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Official Notices

Groton City Book (updated 7-11)
Brown County Book (Updated 7-10)
Groton Area School 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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Senior Menu: Hamburger gravy over mashed potatoes, broccoli, Acini De Pepe fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

Legion: Regions in Groton

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

Amateurs: at Aberdeen, 6 p.m.

14

Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, potato salad, carrots and broccoli medley, muffing, fresh fruit.

Legion: Regions in Groton

U10/U12: State Tourney at Humboldt

U8B/R: Tourney at Hamlin

15

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.

Legion: Regions in Groton

U10/U12: State Tourney at Humboldt

U8B/R: Tourney at Hamlin

Amateurs: vs. Miller at Wessington, 4 p.m.



Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

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“A smile is a curve
that sets
everything
straight.”

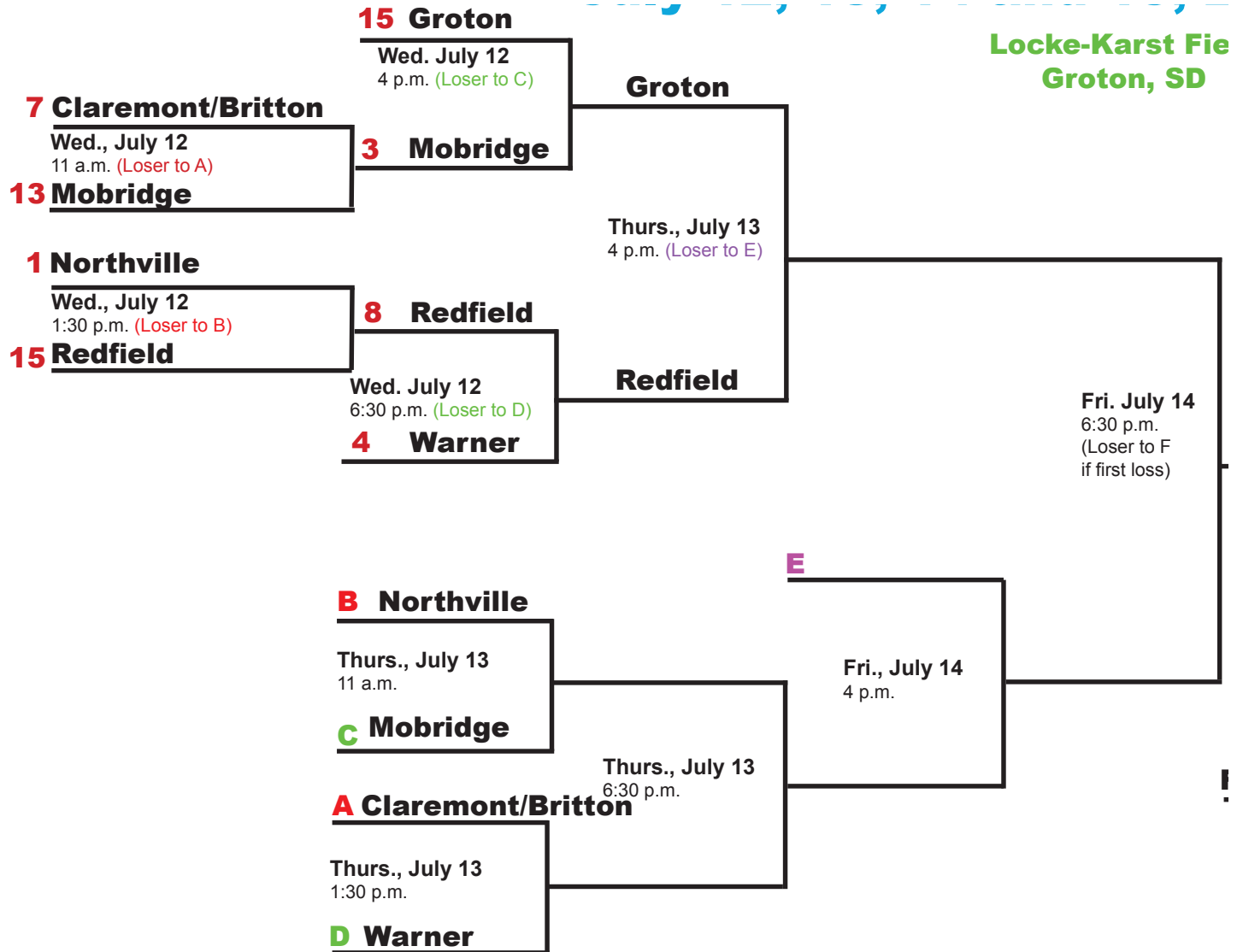
-Phyllis Diller

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

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Region 6B Legion Tourney



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Service Notice: John Pulfrey

Services for John Pulfrey, 98, of Claremont will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, July 15th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Bill Duncan will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Saturday for one hour prior to services.

John passed away July 11, 2017 at Wheatcrest Hills in Britton.

GDI News/Clean/Fit

Subscribe to
the E-Weekly
Groton Independent
Only \$10 for 1 year!

Make copies
for 5¢

Crazy Days

July 13th and 14th: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sign up for membership to
the fitness center.

If you sign up for auto pay,
you will get one free month!

Wash a load of clothes,
wash a load FREE!
(Limit of 2 per person)

Main Office: 21 N Main
605/397-NEWS (6397)

GROTON KIWANIS

Tom Mahan introduced his guest Jim White, from Huron, and Lee Schinkel introduced his guest, Shaun Wanner, for Wednesday's Kiwanis Club meeting.

Sharon Simon had her friend, Shannon Bohl, Northville, for her program speaker. Shannon spoke on the Brown County Pet Rescue League, which has been in business for two years now. One of their rescue dogs was present, Maggie.

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Don't Miss Out!!!!

LOWEST prices EVER!!!

Almost EVERYTHING is
on sale!

July 13-14-15

Sidewalk
SALE!



101 N Main St, Groton SD
Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday - 9am-3pm (July 9th only)



"Always Being Made New"

Ladies' Luncheon & Program
Wednesday, July 19 – Noon
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol
Silent Auction at 11 a.m. – Door Prizes
Pastor Rhia Strohm, Bethlehem Lutheran
Church – speaker
Advance tickets please: \$10
Call Kay Espeland 492-3507
Alice Jean Peterson 492-3351
or contact any WELCA member

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Today in Weather History

July 13, 1964: Early morning low temperatures dropped into the lower to mid-30s across the northern half of the state. Some low temperatures include 32 degrees at Castlewood, 33 in Andover and 4 miles NW of Onida.

1895: A tornado that began in Cherry Hill, New Jersey made its way to Woodhaven, Long Island in New York. The image below is a hand-colored lantern slide in the Museum Library's Lantern Slide Collection.

1951: Rivers across eastern Kansas crest well above flood stage, causing the greatest destruction from flooding in the Midwestern United States to that time. Five-hundred-thousand people were left homeless, and 24 people died in the disaster.

1895 - A tornado struck Cherry Hill in New Jersey causing fifty thousand dollars damage. It also descended into the Harlem and Woodhaven areas of New York City killing one person, and finally ended as a waterspout in Jamaica Bay. (David Ludlum)

1975 - Dover, DE, was deluged with 8.50 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Lightning struck a key electrical transmission line in Westchester County of southeastern New York State plunging New York City into darkness. (David Ludlum)

1980 - Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Memphis, TN, 108 degrees at Macon, GA, and 105 degrees at Atlanta, GA, established all-time records for those three cities. The high of 110 degrees at Newington, GA, was just two degrees shy of the state record. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the Midwest. Ten cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Casper, WY, with a reading of 39 degrees. By way of contrast, record heat was reported in the eastern U.S., with highs of 93 degrees at Burlington, VT, and 101 degrees around Miami, FL. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - There were just three reports of severe weather across the country, and just one record high temperature reported. Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to the Tennessee Valley area, producing nine inches at Senatobia, MS. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A thunderstorm at Albany, GA, produced 1.40 inches of rain in forty minutes, along with wind gusts to 82 mph. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Corpus Christi, TX, 110 degrees at Tucson, AZ, and 114 degrees at Phoenix, AZ, equalled records for the date. Greenwood, MS, reported 55.65 inches of precipitation for the year, twice the amount normally received by mid July. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Gradual Clearing	Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Hot
High: 77 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 97 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 96 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 91 °F

Mild Today – Cool Tonight

Another Heatwave Due Late This Week Through Middle of Next Week

Friday
Widespread
90s To
Near 100

Sunday
80s Far East
With
Widespread 90s
To Near 100

TODAY
70s East
&
80s West

Saturday
Widespread
90s To 100+

Monday
Widespread
90s To 100+

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 7/13/2017 5:39 AM Central



Published on: 07/13/2017 at 5:46AM

Temperatures will be mild today, with low humidity. Unfortunately the next few days will see little relief from the heat, and little if any chance for moisture. Expect widespread high 80s - 90s and a few locations will top 100 degrees. The next break comes around the middle of next week.

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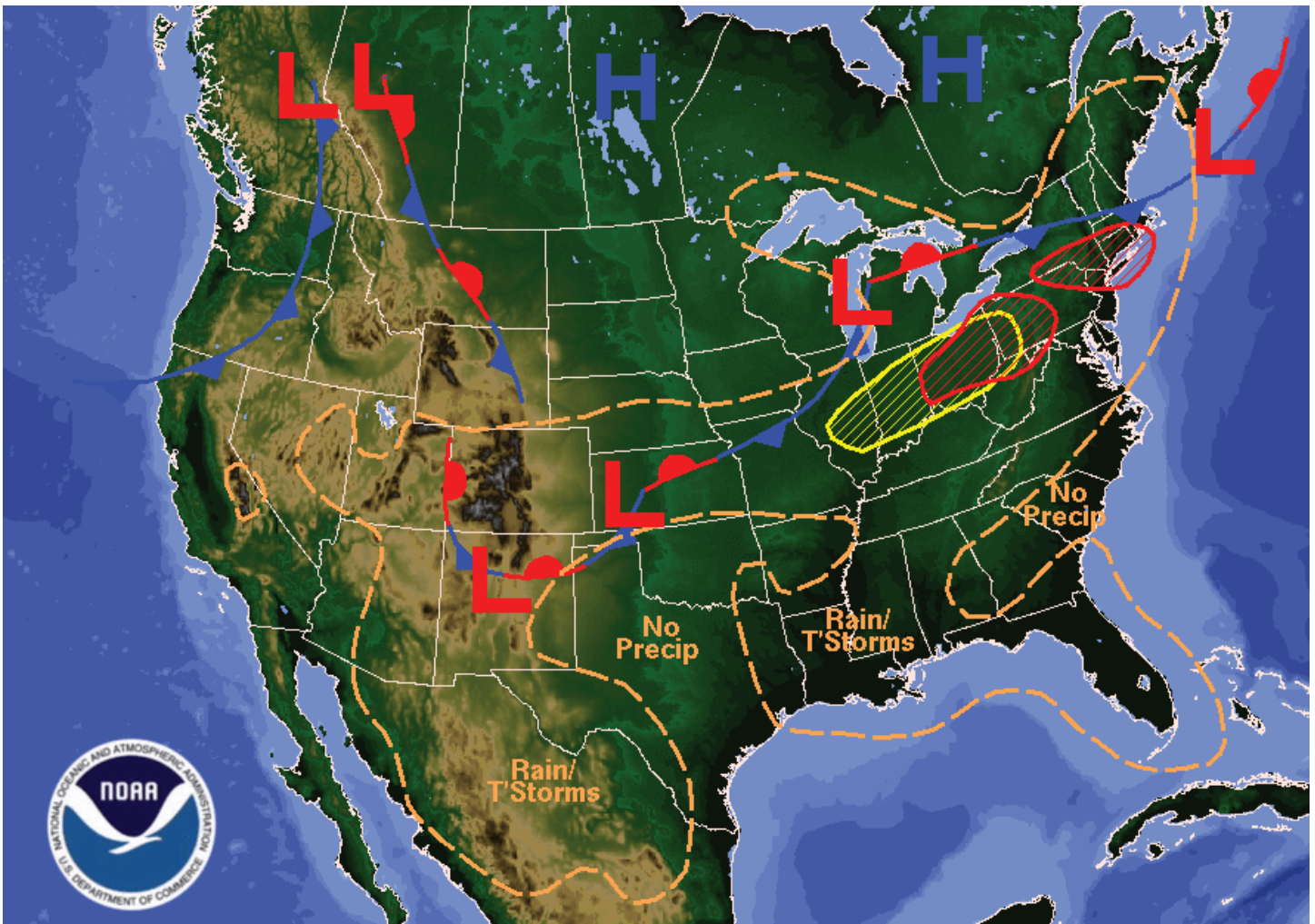
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 81.4 F at 12:04 AM
Heat Index: 82.0 at Midnight
Low Outside Temp: 61.2 F at 11:58 PM
High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 12:20 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1936
Record Low: 44° in 1987
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 1.39
Precip to date in July: 0.17
Average Precip to date: 12.23
Precip Year to Date: 5.94
Sunset Tonight: 9:20 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:59 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jul 13, 2017, issued 4:37 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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LIFE'S CHOICES

Yogi Berra once said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." That seems to sum up the journey before all of us in one way or another. We are constantly faced with making a decision about which way we are to go when we come to the "forks in life's road."

Each morning when we begin the day's journey there is no assurance that what we intend to do will unfold as we planned it. Interruptions come from every side and what may have been peaceful and calm ends up being frantic and out of control. So, we are confronted with two ever present options: chose to have faith in God or be fearful of what is in us, in front of us, or around us. We are faced with the only two choices life has to offer: faith or fear. So, what does faith in God have to offer us?

In Psalm 27 David describes his Lord as his light, salvation and fortress. As his light David knew that God would reveal His plan for him and dispel the darkness that might come over him. He also believed that God was his salvation. This meant that God would deliver him from anything that would harm him or rescue him from tragedy when things went badly. He believed that the Lord was his strength – stronghold or fortress – a place where he could take refuge and restore his soul when he was overwhelmed with life's demands.

No wonder he proclaimed: Why fear anything?

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for being our light, salvation and strength to meet the challenges of life! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

News from the **AP** Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

01-06-13-15-25

(one, six, thirteen, fifteen, twenty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$326,000

Hot Lotto

04-19-33-38-42, Hot Ball: 8

(four, nineteen, thirty-three, thirty-eight, forty-two; Hot Ball: eight)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.21 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$217 million

Powerball

01-02-18-23-61, Powerball: 9, Power Play: 2

(one, two, eighteen, twenty-three, sixty-one; Powerball: nine; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$155 million

South Dakota GOP senators won't commit to new health bill

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's two U.S. senators didn't commit Wednesday to voting for a revised GOP health care bill set to be unveiled in Washington, but both lawmakers said the measure will move Senate Republicans closer to replacing Barack Obama's health care law.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell planned to release an altered bill Thursday to Republican senators after he abandoned his initial plan because of GOP opposition. South Dakota Republicans John Thune and Mike Rounds both said the revamped measure has a better chance of passing through their chamber. The two have praised Senate Republicans' initial bill, but said they wanted to review the revised legislation before pledging support.

The new legislation's main elements remain easing Obama's requirements that insurers cover specified services like hospital care and cutting the Medicaid program. Obama's penalties on people who don't buy coverage would end, federal health care subsidies would be less generous and there



In this Aug. 17, 2016, file photo, U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., attends a forum with South Dakota's congressional delegation in Mitchell, S.D. Rounds said Wednesday, July 12, 2017, that changes expected to be unveiled in a revised Senate Republican health care bill will help improve the proposal. (AP Photo/James Nord, File)

would be \$45 billion to help states combat drug abuse.

It would also eliminate tax increases the statute imposed on the health care industry, but would keep Obama tax hikes on upper-income people.

With unanimous opposition from Democrats, the health care bill would fail if just three of the 52 Republican senators oppose it.

Rounds said he supports preserving an Obamacare tax increase on investment income for high earners that leave more money to be used in areas such as Medicaid, high-risk pools and opioid and addiction services. But Rounds said he believes it should eventually sunset after a transition period.

South Dakota Democratic Party Executive Director Sam Parkinson said in a statement that a few "cosmetic changes" won't change the fact that the bill will hurt South Dakota residents who are working to provide health care for their families to give tax breaks to the rich.

Crop production forecast to plummet in dry South Dakota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Crop production in drought-stricken South Dakota is forecast to be down dramatically this year.

The Agriculture Department estimates the state's winter wheat crop will total 28 million bushels, down 56 percent from last year, and the spring wheat crop at 32 million bushels, down 32 percent.

Oat production is expected to be down 30 percent, to 6.3 million bushels.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows nearly all of South Dakota in some stage of drought or abnormally dry, with the worst areas in the north central and northwest parts of the state.

South Dakota leaders try to bring back former residents

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Economic development leaders in Sioux Falls are inviting former South Dakota residents to an event with the goal of persuading them to return and helping address a worker shortage amid a thriving economy.

The free Back to SoDak event at the Denny Sanford Premier Center on Saturday will showcase a flourishing Sioux Falls, highlighting its entertainment and dining industry as well as job opportunities, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2tIAuFK>) reported.

"We really believe when some folks see how much it's changed, how much Sioux Falls has to offer, there will truly be people who will say, 'you know what, it's time to move back home, it's time to get closer to friends,' and ultimately what it will do is increase the workforce," said Lon Clemensen, vice president of workforce development at the Sioux Falls Development Foundation.

Attendees will also receive swag such as a Back to SoDak T-shirt and a gift bag with a coupon book to various city businesses.

"We'll have brunch, we'll have ice sculptures, we're even going to do some shorter tours of the Denny Sanford Premier Center, to give guests a flavor of how expansive the facility is and how much it has to offer," Clemensen said.

Those who attend can go to JazzFest that evening as well.

While Clemensen said he's happy with the level of interest in the event, he said there's still time to sign up.

"We even had someone contact us from Alaska," he said. "And they're coming to the event. ... So it's encouraging that we're hearing from people that far away."

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

US winter wheat forecast improves, still below year ago

By ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — With harvest now under way across the nation's breadbasket, the government forecast on Wednesday that U.S. growers are expected to bring in 1.28 billion bushels of winter wheat.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service's latest projection is up 2 percent from last month's forecast, but is still down 23 percent from last year. The forecast, based on July 1 conditions, is based on a projected average of 49.7 bushels per acre with nearly 26 million acres anticipated to be harvested across the country.

Production nationwide of hard red winter wheat, the type most commonly growing in Kansas, is estimated at 758 million bushels for a 2 percent bump from just last month.

Kansas is the nation's biggest wheat producer with 324.3 million bushels expected to be cut this year.

While that is down 31 percent compared to last year's unusually bountiful harvest, the latest forecast was better than industry observers had anticipated.

Average yields are estimated at 47 bushels per acre. Kansas farmers are expected to cut 6.9 million acres of wheat.

The Kansas crop was hit this growing season by widespread wheat streak mosaic disease, brutal hail storms and a late spring snowstorm — ranked in that order by Aaron Harries, marketing director for the industry group Kansas Wheat.

"We could have been looking at another phenomenal crop in western Kansas had it not been for the disease pressure," Harries said.

Yields were a little better than expected, which he attributed to ideal weather conditions during the period grain was filling out. There was also "generally widespread surprise" at how well the wheat crop rebounded from the late blizzard in western Kansas, he said.

Harvest is nearly finished across most of Kansas. As of Sunday, 93 percent of the wheat in the state had already been cut.

South Dakota man sentenced to 10 years in bayonet killing

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of stabbing another man to death using a bayonet has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Authorities accused 27-year-old Joseph Rich of killing 21-year-old Juan Legarda Jr. on New Year's Day in Rapid City by stabbing him five times with the bayonet, a blade attached to the muzzle end of a gun.

The stabbing happened after Rich's brother became involved in a fight with other men outside Rich's home. Rich maintained he was protecting his home and family.

Rich pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter in May, in a deal with prosecutors that spared him from a possible life sentence.

He was sentenced Monday to a decade behind bars and given credit for the half a year he's already spent in prison.

11-year federal sentence in child pornography case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to 11 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to possessing child pornography.

Forty-one-year-old Michael John Vinton admitted to having hundreds of photos and some videos of child pornography on his computer last year. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2u8EAYE>) says investigators from South Dakota's Crimes Against Children Task Force received the images from Vinton through peer-to-peer file-sharing networks.

Vinton was on parole at the time for similar charges. He was convicted in 2012 of possessing, manufacturing or distributing child pornography in Pennington County.

Interim director named for state Human Services Center

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Department of Social Services has named an interim director for the state-run mental health hospital in Yankton.

Independent health care consultant Marcene Dickes is a registered nurse with a master's degree in health services administration. She has 35 years of administrative experience at Sanford and Avera, as well as at hospitals in Chicago and Kansas City.

Dickes will assume leadership at the Human Services Center on Aug. 14 and remain in the post until a permanent administrator is hired.

Current administrator Troy Jones is resigning early next month for personal and family reasons.

The center has struggled with turnover and staff shortages. State officials are searching for the facility's fourth administrator since 2011.

Top US diplomat heads back to Qatar, but impasse grinds on

By ADAM SCHRECK, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The top U.S. diplomat returned to the besieged nation of Qatar on Thursday for a final round of talks on a shuttle-diplomacy tour aimed at breaking a deadlock between the tiny OPEC member and four Arab neighbors.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was expected to deliver a readout to 37-year-old Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of his meetings with the king of Saudi Arabia and other officials from three other Arab countries lined up against Qatar.

The trip has yet to result in any sort of breakthrough to an increasingly entrenched dispute that has divided some of America's most important Mideast allies.

Tillerson has been shuttling between Qatar, Saudi Arabia and mediator Kuwait since Monday trying to break the impasse, though officials have been careful to downplay expectations and caution any resolution could be months away.

His clearest achievement has been to secure a memorandum of understanding with Qatar to strengthen its counterterrorism efforts and address shortfalls in policing terrorism funding.

That deal goes to the core of the anti-Qatar quartet's complaints against the natural gas-rich state: that it provides support for extremist groups.

Qatar vehemently denies the allegation, though it has provided aid that helps Islamist groups that others have branded as terrorists, such as the Muslim Brotherhood and the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

The anti-Qatar bloc argues the pressure and demands it has placed on Qatar helped lead to the coun-



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is greeted by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir upon his arrival in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Tillerson has held talks with the king of Saudi Arabia and other officials from the countries lined up against Qatar, but there has been no sign of a breakthrough so far in an increasingly entrenched dispute that has divided some of America's most important Mideast allies. (U.S. State Department, via AP)

terterrorism pact, but it has said it does not go far enough to end the dispute.

It is holding fast to its insistence that Qatar must bow to a 13-point list of demands that included shutting down Qatar's flagship Al-Jazeera network and other news outlets, cutting ties with Islamist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, limiting Qatar's ties with Iran and expelling Turkish troops stationed in the tiny Gulf country.

Qatar has rejected the demands, saying that agreeing to them wholesale would undermine its sovereignty. The squabble among five of its Mideast allies has put the United States in an uncomfortable position and risks complicating the Pentagon's operations in the region.

Qatar hosts al-Udeid Air Base, the largest U.S. military installation in the Middle East and hub for U.S.-led operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. Bahrain is home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, while American surveillance planes and other aircraft fly from the UAE.

Follow Adam Schreck on Twitter at www.twitter.com/adamschreck .

Human remains found in search for missing men, 1 victim ID'd

By **BOB LENTZ** and **MARYCLAIRE DALE**, Associated Press

NEW HOPE, Pa. (AP) — Investigators found the body of one of four missing young men along with other human remains buried on a Pennsylvania farm, and vowed to "bring each and every one of these lost boys home to their families."

Cadaver dogs led them to the spot on the 90-acre (36-hectare) farm in Solebury Township where they discovered human remains inside a 12½-foot-deep (3.66-meter-deep) common grave.

"I don't understand the science behind it, but those dogs could smell these poor boys 12½ feet below the ground," Bucks County District Attorney Matthew Weintraub said at a midnight news conference.

The body identified was that of 19-year-old Dean Finocchiaro. Weintraub did not say how he died. The other remains have not yet been identified. The missing men are 22-year-old Mark Sturgis, 21-year-old Tom

Meo and 19-year-old Jimi Tar Patrick. Patrick, who attended a Catholic high school for boys with the man authorities consider a suspect, was last seen Wednesday, while the other three vanished Friday.

"This is a homicide; make no mistake about it. We just don't know how many homicides," Weintraub said.

Authorities said they are looking at pursuing homicide charges against a 20-year-old man who was taken into custody earlier Wednesday and whose parents own the farm.

Cosmo DiNardo was being held on \$5 million cash bail after he was charged with trying to sell another victim's car after he disappeared. The car was found on the DiNardo family's property.

DiNardo also had been arrested Monday and held on \$1 million bail on an unrelated gun charge before



Matthew Weintraub, District Attorney for Bucks County, Pa., speaks with members of the media in New Hope, Pa., Thursday, July 13, 2017. Authorities said they've found human remains in their search for four missing young Pennsylvania men and they can now identify one victim.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

his father paid \$100,000 to bail him out Tuesday. The charge stems from accusations that DiNardo was caught with a shotgun and ammunition in February despite a prior mental health commitment.

The back-to-back arrests bought investigators time as they scoured the farm and other spots across the county for clues to the men's disappearance, Weintraub said.

DiNardo's parents, Antonio and Sandra DiNardo, own the farm in upper Bucks County, a bucolic area with rolling hillsides, new housing developments and historic sites. They also own a nearby farm parcel that was also searched and a concrete company near their home in Bensalem, closer to Philadelphia.

An attorney representing the couple issued a statement earlier Wednesday saying they sympathize with the families of the missing men and are cooperating "in every way possible with the investigation."

The FBI had been using heavy equipment to dig a deep ditch on the farm property, and then sifting through each bucket of dirt by hand.

At least some of the missing men are friends, but it's unclear how well they knew DiNardo, if at all.

North Korea's Kim: Dictator? Reformer? Shrewd negotiator?

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Ruthless dictator? Economic reformer? Shrewd master of nuclear brinksmanship?

When Kim Jong Un took the helm of North Korea in late 2011, speculation swirled around the young, Swiss-educated leader. What would he do for an economically backward authoritarian nation that had been in a high-stakes nuclear standoff with its neighbors and Washington for years?

Almost six years later, there are still unanswered questions, but some things about Kim have come into focus. His rule has actually seen the economy improve, and when it comes to the nuclear drive, it's obvious that Kim, who rattled nerves last week by test-firing his country's first intercontinental ballistic missile, has a more uncompromising stance than his late father, Kim Jong Il, who occasionally sat down for talks with Washington meant to gain concessions.

Kim Jong Un seems uninterested in negotiations until he perfects a nuclear missile capable of striking anywhere in the United States.

The stance has so far worked, and he'll likely achieve the badly needed nuclear deterrence against the United States fairly soon if he's not stopped.

Here's a look at Kim's nuclear gamble and what the future might hold.

WHAT HE'S DOING

His father, who ruled North Korea from



In this Saturday, April 15, 2017, file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un waves during a military parade to celebrate the 105th birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, North Korea. When Kim Jong Un took the helm of North Korea in late 2011, speculation swirled around the young leader. What would he do for an economically backward authoritarian nation in a high-stakes nuclear standoff with its neighbors and Washington? Almost six years later, his rule has actually seen the economy improve, and when it comes to the nuclear drive, it's obvious that Kim Jong Un, who rattled nerves last week by test-firing his country's first intercontinental ballistic missile, has a more uncompromising stance than his late father, Kim Jong Il. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E, File)

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1994 to 2011, also ordered a string of weapons tests, but he let diplomats pursue now-dormant international disarmament-for-aid deals.

No such talks have happened under Kim Jong Un. He has overseen three of the North's five atomic test explosions and both of its successful satellite launches, which are seen by the U.N. as a disguised test of long-range missile technology.

And then there's the July 4 ICBM launch, the North's most successful missile test to date. Afterward, Kim said he will never put his nuclear and missile programs on the negotiating table as long as U.S. hostility and nuclear threats persist.

What accounts for Kim's boldness?

It might just be his nature. Kim, believed to be around 33, may have strategically chosen to push the nuclear program after determining that the United States won't attack because of fears that a North Korean retaliation would cause enormous casualties in South Korea.

Kim may also have determined that China, North Korea's main ally and aid benefactor, might agree to tougher international sanctions against North Korea but would stop short of doing anything to bring down Kim's government, which could trigger a flood of refugees over their shared border and potentially a unified Korea with U.S.-allied Seoul in charge.

North Korea's small yet gradual economic growth in recent years has also allowed Kim to focus on furthering his nuclear ambitions. His father, by comparison, resorted to outside handouts to feed many of his 24 million people after a devastating famine in the mid-1990s killed tens of thousands.

WHAT HE WANTS

Kim's propaganda machine argues that the nuclear deterrence is a "treasured sword" meant to cope with U.S. aggression.

"Kim doesn't want to resolve issues through diplomacy. He's just trying to protect himself by reinforcing his country's military power," said analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at South Korea's Sejong Institute.

Since his inauguration, Kim has not met any foreign leaders or traveled abroad. The most high-profile foreigner he has met: former NBA star Dennis Rodman, who regaled him with a rendition of "Happy Birthday" at an exhibition game during one of several trips to Pyongyang.

Kim has repeatedly promised to achieve Korean unification, and he likely thinks his nuclear bombs will deter U.S. involvement in the event of another war on the Korean Peninsula. "If North Korea demonstrates its ability to strike Washington and New York ... and threatens to turn them into a sea of fire, the U.S. couldn't easily enter a war," Cheong said.

After perfecting a functioning ICBM, which could take a couple of years, Kim could push for talks to win big outside concessions in return for imposing a moratorium on nuclear and missile activities. Even so, he won't likely give up his already-developed weapons.

In the event of such talks, Kim would likely want big aid packages, the suspension of annual U.S.-South Korean military drills that North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal, and the signing of a peace treaty officially ending the 1950-53 Korean War, which would allow him to push for the withdrawal of the 28,500 American troops stationed in South Korea.

WHAT STANDS IN HIS WAY

Kim's dogged quest for nuclear weapons may also relate to his hunger to be seen by his people as a strong leader and to establish the same absolute power held by his father and his grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung.

This would make it hard for him to back off.

"He cannot give up nukes because they are the core of his power," said Cho Han Bum, an analyst at South Korea's Korea Institute for National Unification.

The North Korean ICBM could be capable of reaching Alaska, but weapons experts say the North still needs to master several more technologies before the missile will work perfectly.

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When that happens, the United States might reconsider military strikes so as not to let other rogue states think they could get their own nuclear programs if they simply hold out, Cho said.

Aside from a U.S. attack, the most painful measure against North Korea could be a Chinese suspension or drastic scaling back of its oil shipments to the North.

China sends about 500,000 tons of crude oil to North Korea, mostly for free, every year. That accounts for 80-90 percent of the North's domestic consumption, according to Cho Bong-hyun of Seoul's IBK Economic Research Institute.

It's not clear if China would suspend the shipments even if North Korea's nuclear threat becomes more dangerous. But if a suspension happened, the North's military, the backbone of Kim's rule, would suffer because it cannot effectively fly warplanes and operate tanks without oil.

That will lead to Kim's grip on power loosening, Cheong predicts.

"We can see he's so far run North Korea in a smarter way than his father because the economic conditions have improved and the military power has been bolstered," Cheong said. "But there is a high possibility that his adventurous, uncompromising attitude will eventually make things turn out badly."

Follow Hyung-jin Kim on Twitter at twitter.com/hyungjin1972

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 IN PARIS FOR SIT-DOWN WITH MACRON

Trump and his French counterpart look to set aside differences on trade and climate change and find common ground as they meet ahead of Bastille Day celebrations, but the shadow of the Russia probe crisis stalks the U.S. president abroad.

2. ON HEALTH CARE, HEAVY LIFTING AHEAD

Senate Republican leaders are rolling out their new health overhaul, pushing for a showdown vote despite signs that they've got lots of work to do to win over GOP lawmakers.

3. IN SIX YEARS, NO PEER-TO-PEER CONTACT

One thing Kim Jong Un has not done in his missile and nuclear-infused reign since taking over North Korea is meet another world leader.

4. GRUESOME DISCOVERY ON PENNSYLVANIA FARM

Investigators find human remains in their search for four missing young men and identify one victim.

5. TROUBLES MOUNT FOR EX-PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is found guilty of corruption — a historic judgment underscoring that no one is



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump kiss on the tarmac after they arrive on Air Force One at Orly Airport in Paris, Thursday, July 13, 2017. The president and first lady will attend the Bastille Day parade on the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris, France, on Friday, July 14, 2017. The president got into his motorcade vehicle and the first lady went to hers. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

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out of reach of the Latin American nation's sprawling graft investigation.

6. WHO SAID ONE THING, DID ANOTHER

An Indiana senator who railed against Carrier Corp. for moving manufacturing jobs to Mexico last year profited from a family business that relies on Mexican labor, AP learns.

7. TRUMP STEPS IN TO SMOOTH VISA PROBLEM

After the president intervenes, a group of Afghan girls will be allowed into the U.S. to participate in an international robotics competition.

8. HOW MCDONALD'S IS TRYING TO REVIVE ITS FORTUNES

The fast-food chain's long-term efforts in the U.S. include rolling out an app that saves precious seconds in filling customers' orders.

9. WHO IS VYING FOR EMMY NODS

Netflix's "The Crown" and "Stranger Things" and Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," all streamed shows, could be among the nominees.

10. CHUCK BLAZER DIES AT 72

The disgraced American soccer executive's admissions of corruption set off a global scandal that ultimately toppled FIFA President Sepp Blatter.

Gov't to report on solvency of Social Security, Medicare

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in Washington have been clamoring for years to address the long-term financial problems of Social Security and Medicare.

On Thursday, the trustees who oversee the programs are scheduled to issue their annual warning about the finances of the federal government's two largest benefit programs.

Don't expect Republicans to do much about it.

Over the years, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has insisted on overhauling the benefit programs, proposing a voucher-like system for Medicare and calling for partially privatizing Social Security.

But now that Republicans control Congress and the White House, Ryan says he doesn't want to tackle Social Security. Instead, congressional Republicans and the White House are focused on repealing and replacing Democrat Barack Obama's health care law, an effort that is stalled in the Senate.

President Donald Trump, meanwhile, has promised not to cut Social Security or Medicare, though his budget proposal for next year would



In this May 5, 2014, file photo, the Capitol building is seen through the columns on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington. Republicans in Washington have been clamoring for years to address the long-term financial problems of Social Security and Medicare. On July 13, the trustees who oversee the programs are scheduled to issue their annual warning about the finances of the federal government's two largest benefit programs. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

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cut Social Security's disability benefits by nearly \$70 billion over the next decade. The savings would come from encouraging and, in some cases, requiring people receiving the benefits to re-enter the workforce.

But even if Trump finds the savings, it wouldn't come close to solving the program's long-term financial problems.

In 2034, Social Security faces a \$500 billion shortfall, according to last year's report by the trustees. In just five years, the shortfalls add up to more than \$3 trillion.

Neither Social Security nor Medicare faces an immediate crisis. But the trustees warn that the longer Congress waits to address their long-term problems, the harder it will be to sustain the programs without significant cuts in benefits, big tax increases or both.

Last year, the trustees said Social Security had enough money in its trust funds to pay full benefits until 2034. They said Medicare's trust fund for inpatient care would be exhausted in 2028.

Those projections will be updated Thursday.

If Congress allows either fund to run dry, millions of Americans living on fixed incomes would face steep cuts in benefits.

More than 61 million retirees, disabled workers, spouses and surviving children receive Social Security benefits. The average monthly payment is \$1,253.

Medicare provides health insurance to about 58 million people, most of whom are at least 65 years old.

Over the past decade, Social Security and Medicare made up about 40 percent of federal spending, excluding interest on the debt — a share that is projected to grow in the future, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Fifty years ago, the two programs accounted for 16 percent of federal spending.

The programs are expanding in part because the U.S. is growing older.

In 1960, there were 5.1 workers for each person getting Social Security benefits. Today, there are about 2.8 workers for each beneficiary. That ratio will drop to 2.1 workers by 2040, according to CBO.

The trustees who oversee Social Security and Medicare are Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta and acting Social Security Commissioner Nancy Berryhill.

Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

Lawmakers reach initial deal to expand GI education bill

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans and Democrats have reached initial agreement on the biggest expansion of college aid for military veterans in a decade, removing a 15-year time limit to tap into benefits and boosting money for thousands in the National Guard and Reserve.

The deal being announced early Thursday is a sweeping effort to fill coverage gaps in the post-9/11 GI Bill amid a rapidly changing job market. Building on major legislation passed in 2008 that guaranteed a full-ride scholarship to any in-state public university — or the cash amount for private college students similar to the value of a scholarship at a state college — the bill gives veterans added flexibility to enroll in college later in life. Veterans would get additional payments if they complete science, technology and engineering courses.

For a student attending a private university, the additional benefits to members of the Guard and Reserve could mean \$2,300 a year more in tuition than they are receiving now, plus a bigger housing allowance.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., lauded the bill as a major effort to modernize the GI Bill, better positioning veterans for jobs after their service in a technologically sophisticated U.S. military.

"It's really about training the workforce in a post-9/11 world," he told The Associated Press. "Veterans are being locked out of a whole new economy."

House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Phil Roe, the bill's lead sponsor, said he would schedule a committee vote next week. Pledging more VA reforms to come, McCarthy said the full House will act

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quickly, describing the bill as just the "first phase to get the whole VA system working again."

"We'll move it out this month," McCarthy said.

Sen. Johnny Isakson of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said he would introduce a companion bill, while Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, the panel's top Democrat, said he was "encouraged" by the bipartisan plan. Veterans' issues have been one of the few areas in which Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill have found some common ground, as they remain sharply divided on health care, tax reform and other issues.

The education benefits would take effect for enlistees who begin using their GI Bill money next year.

Kristofer Goldsmith, 31, says he believes it would benefit many former service members such as himself, who aren't ready to immediately enroll in college after military service. Goldsmith served in the U.S. Army as

part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005, reaching the rank of sergeant, but returned home to constant nightmares and other PTSD symptoms. He was kicked out of the military with a general discharge after a suicide attempt, barring him from receiving GI benefits.

Now an assistant director for policy at Vietnam Veterans of America, Goldsmith advocates for veterans with PTSD and is appealing his discharge status. He's heading to Columbia University in the fall.

"I feel extremely lucky I have found my passion in veterans' advocacy," Goldsmith said. "But I've taken out tens of thousands of dollars to go to school. GI benefits are something service members earn while they serve. They shouldn't lose it just because they aren't transitioning back the way the government wants."

According to Student Veterans of America, only about half of the 200,000 service members who leave the military each year go on to enroll in a college, while surveys indicate that veterans often outperform peers in the classroom. The bill is backed by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, which says hundreds of thousands of former service members stand to gain from the new array of benefits.

"This is going to be a big win," said Patrick Murray, associate director at VFW.

The legislation combines 18 separate House bills, also providing full GI Bill eligibility to Purple Heart recipients. Previously, those individuals had to serve at least three years. The bill also would restore benefits if a college closed in the middle of the semester, a protection added when thousands of veterans were hurt by the collapse of for-profit college giant ITT Tech.

The bill hasn't been free of controversy.

A draft plan circulated by Roe's committee in April drew fire after it initially proposed paying for the \$3 billion cost of upgraded benefits over 10 years by reducing service members' monthly pay by \$100 per month. Veterans' groups sharply criticized that plan as an unfair "tax on troops," noting that Army privates typically earn less than \$1,500 per month.



In this June 21, 2013, file photo, the seal affixed to the front of the Department of Veterans Affairs building in Washington. Congressional Republicans and Democrats have reached initial agreement on the biggest expansion of college aid for military veterans in a decade. It would remove a 15-year time limit to tap into benefits and boost money for thousands in the National Guard and Reserve.

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak, File)

"The GI Bill is a cost of war, and Congress needs to pay for it as long as we are at war," said Paul Rieckhoff, IAVA's founder and CEO.

The latest proposal would be paid for by bringing living stipend payments under the GI Bill down to a similar level as that received by an active-duty member, whose payments were reduced in 2014 by 1 percent a year for five years.

Total government spending on the GI bill is expected to be more than \$100 billion over 10 years.

Rep. Tim Walz, top Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee and bill co-sponsor, praised the plan, saying it will "improve the lives of future generations of veterans ... without asking our troops or American taxpayers to pay more."

Follow Hope Yen on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/hopeyen1>

Trump seeks consensus with France despite differences

By VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — President Donald Trump and his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, are looking to set aside differences on trade and climate change and find common ground as they meet Thursday ahead of Bastille Day celebrations in Paris.

Trump arrived in the French capital after an overnight flight from Washington and hours before his meeting with Macron to tackle potential solutions to the crisis in Syria and broader counterterrorism strategies.

Trump's decision last month to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate accord sparked outrage across Europe and anti-Trump protests are planned while he is in Paris. Macron, a staunch advocate of research to combat global warming, has beckoned "all responsible citizens," including American scientists and researchers, to bring their fight against climate change to France.

The leaders plan to hold a news conference after their talks, and Trump may face tough questions about emails revealing that his eldest son welcomed the prospect of receiving Russian government support in last year's presidential campaign against Hillary Clinton.

Trump came to his son's defense Wednesday, praising Donald Trump Jr.'s performance in an interview on Fox News Channel. Trump tweeted: "He was open, transparent and innocent. This is the greatest Witch Hunt in political history. Sad!"

The visit to Paris could offer Trump a well-timed distraction from the controversy. He will mark the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I by visiting U.S. troops. He'll also be the guest of honor at Friday's Bastille Day events — a celebration of French national pride. White House officials are casting it as a celebration of the U.S.-French military alliance — both then and now.



U.S. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania arrive on Air Force One at Orly Airport in Paris, Thursday, July 13, 2017. The president and first lady will attend the Bastille Day parade on the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris on Friday, July 14. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

The leaders and their wives will end a busy day of meetings Thursday with a lavish dinner at Jules Verne at the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Trump is visiting a city he has repeatedly disparaged. When he announced his decision on the climate agreement, Trump said he was "elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris." And he's repeatedly said the city has been ruined by the threat of terrorism, which he ties to immigrants.

"Paris isn't Paris any longer," he said in February.

But counterterrorism issues give Macron and Trump the potential for a strong working relationship.

Macron's national security pitch hasn't differed drastically from Trump's. On Syria, he argues for intervention, saying that President Bashar Assad is a threat to Syria and the Islamic State group is a threat to France. France has been plagued in recent years by extremist attacks. During last year's Bastille Day celebrations, a 19-ton cargo truck deliberately plowed into crowds in Nice, killing more than 80 people.

Macron supports intervention against Syria's government in response to its use of chemical weapons and could prove an important ally as the Trump administration seeks to increase pressure against Assad. But in doing so, they'll need to tackle the issue of Russia's support for Assad, something Trump has only passively acknowledged.

Follow Vivian Salama on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/vmsalama>

McConnell rolling out new GOP health bill to uncertain fate

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leaders are trotting out their new, but reeling, health care bill and angling toward a showdown vote next week amid signs that they have lots of work ahead to win over GOP lawmakers or face a resounding failure.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., planned to present the revamped measure rolling back much of President Barack Obama's health care law to GOP senators Thursday. He's aiming at a do-or-die vote next week on whether to begin debating the bill — a roll call for which he's got no margin for error.

Since Democrats uniformly oppose the effort, McConnell needs the votes of 50 of the 52 GOP senators to prevail. But conservative Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky says he's a "no," Maine moderate Susan Collins seems all but certain to be opposed and other Republicans are threatening to vote against it if their demands are not met, leaving party leaders struggling to preserve one of their highest-profile priorities.

"It's going to be a test of our ability to actually embrace progress, even though it's not perfect," said No. 2 Senate Republican leader John Cornyn of Texas.

President Donald Trump heaped additional pressure on party leaders Wednesday. In an interview with



House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., second from left, and others, participates in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, July 12, 2017, to say that his group wants to delay the traditional August recess until work is accomplished on health care, the debt ceiling and tax reform. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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the Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club," he said he will be "very angry" if the Senate fails to pass the health care measure and said McConnell must "pull it off."

McConnell's new bill was expected to offer only modest departures from the original version, which he yanked off the Senate floor two weeks ago to avoid certain defeat at the hands of a broad range of unhappy Republicans.

The reworked measure's key elements remain easing Obama's requirements that insurers cover specified services like hospital care and cutting the Medicaid health care program for the poor, disabled and nursing home patients. Obama's penalties on people who don't buy coverage would be eliminated and federal health care subsidies would be less generous.

The new package would keep most of the original bill's Medicaid reductions and eliminate tax increases Obama's statute imposes on the health care industry. But it would retain Obama tax boosts on upper-income people, and use the revenue to help some lower earners afford coverage, provide \$45 billion to help states combat drug abuse and give extra money to some hospitals in states that didn't use Obama's law to expand Medicaid.

Paul told reporters the revised measure has nothing "remotely resembling repeal."

Collins has long complained the measure will toss millions off coverage. Spokeswoman Annie Clarke said Collins would vote no next week "if the Medicaid cuts remain the same" as those that have been discussed.

Besides Paul and Collins, at least three other Republican senators publicly said they hadn't decided whether to back McConnell on the initial vote: conservative Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Utah's Mike Lee and Tim Scott of South Carolina.

Cruz and Lee are chief authors of a proposal that would let an insurer sell low-premium, bare-bones policies as long as the company also sold a plan covering all the services — like substance abuse treatment — required by Obama's law.

Their plan has alienated moderates worried it would mean unaffordable coverage for people with serious medical conditions because healthier people would flock to cheaper, skimpier plans. Party leaders have not determined if the proposal will be in their measure, and there have been talks about altering it to limit premium boosts on full-coverage policies.

"If there are not meaningful protections for consumer freedom that will significantly lower premiums then the bill will not have the votes to go forward," Cruz told reporters.

Lee has said he wants their proposal in the bill, or something else relaxing Obama's coverage requirements, for him to support it.

Their proposal endured a blow when the insurance industry's largest trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, said it would lead to "unstable health insurance markets" and said people with serious pre-existing medical conditions could "lose access" to comprehensive or reasonably priced coverage.

Scott said he was still trying to determine if the legislation would help families and consumers with pre-existing medical problems.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who has fought to ease the bill's Medicaid reductions, has also yet to commit to back the measure next week.

McConnell withdrew an initial package two weeks ago in the face of Republican discord that would have spelled certain defeat.

AP reporters Erica Werner, Jill Colvin, Matthew Daly and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

'This is Us,' 'The Crown' vie for Emmy nods; no 'Thrones'

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With "Game of Thrones" off the Emmy battlefield this time around, the likely beneficiaries will be streaming dramas and, in a reversal of fortune, a broadcast series.

Netflix's "The Crown" and "Stranger Things" and Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale," all streamed shows, could be among the nominees to be announced Thursday at the TV academy by Anna Chlumsky ("Veep") and Shemar Moore ("Criminal Minds," the upcoming "S.W.A.T."). The announcement will be streamed live at 11:30 a.m. EDT on www.emmys.com.

The NBC freshman series "This is Us," a hit with viewers and critics, has a chance to show that network dramas can be Emmy-worthy again. A commercial broadcast network hasn't fielded a best drama series contender since CBS' "The Good Wife" was nominated in 2011. The last network winner was Fox's "24" in 2006.

HBO's "Game of Thrones," which dominated last year's Emmys with 23 nods and 12 trophies, including its second consecutive best drama award, falling outside the eligibility window for Emmy consideration this year.

"Orphan Black" isn't in the running for the same reason, depriving star Tatiana Maslany of the chance to repeat as best-drama actress.

On the flip side, this could be the year of the sitcom auteur — those actors who star in their creations, and often write and even direct them. That includes Aziz Ansari in "Master of None" on Netflix, Donald Glover's "Atlanta" on FX and Issa Rae's "Insecure" on HBO.

Strong showings by them could indicate that Emmy voters are willing to embrace the achievements of women and people of color as they finally gain a foothold in the TV industry.

Other likely contenders are HBO's "Veep," which won its second straight top comedy award last year; ABC's "black-ish"; Amazon's "Transparent"; and, for its sixth and final season, HBO's "Girls."

The Emmys are scheduled to air Sept. 17 on CBS, with Stephen Colbert as host.



This Sept. 18, 2016 file photo shows the main stage during the 68th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. This year's Emmy Awards will air Sept. 17 on CBS with host Stephen Colbert. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

Trump says he'll be 'angry' if Senate health care bill flops

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Wednesday he will be "very angry" if the Senate fails to pass a revamped Republican health care bill and said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell must "pull it off," intensifying pressure on party leaders laboring to win over unhappy GOP senators and preserve the teetering measure.

Trump's remarks came a day before McConnell, R-Ky., planned to release his revised legislation to a closed-door meeting of GOP senators. The new legislation would keep most of the initial Medicaid cuts

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and makes other changes aimed at nailing down support, but internal GOP disputes lingered that were threatening to sink it.

With all Democrats set to vote no, McConnell was moving toward a do-or-die roll call next week on beginning debate, a motion that will require backing from 50 of the 52 GOP senators.

Conservative Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said Wednesday he would oppose the motion and moderate Republican Susan Collins of Maine seemed all but sure to do the same — leaving McConnell with zero margin for error to sustain his party's goal of toppling President Barack Obama's health care law. Several other GOP senators were holdouts as well, leaving McConnell and his lieutenants just days to win them over or face a major defeat.

In a White House interview conducted Wednesday for the Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club," Trump said it was time for action by congressional Republicans who cast scores of votes "that didn't mean anything" to repeal the 2010 law while Obama was still president.

"Well, I don't even want to talk about it because I think it would be very bad," he said when network founder Pat Robertson asked what would happen if the effort fails. "I will be very angry about it and a lot of people will be very upset."

Asked if McConnell would succeed, Trump said, "Mitch has to pull it off."

Trump has played a limited role in cajoling GOP senators to back the legislation. Asked Wednesday about the president's involvement, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters the White House was providing "technical assistance."

McConnell's new bill was expected to offer only modest departures from the original version.

Its key elements remain easing Obama's requirements that insurers cover specified services like hospital care and cutting the Medicaid health care program for the poor, disabled and nursing home patients. Obama's penalties on people who don't buy coverage would be eliminated and federal health care subsidies would be less generous.

The new package would eliminate tax increases the statute imposed on the health care industry. But it would retain Obama tax boosts on upper-income people, and use the revenue to help some lower earners afford coverage, provide \$45 billion to help states combat drug abuse and give extra money to some hospitals in states that didn't use Obama's law to expand Medicaid.

Paul told reporters the revised measure didn't go far enough.

"I don't see anything in here really remotely resembling repeal," he said.

Collins has long complained the measure will toss millions off coverage. Spokeswoman Annie Clarke said Collins would vote no next week "if the Medicaid cuts remain the same" as those that have been discussed.

Besides Paul and Collins, at least three other Republican senators publicly said they hadn't decided whether to back McConnell on the initial vote: conservative Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Utah's Mike Lee and Tim Scott of South Carolina.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., with his director of operations Stefanie Hagar Muchow, right, walks to his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 11, 2017. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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Cruz and Lee are chief authors of a proposal backed by other conservatives that would let an insurer sell low-premium, bare-bones policies as long as the company also sold a plan covering all the services — like substance abuse treatment — required by Obama's law.

Their plan has alienated moderates worried it will mean unaffordable coverage for people with serious medical conditions because healthier people would flock to cheaper, skimpier plans. Party leaders have not determined if the proposal will be in their measure, and there have been talks about altering it to limit premium boosts on full-coverage policies.

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Scott said he was still trying to determine if the legislation would help families and consumers with pre-existing medical problems.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who has fought to ease the bill's Medicaid reductions, has also yet to commit to back the measure next week.

McConnell withdrew an initial package two weeks ago in the face of Republican discord that would have spelled certain defeat.

AP reporters Erica Werner, Jill Colvin, Matthew Daly and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar contributed to this report.

AP Exclusive: Senator profits from outsourcing he slams

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indiana senator railed against Carrier Corp. for moving manufacturing jobs to Mexico last year, even as he profited from a family business that relies on Mexican labor to produce dye for ink pads, according to records reviewed by The Associated Press.

Joe Donnelly, considered one of the nation's most vulnerable Democratic senators up for re-election next year, has long blasted free-trade policies for killing American jobs. He accused Carrier, an air conditioner and furnace maker, of exploiting \$3-an-hour workers when it announced plans to wind down operations in Indiana and move to Mexico.

However, an arts and crafts business Donnelly's family has owned for generations is capitalizing on some of the very trade policies — and low-paid foreign labor — the senator has denounced.

For more than a year, Stewart Superior Corp. and its subsidiaries have been shipping thousands of pounds of raw materials to Mexico, where the company has a factory that produces ink pads and other supplies, according to customs records from Panjiva Inc., which tracks American imports and exports. The finished products are then transported back to a company facility in California, the records show.

Stewart Superior, which also has an operation in LaPorte, Indiana, says on its website that the company's Mexican factory "brings economical, cost competitive manufacturing and product development to our valued customers."

Although Donnelly's brother runs the company, the senator previously served as a corporate officer and its general counsel before he was first elected to Congress in 2006. In a financial disclosure form he filed in May, Donnelly reported owning as much as \$50,000 in company stock and earning between \$15,001 and \$50,000 in dividends on it in 2016 alone.

"Joe is proud to support good companies that create quality Hoosier jobs, including Stewart Superior," Peter Hanscom, Donnelly's campaign manager, said in an email to the AP. "Throughout his career, Joe Donnelly has always fought for a level playing field for the American worker, including a renegotiation of NAFTA, and he will continue to do so."

Alejandro Ruelas-Gossi, a Latin American trade expert, said Donnelly's stake in the company amounts

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to “hypocrisy” in light of his outspoken campaign rhetoric against the North American Free Trade Agreement and similar deals.

“What you are creating is poverty, because the jobs they are creating are very poor jobs. You have very poor salaries. You have poor quality of life. It’s not good for America and it’s not good for Mexico,” said Ruelas-Gossi, a critic of these types of policies who has taught at the University of Miami School of Business and has written about Latin trade issues for Harvard Business Review.

During the 2016 presidential campaign, the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, then Indiana’s governor, made the plight of workers who would lose their jobs in the planned move by Carrier and its parent company, Connecticut-based United Technologies, a key part of their presidential campaign.

Donnelly directly criticized the company, blaming corporate greed — a position that largely echoed some of Trump’s campaign-trail sentiments.

“What you’re seeing with Carrier is what I call free riders,” Donnelly told the Indiana political news website The Statehouse File in August 2016. “What they do because of the trade agreement NAFTA, is they ship jobs to Mexico for \$3 an hour, and so they get the benefit of the absolute lowest wages they can find, and then turn around to ship the products back into the United States.”

Less than a month after Trump won the election, the company announced an agreement to spare about 800 jobs in Indianapolis. Donnelly thanked Trump for his involvement in the deal and pledged to stand with him in efforts to stop companies from outsourcing jobs to other countries.

Proponents of programs like the one Stewart Superior is using for its Mexican operations argue they provide employment to local workers while allowing U.S. companies to avoid some import duties and taxes. NAFTA has made the programs more enticing to American manufacturers.

But critics contend the efforts amount to a race to the bottom, syphoning jobs away from the U.S. while trapping Mexican workers in a low-wage cycle of poverty.

During his first run for the House in 2004, the former three-term congressman took on both NAFTA and the practice of “outsourcing”— a word he has called “a fancy term for ‘Someone in Indiana has just lost their job.’”

He’s currently sponsoring a bill entitled the “End Outsourcing Act,” which would require companies to disclose jobs moved abroad, deny some tax benefits and economic incentives to those companies and also require the federal government to take into account a company’s outsourcing practices when awarding contracts.

Donnelly, the lone Democrat elected statewide in Republican-dominated Indiana, is facing a tough re-election bid in 2018. Two Republicans in the U.S. House, Luke Messer and Todd Rokita, have signaled an interest in running.



In this April 7, 2017, file photo, U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., arrives for the confirmation vote for Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Donnelly railed against Carrier Corp. for moving manufacturing jobs to Mexico last year, even while he profited from a family business that relies on Mexican labor to produce dye for ink pads, according to records reviewed by The Associated Press. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

"I have been fighting alongside these workers for years, arguing that we have an obligation to ensure that federal policies are designed to benefit the U.S. economy, and that we encourage investment in the foundation of our economy — American workers, their families and our communities," Donnelly wrote in a November letter to Trump that urged the president to advocate similar ideas.

Chuck Blazer, who touched off soccer scandal, dead at 72

By RONALD BLUM, AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Chuck Blazer, the disgraced American soccer executive whose admissions of corruption set off a global scandal that ultimately toppled FIFA President Sepp Blatter, died Wednesday. He was 72.

Blazer's death was announced by his lawyers, Eric Corngold and Mary Mulligan. At a November 2013 court hearing during which Blazer entered guilty pleas to 10 federal charges, Blazer said he had rectal cancer, diabetes and coronary artery disease.

A person familiar with his death said Blazer died in New Jersey. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the place of his death was not disclosed in the statement.

"I've known Chuck for a lot of years. He did a lot for the sport. Sorry about all the issues regarding FIFA, but he was a good man," U.S. national team coach Bruce Arena said. "He helped the sport in the United States."

With girth, charm and a pet parrot, Blazer was a bon vivant as he made deals from an office and apartment in Trump Tower. The No. 2 official in the governing body of soccer's North and Central American and Caribbean region from 1990-2011 and a member

of FIFA's ruling executive committee from 1997-2013, Blazer was central to the rise of the sport in the United States. He relished his status, posting a photo on his blog of him in a private jet with Nelson Mandela.

Soccer corruption had been rumored for years before Blazer accused his boss, CONCACAF President Jack Warner, and fellow executive committee member Mohamed bin Hammam of offering \$40,000 bribes to voters in the 2011 FIFA presidential election. Bin Hammam, a Qatari who headed the Asian Football Confederation, had been the lone challenger to Blatter, who was elected unopposed to a fourth term after Warner and bin Hammam were suspended. Blatter was elected to a fifth term in 2015 before resigning.

But it turned out Blazer's conduct was as corrupt as the actions of the people he accused.

A CONCACAF investigation report released in 2013 said Blazer "misappropriated CONCACAF funds to finance his personal lifestyle," causing the organization to "subsidize rent on his residence in the Trump



In this Feb. 14, 2005 file photo, Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) general secretary Chuck Blazer attends a press conference in Frankfurt, Germany. Blazer, the disgraced American soccer executive whose admissions of corruption set off a global scandal that ultimately toppled FIFA President Sepp Blatter, has died. He was 72. Blazer's death was announced Wednesday, July 12, 2017, by his lawyers, Eric Corngold and Mary Mulligan. (AP Photo/Bernd Kammerer, File)

merer, File)

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Tower in New York; purchase apartments at the Mondrian, a luxury hotel and residence in Miami; sign purchase agreements and pay down payments on apartments at the Atlantis resort in the Bahamas.”

U.S. government agents stopped him on a Manhattan street, threatened him with arrest, and he became a government informant in 2011.

U.S. prosecutors have brought charges against more than 40 soccer officials, marketing executives, associates and entities, and prosecutors in Switzerland also have been investigating.

“Chuck hoped to help bring transparency, accountability and fair play to CONCACAF, FIFA and soccer as a whole,” his lawyers said in a statement. “Chuck also accepted responsibility for his own conduct by pleading guilty and owning up to his mistakes. Chuck felt profound sorrow and regret for his actions.”

Blazer pleaded guilty in November 2013 to one count each of racketeering conspiracy, wire fraud conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy and willful failure to file a Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts, and to six counts of tax evasion. He forfeited \$1.96 million and agreed to forfeit a second amount, to be determined at the time of sentencing, but he was never jailed as the investigation continued. He also agreed to pay a FBAR civil penalty for \$487,875.

He was banned from soccer for life by FIFA on July 9, 2015.

“His misconduct, for which he accepted full responsibility, should not obscure Chuck’s positive impact on international soccer,” his lawyers said. “With Chuck’s guidance and leadership, CONCACAF transformed itself from impoverished to profitable.”

An NYU graduate, Blazer started in soccer coaching his son’s club in New Rochelle and joined boards of local and regional soccer organizations. He was the U.S. Soccer Federation’s executive vice president from 1984-86, becoming chair of the national teams committee. In 1988, he and Clive Toye, who had brought Pele to the United States as the general manager of the New York Cosmos, formed the American Soccer League.

Blazer urged Warner to run for president of CONCACAF in 1990. When the Trinidadian won, he made Blazer the general secretary. In 1991, Blazer created the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the organization’s national team championship that is played every two years, and he rose within FIFA to become chairman of its marketing and television advisory board.

AP freelance writer Mark Dittler in Tampa, Florida, contributed to this report.

Ex-Brazil leader biggest to fall in unblinking graft probe

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and SARAH DiLORENZO, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The former president who brought Brazil to prominence on the world stage has been found guilty of corruption and money laundering — a historic judgment underscoring that no one is out of reach of this Latin American country’s sprawling graft investigation.

Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva’s conviction Wednesday was the highest profile victory yet for the probe, which has already brought charges against dozens of political and business elite and recovered more than \$3 billion in ill-gotten gains.

While Judge Sergio Moro defended the decision as one based purely in the law, Silva derided the trial as a political witch hunt and is expected to rally his supporters to his cause with a news conference he called for Thursday.

Brazil’s first working class president, sentenced to nearly 10 years in prison, will remain free while an appeal is heard, but he is now the country’s first former president to be convicted in a criminal proceeding at least since democracy was restored in the 1980s.

Meanwhile, the current president, Michel Temer, is facing his own corruption charge.

“It’s very unusual to have a former president convicted of corruption and at the time same a sitting president also being investigated,” said Sergio Praca, a political scientist at the Fundacao Getulio Vargas university in Rio de Janeiro. “Today is a huge moment in Brazilian history, for better or worse.”

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Brazilians have lived through three tumultuous years as the ever-spreading "Operation Car Wash" investigation has revealed corruption on a scale that has shocked even the most cynical. At the same time, Dilma Rousseff was impeached and removed from office for illegally managing the federal budget. And now her successor, Temer, is under siege as the lower house of Congress decides whether he should be suspended and put on trial.

The probe initially focused on members of Silva's Workers' Party, but it has since brought charges of wrongdoing against politicians of all stripes, feeding anger against those at the top as Brazil's struggles with its worst economic slump in decades. Brazilians are frequently in the streets, either to voice support for politicians they feel are being unfairly attacked or to back the prosecutors and judges who are investigating them.

Traditionally, no one has been better at drawing a crowd than Silva.

"He will try to mobilize his crowd, his group, but I don't think he's noticed that the times have changed, that the battle is not fought on the streets," said Praca. "People are just plain tired of everything."

A few hundred Silva supporters did protest his conviction in Sao Paulo on Wednesday night, and a somewhat smaller group was also out to cheer Moro's decision.

The charismatic leader left office at the end of 2010 with sky-high popularity, after riding an economic boom to fund social programs that pulled millions of Brazilians out of poverty and expanding the international role of Latin America's biggest nation.

In many quarters, the man known to Brazilians simply as Lula remains revered — both for his economic policies and his role in fighting for democracy during the country's dictatorship. The 71-year-old has been considered a front-runner for next year's presidential election.

Silva's defense team issued a scathing statement after the verdict, calling the charges an attack on democracy and vowing to prove the former president's innocence.

"President Lula has been the victim of lawfare, the use of the law for political ends, the famous method used to brutal effect in various dictatorships throughout history," the lawyers said.

Silva was accused of receiving a beachfront apartment and repairs to the property as kickbacks from construction company OAS. Silva never owned the apartment, but prosecutors argued it was intended for him. Prosecutors also alleged that OAS paid to store Silva's belongings, but Moro dismissed that part of the case.

Silva also faces charges in four other cases. He denies doing anything wrong.

Moro said he did not order Silva's immediate arrest because the conviction of a president is such a serious matter that he felt the former leader's appeal should be heard first.

The case now goes before a group of magistrates. If they uphold the conviction, Brazilian law says Silva would be barred from seeking office. In addition to sentencing Silva to 9 1/2 years in prison, Moro also ruled that the politician should be barred from public office for 19 years.



Demonstrators celebrate the decision by Judge Sergio Moro to convict former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Wednesday, July 12, 2017. Silva was found guilty of corruption and money laundering Wednesday and sentenced to almost 10 years in prison.

(AP Photo/Andre Penner)

The prosecutor's office that handled the case said it would appeal the sentence to ask for it to be increased.

Associated Press writer Mauricio Savarese reported this story in Rio de Janeiro and AP writer Sarah DiLorenzo reported from Sao Paulo. AP writer Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo contributed to this report.

Mauricio Savarese on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/MSavarese>

Sarah DiLorenzo on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/sdilorenzo>

Lawmakers intend to question Trump campaign chairman

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The scope of congressional investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential contest came into sharper focus on Wednesday as lawmakers said they intended to question the former chairman of the Trump campaign and to determine whether Russian social media "trolls" were connected to Trump's election efforts.

The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to question former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and will subpoena him if necessary, according to the panel's Republican chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa. He said he and the committee's top Democrat, Dianne Feinstein of California, have agreed to try to bring Manafort before the panel for questioning about the government's enforcement of a law requiring registration of foreign lobbyists. Feinstein's office confirmed that they plan to question him.

Manafort would certainly also be asked about his participation in a

Trump Tower meeting last June with President Donald Trump's eldest son and son-in-law, where the purpose was to hear potentially damaging information about Hillary Clinton from a Russian lawyer.

Manafort disclosed the meeting in a package of information he provided to the Senate and House intelligence committees, who have been investigating potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign, as is Robert Mueller, the former FBI director appointed by the Justice Department as the special counsel.

"Obviously it would be appropriate for anybody to get into anything that went on at that meeting, and he was at that meeting," Grassley told Iowa reporters.

A person close to Manafort said that he hasn't yet received a letter from the committee about a possible interview. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss Manafort's private interactions with the committee.

Separately, Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said his panel wants



In this photo taken July 17, 2016, Paul Manafort talks to reporters on the floor of the Republican National Convention at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. The Senate Judiciary Committee plans to bring in Manafort for questioning of the Trump campaign and will subpoena him if necessary, the Republican chairman of the panel said Wednesday, July 12, 2017. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

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to look at the use of Russian social media "trolls" and whether they were connected to the Trump election campaign. That concern is "certainly something we want to explore," along with the Trump campaign's data analytics, Schiff said. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, oversaw digital strategy for the campaign.

"One of the biggest crimes we're looking at is the hacking of data, so understanding how it was used certainly needs to be part of the investigation," said Rep. Eric Swalwell, another Democratic member of the committee. "We want to understand what data was hacked, where it was stored and if it was weaponized at all, whether it was by Russia or the campaign."

The lawmakers spoke one day after Donald Trump Jr. disclosed on Twitter a series of emails that revealed his eagerness to hear negative material on Clinton from a Russian lawyer.

The exchange showed Trump Jr. conversing with a music publicist who wanted him to meet with a "Russian government attorney" who supposedly had dirt on Clinton as "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump." He was told the Russian government had information that could "incriminate" Clinton and her dealings with Russia.

"If it's what you say I love it especially later in the summer," Trump Jr. said in one email response.

In an interview before departing Wednesday evening for France, Trump told Reuters that he didn't know about the meeting "until a couple of days ago when I heard about this." He also said that he didn't fault his son for attending. "I think many people would have held that meeting," he said.

Trump also said in a tweet that his son was "open, transparent and innocent" and again dismissed the ongoing Russia investigation as the "greatest Witch Hunt in political history."

But Trump also refused to dispute an assertion made by Russian President Vladimir Putin that Trump believed him when he said that Russia hadn't meddle in the election during their lengthy meeting in Germany last week.

"Look. Something happened and we have to find out what it is, because we can't allow a thing like that to happen to our election process," Trump said. But he added of Putin: "Somebody did say if he did do it you wouldn't have found out about it. Which is a very interesting point."

Trump also questioned whether Putin was really gunning for his victory, as U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded.

"It's really the one question I wish I would have asked Putin: Were you actually supporting me?" Trump said.

The president's attorney, Jay Sekulow, said in an interview with NBC's "Today" that Trump Jr. did not violate any laws by accepting the meeting.

Sekulow said the president was not being investigated by Mueller. "I would know a little bit about it. I'm one of the lawyers," Sekulow told ABC's "Good Morning America."

As the emails reverberated across the political world, Trump Jr. defended his actions in an interview with Fox News, blaming the decision to take the meeting on the "million miles per hour" pace of a presidential campaign and his suspicion that the lawyer might have information about "underreported" scandals involving Clinton. Trump Jr. said the meeting "really went nowhere" and that he never told his father about it because there was "nothing to tell."

"In retrospect I probably would have done things a little differently," Trump Jr. said.

Investigations into possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign have shadowed the White House for months.

Still Trump remains defiant. "There was zero coordination" between his campaign and Russia," he told Reuters, adding: "It's the dumbest thing I've ever heard."

Associated Press writers David Pitt in Des Moines, Iowa and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington contributed to this report.

McDonald's super-sized order: Get people visiting more

By CANDICE CHOI, AP Food Industry Writer

ROMEDEVILLE, Ill. (AP) — McDonald's is hoping to make a difference in its future seven seconds at a time. The company that helped define fast food is making supersized efforts to reverse its fading popularity and catch up to a landscape that has evolved around it. That includes expanding delivery, digital ordering kiosks in restaurants, and rolling out an app that saves precious seconds.

Much of the work is on display in an unmarked warehouse near the company's headquarters in suburban Chicago, where a blowup of a mobile phone screen shows the app launching nationally later this year. McDonald's estimates it would take 10 seconds for a customer to tell an employee their order number from the app, down from the 17-second average of ordering at the drive-thru, a difference that could help ease pileups. Elsewhere at the Innovation Center, the digital ordering kiosk shows how customers can skip lines at the register.

"Five, 10 years ago, we were the dominant player in convenience, as convenience was defined in those days," CEO Steve Easterbrook said last month. "But convenience continually gets redefined, and we haven't modernized."

The push come as McDonald's Corp.'s stock has hit all-time highs as investors cheer a turnaround plan that has included slashed costs and expansion overseas. Yet the asterisk on the headlines is the chain's declining stature in its flagship U.S. market, where it is fighting intensifying competition, fickle tastes and a persistent junk food image.

In an increasingly crowded field of places to eat, the number of McDonald's locations in the U.S. is set to shrink for the third year in a row. At established locations, the frequency of customer visits has declined for four straight years — even after the launch of a popular "All-Day Breakfast" menu.

The chain that popularized innovations like drive-thrus in the 1970s acknowledges it has been slow to adapt, and is scrambling to better fit into American lifestyles.

RUNNING TO KEEP UP

Lots of once-dominant restaurant chains are feeling the pressure of people having more eating options. An estimated 613,000 places were selling either food or drink in the U.S. last year, up 17 percent from a decade earlier, according to government figures. Supermarkets and convenience stores are offering more prepared foods, and meal-kit delivery companies have been expanding.

"Better burger" places like Shake Shack and Habit Burger Grill don't come close to McDonald's roughly 14,000 U.S. locations, but they're growing. And even if Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts don't serve burgers and fries, they are among those promoting food more aggressively.

"They're still taking customers from the same market pool," said Nick Karavites, a McDonald's franchisee with 22 locations in the Chicago area and chairman of a regional leadership committee.

Richard Adams, a former McDonald's franchisee who is now a consultant to those businesses, has questioned whether the chain can return to the height of its popularity in such a fragmented marketplace. He also noted that many of the new offerings the company is pursuing, such as delivery, are already available at other places.

"They're following the marketplace," he said.

Still, McDonald's needs to make changes to keep customer visits from falling further.

"TURNING A VERY LARGE SHIP"

One main focus is the drive-thru, where McDonald's gets roughly 70 percent of its business.

Customers who place orders on the mobile app, for instance, could also pull into a designated parking spot where an employee would bring out their order. That would theoretically ease backups at the drive-thru, which in turn might prevent potential customers from driving past without stopping during peak hours.

Then there's the partnership with UberEats to offer delivery. McDonald's gives an undisclosed percentage of the sale to UberEats, in addition to a fee of about \$5 that customers pay. So a risk is that delivery could draw from in-store sales, eating into profitability.

So far, however, McDonald's says delivery is bringing in new business during slower times at the roughly

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3,500 locations where it has rolled out since the start of the year.

Either way, such changes aren't likely to transform operations overnight, since most of McDonald's customers might prefer to order the way they always have.

"That's like turning a very large ship," said Karavites, noting the range of company efforts intended to build sales over time. At his remodeled restaurant in Chicago where delivery was recently launched, he said sales are already climbing.

To bring more people in over the short-term, the company is promoting \$1 sodas and \$2 McCafe drinks. Glass cases displaying baked goods are also popping up in stores. And at about 700 locations, the company is testing "dessert stations" behind the counter where employees can make sundaes topped with cake or brownie chunks.

Those stations could eventually handle an expanded menu of sweets.

JUNK FOOD IMAGE

At the same time, McDonald's is still trying to shake its image for serving junk food, especially since its appeal to families with children has long helped keep it ahead of rivals like Burger King and Wendy's.

It's made changes to its Happy Meal, and made a high-profile pledge to offer healthier options. It plans to start using fresh beef instead of frozen patties in Quarter Pounders. But as other chains emphasizing quality or health keep emerging, it may get harder for McDonald's to hold onto families or change perceptions.

"The ingredients aren't fresh or clean," Mary Beth Holland, who works in sales in the Chicago area, said about McDonald's.

Larry Light, a former chief marketing officer at McDonald's, says the company strayed in recent years by chasing customers who may have been going to places like Chipotle, but that it is refocusing on burgers and fries. He thinks that will help get people visiting more often.

"You cannot build an enduring, profitable business on a shrinking customer base," Light said.

And Bernstein analyst Sara Senatore cited the changes the company is pursuing in raising her rating on McDonald's to "buy" in April.

"I wouldn't underestimate the power of scale," Senatore said.

Follow Candice Choi at www.twitter.com/candicechoi

Asian shares advance, tracking rally on Wall Street

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — Shares were mostly higher in Asia Thursday following a broad rally on Wall Street that nudged the Dow Jones industrial average to a new high after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen told Congress the central bank may slow the pace of its interest rate increases if inflation remains below its target level.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index was flat at 20,094.61 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index jumped 1.1 percent to 26,337.49. The Shanghai Composite index climbed 0.4 percent at 3,210.65 and the S&P ASX 200 surged 1.1 percent to 5,735.40. South Korea's Kospi gained 1.2 percent to 2,419.18. Shares in Southeast Asia and Taiwan were mostly higher.

FED TALK: Yellen's comments in her semiannual testimony to Congress assuaged concerns among some traders that the Fed has been too hasty in raising interest rates despite stalling inflation and sluggish U.S. economic growth of just 1.4 percent in the first quarter. Many economists believe the Fed, which has raised rates three times since December, will increase rates one more time this year. "Investors would prefer lower interest rates, particularly if the economy isn't gaining the kind of traction that would warrant a faster rate-hike path," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial. "This is positive for the markets."

THE QUOTE: "A coordinated jump for global equity markets following the considerably dovish tone from Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen's Congressional testimony sets Asian markets for gains today," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary. "Some emphasis will also be placed on China's trade release today with

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the bias on the upside.”

WALL STREET'S DAY: The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 0.7 percent to 2,443.25 and the Dow rose 0.6 percent to 21,532.14, a record high. The average last set a record high on June 19. The Nasdaq composite added 1.1 percent to 6,261.17, while the Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks advanced 0.8 percent to 1,424.32.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 3 cents to \$45.52 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 45 cents, or 1 percent, to settle at \$45.49 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 4 cents to \$47.78 per barrel. It gained 22 cents, or 0.5 percent, to close at \$47.74 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 112.95 yen from 113.18 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1435 from \$1.1413.

Fendrich on Tennis: 1 of Big 4 left at Wimbledon, Federer

By **HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer**

LONDON (AP) — Chants of “Roger! Roger! Roger!” filled the early evening air at the All England Club, so after his post-match stretch, Roger Federer paused on a bridge connected to Centre Court and waved to his adoring public.

“When you see that they’re there for you, it’s a bit of an unusual feeling. I’m very touched, actually, to have so much support,” Federer said. “I never would have imagined when I was younger that I would have experienced this.”

Less than a month from his 36th birthday, Federer is still giving ‘em what they want. When Wimbledon began, Federer and the rest of the Big 4 — Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal — had accounted for each of the past 14 men’s singles championships. Now, as the tournament heads to the semifinals on Friday, only Federer remains.

Call him the Big 1.

“It’s nice to see different guys, maybe, but I’m happy that my dream run continues,” Federer said, “and we’ll now see what happens next.”

Federer’s path through the draw has been impressive, to say the least.

He has won every set he’s played this fortnight, the only semifinalist who can make that claim.

He has won 63 of 66 service games. He has faced only 14 break points. He has made only 49 unforced errors, fewer than 10 per match.

So the first question put to 2016 runner-up Milos Raonic after his 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (4) loss to the seven-time Wimbledon champion in the quarterfinals Wednesday was: What does a guy have to do to beat Federer?

“You know, you have to do a lot. It’s a stiff task,” said Raonic, who defeated Federer in the semifinals last year before losing to Murray in the final. “I guess you can know what you have to do. It’s a lot harder to do it than just to know it.”

He’s hardly the first to realize that, of course.

After being eliminated by Raonic a year ago, Federer took the rest of the season off to allow his surgically repaired left knee to heal properly. He already had missed last year’s French Open in May, ending a record streak of 65 consecutive appearances at Grand Slam tournaments, and then skipped the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and U.S. Open, too.

When Federer returned in January, he was fit and full of energy, and won his 18th major championship at the Australian Open.

That was part of a 19-1, three-title start to 2017, before he took another break, sitting out the clay-court circuit and the French Open again.

“I could never really play quite so freely last year just because (now) I’m more focused on how the knee’s behaving, rather than how I need to hit my forehand or backhand or what’s not going to be good for my opponent,” Federer said. “This year, I’m just a normal tennis player again, where I can focus on tactics. I think that’s the difference. I’m playing very well. I’m rested. I’m fresh. I’m confident, too. Then great things do happen.”

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Such as becoming the oldest Wimbledon semifinalist since 1974.

Perhaps his rivals at the top of the game should take note.

Djokovic, a three-time champion at the All England Club, did say he would think about taking time away from the tour because of an injured right elbow that became so painful Wednesday he stopped in the second set of his quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych.

Murray, who won Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016, will consider an extended absence, too, after his sore left hip clearly hampered him while being beaten 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals by Sam Querrey.

"We both had a very long, very tough year, a lot of matches, a lot of emotions, a lot of things in play," Djokovic said. "Our bodies have taken a lot physically."

While No. 3-seeded Federer will face No. 11 Berdych next, and No. 24 Querrey — the first U.S. man in a Grand Slam semifinal since 2009 — meets No. 7 Marin Cilic, No. 1 Murray and No. 2 Djokovic are done at Wimbledon this year.

So is No. 4 Nadal, a two-time champion who lost in the fourth round.

"Of course I'm surprised," Federer said, "to see them going out."

No one should be surprised that he is sticking around.

Howard Fendrich covers tennis for The Associated Press. Write to him at hfendrich@ap.org or follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

More AP tennis coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 13, the 194th day of 2017. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 13, 1977, a blackout hit New York City in the mid-evening as lightning strikes on electrical equipment caused power to fail; widespread looting broke out. (The electricity was restored about 25 hours later.)

On this date:

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation adopted the Northwest Ordinance, which established a government in the Northwest Territory, an area corresponding to the eastern half of the present-day Midwest.

In 1793, French revolutionary writer Jean-Paul Marat was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday, who was executed four days later.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1939, Frank Sinatra made his first commercial recording, "From the Bottom of My Heart" and "Melancholy Mood," with Harry James and his Orchestra for the Brunswick label.

In 1955, Britain hanged Ruth Ellis, a 28-year-old former model convicted of killing her boyfriend, David Blakely (to date, Ellis is the last woman to be executed in the United Kingdom).

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. Solicitor General; Marshall became the first black jurist appointed to the post. (Two years later, Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

In 1972, George McGovern received the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Miami Beach.

In 1978, Lee Iacocca was fired as president of Ford Motor Co. by chairman Henry Ford II.

In 1985, "Live Aid," an international rock concert in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, took place to raise money for Africa's starving people.

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In 1999, Angel Maturino Resendiz (ahn-HEHL' mah-tyoo-REE'-noh reh-SEHN'-deez), suspected of being the "Railroad Killer," surrendered in El Paso, Texas. (Resendiz was executed in 2006.)

In 2013, a jury in Sanford, Florida, acquitted neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman of all charges in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager; news of the verdict prompted Alicia Garza, an African-American activist in Oakland, California, to declare on Facebook that "black lives matter," a phrase that gave rise to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Ten years ago: Former media mogul Conrad Black was convicted in Chicago of swindling the Hollinger International newspaper empire out of millions of dollars. (Black was sentenced to 6½ years in federal prison, but had his sentence reduced to three years; he was freed in May 2012.) Family prayer services and a huge public outpouring in Austin, Texas, ushered in three days of memorial ceremonies honoring the late Lady Bird Johnson.

Five years ago: His credibility under attack, Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney insisted he had "no role whatsoever in the management" of Bain Capital, a private equity firm, after early 1999, and demanded that President Barack Obama apologize for campaign aides who persisted in alleging otherwise. JPMorgan Chase said its traders may have tried to conceal the losses from a soured investment bet that embarrassed the bank and cost it almost \$6 billion — far more than its chief executive first suggested. Movie producer Richard Zanuck, 77, died in Beverly Hills, California.

One year ago: With emotions running raw, President Barack Obama met privately at the White House with elected officials, law enforcement leaders and members of the Black Lives Matter movement with the goal of getting them to work together to curb violence and build trust. Theresa May entered No. 10 Downing Street as Britain's new prime minister following a bittersweet exit by David Cameron, who resigned after voters rejected his appeal to stay in the European Union.

Today's Birthdays: Game show announcer Johnny Gilbert (TV: "Jeopardy!") is 93. Actor Patrick Stewart is 77. Actor Robert Forster is 76. Actor Harrison Ford is 75. Singer-guitarist Roger McGuinn (The Byrds) is 75. Actor-comedian Cheech Marin is 71. Actress Daphne Maxwell Reid is 69. Actress Didi Conn is 66. Singer Louise Mandrell is 63. Rock musician Mark "The Animal" Mendoza (Twisted Sister) is 61. Actor-director Cameron Crowe is 60. Tennis player Anders Jarryd is 56. Rock musician Gonzalo Martinez De La Coteria (Marcy Playground) is 55. Comedian Tom Kenny is 55. Country singer-songwriter Victoria Shaw is 55. Bluegrass singer Rhonda Vincent is 55. Actor Kenny Johnson is 54. Roots singer/songwriter Paul Thorn is 53. Country singer Neil Thrasher is 52. Actor Ken Jeong is 48. Bluegrass musician Mike Barber (The Gibson Brothers) is 47. Singer Deborah Cox is 44. Actress Ashley Scott is 40. Rock musician Will Champion (Coldplay) is 39. Actor Fran Kranz is 36. Actress Aya Cash is 35. Actor Colton Haynes is 29. Actor Steven R. McQueen is 29. Soul singer Leon Bridges is 28. Actor Kyle Harrison Breitkopf (BRYT'-kahpf) is 12.

Thought for Today: "Individuality is freedom lived." — John Dos Passos, American author (1896-1970).