the Old City along the Tigris River. But the troops' progress has slowed in recent days.

The militants hold less than one square kilometer (mile) of territory, but are using civilians as human shields, making it nearly impossible for U.S.-led warplanes to flush them out.

On Saturday the militarized Federal Police announced that they had cleared their assigned sector, while the regular army and special forces continued to battle the extremists. Some units remain up to 150 meters (yards) from the river.

The operation to retake Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, began in October. The battle for the Old City, with its narrow alleyways and dense population, has been among the most brutal of the offensive.

IS seized Mosul in the summer of 2014 when it swept across northern and central Iraq. That summer the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, made his first and only public appearance at the al-Nuri mosque in Mosul's Old City. The militants destroyed the mosque and its famed minaret as Iraqi forces closed in last month.



**An Iraqi army soldier walks on a damaged street as Iraqi forces continue their advance against Islamic State militants in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq, Saturday, July 8, 2017.**

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

## Peaceful protests mark end of G-20 summit hours after riots

By DAVID RISING, Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Tens of thousands of peaceful protesters took to the streets to demonstrate against the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg on Saturday, hours after masked rioters clashed with police, burned cars and looted businesses.

Marching on a route close to where some of the worst violence unfolded overnight, protesters chanted, sang, danced and played music as world leaders wrapped up their two-day summit in the German port city.

An eclectic crowd of families pushing baby carriages, Kurdish groups, Scottish socialists and anarchists waving flags and shouting anti-capitalist slogans progressed through the city accompanied by thousands of police officers.

Despite the mayhem late Friday and early Saturday, many officers patrolling the march removed their helmets

and appeared relaxed as the huge crowds passed by. Organizers said some 78,000 demonstrators participated, while police estimated the crowds at about 50,000.

The big gathering came after aggressive riots overnight in the city's Schanzenviertel neighborhood, which is only a few hundred meters (yards) away from the summit grounds. Hundreds of special riot police went into buildings to arrest rioters wearing black masks from rooftops while being attacked with iron rods and Molotov cocktails. About 500 people looted a supermarket in the neighborhood as well as smaller stores. Cars were torched and street fires lit as activists built barricades with garbage cans and bikes.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed shock and anger about "violence and uninhibited brutality" that broke out in Hamburg.

"There is not the slightest justification for looting, arson and brutal attacks on the life of police officers," Merkel said, adding that the security forces did "excellent work and thanking them on behalf of all the summit participants.

A few thousand rioters, some of them from elsewhere in Europe, created havoc in the city. They battled riot police for two consecutive days and nights, expressing rage against capitalism and globalization and calling for open borders to let all refugees enter Europe.

Their anger was not so much focused against President Donald Trump or other leaders, but directed against police as symbols of authority.

Police arrested 143 people, and 122 activists were temporarily detained. Some 213 officers were injured since the protests started Thursday night. Police and firefighters said they did not have information about how many protesters and other civilians were hurt.

Hamburg, Germany's second-largest city, has a strong radical left scene and many critics had warned well before the summit that its dense streets would be almost impossible to control and clashes would be likely.

But, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said, "any criticism of the location of the meeting



**Riot Police officers escort a protest rally against the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany, Saturday, July 8, 2017. The leaders of the group of 20 meet July 7 and 8.** (AP

Photo/Michael Probst)

misjudges cause and effect.”

“These were unbounded violent excesses out of a desire for destruction and brutality,” de Maiziere said. He added that police and judicial authorities must take a tough stance against such crimes and that the arrests were appropriate.

Merkel also defended the choice of Hamburg as venue for the summit, saying a big city was needed to accommodate all the participants at hotels. She said she and her finance minister would consult with Hamburg’s city government how they can help people affected by the violence repair the damage.

Many residents, however, showed frustration with the violence and destruction unleashed in their neighborhood.

Laura Zeriadtke watched the full-scale clashes unfold from her street-level apartment window and witnessed about 30 black-clad anarchists tearing down a construction fence across from her home and using it as a shield to push back riot police.

“It was a civil war,” Zeriadtke said.

Ludwig Geiss, a 65-year-old long-time resident living in the same building as Zeriadtke, said that he’d gotten used to the many protests in the alternative neighborhood, but had never experienced anything like the G-20 chaos.

“I know the scene, but what happened yesterday ... puts it all in the shadows,” Geiss said as he was evaluating the damage outside his apartment. “I’m not staying here another night.”

Police called on witnesses of the riots to upload photos and video footage on their server to help with the investigation and prosecution of violent activists.

However, most protesters expressed their views peacefully, asking for quick action on climate change and solutions to the migration crisis.

During the protest marches on Saturday afternoon, activists of the Attac group rolled a giant globe along the road, while others carried signs with slogans such as , “Money For Bread, Not Bombs” and “We are many, you are 20.”

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Kirsten Grieshaber contributed to this report from Berlin.

## **Putin hails meeting, thinks Trump accepted election denials**

**By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press**

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed his first face-to-face meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, saying Saturday he thinks Trump accepted his assurances that Russia didn’t meddle in the U.S. presidential election and that their conversation could be a model for improving ties between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters after the two-day Group of 20 summit in Germany ended, Putin said he and Trump had a long discussion about the allegations of Russian interference in last year’s election that have dogged Trump’s presidency.

The Russian leader said he reiterated his “well-known” position that “there are no grounds” for the allegations.

“He asked many questions on the subject, I tried to answer them all,” Putin said. “It seems to me that he has taken note of that and agreed, but it’s better to ask him about his attitude.”

Putin said his answers were detailed and covered his discussions on the election meddling issue with representatives of the previous administration, including former President Barack Obama. But he would not reveal details of his exchange with Trump, saying the conversation was confidential.

“He asked questions, I replied. It seemed to me that he was satisfied with the answers,” Putin said.

Trump’s top envoy to the United Nations quickly disputed the Russian president’s assessment of Trump’s takeaway from their one-on-one meeting.

“President Trump still knows that they meddled. President Putin knows that they meddled, but he is never going to admit to it. And that’s all that happened,” Ambassador Nikki Haley told CNN on Saturday.

Trump has avoided firmly blaming Moscow for campaign hacking in the past, and the day before he met with Putin, he was similarly elusive. He argued variably that it could have been Russia, probably was Russia and indeed was Russia, while insisting it could have been other countries, too, and adding: "I won't be specific."

In his post-summit remarks, Putin said that a working group on cybersecurity he and Trump agreed to create during their meeting should help prevent such election controversies in the future.

"What is important is that we agreed that there should be no uncertainty in that sphere," he said. "We agreed with the U.S. president to create a working group and work jointly on how to ensure cyberspace security, how to ensure the fulfillment of international legal norms in that sphere and prevent meddling in internal affairs of Russia and the U.S. We believe that if we work that way, and I have no reason to doubt it, there will be no such allegations."

Putin also praised Trump as a strong negotiator who quickly grasps various issues.

"As for relations on personal level, I believe we have established them," Putin said. "Trump's T.V. persona differs sharply from the real man. He is a very straightforward person, grasps precisely what his interlocutor says, quickly analyzes and responds to questions or new elements of the discussion."

The Russian leader said his talks with Trump offered a model for rebuilding Russia-U.S. ties, which have plummeted to post-Cold War lows over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and other disputes.

"I think that if we develop our relations in the same way, there is every reason to believe that we would be able to at least partially restore the level of interaction that we need," Putin said.

**He particularly hailed the U.S.-Russian deal on a cease-fire in southwestern Syria announced Friday as a step toward ending the hostilities.**



**Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures during a press conference after the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany, Saturday, July 8, 2017, where the leaders of the group of 20 met for two days.** (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko, pool)

Jim Heintz contributed to this story from Moscow.

## Trial to decide if railroad shares blame in movie crew death

By RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A movie director served jail time for trespassing onto a Georgia railroad bridge and putting his film crew in the path of a freight train that slammed into the group and killed a young camera assistant. Now the dead woman's parents are going to court saying the railroad should share the blame, even though it denied the filmmakers permission to work on its tracks.

Sarah Jones, 27, died on a trestle spanning the Altamaha River in rural Wayne County on Feb. 20, 2014. The train collision also injured six fellow crew members as filming began on "Midnight Rider," a movie based on the life story of Allman Brothers Band singer Gregg Allman. The ill-fated production ended with the tragedy.



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More than three years later, a Savannah judge has scheduled a civil trial to begin Monday in a wrongful death lawsuit by Jones' parents against CSX Transportation. Barring a last-minute settlement, a jury will decide if the railroad, which operated the train and owned the bridge, should have taken precautions to avert the deadly crash.

Richard and Elizabeth Jones are seeking monetary damages in the lawsuit, but have not specified an amount.

Attorneys for Jacksonville, Florida-based CSX insist the collision wasn't the company's fault. Investigators found CSX had twice denied the "Midnight Rider" filmmakers' requests for permission to shoot on its railroad trestle — each time in writing.

Both the Wayne County sheriff and the National Transportation Safety Board determined the movie crew, which had placed a hospital bed across the tracks for a planned scene, was trespassing when the CSX train came upon the group at 58 mph with its horn and whistle blaring. The train hit Jones and ran over her. Flying debris from the bed injured six others.

Attorneys for Jones' parents argue Jones and other crew members weren't aware production managers had failed to get permission to shoot on the trestle. They also say the railroad should have known the filmmakers would be in the area. Two trains crossed the same railroad bridge in the hour before the fatal crash. The Jones family's lawyers say video from one train shows crew members on both sides of the tracks, in "close proximity."

"Despite the fact that multiple CSX trains passed the 'Midnight Rider' cast and crew on February 20, with those individuals in view of the trains' operators, no warning was given to the subsequent train that ultimately caused Sarah's death," the lawsuit says.

The suit also says operators of the train that killed Jones failed to apply any brakes before the collision.

Court filings by CSX attorneys say operators of the two trains that passed the crew before the crash had no legal obligation to alert anyone else. The video shows filmmakers weren't on the tracks or the bridge, but stood on property that doesn't belong to the railroad. CSX says its operators had no duty to assume the crew would put itself in danger.

As the train involved in the collision approached the bridge, engineer Michael Ryan saw "what he thought were buzzards up ahead," according to a CSX court filing. He sounded the engine's horn and whistle 33 seconds before the crash.

"When Ryan realized that people were on the trestle, he did not apply the train's emergency brake because he thought the people were off the trestle or in the clear, the brakes would not slow the train down before it reached the trestle, and he was concerned about causing a derailment," CSX attorneys wrote in one court filing.



**In this photo taken April 9, 2014 Elizabeth and Richard Jones, flip through photos of their daughter Sarah Jones, the 27-year-old camera assistant killed by a freight train while filming a movie in southeast Georgia, as they sit in their attorney's office, in Atlanta. After a freight train ran over Sarah Jones as she worked with a crew shooting a movie scene on a Georgia railroad bridge, the film's director spent a year in jail for the 27-year-old camera assistant's death. Now Jones' parents are asking a civil jury to find the railroad shares some of the blame in the 2014 collision during filming of the planned Gregg Allman biographical movie "Midnight Rider."** (AP Photo/David Goldman)

Jones family attorney Jeffrey Harris declined to comment prior to the trial. CSX attorneys did not immediately return phone and email messages. A CSX spokeswoman, Laura Phelps, said the company had no comment.

Chatham County State Court Judge Gregory Sapp rejected a motion to decide the case in CSX's favor before a trial. Sapp ruled a jury will need to decide "whether the trespassers were anticipated or discovered" immediately before the crash. A court document says the case could take two weeks or longer.

Sheriff's investigators and the NTSB found no fault with CSX. The movie's director, Randall Miller, served a year in jail after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter and criminal trespassing. Two of his assistants were sentenced to probation.

An NTSB report on the crash said the probable cause was "the film crew's unauthorized entry onto the CSX Transportation right-of-way ... despite CSX Transportation's repeated denial of permission to access the railroad property."

## 'Valerian' director says Rihanna is focused, generous on set

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director Luc Besson says getting Rihanna's team on board for her role in the sci-fi epic "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" was a little painful at first.

Rihanna's manager Jay Brown was a fan of Besson's films like "The Professional" and "La Femme Nikita" but they had to make sure they trusted Besson and his crew before they committed.

The pop superstar co-stars in "Valerian," out July 21, as a burlesque dancer named Bubble who performs in a seedy club owned by Ethan Hawke. Although it's a relatively small part in the film starring Cara Delevingne and Dane DeHaan, it's already being hailed by early viewers as a scene-stealing performance.

Rihanna, who wasn't available for an interview, was the director's first choice for the pivotal role and he figured it couldn't hurt to ask. She'd had a main role in the 2012 film "Battleship" and the animated "Home," and cameos in "This Is the End" and "Annie."

He was surprised at how involved her team was at the outset.

"They're very protective of her," he said "So before you get in, you have to prove that you're honest and you're there for a good reason ... . It's a little painful at the beginning, but after a while you go, 'Yeah, we get it.'"

Once the Grammy winner's team decided to move forward, Besson said Rihanna "was lovely."

"What was good was when she was on the set she's 200 percent focused with you, no entourage, she's there. When she's there, she's there," Besson said.

"The problem, sometimes, is to have her there," the French director added with a smile, to which his wife and producer Virginie Besson-Silla quickly jumped in and said, "No, no, she's was good!"

"She was good," Besson agreed. "She was amazing and so focused. I was surprised by how much she was ready and open to the director ... She was at my service and I was surprised at the beginning. She was so generous."



**This image released by STX Entertainment shows Rihanna, who portrays a burlesque dancer named Bubble, in Luc Besson's sci-fi epic, "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," in theaters on July 21.** (Daniel Smith/

STX Entertainment via AP)

## Teen's suicide emblematic of problems at New Orleans jail

By KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Fifteen-year-old Jaquin (jah-KWAHN') Thomas was arrested a year ago this month. He was accused of murder and eventually sent to the New Orleans jail to await trial.

That's where he killed himself last fall and became one of the symbols of how a new jail facility that opened in 2015 failed to solve the old jail's problems of inadequate security and violence.

An arrest warrant for the guard who was supposed to be watching Thomas says the teen's lifeless body hung motionless from a jail window bar for 90 minutes before anyone noticed.

A federal judge has noted the suicide while lamenting slow progress in reforms at the jail. However, he also has expressed confidence in a new director working to improve training and staffing at the lockup.

## GOP governors add to pressure on GOP senators on health care

By ALISON NOON and BILL BARROW, Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — The pressure is on Republican senators — from congressional leaders, conservative groups and impatient GOP voters — to fulfill a seven-year-old promise to scrap much of Democrat Barack Obama's health care law. But back home, Republican governors who have experienced some of the upside of the law are warning their GOP senators to first, do no harm.

For these governors, the issue is less about delivering a triumph to President Donald Trump and more about not blowing a hole in state budgets and maintaining health care coverage for constituents. In the critical next few weeks, some governors are uniquely positioned to press home-state Republican senators who could deny Majority Leader Mitch McConnell the votes he needs to pass a Republican health care bill.

"We are the voice of reality," Nevada GOP Gov. Brian Sandoval told The Associated Press.

Sandoval said he has been in regular contact with Nevada Republican Sen.

Dean Heller to discuss the ramifications of the evolving GOP plan. Heller, who faces a tough re-election next year, has joined Sandoval in opposing the current measure.

For wary Republicans, the main concerns about the GOP plan are rolling back premium subsidies that help people buy private insurance policies and phasing out the expansion of Medicaid, the federal-state insurance program for the poor, disabled and many nursing home patients. In Nevada, more than 220,000 residents have gained coverage through Medicaid expansion, 13,000 of them children.

"They set policy, but we're the ones who have to develop the budgets, develop the care, develop the



In this Wednesday, July 5, 2017 file photo, Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, looks at a board covered with addiction "trigger words" as he participates in a roundtable discussion with former addiction recovery clients and current employees at the Adams Recovery Center for Women in Cincinnati. Portman discussed the importance of increased funding for addiction treatment and efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in Ohio. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

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plans, work directly with the people," Sandoval said. He said if money is reduced, governors will be left to decide among unpopular choices: "Raise a tax or limit coverage or change eligibility requirements" for coverage.

Heller is listening.

"I cannot support a piece of legislation that takes insurance away from tens of millions of Americans and tens of thousands of Nevadans," he said recently.

Ohio's John Kasich has been one of the most outspoken GOP governors in criticizing GOP proposals. That has increased pressure on Ohio GOP Sen. Rob Portman, who announced his opposition to the bill after McConnell abruptly postponed a vote.

"My concern all along has been, could low-income Ohioans get access to the health care they need and more specifically, the treatment for the opioid epidemic?" he told reporters this past week.

Portman said he has discussed with Kasich various financing options that would ease any changes to Medicaid while not gutting drug treatment programs. One McConnell proposal would be to provide an additional \$45 billion over a decade for states' drug abuse programs.

In Arizona, GOP Gov. Doug Ducey has called Obama's law "a disaster" and stopped short of outright opposition to McConnell's version. But he has urged Republican Sens. Jeff Flake and John McCain to shield states from extensive Medicaid cuts. The program covers 1.9 million Arizonans, nearly 28 percent of all residents. The expansion alone covers 400,000.

Both senators have yet to indicate how they'd vote on a GOP bill.

Alaska's Bill Walker, an independent who identifies as a conservative, has had regular contacts with the state's two Republican senators — Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan — over what the Republican health care overhaul will mean for his state. Alaska has some of the highest health care costs and greatest medical needs in the country.

Traditional Medicaid covers about a quarter of Alaska's 740,000 residents, while 34,000 more benefit from the expansion.

Murkowski has said she doesn't have enough information to vote for the GOP plan. She has opposed the elimination of federal money for Planned Parenthood, a provision of the bill.

McConnell has little wiggle room. With 52 Republican senators, just three defections leave him short of a majority. Democrats are unified in opposition.

The Republican leader has said he plans to introduce yet another version of the bill after Congress returns on Monday. But McConnell also said that if he is unable to get 50 votes for the GOP plan, he would try to shore up insurance markets, a legislative step that would involve Democrats.

In Nevada, Sandoval and Heller have a public service record that has overlapped since 1994, when Sandoval won a seat in the Nevada Legislature and then-Assemblyman Heller was elected to the secretary of state's office. Sharing a moderate approach in their conservatism, they have a relationship going back decades.

"He trusts me to give him information," the governor said, "and he trusts me" for speaking up for people who have benefited from the Medicaid expansion.

When scandal forced out Republican Sen. John Ensign in 2011, Sandoval tapped then-Rep. Dean Heller to fill the Senate seat.

Asked whether he would consider endorsing one of Heller's challengers if the senator eventually voted to roll back Medicaid, Sandoval laughed.

"No," he said. "Absolutely not."

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Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Becky Bohrer in Juneau, Alaska; Bob Christie in Phoenix, and Dan Sewell in Cincinnati contributed to this report.

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## Beachgate, Bridgegate: Christie's time in headlines not over

By MICHAEL CATALINI, Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Gov. Chris Christie's week started with Beachgate — viral photos showing him lounging on a public beach closed by the state budget shutdown. Next week, Bridgegate will revisit.

It doesn't promise the same kind of international response, but the term-limited Republican will be in the headlines again when the former aide prosecutors say masterminded the 2013 George Washington Bridge lane closure scheme is sentenced, and when the attorney who represented him during the scandal gets a hearing on Capitol Hill to be the next FBI director.

David Wildstein is set to be sentenced Wednesday, and the GOP Senate is holding a hearing the same day on President Donald Trump's FBI pick, Christopher Wray.

It's a string of events that could grind any other politician's agenda to a halt, said Matthew Hale, a political science professor at Seton Hall University.

"Normally, a week with Bridgegate sentencing, Senate hearings where his name will come up and Beachgate would crush a politician," Hale said.

But for Christie, the events come as he enters lame-duck territory with a 15 percent approval rating and as the Democratic and even Republican candidates running to succeed him toss him aside.

Democratic nominee Phil Murphy is using the beach photos to help raise cash. In an email to supporters Thursday, he wrote that Christie "disgraced New Jersey" by shutting down the government and sitting on the state beach that was closed to the public.

Republican Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, who publicly questioned Christie's decision to go to the beach, said the budget Christie signed "spends too much" and that the people "get too little."

Christie has denied wrongdoing and was never charged in the 2013 scheme that has already seen two former aides convicted and sentenced in a plot to close lanes on the George Washington Bridge to retaliate against a Democratic mayor who wouldn't endorse Christie's re-election effort.

He called Wray, a former Justice Department official under George W. Bush, a top-rate lawyer and said he was the only lawyer he sought out when he needed legal help during the bridge scandal. Wray held the missing cellphone that was used by the governor and contained about a dozen text messages that Christie exchanged with a former staffer during a legislative hearing related to the bridge scandal in 2013.

The beach photos came during a three-day government shutdown of nonessential services after Christie and the Democrat-led Legislature failed to reach an agreement on the state's nearly \$35 billion budget.



**In this Aug. 29, 2016 file photo, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie listens to a question from the media in Trenton, N.J. Christie's week started with photos showing him lounging on a public beach closed by the state shutdown going viral across the globe. Next week doesn't promise the same kind of international response, but the term-limited Republican's name could be in the headlines again over the so-called Bridgegate scandal when his former aide is sentenced and the attorney who represented him during the scandal gets a Senate hearing to be the next FBI director.** (AP Photo/Mel Evans, File)

The public reaction was compounded in part because, when asked by a reporter, the governor denied getting any “sun.”

“I don’t apologize for it. I don’t back away from it. And I think my poll numbers show I don’t care about political optics,” Christie said shortly before signing a budget to reopen government.

Christie has also called out the media over what he viewed as unfair coverage of the bridge scandal. And he mocked NJ Advance Media over the photos of him on the beach, saying it deserved a Pulitzer Prize and adding that he was where he said he’d be — with his family.

While that same media will be ablaze with headlines about Christie once again next week, Christie will be a working member of the media himself: He will co-host a sports talk radio show in New York on Monday and Tuesday afternoon.

## SoHa? Harlem bristles at neighborhood nickname

By DEEPTI HAJELA and MICHAEL NOBLE JR., Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In Harlem, a furor has erupted over what was supposed to be a simple, catchy acronym: SoHa.

An attempt by some businesses and real estate professionals to rebrand the southern part of the neighborhood as SoHa has been greeted by many residents as an affront to a capital of African-American culture and history.

They say it smacks of gentrification that has increasingly seen different demographics coming into the area along with rising median rents, which have increased since 2000 from \$710 a month to \$1,050. That section of Harlem stretches from Central Park to 125th Street and includes such landmarks as the Hotel Theresa, which hosted such figures as Muhammad Ali, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

“Harlem is a treasure of New York,” said Rep. Adriano Espaillat, whose

congressional district includes the area. “I, along with leaders and constituents of this community, stand united to vigorously oppose the renaming of Harlem in yet another sanctioned gentrification.”

New York City is filled with neighborhood names altered by real estate professionals and developers to create cachet, some of which have stuck more than others. There’s SoHo (for south of Houston Street), Nolita (north of Little Italy), Tribeca (triangle below Canal) and Dumbo (down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass), just to name a few.

Occasional references to SoHa as a neighborhood date back almost 20 years but have picked up steam recently, including on local businesses, such as the real estate agency Keller Williams NYC, which used SoHa for the team of real estate agents focusing on the area.

Keller Williams this past week told The Wall Street Journal it had decided to change the team name out of respect and passion for the area’s people, history and culture. It is now listed on its website as



**People stroll down the sidewalk along Malcolm X Boulevard, Monday, June 26, 2017, in New York, where residents are upset about a realtor’s proposed neighborhood name change from southern Harlem to SoHa. Many residents say the name change devalues the area’s rich political and cultural history.** (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

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"Central Harlem."

Tiffany Simone, 54, has experienced the outrage firsthand.

A lifetime resident of the area, Simone and a few other people took over a flea market in the area a few years ago and called it the SoHa Square Market. She says it was actually a reference to the idea that their market was "so Harlem," and also a girl's name meaning "star."

But so many people complained about it, thinking she was adopting the SoHa moniker, that she ended up changing the name to the Harlem Square Open-Air Market.

"I decided it wasn't worth it," said Simone, who is black. "This is the community I'm from, and the last thing I want to do is offend my community."

Casey Tucker, 24, who moved to Harlem last year, is among those firmly against the name.

"I feel like I live in Harlem. Not SoHa."

Carl Shipman, a 43-year-old lifetime resident of the neighborhood, agreed.

"Harlem is more than a name," he said. "It's a feeling."

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 9, the 190th day of 2017. There are 175 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 9, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.

On this date:

In 1540, England's King Henry VIII had his 6-month-old marriage to his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, annulled.

In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain.

In 1850, the 12th president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, died after serving only 16 months of his term. (He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.)

In 1896, William Jennings Bryan delivered his famous "cross of gold" speech at the Democratic national convention in Chicago.

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tennessee. The Distinguished Service Cross was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1937, a fire at 20th Century Fox's film storage facility in Little Ferry, New Jersey, destroyed most of the studio's silent films.

In 1945, architect Frank Lloyd Wright unveiled his design for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, a spiral structure on Manhattan's Upper East Side that was completed in 1959.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman asked Congress to formally end the state of war between the United States and Germany. (An official end to the state of war was declared in October 1951.)

In 1962, pop artist Andy Warhol's exhibit of 32 paintings of Campbell's soup cans opened at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles.

In 1974, former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington at age 83.

In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed in Kenner, Louisiana, shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 145 people aboard and eight people on the ground.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia performed for the final time as frontman of the Grateful Dead during a concert at Chicago's Soldier Field (Garcia died a month later).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush directed former aides to defy congressional subpoenas, claiming executive privilege in resisting Congress' investigation into the firings of U.S. attorneys. Sen. David Vitter, R-La., whose telephone number was disclosed by Deborah Jeane Palfrey, the so-called "D.C. Madam," said in a statement he was sorry for a "serious sin" and that he'd already made peace with his wife. A jury convicted four Muslim militants of plotting to bomb London's public transport system. Character actor

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Charles Lane, 102, died in Santa Monica, California.

Five years ago: Facing sagging jobs numbers, President Barack Obama sought to recast the November election as a fight over tax fairness, urging tax cut extensions for all families earning less than \$250,000 but denying them to households making more than that. The remains of 6 U.S. airmen lost over Laos in 1965 were laid to rest in a single casket at Arlington National Cemetery. Detroit's Prince Fielder became only the second player, after Ken Griffey Jr., to win multiple titles in the All-Star Home Run Derby, thrilling the crowd at Kauffman Stadium with eight splash shots into the right-field fountain and beating Toronto's Jose Bautista 12-7 in the final.

One year ago: President Barack Obama wrapped up his visit to the NATO summit in Warsaw before heading to Madrid for a visit cut short because of violence back home, where five Dallas police officers had been killed by a sniper and two black men were left dead at the hands of police. Serena Williams won her record-tying 22nd Grand Slam title by beating Angelique Kerber 7-5, 6-3 in the Wimbledon final and pulling even with Steffi Graf for the most major championships in the Open era, which began in 1968.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Ed Ames is 90. Former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is 85. Actor James Hampton is 81. Actor Brian Dennehy is 79. Actor Richard Roundtree is 75. Author Dean Koontz is 72. Football Hall of Famer O.J. Simpson is 70. Actor Chris Cooper is 66. TV personality John Tesh is 65. Country singer David Ball is 64. Business executive/TV personality Kevin O'Leary (TV: "Shark Tank") is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer Debbie Sledge (Sister Sledge) is 63. Actor Jimmy Smits is 62. Actress Lisa Banes is 62. Actor Tom Hanks is 61. Singer Marc Almond is 60. Actress Kelly McGillis is 60. Rock singer Jim Kerr (Simple Minds) is 58. Actress-rock singer Courtney Love is 53. Rock musician Frank Bello (Anthrax) is 52. Actor David O'Hara is 52. Actress Pamela Adlon is 51. Rock musician Xavier Muriel is 49. Actor Scott Grimes is 46. Actor Enrique Murciano is 44. Rock singer-musician Isaac Brock (Modest Mouse) is 42. Musician/producer Jack White is 42. Rock musician Dan Estrin (Hoobastank) is 41. Actor-director Fred Savage is 41. Country musician Pat Allingham is 39. Actress Linda Park is 39. Actress Megan Parlen is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kiely Williams (3lw) is 31. Actor Mitchel (cq) Musso is 26. Actress Georgie Henley is 22.

Thought for Today: "Invest in the human soul. Who knows, it might be a diamond in the rough." — Mary McLeod Bethune, American educator and reformer (1875-1955).