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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

11

Senior Menu: Salmon loaf, creamed peas, watermelon, peanut butter brownie, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Jr. Legion: at Mobridge, 5 p.m., DH

U10 B/R: at Britton, 6 p.m., DH

U8Blue: host Doland, 6 p.m., Falk Field, DH

T-Ball: Black host Doland, 5:30 p.m., Falk Field.

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

Amateurs: host Redfield, 6:30 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m., Girl Scouts, 3:30 p.m.

Olive Grove: Bridge, noon; Ladies League, 6 p.m.

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

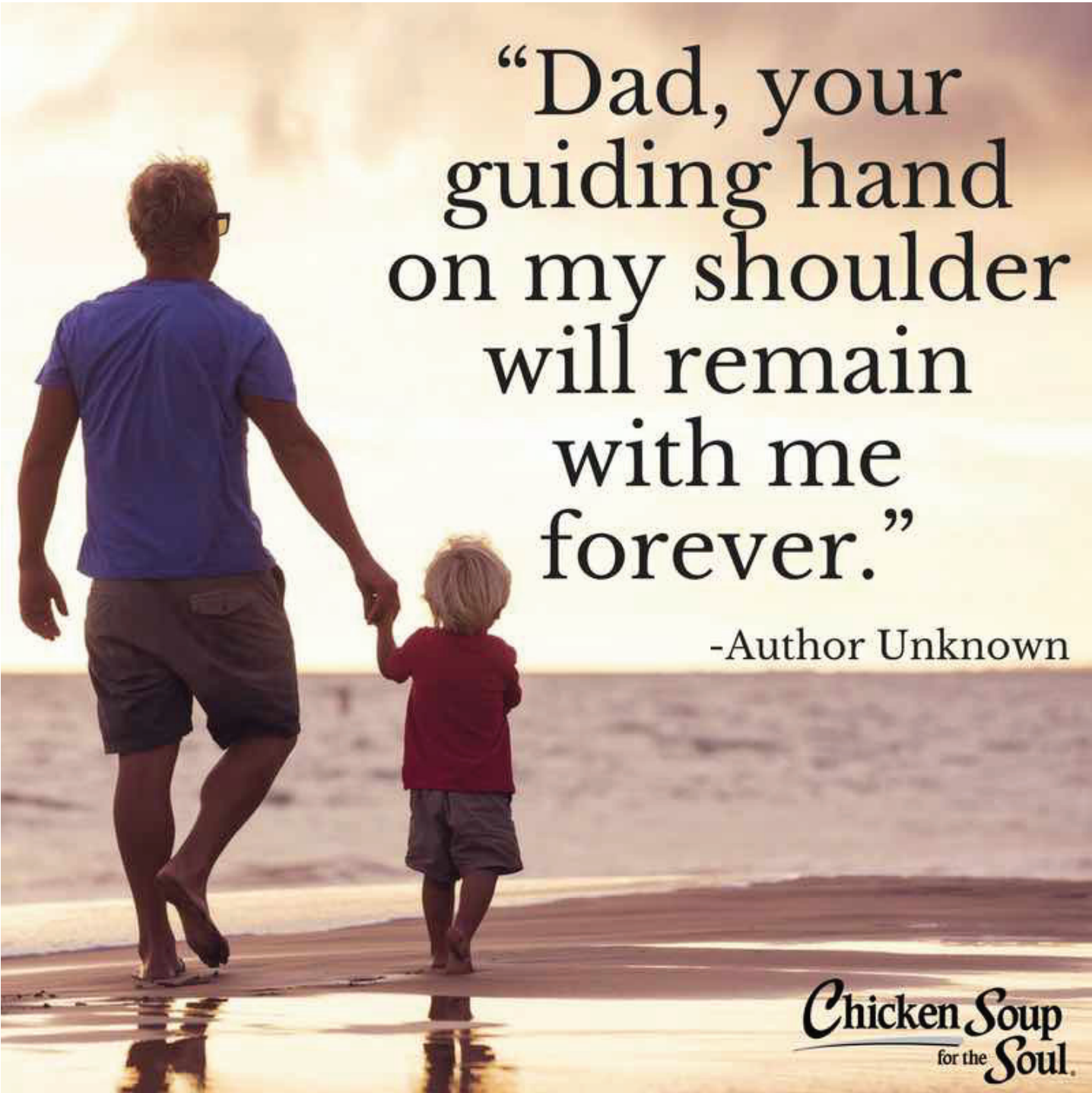
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**



605.290.1535
custom homes | remodels | additions

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“Dad, your
guiding hand
on my shoulder
will remain
with me
forever.”

-Author Unknown

Chicken Soup
for the *Soul*.

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Jr. Teeners split with Webster, drop pair to Sisseton

Groton's junior teenager team split a pair of games with Webster last week.

Groton won the first game, 18-8. Chandler Larson pitched with four strike-outs, seven walks and four hits. Adrian Knutson was the catcher.

Chandler Larson had three singles, Alex Morris had a double and a single and Jayden Zak, Trevor Harry and Jordan Bjerke each had a single.

Webster scored one run in the top of the ninth inning and held Groton scoreless in the bottom of the inning pull out a 3-2 win.

Lucas Simon had three singles and a double, Alex Morris had three singles and Chandler Larson had two singles.

Jordan Bjerke and Pierce Kettering were the pitchers.

Sisseton edged out Groton in the first game, 3-2. Groton left the tying run stranded on third in the fifth inning.

Kaden Kurtz and Trevor Harry each had a double and a single, Jayden Zak, Alex Morris and Trey Johnson each had two singles while Evin Nehls had one single.

Zak was the pitcher with four strike-outs, five hits and three walks. Morris was the catcher.

Sisseton edged out Groton by scoring two runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to post a 4-3 win over Groton.

Chandler Larson had two singles and getting a hit each were Trevor Harry, Jordan Bjerke, Alex Morris and Kaden Kurtz.

Kurtz was the pitcher with eight strike-outs, eight walks and six hits. Morris was the catcher.

U12 tie, drop one to Welke of Aberdeen

Groton's U12 baseball team played the Welke team in Aberdeen where the first game ended up tied and the Welke team won the second game by three runs.

In the first game, Colby Dunker had a home run and a single, Tate Larson and Aeydon Johnson each had a double, and adding a single each were Jacob Zak, Caleb Hanten, Braxton Imrie and Danny Feist.

Groton lost the second game, 8-5.

Aeydon Johnson had a home run and adding a single each were Cade Larson, Andrew Marzahn, Cole Simon, Jacob Zak, Jacob Lewandowski, Colby Dunker and Ryan Groeblichhoff.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings have many of their positions set (barring an injury, knock on wood). We all know Sam Bradford will be the quarterback when the season starts, we know Kyle Rudolph will be the team's starting tight end, we know Harrison Smith will be one of the starters at safety... and so on. However, just like every team around the league, the Vikings enter the 2017 season with some positional battles, many of which will be hard-fought and will last through the preseason. For the next few weeks, I'll be breaking down the biggest position battles entering training camp.

After covering the two biggest position battles on offense, it's time to switch to the other side of the ball. Unlike the offense, the Vikings' defense doesn't have many question marks. However, there are a couple positions that are vital to the team's success and are still unsettled.



One of those positions is defensive tackle.

The Vikings have one of the deepest defensive lines in the NFL. Everson Griffin is a stud who is finally getting the recognition he deserves, Danielle Hunter is one of the best young defensive ends in the league, and Linval Joseph is a monster in the middle. The Vikings thought they were set at defensive tackle a couple years ago, when they drafted Sharrif Floyd in the first round of the 2013 draft. Unfortunately, Floyd has been dealing with a severe knee injury that has limited him to only 24 starts over his four seasons in the league. With uncertainty surrounding Floyd and whether or not he will ever return to the playing field, the Vikings will be looking for a defensive tackle to play next to Linval Joseph.

One of the players who is vying for the position is newly-acquired Datone Jones, who was released by the Green Bay Packers this offseason. Jones was often miscast in Green Bay's 3-4 defense and was asked to play all over the front seven. In Minnesota, Jones will be asked to add a few pounds and focus solely on the defensive tackle spot, which should prove to be a better fit for his skillset. He can anchor well and has great agility, which allows him to rush the passer as well as hold his ground against the run.

Another player who the Vikings brought in this offseason to compete at defensive tackle is Will Sutton. A former third round pick of the Chicago Bears in 2014, Sutton comes to Minnesota with 18 starts in his 3-year career. He is 6'1", 303 pounds, and should be a perfect fit for the position next to Linval Joseph. Sutton's strength is his quickness and athleticism, showing a burst off the line of scrimmage and the ability to shed blocks quickly and disrupt the backfield. His weakness is his motor, as he was known to disappear for stretches of games. If he gives consistent effort, it won't surprise me at all to see him starting week 1.

A dark horse in the position battle is Jaleel Johnson, a rookie who was drafted in the fourth round. Like Jones and Sutton, Jaleel Johnson is very athletic and has a quick burst when the ball is snapped. In college, Johnson rarely took plays off. His athleticism and relentless motor is a combination that will create nightmares for opposing offensive linemen. It will likely take him a year or two until he's comfortable at the NFL level, but it's always possible that he shows his maturity right off the bat and forces the coaching staff to give him a long look.

What do you think? Let me know by reaching out to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/SkolJWright](https://www.facebook.com/SkolJWright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright)!



By Richard P. Holm M.D.



Sports Injuries

As a gung-ho football guard for the De Smet Bulldogs back in the '60s, I had the "do or die" mentality for my team. That type of attitude can make winning teams, but can also can be a formula for serious injury. Now, as a physician with over 32 years of experience, I have a better understanding of how while some sports activities can be helpful, others can be extremely harmful.

Let us look at concussions, for example, or really any type of head injuries that often occur in football or other contact sports. These players need to avoid further head trauma for a defined period of time or it can cause permanent brain damage. They must also avoid repeated head injury, as that can also lead to serious long-term consequences. The 2015 film *Concussion*, starring Will Smith, is based on a true story and highlights the dangerous results of repeated head injuries in professional football players.

However, it is not just head injuries that can cause serious or permanent damage. In wrestling or dance, athletes are under pressure to "make weight", often taking extreme measures to do so. This results in the promotion of malnutrition and even life-threatening eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia. Problems can also arise from trauma to young immature bones, like knee injuries in soccer players and ankle injuries in basketball players. Also, running around outside on a hot day can bring on problems from overheating and under hydrating. There can be wounds to the psyche of little leaguers being pressured by over-competitive parents; head and back injuries from dropped cheerleaders; neck trauma from gymnastics; and any kind of injury from the worst of all injury makers: college rodeo.

This is not to deny all the good that comes from learning how great it is to be in condition, or the value that comes from friendships and camaraderie associated with team sports. Hey, ask me anytime about the fabulous football team DeSmet had in '66, and you will know how important that was to me. With proper training, coaching, and a healthy respect for the dangers of any sport, most injuries can be avoided. Also, correctly identifying, addressing, and treating injuries that do occur can significantly reduce the risk of permanent disabilities later in life.

I believe the emphasis in sports should be to start children on a lifetime plan of exercise, taken with every safety precaution, so that sports and good health can be enjoyed throughout their life.

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BECOMING A FISHING MOM

Nearly half of American families today are single-parent families. Most often, the single parent is mom. Some of these moms are beginning to discover one of life's most rewarding pastimes and are taking their children fishing.

Fishing can be as complicated and expensive as you want it to be or you can just keep it simple and enjoy. A boat is great for fishing but fish can also be caught from the bank or dock.

You can find fishing groups, local fishing stores, and state fisheries departments who are more than willing to help get you started and tell you great places to take the kids to go catch fish.

There are many demands on a single parent. But the house will wait to be cleaned; the laundry and dishes will get done. A child is a child for just a short time.

Fishing has the power to change a young life and move them in a healthy direction. Kids will always have great memories of the parent who took them fishing.

Sign up for free Outdoor Skills Workshops at your local Bass Pro Shops.

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Tips presents free, seasonal how-to advice from Larry Whiteley, host of the award-winning Outdoor World Radio show. Each weekly tip offers practical advice to improve your skills.



GDI News/Clean/Fit Downtown Groton

NEWS

PAPER

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Today in Weather History

July 10, 1998: Flash flooding occurred from Keldron, in Corson County, and areas south, during the late afternoon and evening as a result of up seven inches of rain that had fallen from slow moving thunderstorms. Willow Creek and several small tributaries went out of their banks causing the inundation of low areas and county roads. Many county roads were damaged with one farmer losing several pigs and cows as a result of the flooding.

1887: A dam breaks in Zug, Switzerland, killing 70 people in their homes and destroying a large section of the town. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1911: The mercury hit 105 degrees at North Bridgton, Maine the hottest reading of record for Maine. North Bridgton also reached 105 degrees on the 4th of July in 1911.

1913: The mercury hit 134 degrees at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, California, the hottest reading of record for the World. Sandstorm conditions accompanied the heat. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the World Meteorological Organization.

1926: At the Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, lightning struck one of the explosives storage structures during a thunderstorm and started a fire. As a result, several million pounds of explosives detonated over a period of 2–3 days. This explosion not only structural devastation, 187 of 200 buildings destroyed but military and civilian casualties as well. Close to one hundred are injured as explosion spreads havoc within a radius of 15 miles in New Jersey. Otto Dowling was in charge at the time and received a Distinguished Service Cross for his handling of the situation. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Vane.

1936 - Afternoon highs of 112 degrees at Martinsburg, WV, 109 degrees at Cumberland, MD, and Frederick, MD, 110 degrees at Runyon, NJ, and 111 degrees at Phoenixville, PA, established all-time record highs for those four states. It was the hottest day of record for the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - The temperature at El Paso, TX, hit 112 degrees, an all-time record for that location. The next day was 110 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - The temperature in downtown Kansas City, MO, hit 109 degrees, following a sultry overnight low of 89 degrees. The daily low of 89 degrees was the warmest of record for Kansas City, and overall it was the hottest July day of record. It was the seventh of a record seventeen consecutive days of 100 degree heat, and the mean temperature for the month of 90.2 degrees was also an all-time record for Kansas City.

1987 - An early morning thunderstorm in Minnesota produced wind gusts to 91 mph at Waseca. Later that day, thunderstorms in South Dakota produced wind gusts to 81 mph at Ipswitch, and baseball size hail near Hayes and Capa. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Thunderstorms brought welcome rains to parts of the central U.S., but produced severe weather along the New England coast, in the Great Lakes Region, in North Carolina, and in the Southern Plateau Region. Strong thunderstorm winds gusting to 80 mph at Bullfrog, UT, sank three boats on Lake Powell. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes in the northeastern U.S. A powerful (F-4) tornado struck Hamden CT and New Haven, CT, causing 100 million dollars damage at Hamden, and another 20 million dollars damage around New Haven. Forty persons were injured in the tornado. Seventy persons were injured in a tornado which traveled from Watertown, CT, to Waterbury, CT, and another powerful (F-4) tornado touched down near Ames NY injuring twenty persons along its 43.5 mile track. It was the strongest tornado of record for eastern New York State. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - Hurricane Dennis landed near Pensacola, Florida as a category 3 storm. Maximum sustained winds at the time of landfall were near 120 mph. There were nine hurricane-related fatalities in the U.S. and preliminary estimates of insured losses ranged from \$1 to \$1.5 billion.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 88 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 94 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 86 °F

Your "Back To Work" Forecast

Today:

Highs: Mid 80s East –
Mid 90s West

Tuesday:

Highs: Mid 80s East –
Low 100 West
Severe Storms Possible

Wednesday:

Highs: Low 80s East –
Mid 90s West



Updated: 7/10/2017 5:19 AM Central

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



Published on: 07/10/2017 at 5:23AM

Mostly dry conditions can be expected today. There is a chance for showers and thunderstorms Tuesday afternoon and evening across eastern South Dakota and Minnesota. Severe storms are possible. Cooler temperatures move back into the area on Wednesday.

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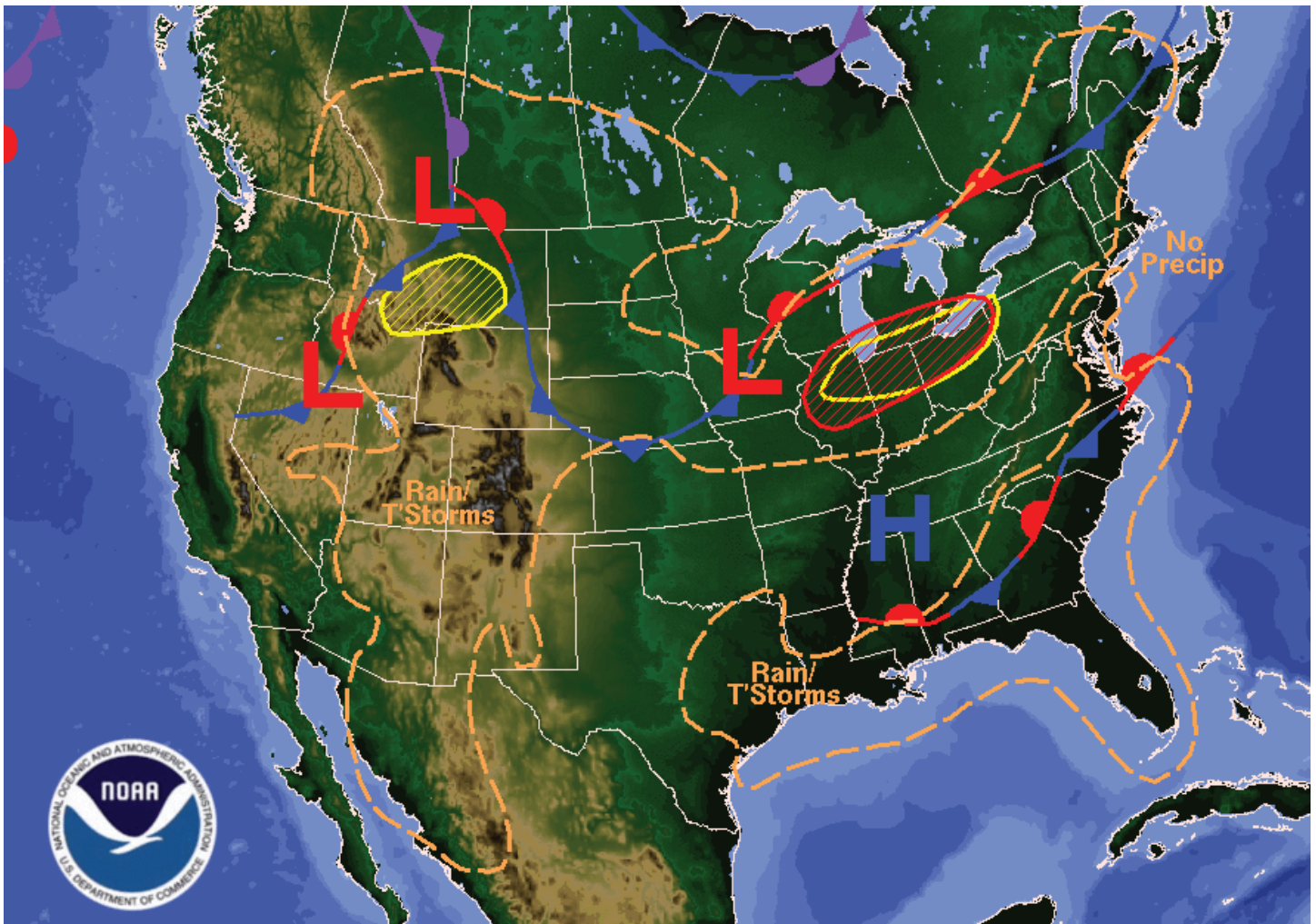
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 99.4 F at 5:22 PM
Heat Index: 110.0 at 5:26 PM
Low Outside Temp: 64.9 F at 2:21 AM
High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 5:49 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 114° in 1936
Record Low: 42° in 1945
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 1.07
Precip to date in July: 0.17
Average Precip to date: 11.91
Precip Year to Date: 5.94
Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:56 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jul 10, 2017, issued 4:14 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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FAITH, FEAR AND FACTS

Walking in "paths of righteousness" does not protect us from the "valleys" of life, but we can be sure that the Lord Himself is with us and will protect us. Though we may be surrounded by what may seem to be the ultimate darkness brought about by evil, we can rest in confidence because we know that God's presence guarantees His protection.

"Your rod and your staff, they comfort me," wrote David. These two powerful words, rod and staff were not meaningless words – but words that describe the ways that the shepherds guarded and protected their sheep.

The rod was used by shepherds to beat away any external enemy that might harm his sheep. The "crooked" staff was used by shepherds to snatch his sheep from getting in harm's way. So, here we have a picture of how our Shepherd watches over us. He guards us from any external enemy that would attack, defeat or destroy us. He makes certain that they will not come near us nor harm us because His arm is around us. Nor will he allow internal enemies – thoughts or ideas – that would cause us to doubt His love, mercy, grace or salvation to destroy the peace His presence brings us.

Our Shepherd's rod and staff summarize His role and describe the ways He will care for us if we allow Him. And when we allow Him to become our Shepherd we can say with David, "I will walk through valleys and fear no evil! They will not overcome me."

Prayer: Lord, give us faith to believe in the facts of Your Word that in Your strength we need fear no evil. 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.

News from the Associated Press

'Lion Lady' brings awareness of animals to South Dakota

By TANYA MANUS, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Lying in bed in a grass hut, listening to the roar of white lions 100 feet away, might seem terrifying. For Tracy Barrett, it was confirmation that she'd found her destiny.

Barrett, the Black Hills' "Lion Lady," fulfilled a dream earlier this year when she visited the Global White Lion Protection Trust in South Africa. The trust, which estimates that there are less than 300 white lions in the world advocates for and protects the animals, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2sqE2JE>) reported.

Barrett's passion is to bring awareness of the lions' plight to the Black Hills. A native of Lead who now lives in Rapid City, Barnett has had a love for lions since her mother took her to see "Born Free" when she was 5.

"When Elsa the lion died, I sobbed for two days, and my mother said she'd never take me to another movie again," Barrett said. "I felt an instant, intense compassion for the lion. . I knew somehow the lions were going to be part of my life."

Supporting the work of Global White Lion Protection Trust is something Barrett said she was destined for. The path that led her there began with a spiritual quest and years of training under spiritual teachers including Andrew Harvey. Through Harvey, Barrett learned of the Global White Lion Protection Trust and its founder, Linda Tucker.

The trust raises awareness internationally about lions' benefits to the environment, their value in the culture of many indigenous people, and the threats lions face, especially from international trophy hunters. The trust maintains 4,400 acres of gated, guarded land in the Timbavati region of South Africa, where three separate prides of white lions are protected.

In March, Barrett was part of a small, carefully selected group of visitors who spent two weeks at the trust's Camp Unicorn.

The journey took Barrett 9,500 miles from Rapid City. "I traveled on 10 planes altogether. I arrived in Houdspirt, South Africa, at a very small airport smaller than the one in Pierre. I landed in a field and walked about 200 yards to a shack. That was the experience of a lifetime," Barrett said, laughing.

Camp Unicorn was about 30 minutes beyond the airport. Her stay was a far cry from the modern life she left behind. "We were in the desert in the bush. . My first shower was with a (large) tarantula. I had several geckos and frogs swimming with me," Barrett said, laughing.

Every day, local tribal women sang and danced around a huge fire as they prepared meals for Barrett and the other camp visitors, in spite of 100-plus degree heat. The African people's kindness and joy impressed Barrett. Just days into her stay, she became seriously ill with heat stroke.

"When I got sick, the African women would come and bless over my body. They said God was blessing me at that time," Barrett said. "That will never leave me — their singing and dancing. It's very humbling."

Throughout their stay, Barrett and other visitors were immersed in education about white lions and the Global White Lion Protection Trust's work.

Tucker taught visitors about the lions' mythology and their cultural significance extending back to the Egyptian Sphinx. "Tribal people believe white lions are here to center and balance us and to (help us) reconnect with nature, instead of taking from it and abusing it," Barrett said.

The Shangaan tribal people, who live near the trust, revere the white lions and believe they came from the stars, Barrett said.

Tucker's partner, lion ecologist Jason Turner, taught visitors about lion behavior. Turner handles much of the care of lions at the trust.

"The ecosystem of the planet is in dire need. . Lions are the tipping point. If they are removed, nature as we know it will be dismantled," Barrett said. "Denying the balance of nature will be to our demise."

Every day, Barrett and the other visitors went on guided scouting expeditions to observe and learn. "At

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5:30 every morning, we went out in open Jeeps and within five minutes, the lions would come. They came every day. They're very aware of when they have an audience," Barrett said.

"They face the sun every evening when it goes down," she said. "At 2 a.m., they would begin roaring after their hunt every night. That was like a manifestation of a dream."

White lions radiate a presence Barrett likens to divinity. "The whiteness of their mane actually glows with the sun. . You have a psychological, emotional and physical reaction to the lions. The only thing I can compare it to is when you have your first child."

Barrett also visited the nearby White Lion Trust Orphanage and School, which is run by the trust in one of the most poverty-stricken areas of South Africa. The facility cares for and educates more than 200 orphans and local children.

Her trip to Africa was "a heart-awakening experience," Barrett said. Her goal now is to be a conservationist who educates people and encourages them to be proactive about protecting lions.

"Fifty percent of the trophy hunting that takes place in Africa is by Americans, and that was disturbing to me," Barrett said. "If you're traveling, inquire if the airline flies carcasses back to your state. Many airlines are denying that."

Barrett also cautioned that many animals used for entertainment at circuses, traveling zoos and fair-ground exhibits are doomed. "Those cubs are destined to live a horrific life. Their only destiny is 'canned hunting.' They're raised in small cages and ultimately medicated so people can go in with high-powered rifles and shoot them," she said.

Barrett hopes to host events in the Black Hills about the Global White Lion Protection Trust. She encourages anyone interested in animal activism and conservation to contact her or the Global White Lion Protection Trust on Facebook, or visit the trust's website, whitelions.org.

Traveling to Africa to learn about lions was a dream 50 years in the making, Barrett said. She'll return to Africa in November to take classes about becoming a "lion-hearted leader" and teaching others about lion conservation.

"I knew my life was not going to be ordinary. . I had to find my own courage to follow through with my dreams," Barrett said. "Life is a great adventure or nothing at all."

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

Rapid City jail captain retires after 27 years

By TIFFANY TAN, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Ever since she was a girl, Peggy Severson wanted to become a law enforcement officer. She idolized her grandfather, Gus Neubauer, former police chief of an East River town, whom she saw as a community protector.

There was just one thing standing between her and her ambition, she did not like guns.

"I was scared to death of guns," Severson, 54, told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2sNzqwu>). "I didn't really think I would ever be able to pursue anything in law enforcement."

But in early 1990, while she was working as an office clerk at Ellsworth Air Force Base, the solution appeared. A female colleague told Severson she was resigning to become a correctional officer at the Pennington County Jail.

After asking the woman about the little-known job, Severson remembers thinking: "Oh, my gosh . I need to apply for that."

She could become a law enforcement officer who didn't have to carry a gun.

Twenty-seven years later, Severson retired as a captain, the second highest rank at the Pennington County Jail.

Her goal from the outset — when she started out in April 1990 as a jail-booking technician and control-room operator — was to become a supervisor.

To prove herself as a correctional officer, the following year she asked to be assigned to Cell Block 9.

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Housing 48 state inmates who were known to control the cell block, it was then considered the toughest and most dangerous assignment.

"No one liked working there," Severson said.

One of her first directives was to shake down the cell block. The search, she said, yielded three big laundry carts filled with contraband, such as makeshift weapons.

Anonymous notes threatening her with murder and rape followed. Severson said she didn't dwell on any feelings of fear.

"I've never felt to a point that I was scared to come to my job," she said two days before her retirement.

In her almost three decades with the jail, she got assaulted by an inmate only once. One day, while she was booking an inmate, Severson said a female inmate yanked her hair back. It took about four officers to extricate the inmate from Severson, who said she had sparse spots on her head for days.

And the only time an inmate ever challenged her was when a man refused to return to his cell. She threatened to use her pepper spray if he did not follow, and the inmate backed down.

Severson said she introduced the carrying of pepper sprays among the jail's correctional officers in the early 1990s to reduce the incidents of assault on officers.

Severson, who is married to an Air Force veteran, said her husband always supported her radical career choice. The couple's two daughters were around 5 and 9 years old when she became a correctional officer, and the 24/7 job meant having to work holidays and miss family affairs.

She believes being a woman in her line of work has distinct advantages despite the ever-present risk of being assaulted by inmates.

"Females are less likely to be confrontational and are better with words. We naturally show more empathy, and in certain situations are frequently more successful at calming down situations," Severson said. Some colleagues have nicknamed her "mother."

The Pennington County Jail has 22 female correctional officers, a quarter of the total number. The county sheriff's office is encouraging women to join the law enforcement agency, said spokeswoman Helene Duhamel.

Severson, who began training new recruits within three months of becoming a correctional officer, believes the key to being successful at the job is to treat people the way you want to be treated.

A correctional officer, she said, should never allow his or her ego to take over.

She considers her most rewarding accomplishments helping mentally ill inmates recover enough to work and contribute to the community, as well as stopping several inmates from committing suicide.

As Severson cleared her office desk last week, among the items she packed to bring home was a plastic envelope. It contained old photos with co-workers, newspaper clippings about the jail and poems given to her by inmates.

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

Crosswalks in South Dakota city get paint job

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Several crosswalks in a community in the western part of South Dakota are getting a paint job after months of planning to bring color to downtown streets.

Abstract designs will adorn six crosswalks in Spearfish, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2sW1RbK>) reported.

Matthews Opera House ArtCentral manager Elizabeth Freer, Black Hills State University art professor Michael Baum and city planner Jayna Watson spearheaded the crosswalk project. A dozen volunteers have also contributed their talents.

"Painted crosswalks are a fun way of bringing some creativity to our community, making our streets more interesting," Freer said. "We've received really, really positive response from this project. People drive by and stop to say, 'This is fantastic.' It's kept us going in the heat, for sure."

The painted crosswalks are funded through a two-year, \$200,000 Bush Foundation Community Innova-

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tion Grant. They're just one component of an overall plan to incorporate art in the city.

"We had a plan, and the design is to innovate in the community," Freer said. "This is about creating and strengthening partnerships."

Last February, a local gallery held an event in which it removed its artwork, covered half the space in cardboard and invited the public to get creative with paint. Another project is decorating fences in the city with artwork.

"There's something amazing about Spearfish, and there is a reason why it continues to grow," she said. "Art helps create jobs at theaters and art galleries, and for musicians. Some look at art as an extra, but they're driving by these crosswalks and saying, 'That's really cool.'"

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

South Dakota woman is Minnesota Twins' full-time masseuse

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A woman from an eastern city of South Dakota says she is enjoying her first full season of being employed as a full-time massage therapist for the Minnesota Twins.

Brookings native Kelli Quist worked part time for the team for a number of years before becoming its first full-time massage therapist, The Brookings Register (<http://bit.ly/2tuA7N8>) reported.

Quist connected with the Twins in the early 2000s when a facilitator of a neuromuscular therapy class she was taking told her that former third basemen Corey Koskie was looking for a masseuse. She later began a working relationship with catcher Joe Mauer.

She started coming to Twins Fantasy Camp each January and became well known in the organization. For the past two years, she attended spring training.

Quist said she likes being part of something special.

"I would just say the comradery and being part of the team, it's just a neat feeling," she said. "The guys are so fun, and it's neat to be up here every day versus when I was only up here every so often."

Quist's clients said the results of her massages have been excellent so far.

"Kelli does a heck of a job, this being one of the most taxing sports as far as physically. . just the grind over the course of, really, eight months," All-Star second baseman Brian Dozier said. "You need someone like Kelli just for five or 10 minutes sometimes, like me, for about 30 minutes. It's anything that we could ask for and more."

Information from: Brookings Register, <http://www.brookingsregister.com/>

BC-SD--Big League Masseuse,1st Ld-Writethru, SD

BC-SD--Big League Masseuse, 1st Ld-Writethru,252

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Eds: Updates with detail, quotes.

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Information from: Brookings Register, <http://www.brookingsregister.com/>

Missing South Dakota prison inmate back in custody

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A missing state prison inmate is back in custody in South Dakota. State corrections officials say 45-year-old Randy Cowherd failed to return to the Rapid City Community Work Center following a shift Saturday at his work release job.

Authorities say he turned himself in late Saturday night.

Cowherd is serving a more than five year sentence for six drunken driving convictions.

The Latest: Turkey's Erdogan: Mosul may be free but in ruins

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Latest on the developments in Iraq where Iraqi forces are pushing to retake the last sliver of ground held by the Islamic State group in the Old City neighborhood (all times local):

1:55 p.m.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says he welcomes news that the fight against the Islamic State group in Mosul is nearing its ends but says the once oil-rich city has been left in ruins.

Erdogan spoke to a World Petroleum Congress meeting in Istanbul on Monday. He also questioned who would pay for the reconstruction of the region.

Erdogan says Turkey is "very happy about the news that a conclusion (in the battle for) Mosul is being reached" but cautioned that "the point which Mosul has reached is very important."

He says: "We have been left with a Mosul in ruins."

Erdogan adds: "Who will meet the cost of rebuilding Mosul for the people of Mosul?"

The Turkish leader reiterated the importance of maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity and said a planned independence referendum by Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region would harm Iraq's future.



Iraqi Special Forces soldiers stand on the rubble of a damaged building as their fight against Islamic State militants continues in parts of the Old City of Mosul, Iraq, Sunday, July 9, 2017. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

8:50 a.m.

Iraqi forces are pushing to retake the last patch of ground in Mosul where Islamic State militants are holding on to a tiny sliver of the Old City, west of the Tigris River, a day after the prime minister visited soldiers to congratulate his troops on the hard-fought battle.

Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil of the Iraqi special forces says his men, closely backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, are continuing to advance and clear territory in the Old City on Monday.

Iraqi commanders say they believe hundreds of IS fighters remain inside the neighborhood and are using their families — including women and children — as human shields.

Iraqi forces launched the operation to retake Mosul last October and began the weeks-long push through the Old City district in June.

Penn Station track repairs begin; fewer trains at peak time

NEW YORK (AP) — The day of reckoning has come for rail commuters into New York City.

Amtrak has begun extensive repairs Monday to tracks and signals in Penn Station, which it owns and operates. The work was initially scheduled for nights and weekends over a few years, but two recent derailments and other problems that spotlighted the station's aging infrastructure convinced Amtrak to accelerate the work schedule.

For several hundred thousand commuters on the Long Island Rail Road and New Jersey Transit — as well as Amtrak passengers who ride between Boston and Washington, D.C. — that means fewer trains during peak periods, the result of track closures to accommodate the repairs.

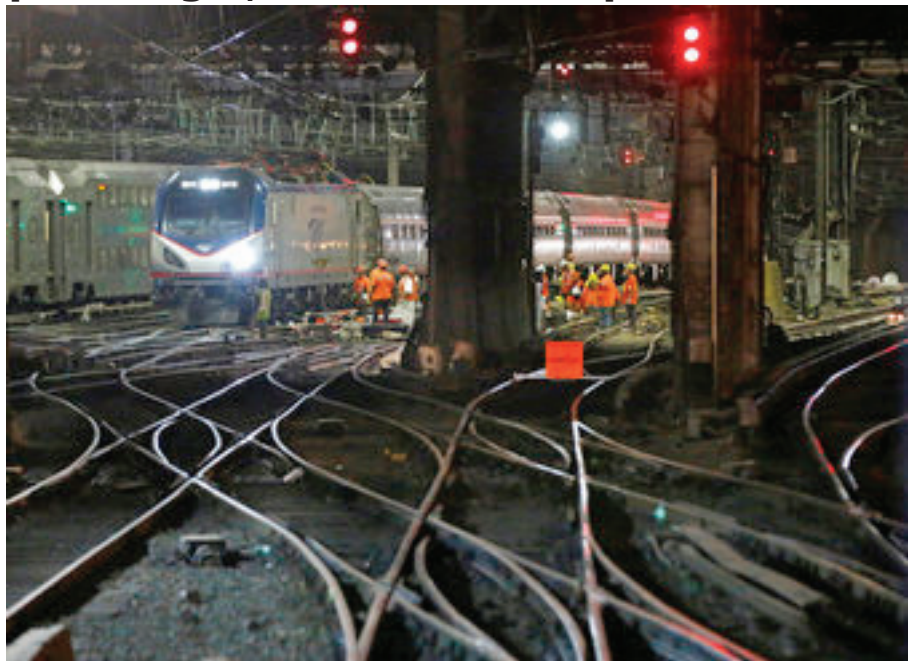
Monday morning's rush got off to a slow start without any apparent problems.

The work is scheduled to last through the end of August.

The LIRR is adding train cars to try and serve as many people as possible, and is urging riders to switch to subways in Brooklyn and Queens. New Jersey Transit is diverting some rush hour trains to Hoboken, where passengers can switch to trains operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, or to ferries.

Both railroads are offering discounted tickets to those most affected by the disruptions, and have devised plans that use alternative forms of transportation.

That hasn't staved off dire predictions from commuters already used to overcrowding, equipment failures and regular delays. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo called it a "summer of hell" for commuters.



Amtrak workers continue ongoing infrastructure renewal work on the tracks beneath Penn Station, Sunday, July 9, 2017, in New York. A massive two-month repair project will launch Monday at the country's busiest train station. The summer's accelerated repair work, prompted by two derailments this spring, will close some of the station's 21 tracks and require a roughly 20 percent reduction in the number of commuter trains coming in from New Jersey and Long Island. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

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On Sunday, the Democratic governor announced that all non-emergency road construction work would be suspended from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. and that all lanes would be open on major roadways in the New York City area starting Sunday night. It was hoped that would clear major arteries for expanded bus service into Manhattan from Long Island.

Penn Station, which Amtrak took over in the 1970s, handles twice as many daily train movements, about 1,300, as it did then. Roughly 600,000 people pass through each day on trains and New York City subways.

When this summer's work is completed, rail riders will benefit from increased reliability from having up-to-date equipment in and around the station, but will still fall prey to other problems such as electrical wire failures in the tunnel between New York and New Jersey, and signal and track problems in northern New Jersey east of Newark.

Those problems will have to wait for the completion of the Gateway project, which plans to build a second rail tunnel under the Hudson River, repair damage in the existing tunnel from 2012's Superstorm Sandy and make substantial improvements on the New Jersey side and in Penn Station. That is expected to take at least another decade to complete.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. TRUMP'S SON CHANGES ACCOUNT OF 2016 MEETING WITH RUSSIAN LAWYER

When pressed after reports emerged, Donald Trump Jr. now says Kremlin-linked lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya told him she had damaging information about Hillary Clinton.

2. WHAT TRUMP APPEARS TO BE BACKING AWAY FROM

After facing derision from some lawmakers, the president seemingly abandons the idea of working with Russia to create a "cyber security unit" to guard against election hacking.

3. BATTLE FOR MOSUL NEARING END GAME

Iraqi forces push to retake the last patch of ground in Mosul where Islamic State militants are holding on to a tiny sliver of the Old City after Iraq's leader visited the war-ravaged city and congratulated troops and the people on a "big victory."

4. AFGHAN STUDENTS DENIED US VISA TO ATTEND ROBOT COMPETITION

Of the 162 teams participating, the Afghan girls are the only nation's team to be denied entry to the U.S.-based competition and will have to watch via video link.

5. SURVEY: US UNINSURED UP BY 2 MILLION THIS YEAR AS GAINS ERODE

The new numbers highlight what's at stake as Congress returns to an unresolved debate over Republican proposals to roll back much of "Obamacare."

6. SLEEP TECHNOLOGY EXPLODING



Iraqi Special Forces soldiers celebrate after reaching the bank of the Tigris river as their fight against Islamic State militants continues in parts of the Old City of Mosul, Iraq, Sunday, July 9, 2017. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

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A slew of startups are incorporating sleep science into a variety of products, from beds to pillows, that will help Americans track and improve our sleep.

7. HOW FBI DIRECTOR PICK IS VIEWED

Attorney Christopher Wray is described by those close to him as admirably low-key, yet he'd be taking over the law enforcement agency at a moment that's anything but tranquil.

8. WHO IS LAWYER BEHIND SANDERS' ALLEGATIONS

Brady Toensing, a Republican lawyer pushing allegations that Sen. Bernie Sanders' wife committed fraud, has a long history of complaints against liberal politicians.

9. BAD BEHAVIOR TRENDING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Trump's tweet showing him pummeling a CNN reporter is his most popular to date, and Rob Kardashian and Blac Chyna trended globally after a nasty online spat.

10. VIRTUAL REALITY BASEBALL A HIT AT FANFEST

Fans in Miami are getting to feel what it's like to be a big league catcher — without the pain of snatching pitches at 90 mph.

Thousands flee wildfires in California; Canada blazes grow

By The Associated Press

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Wildfires barreled across the baking landscape of the western U.S. and Canada, forcing thousands of residents to flee and destroying homes.

Here's a look at the wildfires tearing through the West.

CALIFORNIA

Two major wildfires in California have forced nearly 8,000 people out of their homes.

About 4,000 people evacuated and another 7,400 were told to prepare to leave their homes as fire swept through grassy foothills in the Sierra Nevada, about 60 miles north of Sacramento, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said Sunday.

The fire has burned nearly 4 square miles (11 sq. kilometers), injured four firefighters and destroyed at least 10 structures, but that number is expected to rise, fire spokeswoman Mary Ann Aldrich said.

The area burning was southeast 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.

"It leaves you feeling like you can't catch a break," said Sharon Reitan, who sought shelter at an evacuation center with her boyfriend Sunday night.

They were in Oroville on Friday afternoon when the fire broke out and roads to their hillside home were blocked. They later saw photographs of their home burned to the ground.

"The road that we live on was hit hard," Reitan said. "We're in shut down mode right now, it's so dev-



Trucks burned by a wildfire rest in a grove near Oroville, Calif., on Saturday, July 8, 2017. The fast-moving wildfire in the Sierra Nevada foothills destroyed structures, including homes, and led to several minor injuries, fire officials said Saturday as blazes threatened homes around California during a heat wave. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

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astating.”

The fire was 20 percent contained. It was one of 14 wildfires across California that about 5,000 firefighters battled Sunday.

In Southern California, at least 3,500 people evacuated as two fires exploded in size at separate ends of Santa Barbara County and a third one threatened homes near a town in San Luis Obispo County.

One of the fires grew to 12 square miles (31 square kilometers), traversing a mountain range and heading south toward coastal Goleta.

There was minimal containment, and flames shut down State Route 154, which is expected to remain closed for days. At least 20 structures burned, but officials didn't say if they were homes.

The fire broke out near a campsite and sent hundreds of campers scrambling, including about 90 children and 50 staff members at the Circle V Ranch who had to take shelter until they could be safely evacuated.

Amayah Madere told KCBS-TV she was in the pool when a counselor told the children to get out and change in a hurry. She said they waited in a dining hall while firefighters fought the fire and the counselors sprayed down the area with water.

“I prayed that if I didn't die I would go to church, and right when I prayed the firefighters came,” Madere said.

Crews were also using an air attack against another blaze about 50 miles north that exploded in size to 37.5 square miles (97 square kilometers). About 200 rural homes east of Santa Maria were evacuated after the fire broke out Saturday and was fed by dry gusts.

Some of the firefighters working to contain that blaze were sent to nearby San Luis Obispo County when a fire broke out Sunday and threatened numerous structures near the town of Santa Margarita. Officials said the fire burned 340 acres.

ELSEWHERE IN THE WEST

Firefighters have been able to build containment lines around about half the wildfire that forced the evacuation of hundreds of people near Breckenridge, Colorado. The fire has not spread since it broke out Wednesday and was still less than a square mile (about one-third square kilometer) Sunday.

In rural Arizona, fire officials say three homes were among 10 buildings that were burned. The wildfire there has led to the evacuation of the entire town of Dudleyville, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south-east of Phoenix.

A wildfire burning in near Summer Lake in south-central Oregon has destroyed a hunting cabin and an outbuilding.

In Nevada, fire officials have ordered evacuations for a wildfire that is near the same area where another blaze has already burned for days.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Firefighters were contending with more than 200 wildfires burning in British Columbia that had destroyed dozens of buildings, including several homes and two airport hangars. The three biggest fires, which have grown in size to range from 9 to 19 square miles (23 to 49 square kilometers), had forced thousands of people to flee.

“We are just, in many ways, at the beginning of the worst part of the fire season and we watch the weather, we watch the wind, and we pray for rain,” outgoing Premier Christy Clark told reporters in Kamloops.

Rob Schweizer, manager of the Kamloops Fire Centre, said it had been an unprecedented 24 hours.

“We probably haven't seen this sort of activity that involves so many residences and people in the history of the province of B.C.,” he said.

Trump's son changed account of meeting with Russian lawyer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's eldest son changed his account over the weekend of a meeting he had with a Russian lawyer during the 2016 campaign, saying Sunday that the woman told him she had information about Democrat Hillary Clinton.

A statement from Donald Trump Jr. one day earlier made no mention of Clinton. In his initial depiction of the meeting last June, the president's son said the discussion focused on a disbanded program that used to allow American adoptions of Russian children.

It appeared that Trump Jr. shifted his account of the meeting after being presented with additional information from The New York Times, which first reported both the discussion and the prospect of negative information about Clinton.

The meeting with Kremlin-linked lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya is the earliest known private meeting between key aides to the president and a Russian. Federal and congressional investigators are probing whether Trump's campaign coordinated with Russia to meddle in the presidential election, investigations the president has called a "hoax."

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and White House senior adviser, and then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort also attended the meeting with Veselnitskaya.

The Times, citing advisers to the White House who were briefed on the discussion, said Trump Jr. agreed to the meeting after being promised damaging information about Clinton.

In his statement Sunday, Trump Jr. said he was asked by an acquaintance he knew from the 2013 Miss Universe pageant to have a meeting with a person he was told might have information that would be "helpful" to the Trump campaign. He said he was not told the name of the person ahead of the meeting.

Trump Jr. said the attorney claimed during the discussion to have information that "individuals connected to Russia were funding the Democratic National Committee" and supporting Clinton.

"No details or supporting information was provided or even offered," Trump Jr. said. "It quickly became clear that she had no meaningful information."

He said his father was unaware of the meeting.

On Saturday, Trump Jr. had described the same gathering as a "short introductory meeting" during which the three discussed a program that used to allow U.S. citizens to adopt Russian children. Russia ended the adoptions in response to American sanctions brought against the nation following the 2009 death of an imprisoned lawyer who spoke about a corruption scandal.



In this Friday, Nov. 4, 2016 file photo, Donald Trump Jr. campaigns for his father Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Gilbert, Ariz. Donald Trump's eldest son, son-in-law and then-campaign chairman met with a Russian lawyer shortly after Trump won the Republican nomination, in what appears to be the earliest known private meeting between key aides to the president and a Russian. Representatives of Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner confirmed the June 2016 meeting to The Associated Press after The New York Times reported Saturday, July 8, 2017 on the gathering of the men and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya at Trump Tower.

(AP Photo/Matt York, File)

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He said on Sunday that the attorney turned the conversation to the adoption of Russian children, and that he believed that this was the "true agenda" of the meeting and that claims about having information helpful to the Trump campaign had been a pretext for the encounter.

"I interrupted and advised her that my father was not an elected official, but rather a private citizen, and that her comments and concerns were better addressed if and when he held public office," Trump Jr. said in the statement.

Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Trump's legal team, said only, "The president was not aware of and did not attend the meeting."

Unlike Kushner, Trump Jr. does not serve in the administration and is not required to disclose his foreign contacts. The newspaper said the meeting was disclosed in recent days to government investigators when Kushner filed a revised version of a form needed to obtain a security clearance. His attorney has previously acknowledged that Kushner's first security clearance submission was incomplete.

Manafort also recently disclosed the meeting to congressional investigators, the newspaper said.

The newspaper said Veselnitskaya is known for her attempts to undercut the sanctions against Russian human rights abusers. The Times also said her clients include state-owned businesses and the son of a senior government official whose company was under investigation in the United States at the time of the meeting.

Report: Trump Jr. was promised damaging info about Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's eldest son said Sunday he met with a Kremlin-linked lawyer shortly after his father clinched the Republican nomination, hoping to get information helpful to the campaign.

A New York Times report Sunday citing advisers to the White House briefed on the encounter said Donald Trump Jr. agreed to the meeting after being promised information damaging to Hillary Clinton.

The June meeting at Trump Tower with attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya involved Trump Jr., his brother-in-law Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort, who was then the campaign chairman.

The existence of the meeting was disclosed only recently to government officials and confirmed on Saturday by representatives of Trump Jr. and Kushner following a separate Times report.

In a statement Sunday, Trump Jr. did not confirm that the information he was promised would be damaging to Clinton.

But he said he was asked by an acquaintance he knew from the 2013 Miss Universe pageant to have a meeting with a person he was told might have information that would be helpful to the Trump campaign. He said he was not told the name of the person before the meeting.

Trump Jr. said that during the meeting the attorney claimed to have information that "individuals connected to Russia were funding the Democratic National Committee" and supporting Clinton.

"No details or supporting information was provided or even offered," Trump Jr. said. "It quickly became clear that she had no meaningful information."

He said no details or supporting information was ever offered, and that his father was unaware of the meeting.

On Saturday, Trump Jr. had described the same gathering as a "short introductory meeting" during which the three discussed a disbanded program that used to allow U.S. citizens to adopt Russian children. Russia ended the adoptions in response to American sanctions brought against the nation following the 2009 death of an imprisoned lawyer who spoke about a corruption scandal.

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Trump backing off idea of ‘cyber security unit’ with Russia

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump appears to be backing away from the idea of working with Russia to create a “cyber security unit” to guard against election hacking.

Trump tweeted Sunday morning about discussing such a unit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Yet it’s Russia that U.S. intelligence officials blame for meddling in last year’s election.

Widespread ridicule greeted Trump’s tweet. Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina calls it “pretty close” to the dumbest idea he’s ever heard. A Democratic congressman, Adam Schiff of California, says expecting Russia to be a credible partner in any cybersecurity initiative “would be dangerously naive.”

By Sunday evening, Trump was tweeting a different tune. He

wrote that just because he and Putin discussed the idea “doesn’t mean I think it can happen. It can’t.”

Another Senate Republican, Marco Rubio of Florida, said on Twitter that “partnering with Putin on a ‘Cyber Security Unit’ is akin to partnering with Assad on a ‘Chemical Weapons Unit.’” Rubio was referring to Syrian President Bashar Assad and his regime’s use of chemical weapons against its own citizens.”

Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter equated the move to “like the guy who robbed your house proposing a working group on burglary.”

And Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said that expecting Russia to be a credible partner in any cybersecurity initiative “would be dangerously naive for this country.”

“If that’s our best election defense, we might as well just mail our ballot boxes to Moscow,” he said.

U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, however, defended the move, arguing that working with Russia on cybersecurity “doesn’t mean we ever trust Russia. We can’t trust Russia and we won’t ever trust Russia. But you



President Donald Trump waves as he and first lady Melania Trump arrive at Andrews Air Force Base, Saturday, July 8, 2017, in Andrews Air Force Base, Md. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

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keep those that you don't trust closer so that you can always keep an eye on 'em and keep them in check."

Trump said that "it is time to move forward in working constructively with Russia" after his lengthy meeting with Putin. But he is still avoiding the question of whether he accepts Putin's denial that Russia was responsible for meddling in the 2016 election.

Speaking in a series of tweets Sunday, the morning after returning from a world leaders' summit in Germany, Trump said he "strongly pressed" Putin twice over Russian meddling during their meeting Friday.

Trump said that Putin "vehemently denied" the conclusions of American intelligence agencies that Russian hackers and propagandists tried to sway the election in Trump's favor. But Trump would not say whether he believed Putin, tweeting only that he's "already given my opinion."

Trump has said he thinks Russia probably hacked the emails of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton staffers, but that "other people and/or countries" were likely involved as well. He said ahead of the meeting that, "Nobody knows for sure."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov first told reporters in Germany on Friday that Trump had accepted Putin's assurances that Russia hadn't meddled — an assertion Putin repeated Saturday after the Group of 20 summit. Putin said he left the meeting thinking that Trump had believed his in-person denials.

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

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson did not answer directly when asked Sunday if Trump had accepted Putin's denial, but told reporters in Ukraine that Trump's conversation with Putin on election interference went "about the way we expected." Tillerson was the only other American official in the room.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin also declined to say whether Trump accepted Putin's denial. "Why would President Trump broadcast exactly what he said in the meeting? Strategically that makes no sense," Mnuchin said. "He's made it very clear how he feels. He's made it very clear that he addressed it straight on."

But White House chief of staff Reince Priebus took issue with Putin's characterization.

"The president absolutely didn't believe the denial of President Putin," Priebus said. He said Trump had spent a "large part of the meeting on the subject," but wanted to move onto other subjects.

He and other administration officials said Trump did not want Russian interference in last year's election to prevent him from working with Putin's government on other issues, including the civil war in Syria.

"You know, the past, I don't know if we will ever come to an agreement, obviously with our Russian counterparts on that. I think the important thing is how do we assure that this doesn't happen again," Tillerson said.

Tillerson said that, "In all candidness, we did not expect an answer other than the one we received" from Russia.

"Everybody knows that Russia meddled in our elections," Haley said. "This is Russia trying to save face."

But in a show of U.S.-Russian cooperation, officials announced during the trip that the two sides had brokered a cease-fire in southern Syria that went into effect Sunday. Trump tweeted that the deal "will save lives."

Trump also tweeted Sunday that sanctions against Russia were not discussed at his meeting with Putin, seemingly contradicting comments made by Tillerson in Germany. Tillerson told reporters that the president had taken "note of actions that have been discussed by the Congress" in the meeting. Congress has been pushing to increase sanctions on Russia and make them harder for Trump to lift.

Haley and Schiff spoke on CNN's "State of the Union," Mnuchin on ABC's "The Week," Priebus on "Fox News Sunday," and Graham on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report from Kiev, Ukraine.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

Survey: US uninsured up by 2M this year as gains erode

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. adults without health insurance has grown by some 2 million this year, according to a major new survey that finds recent coverage gains beginning to erode.

The new numbers highlight what's at stake as Congress returns to an unresolved debate over Republican proposals to roll back much of former President Barack Obama's health care law.

The Gallup-Sharecare Well-Being Index, published Monday, found that the uninsured rate among U.S. adults was 11.7 percent in the second three months of this year, compared with a record low of 10.9 percent at the end of last year. Though small, the change was statistically significant, survey analysts noted.

While "Obamacare" has remained politically divisive, it had helped drive the uninsured rate to historic lows as some 20 million people gained coverage.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., plans to check vital signs on his GOP bill as senators trickle back to Washington from a July 4 break that many spent listening to constituents vent about health care.

McConnell is seen as a master legislative strategist, but there's no sign he's secured enough votes to pass a bill. He can only afford to lose two out of 52 Republican senators.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that at least 22 million more people would become uninsured under Republican legislation.

McConnell has been considering easing some of the bill's Medicaid cuts, beefing up health care tax credits to help people buy private insurance and adding billions of dollars to counter the opioid epidemic. That might comfort GOP moderates. To placate conservatives, McConnell is weighing demands to make it easier for insurers to offer skimpier policies.

He's also admonished fellow Republicans that they may find themselves negotiating with Democratic leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York if they don't close ranks. In that case, McConnell said he'd aim for a limited package propping up troubled insurance markets around the country.

The Gallup-Sharecare survey serves as a kind of early indicator, publishing several months before the nimblest government surveys. The most recent government report found that progress reducing the number of uninsured stalled in 2016, after five consecutive years of coverage gains under Obama.

Peering at this year, Gallup-Sharecare found an erosion of progress, with the number of uninsured edging up again. It estimated nearly 2 million dropped out of coverage.

The losses were concentrated among younger adults and people buying their own health insurance policies, the survey found.



In this June 30, 2017 file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, speaks in Elizabethtown, Ky. The number of people without health insurance in the U.S. has grown by nearly 2 million this year, according to a major new survey. It may foreshadow deeper coverage losses if Republican legislation passes Congress and estimates of its impact prove accurate.

(AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley, File)

That may be a reflection of rising premiums and dwindling choices in the insurance markets created under Obama.

Also, President Donald Trump has branded his predecessor's leading domestic achievement a "disaster" while pursuing its repeal. Insurers say Trump administration actions are contributing to double-digit premium increases for next year.

Gallup-Sharecare found that the uninsured rate rose by 1.9 percentage points among adults aged 18-25 since the end of last year, and 1.5 points among those aged 26-34.

Participation by young adults is considered vital for keeping health insurance premiums in check. But young adults are also likely to enjoy good health and may not recognize value in having coverage.

The Gallup-Sharecare survey is an ongoing effort based on interviews with about 500 people a day. It was previously called the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted April 1-June 30, with a random sample of 45,087 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. The margin of error is plus or minus 1 percentage point.

Associated Press writer Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Low-key FBI director pick would lead agency through tumult

By ERIC TUCKER and SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The attorney selected to replace James Comey as FBI director is described by those close to him as admirably low-key, yet he'd be taking over the law enforcement agency at a moment that's anything but tranquil.

Christopher Wray would inherit an FBI that lost its popular leader in an unceremonious firing in May and that has spent the last year investigating whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia to win the presidency. During this most consequential probe in decades, he'd be serving under a president who is said to have demanded loyalty from Comey and has appeared insensitive to the traditionally bright boundary between the White House and the FBI.

Wray's hearing Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee may dive into his legal background but will almost certainly focus on the political maelstrom surrounding the nomination, with Democrats and perhaps some Republicans seeking assurances of his independence from President Donald Trump.

Lawyers and FBI agents who have worked with Wray don't expect that to be a problem, describing him as calm, methodical and even-handed. He has deep experience in Washington, serving as the top criminal lawyer in the Bush administration Justice Department and working closely not only with Comey



In this June 29, 2017 file photo, FBI Director nominee Christopher Wray meets with Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa on Capitol Hill in Washington. Wray, nominated to replace James Comey as FBI director is described by those close to him as admirably low-key, yet he'd be taking over the law enforcement agency at a moment when its under an intense spotlight. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

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but also Robert Mueller, the former FBI director who's now serving as special counsel in charge of the Russia investigation.

Wray's confirmation would thrust him immediately into the ongoing Russia investigation, and though he'd likely receive updates on the probe's progress and work to ensure that the special counsel has the resources he needs, prosecution decisions would be made by Mueller and his team.

"The people in the bureau are particularly concerned about what's going to walk through that door," said Monique Roth, who worked under Wray in the criminal division. "He is a very steady hand at the helm."

Wray, 50, was selected following a weeks-long search that began days after Trump abruptly fired Comey. Several current and former elected officials were interviewed for the job, and many contenders gradually withdrew from consideration. The pick was revealed in a tweet that came as Washington was focused on consecutive days of significant congressional hearings involving top intelligence officials and then Comey.

Wray was a top Justice Department official under Attorney General John Ashcroft and was nominated by President George W. Bush to head the criminal division between 2003 and 2005. In that position, besides overseeing major criminal prosecutions — such as the special task force investigating the Enron collapse — Wray also helped shape the U.S. government's legal response to terrorism and national security threats. A specialized national security division was created after Wray's departure.

Though there's not much in his background likely to trip him up at his hearing, Democrats will probably press him on his involvement in national security matters in the Bush administration, a period when the government authorized harsh interrogation techniques and routinely shipped to Guantanamo Bay terrorism suspects captured on foreign battlefields. Redacted emails to and from him are included in an ACLU database of memos on the interrogation and detention of terror suspects.

But Barry Sabin, chief of the criminal division's counterterrorism section at the time, said Wray made clear he did not support torture. Sabin pointed to the prosecution under Wray of a CIA contract worker in the beating an Afghan detainee who later died and said that after the Sept. 11 attacks, Wray recognized the need to balance national security concerns with civil liberties protections.

"He has an exceptionally strong foundation to guide the bureau through threats and through challenges known and unknown," Sabin said.

Wray was at the department in 2004 when Comey, then the deputy attorney general, threatened to resign during a dispute with the White House over the reauthorization of a domestic surveillance program. Wray stopped Comey in the hallway one night amid resignation rumors with a particular request, according to the 2011 book, "The Threat Matrix."

"Look, I don't know what's going on, but before you guys all pull the rip cords, please give me a heads-up so I can jump with you," Wray said.

Wray has spent the last decade in private practice at King & Spalding in Atlanta, where he's defended large corporations and financial institutions in criminal and civil cases. Most notably, he was personal lawyer to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in an investigation into the closing of the George Washington Bridge.

Joe Robuck, a retired FBI agent who worked with Wray when he was a federal prosecutor in Atlanta, recalled him as a true partner whom he trusted enough to travel with on his interviews with witnesses, something not every prosecutor would do. They investigated a complicated securities fraud and public corruption case that had them and others working together around the clock. He was dedicated, and commanded the respect of agents, said Robuck, who expects Wray would have the same approach as FBI director.

"He has a sense for his place in history," said Roth, of the criminal division, noting that Wray seemed unconcerned that he was a Republican and she was not, even in his politically appointed position.

FBI directors are appointed to 10-year terms meant to insulate them from political influence. And the bureau has been through transitions before, with successive leaders sporting different management styles.

Louis Freeh, an ex-agent himself, was known to jog with Quantico academy recruits. He was replaced by Mueller, who took over days before the Sept. 11 attacks and shepherded the bureau through a tense decade of national security threats with a demanding, competent management style.

Comey was exceedingly well-liked by subordinates for his approachable leadership, and his abrupt dis-

missal — and shifting explanations from the White House, and public denigration of their work — angered career agents.

“At the end of the day, they’ve got a job to do — that’s to protect the national security of the country,” said retired FBI official Andrew Arena. “They’ll get over it quickly. Jim Comey would want them to.”

Arena said the fact that Wray’s “not an excitable type of guy” may make him the right pick for the time. “I think it’s what you need right now, kind of calm everyone down and get everything on track.”

Take me out to the screen: VR baseball a hit

By RONALD BLUM, AP Baseball Writer

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Nicholas Montes put on goggles and a catcher’s mitt and crouched.

The 13-year-old will never catch a 104 mph pitch from Aroldis Chapman. But at the All-Star FanFest, he felt what it’s like to be Buster Posey snagging virtual strikes.

“It like I was actually in the game. When I was catching, I felt the ball move and everything,” the 13-year-old from Miami said enthusiastically Sunday. “And then when I saw it go in my glove, I tried touching the ball, but I felt the remote control thing. So it was pretty cool.”

Developed by GMR Marketing, the Esurance Behind The Plate With Buster Posey VR Experience allows fans to “catch” fastballs, curveballs and sliders from a generic pitcher at velocities ranging from 86-93 mph.

“I’ve always said that I thought it would be cool for the average fan to either step in the box or like this get behind the plate and get the same sense of what it’s like to see a 90-plus, 95-mile an hour fastball coming your way,” Posey explained last week.

Esurance Insurance Services Inc., a subsidiary of Allstate Corp., became a sponsor of Major League Baseball in 2015 and signed Posey as a brand ambassador. The company had a 180-degree photo experience at the 2015 FanFest in Cincinnati, then provided 360-degree videos of fans taking swings last year in San Diego.

In a dual setup at FanFest, which opened Friday and runs through Tuesday, people get to signal for three pitches over about 90 seconds as Posey’s recorded voice offers tips. They can choose the pitch type by pointing their glove toward an icon on the screen, triggering a sensor. When a pitch is successfully caught, the person hears and feels the mitt snap.

“It is as real as it can be,” Danny Devarona, a 48-year-old who coaches youth baseball in Miami Lakes, said after taking his turn.

Commercial and social media content was shot over two days during spring training in Scottsdale, Arizona, where Posey’s San Francisco Giants train. Posey’s voice-over was recorded after the season started.



In this Friday, July 7, 2017, photo, Dennis Milman reaches to catch a virtual ball at the All-Star FanFest in Miami Beach, Fla. Virtual Reality baseball is a hit at the All-Star FanFest in Miami. Fans get to feel what it’s like to be the San Francisco Giants’ Buster Posey catching without the pain of snatching major league pitches at 86-to-93 mph.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

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"Are you ready? All right, let's see what you've got," Posey's voice tells fans. "This guy throws a nasty curve. The trick is to keep your glove below the ball and your eye on it. ... Keep your chin down and be ready to slide to your right, because this one might hit the dirt."

"Nice job! Right in the pocket," he tells fans when they succeed.

"Yeah, that was a tricky one," he says when they fail.

Based on PITCH f/x data, breaks of 38-to-52 inches are simulated.

"Fans will receive a social-sharable video for them that they can then distribute to their friends," said Kristen Gambetta, Esurance's brand partnerships manager. "With VR, there's something really entertaining about seeing people's facial reactions and kind of seeing their movements and how they react to having a ball flying at their face."

Several thousand fans were expected to put on the electronic "tools of ignorance" over the five days. And unlike real catchers, they won't have to stuff sponges in the glove to absorb the impact.

"Let's just say I'm pretty impressed. I don't think I can ever catch or hit for that matter a Major League Baseball curveball," said Pablo Souki, a 38-year-old from Venezuela who lives in Miami. "That was pretty eye-opening."

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

Trump: US must work with Russia, move past election issues

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that "it is time to move forward in working constructively with Russia" after his lengthy meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Germany. But he is still avoiding the question of whether he accepts Putin's denial that Russia was responsible for meddling in the 2016 election.

Speaking in a series of tweets the morning after returning from a world leaders' summit in Germany, Trump said he "strongly pressed" Putin twice over Russian meddling during their meeting Friday.

Trump said that Putin "vehemently denied" the conclusions of American intelligence agencies that Russian hackers and propagandists tried to sway the election in Trump's favor. But Trump would not say whether he believed Putin, tweeting only that he's "already given my opinion."

Trump has said he thinks Russia probably hacked the emails of the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton staffers, but that "other people and/or countries" were likely involved as well. He said ahead of the meeting that, "Nobody knows for sure."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov first told reporters in Germany on Friday that Trump had accepted Putin's assurances that Russia hadn't meddled — an assertion Putin repeated Saturday after the Group of 20 summit. Putin said he left the meeting thinking that Trump had believed his in-person denials.

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

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson did not answer directly when asked Sunday if Trump had accepted Putin's denial, but told reporters in Ukraine that Trump's conversation with Putin on election interference went "about the way we expected." Tillerson was the only other American official in the room.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin also declined to say whether Trump accepted Putin's denial. "Why would President Trump broadcast exactly what he said in the meeting? Strategically that makes no sense," Mnuchin said. "He's made it very clear how he feels. He's made it very clear that he addressed it straight on."

But White House chief of staff Reince Priebus took issue with Putin's characterization.

"The president absolutely didn't believe the denial of President Putin," Priebus said. He said Trump had spent a "large part of the meeting on the subject," but wanted to move onto other subjects.

He and other administration officials said Trump did not want Russian interference in last year's election to prevent him from working with Putin's government on other issues, including the civil war in Syria.

"You know, the past, I don't know if we will ever come to an agreement, obviously with our Russian

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counterparts on that. I think the important thing is how do we assure that this doesn't happen again," Tillerson said.

Tillerson said that, "In all candidness, we did not expect an answer other than the one we received" from Russia.

"Everybody knows that Russia meddled in our elections," added Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. "This is Russia trying to save face."

But in a show of U.S.-Russian cooperation, officials announced during the trip that the two sides had brokered a cease-fire in southern Syria that went into effect Sunday. Trump tweeted that the deal "will save lives."

The two sides also agreed to create what Trump described in a tweet as "an impenetrable Cyber Security unit" to ensure that "election hacking, & many other negative things, will be guarded."

However, the idea drew widespread ridicule and Trump sent out another tweet Sunday night in which he seemed to back off: "The fact that President Putin and I discussed a Cyber Security unit doesn't mean I think it can happen. It can't-but a ceasefire can,& did!"

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina was among critics of the task force on Twitter and Sunday morning news shows.

"It's not the dumbest idea I've ever heard, but it's pretty close," Graham said, adding that, when it comes to Russia, the president has "a blind spot."

"And to forgive and forget when it comes to Putin regarding cyberattacks is to empower Putin and that's exactly what he's doing," he added.

Another Senate Republican, Marco Rubio of Florida, said on Twitter that "partnering with Putin on a 'Cyber Security Unit' is akin to partnering with Assad on a 'Chemical Weapons Unit.'" Rubio was referring to Syrian President Bashar Assad and his regime's use of chemical weapons against its own citizens."

Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter equated the move to "like the guy who robbed your house proposing a working group on burglary."

And Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said that expecting Russia to be a credible partner in any cybersecurity initiative "would be dangerously naive for this country."

"If that's our best election defense, we might as well just mail our ballot boxes to Moscow," he said.

Haley, however, defended the move, arguing that working with Russia on cybersecurity "doesn't mean we ever trust Russia. We can't trust Russia and we won't ever trust Russia. But you keep those that you don't trust closer so that you can always keep an eye on 'em and keep them in check."

Trump also tweeted Sunday that sanctions against Russia were not discussed at his meeting with Putin, seemingly contradicting comments made by Tillerson in Germany. Tillerson told reporters that the president had taken "note of actions that have been discussed by the Congress" in the meeting. Congress has been pushing to increase sanctions on Russia and make them harder for Trump to lift.

Haley and Schiff spoke on CNN's "State of the Union," Mnuchin on ABC's "The Week," Priebus on "Fox News Sunday," and Graham on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report from Kiev, Ukraine.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 10, the 191st day of 2017. There are 174 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 10, 1967, country singer-songwriter Bobbie Gentry recorded her hit single "Ode to Billie Joe" at Capitol Records in Hollywood.

On this date:

In A.D. 138, Roman Emperor Hadrian, responsible for the construction of opulent temples as well as the barrier in northern Britain known as Hadrian's Wall, died at age 62.

In 1509, theologian John Calvin, a key figure of the Protestant Reformation, was born in Noyon, Picardy, France.

In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') to the Senate and urged its ratification. (However, the Senate rejected it.)

In 1925, jury selection took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in the trial of John T. Scopes, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (Scopes was convicted and fined, but the verdict was overturned on a technicality.)

In 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as the Luftwaffe started attacking southern England. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.)

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1962, AT&T's Telstar 1 communications satellite, capable of relaying television signals and telephone calls, was launched by NASA from Cape Canaveral.

In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. John Paul Getty III, the teenage grandson of the oil tycoon, was abducted in Rome by kidnapers who cut off his ear when his family was slow to meet their ransom demands; Getty was released in December 1973 for nearly \$3 million.

In 1985, the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior was sunk with explosives in Auckland, New Zealand, by French intelligence agents; one activist was killed. Bowing to pressure from irate customers, the Coca-Cola Co. said it would resume selling old-formula Coke, while continuing to sell New Coke.

In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic. President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 1999, the United States women's soccer team won the World Cup, beating China 5-4 on penalty kicks after 120 minutes of scoreless play at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Ten years ago: China executed the former head of its food and drug agency (Zheng Xiaoyu) for approving untested medicine in exchange for cash. A judge in Los Angeles sentenced pizza deliveryman Chester Turner to death for murdering 10 women and a fetus during the 1980s and '90s (Turner remains on death row). The American League defeated the National League 5-4 in the All-Star game. Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Doug Marlette, 57, died in an auto accident near Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Five years ago: Clashing over the economy, President Barack Obama challenged Mitt Romney to join him in allowing tax hikes for rich Americans like them; Romney dismissed the idea and redirected charges that he, Romney, had sent jobs overseas when he worked in private equity, calling Obama the real "outsourcer-in-chief." An Israeli court cleared former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of the central charges in a multi-case corruption trial that forced him from power, but convicted him of a lesser charge of breach of trust, for which Olmert received a suspended one-year jail sentence. The National League romped to an 8-0 victory over the American League in the All-Star game.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, during an abbreviated visit to Spain, urged respect and restraint from Americans angered by the killing of black men by police, saying anything less did a "disservice to the cause" of ridding the criminal justice system of racial bias. Andy Murray won his second Wimbledon

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title by beating Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) on Centre Court.

Today's Birthdays: Former boxer Jake LaMotta is 96. Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 90. Actor William Smithers is 90. Broadway composer Jerry Herman is 86. Director Ivan Passer is 84. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 78. Singer Mavis Staples is 78. Actor Mills Watson is 77. Actor Robert Pine is 76. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 74. International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade is 72. Actress Sue Lyon is 71. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 70. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 68. Country-folk singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is 66. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Boys) is 63. Banjo player Bela Fleck is 59. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 57. Bluegrass singer-musician Tim Surratt (Balsam Range) is 54. Actor Alec Mapa is 52. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 52. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 52. Actor Gale Harold is 48. Country singer Gary LeVox (leh-VOH') (Rascal Flatts) is 47. Actor Aaron D. Spears is 46. Actress Sofia Vergara is 45. Rockabilly singer Imelda May is 43. Actor Adrian Grenier (grehn-YAY') is 41. Actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (CHOO'-ih-tehl EHJ'-ee-oh-for) is 40. Actress Gwendoline Yeo is 40. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 37. Singer-actress Jessica Simpson is 37. Rock musician John Spiker is 36. Actress Heather Hemmens is 33. Actress Emily Skeggs (TV: "When We Rise") is 27. Rapper/singer Angel Haze is 26. Pop singer Perrie Edwards (Little Mix) is 24.

Thought for Today: "When I feel the heat, I see the light." — Everett Dirksen, American politician (1896-1969).