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- Claremont Town Official Notices Book**
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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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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.

16

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Nigeria Circle serves at nursing home, 3 p.m.

United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.

Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.

Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship in Pierpont at 10 a.m.

Legion: Regions in Groton

U10/U12: State Tourney at Humboldt



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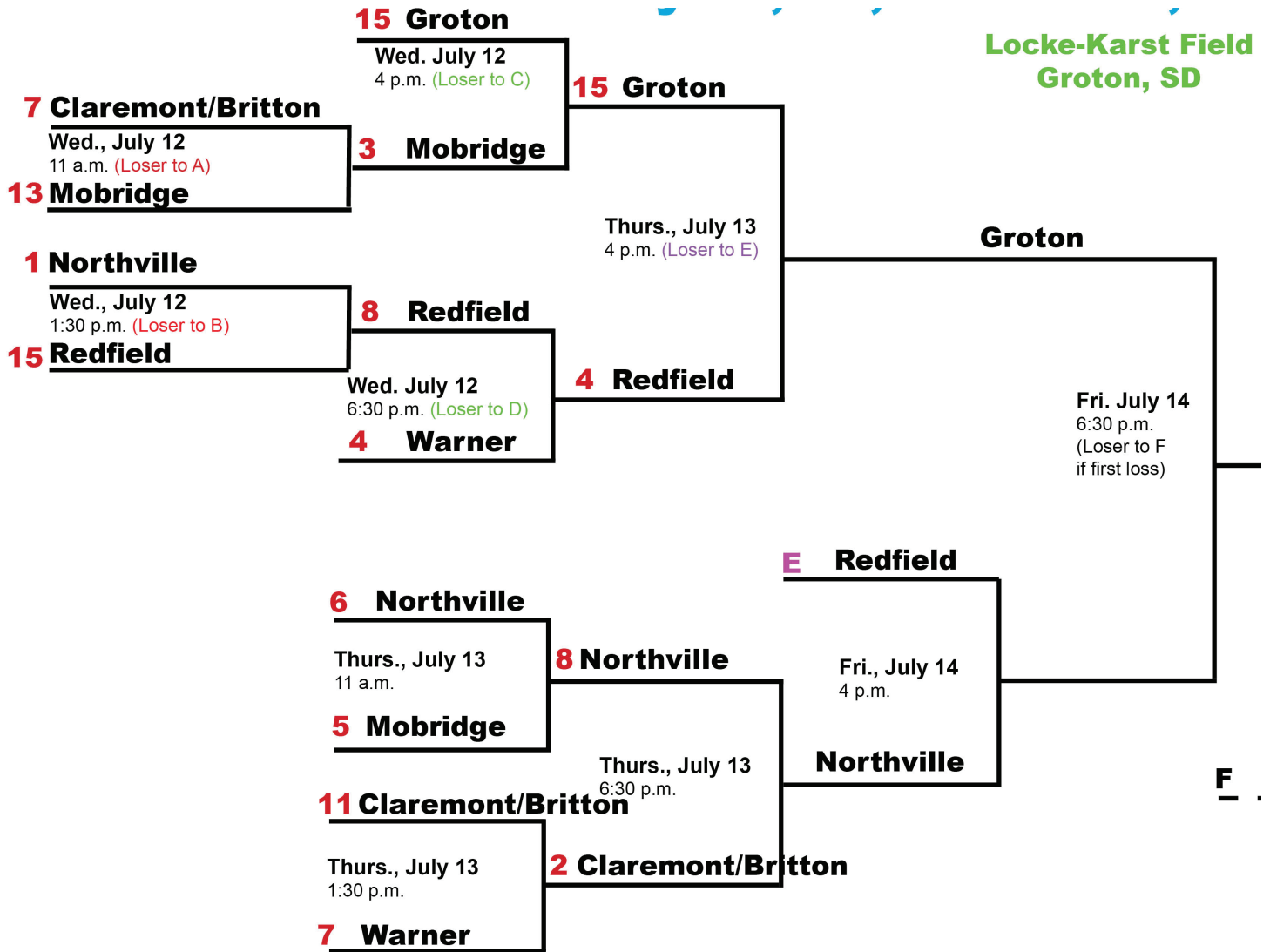
**“NO ONE
HAS EVER
BECOME
POOR BY
GIVING.”**

-ANNE FRANK

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Region 6B Legion Tourney



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95th Birthday

Open house honoring Hilda Sippel for her 95th birthday will be 1 to 4 pm on Sunday July 16th at St. John's Lutheran Church in Groton. Greeting cards can be sent to 705 N. 6th St. Groton SD 57445.

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.

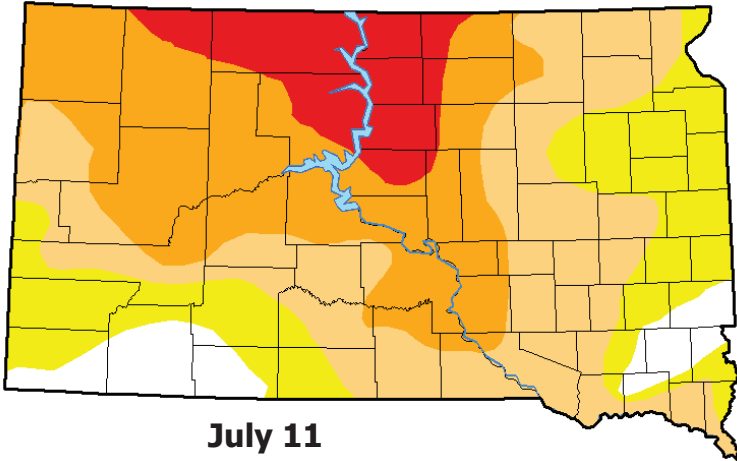
Sign up for membership to
the fitness center.
If you sign up for auto pay,
you will get one free month!

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

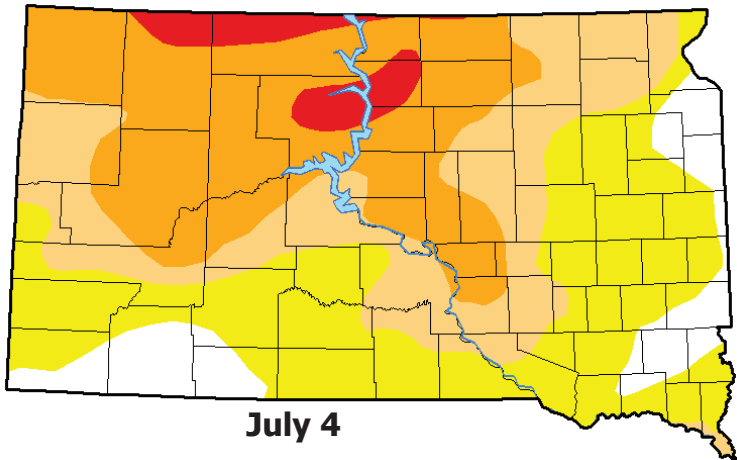
Main Office: 21 N Main
605/397-NEWS (6397)

Groton Daily Independent

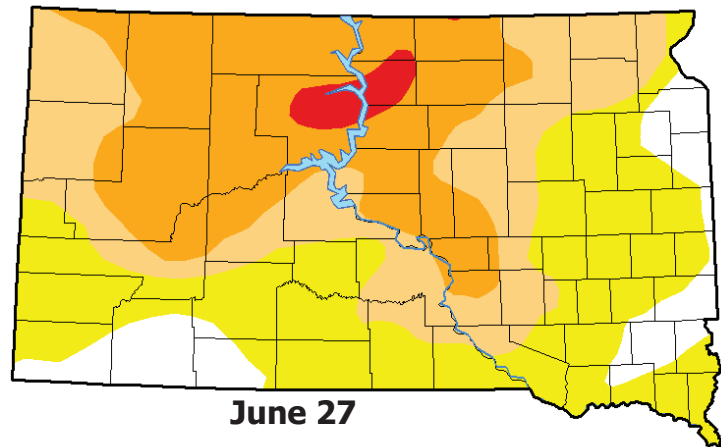
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July 11



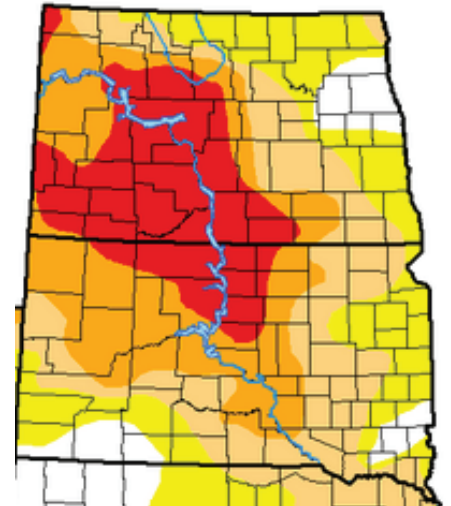
July 4



June 27

Drought Monitor

Areas of Moderate Drought (D1), Severe Drought (D2), and Extreme Drought (D3) expanded across eastern Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota where hot and dry conditions continued as well as reports of declining crop conditions and hay shortages. In South Dakota, "soybeans statewide are showing thin stands, slow growth, and small size for this time of time year" according to the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension. In North Dakota, small grain crop failures are being reported as well as reports of producers selling off livestock. According to the USDA's latest Crop Progress, the percentage of topsoil rated very short to short is as follows: Montana (89%), South Dakota (79%), Nebraska (65%), and North Dakota (62%). In eastern Montana, hot and dry weather persisted with limited precipitation. According to the July 10th Montana Crop Progress (USDA), "Haying is running at least two weeks ahead of schedule in some parts of the state, but little is on the market as livestock operations are hesitant to sell given that much of the state is experiencing drought." In the southern Plains, some minor improvements were made in areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) in Oklahoma where precipitation has been above normal during the past 30 days in contrast to below normal precipitation in central and western portions of the state where areas of Moderate Drought (D1) expanded. During the past week, average temperatures in the northern Plains and eastern Montana were 4 to 10-plus degrees above normal with the greatest anomalies observed in eastern Montana where temperatures soared into the low 100s. Overall, the region saw some isolated storms which produced only minor accumulations – generally less than 1 inch.



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CRAZY SALE

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

The Life of 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 W. Pulfrey was born April 30, 1919 at Claremont, SD to Robert Earl and Nina (Winter) Pulfrey. He attended school at Claremont and graduated from high school in 1937 in a class of 14 and was one of the last surviving graduates from his class.

John assisted on the family farm and eventually took over the farm on the event of his father's death. He continued as a very successful farmer from then on. John was truly a farmer at heart. He loved the various seasons, the planting, tending of crops and harvesting. He had a special interest in animals. For many years, he raised pigs. He loved horses and enjoyed discussing the various horses running in the Kentucky Derby with his brother, Bob.

John was involved with the Detroit Township and was proud of having served on the board for 45 years. John was also on the Board of Directors for the Farmers Union Co-op Association in Claremont for 15 years. Another special interest was the Detroit Cemetery, where John helped with tending the grounds, trees and chapel for many years.

John was a life-time farmer and after his retirement, John never lost his love of the land and interest in farm animals.

John was an avid reader and especially enjoyed reading old history books. He frequently pointed out various passages and pictures in the books that he thought others would enjoy also.

In 2002, John had a heart valve replacement surgery. Following his surgery, he moved into Rosewood Court in Groton, SD. John loved living there and frequently commented on the great staff. In December of 2016, John began living at Wheatcrest Hills Healthcare facility in Britton, SD. He resided there until his death on July 11, 2017.

John is fondly remembered by his family and friends as a kind man who was quick-witted, close to nature, loved animals and music. He especially enjoyed watching the Lawrence Welk weekly re-runs.

Preceding him in death were his parents, three sisters, Lourene Pulfrey, Mildred (Dale) Ziegler, and Genevieve (John) Ziegler, one brother, Robert Pulfrey, two nephews, John Pulfrey and James (Charlotte) Pulfrey, one niece, Nola Ziegler, two sisters-in-law, Alta M. Pulfrey and Ruth Pulfrey and two brothers-in-law, Dale Ziegler and John Ziegler.

Survivors include one nephew, Robert Pulfrey of Bonita Springs, Florida, six nieces: Ellen Hershey of Albany, California, Jean Marie (Paul) Burtness of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Janet Lea Harris of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Beverly (Ray) Mack of Watertown, Shirley (Al) Braw of Tucson, Arizona and Linda (Marshall) Janisch of Tucson, Arizona, one sister-in-law, Flora Pulfrey of Pt. Charlotte, Florida and good friends, Faye and Mark Hoines of Claremont.

Casketbearers will be Ray Mack, Mark Hoines, Paul Burtness, Matthew Schuller, Kirk Swanson and Mark Perkins.



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4-H Special Foods Contest

The 2017 Brown County 4-H Special Foods Contest was held on Thursday, June 28 at Simmons Middle School. Jessica Duerre was the judge. The following are the results of the contest:

Alicia Davis – Bath – Purple
CJ – Blue
Wyatt Kiesz –Aberdeen – Purple
Gabriel Mattson – Aberdeen – Purple
Jayda Siebert – Aberdeen – Blue
Hannah Schental – Northville – Purple
Joe Volzke –Mina– Red
Kennadee Wagner – Warner – Red
Ashlynn Warrington – Groton – Purple
Axel Warrington – Groton – Purple
Logan Warrington – Groton – Purple
Natalia Warrington – Groton – Purple
Abigail Weis – Aberdeen – Blue
TJ Wiedebush – Warner –Red
Zanrick Wiedebush – Warner – Red
Sophie Wieland – Aberdeen – Purple

In the 4-H Special Foods Contest, members select an item to prepare containing at least one serving from the food group in which the item is entered. Members are judged on their food preparation skills, nutrition knowledge for the age and food group in which the item is entered, the menu, the place setting that the meal will be served with, and the quality of the item prepared.

2017 BROWN COUNTY 4-H SPECIAL FOODS CONTEST RECIPES

Tropical Fruit Salad Alicia Davis

1cup fresh pineapple
2 Kiwis sliced
2 small mandarin oranges
1 cup sliced strawberries
1 mango
Citrus Dressing
2 tbsp. Honey
½ lime-Zest and juice
½ lemon- Zest and Juice

Direction: Wash and dry lemon and lime. Zest half of them. Put in a small bowl and squeeze the juice from each half. Should get 1/4 -1/2 cup of juice. Add honey to juice and mix. Set in refrigerator till needed. Prepare fruit and place in a large bowl. Pour dressing over fruit before serving and gently toss.

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Power Balls CJ

1 c quick oats
1/2 c peanut butter
1/4 c honey
1 scoop protein powder
1/8 c mini chocolate chips
1/8 c mini m&m's

Mix all ingredients together, roll into balls, and enjoy!

Best Yogurt Parfait Ever
Wyatt Kiesz

1 – 17.6 ounce container plain Greek yogurt
1/2 cup lite coconut milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons honey
1/3 cup brown sugar
2 cups cut strawberries

First, pour the yogurt in a bowl. Then add coconut milk, vanilla and honey. With a whisk, carefully stir until combined. It should be nice and thick. Sprinkle the brown sugar evenly over the top of the yogurt mixture. Do not stir the mixture. Cover the bowl and tightly seal the edges. Place in the refrigerator for 20 to 30 minutes. Cut strawberries to measure 2 cups total.

When ready to serve, place a small handful of berries in a cup or bowl. Without stirring the mixture, spoon the yogurt over the berries. Repeat the layers once, ending with berries on top.

Jurassic Juice Gabriel Mattson

1 large banana, peeled and cut in chunks
1/2 cup mango, cubed
1/2 cup mango flavored yogurt
1/2 cup pineapple juice

Combine all ingredients in blender. Cover and blend until smooth.

Honey Lime Fruit Salad Jayda Siebert

8oz Strawberries, diced
8oz Pineapple, diced
6oz Blueberries
6oz Red Grapes, halved
2 Kiwis, peeled and diced
1 Banana, sliced
1/2 can mandarin oranges, drained and halved
1/8 Cup Honey
1/2 TBS Fresh Lime Juice

Add all fruit to a large mixing bowl. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the honey, lime zest and lime juice. Pour over fruit just before serving and toss to evenly coat.

Cinnamon Apple Tenderloin Hannah Schental

1 1/2 lbs pork tenderloin
2 apples (peeled, cored and sliced)
2 tsp. cornstarch
2 tsp. raisins
1 tsp. cinnamon
Pepper
2 tsp. brown sugar
Season salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix corn starch, cinnamon and brown sugar. Add sliced apples and raisins. Set aside. Season pork with pepper and season salt and place in baking bag in a glass 9x13 inch pan. Spoon apple mixture around the pork and secure the bag. Poke 6 small holes in the top of the bag. Bake 30-35 minutes until the pork reaches 145-155 degrees. Let set for 5 minutes. Slice and serve.

Peanut Butter Banana Chocolate Smoothie Joe Volzke

2 large overripe bananas*, peeled, sliced and frozen
1 cup original almond milk (or more to thin as desired)
3/4 cup ice
1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
2 Tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
1/2 tsp vanilla extract

Instructions:

Add all ingredients to a blender and process until well puréed. Serve immediately.

* the overripe bananas will add sweetness for the smoothie for the sweetness so use some that have a generous amount of speckles.

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Berry Blast Smoothie

Kennadee Wagner

2 cups loosely packed baby spinach
2 cups frozen mixed berries
1 cup plain greek yogurt
1 cup low-fat milk
1 tablespoon honey
Ice (optional)

Blend together until smooth and creamy

Strawberry – Banana Smoothie

Ashlynn Warrington

2 bananas
2 cups strawberries
1 cup strawberry yogurt
1 cup milk

Put ingredients into blender and blend until well mixed

Blue Berry Muffin

Axel Warrington

2 cups flour
3 tsp baking power
1 egg
½ cup cooking
¼ cup sugar
½ tsp salt
1 cup milk
1 cup blueberries

In a large bowl, stir together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Make a well in the center. Combine egg, milk and oil in separate bowl. Add egg mixture all at one to flour mixture. Add blueberries. Stir just until moistened. Batter should be lumpy. Grease pan or use liner. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 to 25 minute. Makes 12 muffins.

Fruit & Cheese Kabobs with Fruit Dip

Logan Warrington

Kabobs:

1 cup seedless grapes
1 cup strawberries
1 cup cantaloupe
1 cup pineapple chunks
1 cup cheese cubes

Fruit Dip:

1 package vanilla instant pudding
1 cup milk
1 cup low fat sour cream
1tbsp. vanilla
Whip together & refrigerate

Alternate pieces of fruit & cheese on wooden skewers. Serve with fruit dip.

Orange Julius

Natalia Warrington

2 cups milk
½ cup orange concentrate
¼ cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
½ cup crushed ice

Combine milk, orange concentrate, sugar and vanilla in blender. Mix for 25 seconds. Add ice and mix another 5 seconds. Pour into glasses. Garnish with orange slice. Recipe makes 2 servings.

Strawberry Banana Smoothie

Abigail Weis

1 Cup frozen Strawberries
½ cup fresh blue berries
1 medium banana
1 cup of Milk
1 tablespoon of honey
½ cup of ice cubes

Put all ingredients in blender. Serve and enjoy!

Lamb Kebabs

Zanrick Wiedebush

Ingredients:

1 Lb 2oz quality lamb, trimmed, cut into 1-inch cubes
6-8 long sprigs of woody, fresh rosemary
2 red onions
2 red peppers
Marinade:
1 tablespoon smoked paprika
2 cloves
½ teaspoon cumin seeds
2 teaspoons coriander seeds
Olive oil

Directions:

1. Brush up all the spices in a pestle and until fine, then mix with a little oil to make a thick marinade paste.
2. Put the lamb pieces into a bowl and cover with the marinade, toss to coat, then leave to marinate for 30 minutes to 1 hour.
3. Meanwhile, peel and quarter the onions, and deseed and chop the peppers into 1-inch pieces. Remove the lower leaves from the rosemary sprigs, leaving the tips intact (or use wooden skewers-just remember to soak them first.
4. Divide and thread pieces of meat onto the rosemary sprigs (or skewers), alternating between wedges of onion and pieces of pepper.
5. Grill, griddle or barbecue for around five minutes, or until nicely charred on the outside with a juicy pink inside. Allow to rest for a few minutes before serving.

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Three Cheese and Spinach Ravioli Sophie Wieland

1/2 medium onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic
4 tsp. olive oil
1/2 cup spinach, chopped
1, 24 oz., jar low-sodium pasta sauce
1 tsp. basil
1 tsp. oregano
2 cups flour
2 eggs
2 egg yolks
2 tsp. salt
1/6 – 1/3 cup water
1 small egg
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup low-fat ricotta
1/3 cup reduced-fat, shredded mozzarella cheese
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. oregano
1 tsp. salt

Directions: In a small frying pan, sauté onion and garlic in olive oil until starting to brown. Reserve 2 tbsp. of mixture. Add spinach to remaining mixture. Stir continuously until spinach is wilted. Remove from heat, set aside. Mix pasta sauce, reserved onion mixture, basil, and 1 tsp. oregano in sauce pan. Cook over low heat, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, prepare dough by measuring flour into a large bowl, and making a well. Add eggs,

egg yolks, and salt. Mix with fork, slowly incorporating flour. Mix in water in small increments until dough forms a ball. Turn dough onto well-floured cloth covered board; knead until smooth and elastic (about 5 minutes). Cover; let rest 10 minutes. In medium bowl, mix spinach mixture, small egg, Parmesan, ricotta, mozzarella, pepper, salt, and 1/2 tsp. oregano. Divide dough into 6 parts; cover unused portion with plastic wrap. Bring large pot of water, with 1 tsp salt, to a boil. Roll one portion at a time; cut circles with cookie cutter. Spoon filling onto one cut piece, brush water around edges, cover with second dough piece and press to seal. Set under cloth until about half are ready. Boil for 12 minutes, remove to colander. Serve with tomato sauce.

Choco-Peanut Butter Green Smoothie TJ Wiedebush

2 cups spinach
2 cups baby kale
2 cups chocolate soy milk
1 1/2 frozen bananas
2 TBSP all-Natural peanut Butter
Ice

Blend together until smooth and creamy. Serve immediately.



livestream

Region 6B
Championship Game
Friday, July 14
6:30 p.m.
Locke-Karst Field
Groton



gdilive.com

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Pictured left to right are Joe Volzke –Mina; Wyatt Kiesz –Aberdeen; Kennadee Wagner – Warner; Abigail Weis – Aberdeen; Ashlynn Warrington – Groton; TJ Wiedebush – Warner; Natalia Warrington – Groton. (Courtesy photo)



**Left to right: Back: Axel Warrington – Groton; Sophie Wieland – Aberdeen; Hannah Schental – Northville; Zanrick Wiedebush – Warner; Logan Warrington – Groton
Front: Gabriel Mattson – Aberdeen; Alicia Davis – Bath; Jayda Siebert – Aberdeen.** (Courtesy photo)

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Today in Weather History

July 14, 1964: A severe thunderstorm produced a tornado which caused damage to Ellsworth AFB. Another storm in Meade County produced a tornado that was spotted by Air Force personnel. This storm was bearing down on a missile site near Creighton forcing the evacuation of the site. No damage to the site was reported.

July 14, 1970: A line of severe thunderstorms raced across southeast South Dakota into northwest Iowa causing extensive damage. The line of storms produced widespread high winds and large hail. The hail averaged quarter to hen egg size although some areas received stones the size of softballs and winds over 70 mph were not uncommon. Apparently, the most extensive damage from the storms extended from Mitchell through Parker to near Beresford. Spotty areas reported 100% crop damage. In Lincoln County, the hail caused an estimated \$8 million dollars in crop damage and \$2 million dollars in property damage. In the town of Marion, the hail was so large that it punched holes in some roofs.

July 14, 2009: A line of storms moving across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours on the 14th became heavy rainfall producing thunderstorms for northeastern South Dakota. Rainfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches caused mainly localized flooding. However in Grant County, a 20 foot wide by 17-foot deep culvert on 468th Avenue in Twin Brooks was washed away by flash flooding. The Grant County Highway Department said fixing the channel would cost more than \$40,000.

1936 - Extreme heat prevailed across the central U.S. as severe drought raged from Texas to the Dakotas. Record high temperatures were established in sixteen states that summer, including readings as high as 120 degrees in the Great Plains Region. On this particular date, afternoon highs for 113 stations across the state of Iowa averaged 108.7 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1957 - Hail, with some stones up to an inch in diameter, covered the ground to a depth of three inches ruining crops in the Bath area of New Hampshire. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Iowa produced eight inches of golf ball size hail near Grafton, IA, completely stripping corn stalks in the area. Hail caused more than a million dollars damage to crops in Worth County and Mitchell County, and another million dollars damage in Ada County and Crawford County. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the Great Plains Region. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth, MN, with a reading of 37 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Atlantic Coast Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms also spawned a rather strong tornado near Westtown, NY, and drenched Agawam, MA, with four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern New Mexico to central Nebraska. One hundred soldiers were injured by flying debris and collapsing tents during a thunderstorm near Trinidad, CO. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced wind gusts to 77 mph at La Junta. Early morning thunderstorms produced torrential rains over parts of Louisiana, with 7.50 inches at Carencro, and 5.85 inches at Morgan City. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1995: On the evening of Friday, July 14th, thunderstorms producing severe weather were occurring over Upper Michigan and adjacent portions of Ontario near Sault Saint Marie. By late evening the storms had evolved into a bowing line just northwest of the Mackinac Bridge. At 10:17 PM EDT, the thunderstorm gust front hit the bridge and a gust to 90 mph was measured. Sustained winds of 80 mph continued on the bridge for ten more minutes. Thus began the intense "Ontario-Adirondacks Derecho" that would cause hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage, several deaths, and many injuries as it raced southeast from the northern Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast.

2005 - Death Valley had 7 consecutive days (July 14-20) with high temperatures equal to or above 125 degrees.

2006: Tropical Storm Bilis tracks across northern Taiwan before making landfall in southeastern China's Fujian province with maximum sustained winds near 65 mph. The storm causes at least 575 deaths in Fujian, Guangdong, and Hunan provinces and direct economic losses near \$3.3 billion.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Hot	Partly Cloudy	Hot	Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms
High: 96 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 93 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 99 °F	Low: 69 °F	High: 96 °F

Temperature Swings Of 30-50 Degrees Today


Afternoon Highs: 80s -100s

Morning Readings: 50s

Heat Continues Through The Middle Of Next Week

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 7/14/2017 5:10 AM Central

Published on: 07/14/2017 at 5:17AM



Despite the cool start, hotter air is going to spread into the area - resulting in a rather drastic change. Unfortunately the hot air is here to stay and although we will see a frontal passage or two, the area will remain mostly dry with little sight of relief until the middle of next week.

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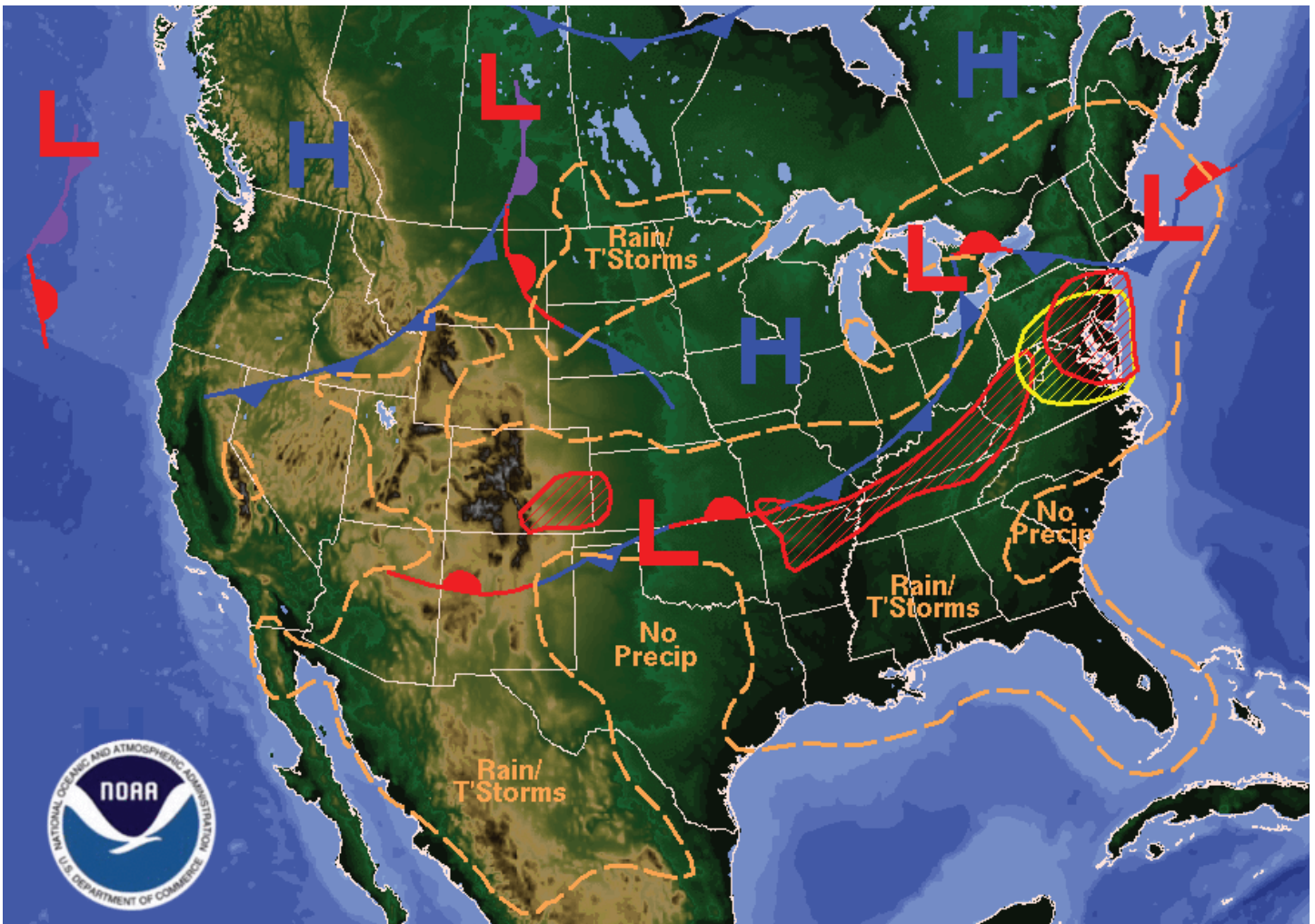
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 74.4 F at 5:17 PM
Heat Index: 75.3 at 2:21 PM
Low Outside Temp: 58.0 F at 6:529 AM
High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 2:45 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1931
Record Low: 42° in 1967
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 1.49
Precip to date in July: 0.17
Average Precip to date: 12.33
Precip Year to Date: 5.94
Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:00 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Jul 14, 2017, issued 5:13 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 FINAL MOMENTS

If the two options we have in life are faith or fear, then we can come to enjoy and take comfort in the peace we have in a living God as our light, salvation and hope. If we do not have a hope that comes from the Lord, we are condemned to a life of anguish as we move toward our final hours on earth.

Bertrand Russell said, "The older I get the more nervous I become." In contrast to his fear is the faith we see in Pope John XXIII. Two weeks before his death he said, "My bags are packed. I'm ready to go!"

David had an unusual boldness as he faced life and death. "Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident." Even though he is confronted by an army or fighting to win a war or survive with his very life, he says that "I am confident." Confident of what? His well-trained troops? His superior skills as a leader?

Indeed not. His confidence was in his Lord who was his light, salvation and hope. The word David uses for confidence in this verse means to feel secure or to be unconcerned. His confidence, the security he enjoyed, when facing the uncertainties of life and the certainty of death, was in the Lord Himself.

David's passion was to live in the Lord's house and to behold His beauty forever. Living in the Lord's house means much more than being an occasional visitor. It implies being a resident now and in eternity. To behold His beauty means to enjoy God's goodness and blessings – today, tomorrow and through eternity.

Prayer: How blest we are, Father, to know that faith in You gives us hope for this life and the one to come. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 27:3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

South Dakota man accused in fiancée's death out on \$1M bond

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of killing his fiancée has posted a \$1 million bond and is now living in the northeastern part of South Dakota.

Joseph Schmitz, 47, posted bond in Lake County on July 6, the Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/2t73S9U>) reported. Court documents show that Perry Strombeck of Rapid City provided the bond money.

Brown County Chief Deputy Tom Schmitt said police are aware that he's living in Aberdeen and that Lake County officials are monitoring his location by GPS.

Schmitz is accused in the April 2016 death of Corina Booth, who police said was shot three times at a home on Lake Madison.

Court documents show Schmitz called 911 to report he had shot Booth after she attempted to stab him. An open pocket knife was found next to Booth, who was found lying on a mattress, but the knife appeared unused, according to the court records.

Schmitz has pleaded not guilty to alternate counts of felony first-degree or second-degree murder.

He was only allowed to be released on several conditions. Schmitz must notify law enforcement of his Aberdeen address; he must pay \$5 per day for GPS monitoring; he cannot contact the victim's family or potential witnesses; he must stay in Brown County; he must notify Lake County officials if his address changes; and he must attend all court hearings.

The next court hearing for Schmitz is scheduled for July 25. He is expected to stand trial Oct. 5.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Ex-lawmaker convicted of sexual assault loses new trial bid

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota legislator convicted of sexual assault has lost another bid for a new trial.

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed a district court ruling from last year that it lacked jurisdiction in Ted Klaudt's motion for a new trial.

The 59-year-old Klaudt served eight years in the state House before losing a run for the Senate in 2006. He was arrested after five girls told authorities that Klaudt assaulted them. He was convicted on four counts of sexual assault in 2007 and sentenced to 54 years in prison.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2tPBt5u>) says in his latest bid for a new trial, Klaudt argued that state law didn't make his actions illegal at the time he committed them. He said he was convicted after state law was changed.

Corrects that Klaudt was convicted of sexual assault in 2007 instead of 2008.

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

Extreme drought conditions expand in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Extreme drought has worsened over the past week in north-central South Dakota. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows nearly 11 percent of the state in extreme drought, up from a little over 4 percent last week.

Roughly 31 percent of the state is rated in severe drought, up slightly from a week ago. Another nearly 31 percent of South Dakota is experiencing moderate drought conditions, an increase from just below 24 percent last week.

The Agriculture Department estimates the state's winter wheat crop will total 28 million bushels, down

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56 percent from last year, and the spring wheat crop at 32 million bushels, down 32 percent.

The department has designated numerous counties in the Dakotas and Montana as natural disasters, paving the way for federal aid.

Mark Zuckerberg visits South Dakota ranch, underground lab

PIEDMONT, S.D. (AP) — Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has visited a 2,500-acre cattle ranch and an underground research facility in western South Dakota.

Zuckerberg did a Facebook live broadcast Wednesday from deep underground at the Sanford Underground Research Facility. In the livestream, Zuckerberg said he hopes people watching think about going into scientific research.

He wrote in a Facebook post about the ranch family that he thinks people should understand where their food comes from. He says a lot of cattle come from South Dakota, noting that the state is experiencing drought.

Zuckerberg has said he plans this year to visit every state that he hasn't spent time in before.

Dusty Johnson: Congressional campaign raises over \$120K

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Dusty Johnson's congressional campaign says that he has raised more than \$120,000 in the second quarter of 2017.

Johnson's campaign on Thursday announced fundraising numbers in his 2018 bid to succeed U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, who is running for governor. Johnson says that he ended the quarter with more than \$288,000 in the bank.

Johnson was elected to the Public Utilities Commission in 2004 and re-elected in 2010. He later served as Gov. Dennis Daugaard's chief of staff until 2014.

Johnson is competing with Secretary of State Shantel Krebs in the Republican primary for South Dakota's lone House seat. Krebs didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment.

Trump denies disaster declaration for Dakota Access pipeline

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Trump administration rejected North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum's request for a "major disaster declaration" to help cover some of the estimated \$38 million cost to police protests of the Dakota Access pipeline, a spokesman for the Republican governor said Thursday.

Burgum publicly announced in April his letter to President Donald Trump seeking the disaster declaration to pave the way federal aid. The governor was notified in May that the request was denied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Burgum spokesman Mike Nowatzki said. The governor's office didn't announce the denial until reporters asked about it this week.

The denial was not unexpected because such declarations typically involve natural disasters, and not "civil-unrest-related disasters," Nowatzki said.

"It wasn't a surprise to us," Nowatzki said. "We knew it was a longshot."

The state had 30 days to appeal but did not, he said.

North Dakota's costs resulted from about six months of protests against the \$3.8 billion pipeline built by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners to move North Dakota oil to Illinois. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of opponents camped on federal land in southern North Dakota, often clashing with police and National Guard soldiers who set up a staging area nearby that morphed into a small village. There were 761 arrests in the region between early August and late February.

Burgum, in his 11-page letter to Trump, said the federal government bore "significant" responsibility for the costs because it failed to "enforce its regulations and maintain law and order on its property."

The state has borrowed money from the state-owned Bank of North Dakota to cover the law enforcement costs. It also is anticipating up to \$10 million from a Justice Department grant, Nowatzki said.

The state also has a longstanding offer from the pipeline's developer to help the state recoup the costs.

Energy Transfer Partners spokeswoman Vicki Granado said in an email to The Associated Press on Thursday that the offer still stands because "we know it placed a great burden on the state."

Nowatzki said Burgum has not yet dismissed the offer.

"Everything is on the table," Nowatzki said. "The governor believes North Dakota taxpayers should not have to foot this bill."

The long-delayed project was finished after Trump took office and called for its completion. On June 1, the pipeline began moving North Dakota oil to a distribution point in Illinois, from which it's shipped to the Gulf Coast.

North Dakota Tax Commissioner Ryan Rauschenberger said the pipeline "is already having a positive impact on state tax revenue because of the cheaper transportation."

Industry officials have estimated the pipeline could shave shipping costs by more than \$3 a barrel. Rauschenberger said it already has lowered shipping costs by about \$2.50 a barrel for drillers.

State tax officials estimate every dollar saved on the per-barrel shipping price means about \$33 million annually in added tax revenue, a sum that in the long run would more than offset the law enforcement costs.



In this Nov. 11, 2016, file photo, law enforcement try to move Dakota Access pipeline protesters further down during a protest at a pipeline construction site south of St. Anthony, N.D. The Trump administration has denied a request from Republican North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum for a "major disaster declaration" to help cover some of the estimated \$38 million cost to police protests of the pipeline. (Mike McCleary/The Bismarck Tribune via AP, File)

This story has been updated to correct ETP spokeswoman's last name to Granado.

Custer State Park lakes reopen following E.coli concerns

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two lakes at Custer State Park have reopened to swimmers following some health concerns.

Julie Brazell from Custer State Park tells KOTA-TV (<http://bit.ly/2un5OLs>) test results show that E. coli is no longer a problem at Sylvan and Stockade Lakes.

The lakes were temporarily closed after high levels of E. coli were found in the water. Other activities such as boating and fishing are also allowed.

Park officials test the water every week for bacteria.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

The Latest: Trump: 'Great honor' to celebrate Bastille Day

PARIS (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's visit to Paris (all times local):

1:15 p.m.

President Donald Trump says it was a "great honor" to represent the U.S. at the annual Bastille Day parade in Paris.

Trump says in a tweet that the military parade featuring U.S. and French troops was "magnificent." He congratulated French President Emmanuel Macron (eh-mahn-yoo-EHL' mah-KROHN').

This year's celebration of French pride also marked the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I. Trump was the guest of honor at Macron's invitation.

Trump and his wife, first lady Melania Trump, spent two days in Paris. They boarded Air Force One after the parade for the flight back to the United States.



U.S. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump board Air Force One at Orly Airport in Paris, Friday, July 14, 2017, en route to Bedminster, N.J., after attending the Bastille Day parade on the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

11:20 a.m.

President Donald Trump is applauding as various French military units march by during the Bastille Day parade.

At one point, Trump saluted a combined group of American Army and Navy troops and Marines taking part in the annual event in Paris.

Trump's brief visit to Paris — he arrived Thursday morning — is intended to celebrate the French day of national pride and commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I.

Trump often boasts of his commitment to bolstering America's military. He watched enthusiastically from the parade stand as the French military showcased its tanks and fighter jets, including many U.S.-made planes.

10:25 a.m.

President Donald Trump is urging fellow Republicans to approve a health care plan in the Senate, declaring on Twitter it "must happen!"

Trump is tweeting shortly before his appearance at the annual Bastille Day parade in Paris. He says Republican senators are working hard to "get their failed ObamaCare replacement approved" and says he'll "be at my desk, pen in hand!"

The president says it's important for Republicans under Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to get a health care plan approved. And he's crediting Vice President Mike Pence for working to get GOP senators "to do what is right for the people."

Trump's pressure comes as a new health care plan released by Republican leaders faces opposition in the Senate.

10:15 a.m.

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President Donald Trump has arrived in central Paris to participate in Bastille Day celebrations. Trump and first lady Melania Trump were greeted at the Place de la Concorde by Brigitte Macron, the wife of French President Emmanuel Macron (eh-mahn-yoo-EHL' mah-KROHN').

Macron arrived minutes later after being delivered via an open-air, military vehicle and reviewing the troops. Macron invited Trump to be the guest of honor at Friday's celebration, which also commemorates the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I.

Trump is scheduled to return to the U.S. after the military parade and fireworks display marking the storming of the Bastille during the French Revolution.

8:15 a.m.

French President Emmanuel Macron (eh-mahn-yoo-EHL' mah-KROHN') is positioning himself as the indispensable intermediary between Europe and Donald Trump.

Macron made a point of detailing both the long history of ties between France and America and the areas where he and Trump disagree as he hosted the U.S. president for a Bastille Day visit.

But Macron made clear it was in the spirit of bluntness between friends, even offering a conspiratorial wink during a joint news conference.

Trump's trip has included a gilded tour of one of France's most storied monuments and dinner at the Eiffel Tower. He'll be the guest of honor at Friday's Bastille Day military parade.

Gilt and guns: Macron wants to be Europe's go-to for Trump

By LORI HINNANT and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — With a gilded tour of one of France's most storied monuments and a military parade bristling with weapons, French President Emmanuel Macron is positioning himself as the indispensable intermediary between Europe and Donald Trump.

Macron made a point of detailing both the long history of ties between France and America and the areas where he and Trump disagree as he hosted the U.S. president for a Bastille Day visit. But he made clear it was in the spirit of bluntness with a friend and ally, even offering a conspiratorial wink during a joint news conference.

The appearance was part of a two-day visit that featured a personal tour of the golden-domed Invalides monument and a private dinner high in the Eiffel Tower prepared by chef Alain Ducasse himself. To top it off, Trump had prime seating at Friday's military parade, to which Macron invited Trump to be the guest of honor to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I.



French President Emmanuel Macron, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump attend Bastille Day parade in Paris, Friday, July 14, 2017. Paris has tightened security before its annual Bastille Day parade, which this year is being opened by American troops with President Donald Trump as the guest of honor to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I. (AP/Photo/Markus Schreiber)

Trump applauded during the hours-long parade carried out under blue skies as various French military

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units marched by the reviewing stand where he and Macron had front-row seats. At one point, Trump saluted a combined group of U.S. Army and Navy troops and Marines taking part in the annual event.

Macron closed the show with brief remarks as Trump stood alongside him. Macron thanked the U.S. for coming to France's aid during World War I, saying "nothing will ever separate us."

"The presence at my side of the president of the United States, Mr. Donald Trump, and of his wife, is the sign of a friendship across the ages," Macron said. Trump made no remarks. The leaders shook hands and embraced after Macron spoke, and Trump headed for the airport.

The Parisian glitz was not lost on Trump, who has used the French city as a cautionary tale, notably by citing a friend he calls Jim, who believes that "Paris isn't Paris any longer" because of the blight of Islamic extremism.

Asked about Jim's criticisms Thursday, Trump deflected and said Paris was "going to be just fine" because France now has a "great" and "tough" president. At Macron and Trump's first encounter in May, the two shared a white-knuckle handshake that the French president said was intended to show he was no pushover.

Both seemed to work to put that tense debut behind them and minimize differences, said Spencer Boyer, former national intelligence officer for Europe and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

"President Macron was highly skilled at putting President Trump at ease and avoiding any land mines that would have derailed the show of unity," Boyer said. "Macron was especially adept at sidestepping questions about U.S. political controversies, which Trump clearly appreciated."

Although Thursday's welcome may have taken some of the sting out of their first encounter, Macron's amiable meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier in the day showed the balance Macron appears to be striking.

With Merkel, he emphasized their agreement on nearly every issue as well as their joint development of a fighter jet.

The German leader said there was no getting around interdependence in the 21st century. "Europe alone cannot win the war on terrorism," Merkel said.

"There is no divergence between France and Germany in the manner of treating President Trump," Macron added.

Still, the German chancellor, who was less than a block from the U.S. Embassy when Trump was escorted inside, left the presidential palace before she and Trump could cross paths.

Trump left open the possibility that he would reconsider his decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord — the main source of disagreement with European Union governments. But he said if it doesn't happen, "that will be OK too."

Macron's ability to firmly acknowledge his differences with Trump are part of modern French tradition. His invitation to Trump was "a way of illustrating the history of France and America, allied but not aligned," said Thomas Gomart, director of the French Institute for International Relations.

After the joint briefing, the two leaders headed to their Eiffel Tower meal, which Macron described as "a dinner among friends."

Follow Hinnant and Salama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/lhinnant> and <https://twitter.com/vmsalama>

Judge in Hawaii hands Trump latest defeat on travel ban

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — In another setback for President Donald Trump, a federal judge in Hawaii has further weakened his already diluted travel ban by vastly expanding the list of family relationships with U.S. citizens that visa applicants can use to get into the U.S.

The ruling is the latest piece of pushback in the fierce fight set off by the ban Trump first attempted in January. It will culminate with arguments in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in October.

The current rules aren't so much an outright ban as a tightening of already-tough visa policies affecting citizens from six Muslim-majority countries: Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen. People from

those countries who already have visas will be allowed into the country. Only narrow categories of people, including those with relatives named in Thursday's ruling, will be considered for new visas.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson on Thursday ordered the government not to enforce the ban on grandparents, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins of people in the United States.

"Common sense, for instance, dictates that close family members be defined to include grandparents," Watson said in his ruling. "Indeed grandparents are the epitome of close family members."

Watson also ruled that the government may not exclude refugees who have formal assurance and promise of placement services from a resettlement agency in the U.S.

The U.S. Supreme Court, which last month allowed a scaled-back version of the ban to go into effect before it hears the case in October, exempted visa applicants from the ban if they can prove a "bona fide" relationship with a U.S. citizen or entity.

The Trump administration defined "bona fide" relationship as those who had a parent, spouse, fiancée, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the U.S.

The case came back to Watson when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that he had the authority to interpret the Supreme Court's order and block any violation of it.

Watson's Thursday ruling broadened the definition of what counts as a "bona fide" relationship to include grandparents and the rest of the wider list of relatives.

Hawaii Attorney General Douglas S. Chin, who represents the state as the plaintiff in the case said the court made clear "that the U.S. government may not ignore the scope of the partial travel ban as it sees fit."

"Family members have been separated and real people have suffered enough," Chin said in a statement.

The Supreme Court ruled that workers who accepted jobs from American companies, students who enrolled at a U.S. university or lecturers invited to address a U.S. audience would also be exempt.

A relationship created for purposes of avoiding the travel ban would not be acceptable, the justices said.

Trump proposed a blanket ban on Muslims during his campaign, but limited it to a handful of countries when he issued his initial travel ban in January, promoting it as a necessary tool for national security and fighting terrorism.

It set off massive protests at airports around the country and immediately sparked a sprawling, ongoing legal fight.

Courts blocked that first ban as well as a second the Trump administration had retooled, until the Supreme Court partially reinstated it at the end of June.

It's unclear how significantly the new rules have affected or will affect travel. In most of the countries



This Dec. 2015 file photo shows U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson in Honolulu. Watson on Thursday, July 13, 2017, expanded the list of family relationships needed by people seeking new visas from six mostly Muslim countries to avoid President Donald Trump's travel ban. Watson ordered the government not to enforce the ban on grandparents, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins of people in the United States. (George Lee /The Star-Advertiser via AP, File)

singled out, few people have the means for leisure travel. Those that do already face intensive screenings before being issued visas.

Associated Press writer Andrew Dalton contributed to this story from Los Angeles.

Trouble for revised Senate health bill; Trump wants action

By ERICA WERNER and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders have revised their health care bill in an increasingly desperate effort to deliver on seven years of promises to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's overhaul. They immediately lost two pivotal votes, leaving none to spare as the party's own divisions put its central campaign pledge in serious jeopardy.

President Donald Trump said this week that failure would make him "very angry" and that he would blame Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "After all of these years of suffering thru ObamaCare, Republican Senators must come through as they have promised!" Trump said in a tweet Friday while in Paris.

Earlier in the week, while flying to France, Trump had acknowledged the challenges lawmakers face.

"I'd say the only thing more difficult than peace between Israel and the Palestinians is health care," Trump told reporters traveling with him. "But I think we're going to have something that's really good and that people are going to like."

Trump is waiting and eager to sign health legislation: "I will be at my desk, pen in hand!" he tweeted on Friday.

The reworked bill McConnell presented to fellow Republicans on Thursday aims to win conservatives' support by letting insurers sell low-cost, skimpy policies. At the same time, he seeks to placate hesitant moderates by adding billions to combat opioid abuse and help consumers with skyrocketing insurance costs.

But it was not clear whether the Republican leader has achieved the delicate balance he needs after an embarrassing setback last month when he abruptly canceled a vote in the face of widespread opposition to a bill he crafted largely in secret.

Moderate Sen. Susan Collins of Maine told reporters she had informed McConnell she would be voting against beginning debate on the bill, citing in part cuts in the Medicaid health program for the poor and disabled. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has repeatedly complained that McConnell's efforts don't amount to a full-blown repeal of Obama's law, also announced he was a "no."

That means McConnell cannot lose any other Republican senators. With Democrats unanimously opposed in a Senate split 52-48 in favor of the GOP, he needs 50 votes, with Vice President Mike Pence breaking the tie, to get past a procedural hurdle and begin debate on the bill.



Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas speaks to members of the media on Capitol Hill in Washington Thursday, July 13, 2017. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. rolled out the GOP's revised health care bill, pushing toward a showdown vote next week with opposition within the Republican ranks. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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The showdown vote is set for next week, though McConnell could cancel again if he's short of support. He and other GOP leaders are urging senators to at least vote in favor of opening debate, which would open the measure up to amendments. And GOP leaders express optimism that they are getting closer to a version that could pass the Senate.

"It's in the best shape it's been in so far," said Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri. "Now that members actually have paper in their hand they can look at what is likely to be very close to the final bill we'll be voting on and move forward."

McConnell said the 172-page legislation is the senators' opportunity to make good on years of promises. "This is our chance to bring about changes we've been talking about since Obamacare was forced on the American people," he said.

Many Republicans believe the party could face electoral catastrophe if it alienates GOP voters by failing to get rid of Obama's law after taking control of both chambers of Congress and the White House.

"It could be the biggest political broken promise in many years," said conservative former Sen. Jim DeMint, former president of the Heritage Foundation.

Throughout the day McConnell huddled in his office with holdouts, including Dean Heller of Nevada, the most endangered Senate Republican in next year's midterms, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Rob Portman of Ohio and John Hoeven of North Dakota.

The lawmakers wanted details and numbers on how the bill would affect rural and Medicaid-dependent people in their states. All had opposed McConnell's earlier bill. This time, several exited their meetings saying they were undecided and needed more time to evaluate the legislation.

Like legislation earlier passed by the House after struggles of its own, the Senate bill would get rid of the law's mandates for individuals to buy insurance and for companies to offer it, repeal taxes and unwind the Medicaid expansion created by the Affordable Care Act. Analyses by the Congressional Budget Office have found the House bill and the earlier Senate version both would eliminate insurance coverage for more than 20 million people over the next decade.

The new bill contains language demanded by conservative Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas letting insurers sell plans with minimal coverage, as long as they also sell policies that meet strict coverage requirements set by Obama's 2010 statute.

The retooled measure retains McConnell's plan to phase out the extra money 31 states have used to expand Medicaid under Obama's statute, and to tightly limit the overall program's future growth.

The rewritten package would add \$70 billion to the \$112 billion McConnell originally sought that states could use to help insurers curb the growth of premiums and consumers' other out-of-pocket costs. And it has an added \$45 billion for states to combat the misuse of drugs like opioids.

Still, the nation's largest doctors' group said the plan falls short on coverage and access, particularly for low-income people on Medicaid. In a statement Friday, the American Medical Association said Medicaid cuts and "inadequate subsidies" will lead to "millions of Americans losing health insurance coverage."

The AMA said GOP leaders took a "positive step" by adding \$45 billion for treatment to help victims of the opioid epidemic. But it pointed out that people dealing with addiction also need regular health insurance, and many would lose it if Republicans succeed in rolling back Medicaid financing.

The group is calling for bipartisan cooperation, starting with action to shore up shaky insurance markets.

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Mary Clare Jalonick, Julie Bykowicz, Matthew Daly and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

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. WHAT PART FRANCE'S MACRON IS PLAYING

Welcoming Trump to Paris, the French president positions himself as the indispensable intermediary between Europe and the U.S. president.

2. REPUBLICAN LEADERS UNVEIL NEW HEALTH CARE BILL

Trying to fulfill a top campaign pledge, the GOP immediately loses two key votes in its efforts to overhaul "Obamacare."

3. JUDGE EXPANDS LIST OF THOSE EXEMPT FROM TRAVEL BAN

A federal judge further weakens Trump's travel ban by vastly expanding the list of family relationships with U.S. citizens that visa applicants can cite to get into the U.S.

4. DRUG BUYS PRECEDED PENNSYLVANIA SLAYINGS

A drug dealer confesses to killing four young Pennsylvania men after he felt cheated or threatened during several drug transactions, a person with firsthand knowledge of the confession tells the AP.

5. WHO'S WARY OF POLICE USE OF FACEBOOK

Civil rights advocates say posting mugshots and written, pejorative descriptions of suspects amount to public shaming of people who have not yet been convicted.

6. LIU XIAOBO MOURNED, MALIGNED

As tributes roll in to mourn China's most famous political prisoner, a ruling party newspaper dismisses the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate as a pawn of the West.

7. TRUMP TAKES NOTICE OF MACRON'S WIFE

The president, touring a famous Paris landmark, is caught on tape complimenting the French president's wife's body.

8. WHERE 'MAD MAX' HAS COME TO LIFE

The growing and lucrative theft of fuel from pipelines in central Mexico has become a blood trade with deadly shootouts, murders and other mayhem.

9. SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMANTS GETTING A BUMP

Millions of Americans who rely on Social Security are projected to receive a 2.2 percent increase, or about \$28 a month for the average recipient, this January.

10. WIMBLEDON FLASHBACK: VENUS REACHES FINAL

Venus Williams will play Garbine Muguruza on Saturday in her ninth Wimbledon final at the All England Club.



In this aerial photo, investigators work under tents as they search for clues in the disappearance of four men, Thursday, July 13, 2017 in Solebury, Pa. Cosmo DiNardo, 20, a jailed man who has been the focus of an investigation into the disappearances of the four men, admitted on Thursday that he killed them and agreed to plead guilty to four murder counts, his attorney said. (Michael Bryant/The Philadelphia Inquirer via AP)

AP source: Man killed 4 after feeling cheated in drug deals

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE, Associated Press

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A drug dealer has confessed to killing four young Pennsylvania men after he felt cheated or threatened during three drug transactions and then burned their bodies at his family's farm in suburban Philadelphia, a person with firsthand knowledge of his confession said.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity on Thursday because he was not authorized to publicly discuss details of the case against 20-year-old Cosmo DiNardo.

"Every death was related to a purported drug transaction, and at the end of each one there's a killing," the person said.

DiNardo, 20, then burned the bodies — three of them inside a drum — at his family's farm in Solebury Township, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Philadelphia, the person said, adding that a co-conspirator was involved in the deaths of three of the men.

As a law enforcement official escorted a shackled DiNardo from the courthouse on Thursday, he said "I'm sorry."

The person with knowledge of the confession said one of the men was killed July 5 and the other three were killed July 7.

The details were provided after one of DiNardo's lawyers said Thursday that DiNardo had confessed to killing the missing men and told investigators where their bodies were located.

DiNardo agreed to plead guilty to four first-degree murder counts, attorney Paul Lang said outside court, where DiNardo had met with investigators.

In exchange for DiNardo's cooperation, Lang said, prosecutors would not seek the death penalty. The Bucks County District Attorney's Office had no response to the lawyer's comments on Thursday night. Authorities are expected to release additional information on the case Friday morning.

Authorities had charged DiNardo earlier this year with having a gun despite an involuntary mental health commitment. In seeking \$5 million bail on a stolen car charge this week, prosecutors said he had been diagnosed with schizophrenia. He also suffered a head injury in an ATV accident a year ago.

DiNardo's parents declined to comment after leaving a government building where he spent several hours with the district attorney and other investigators.

The victims are 19-year-old Dean Finocchiaro, 22-year-old Mark Sturgis, 21-year-old Tom Meo and 19-year-old Jimi Taro Patrick. Patrick, who was a year behind DiNardo at a Catholic high school for boys, was last seen on Wednesday, while the other three vanished two days later.

Cadaver dogs led investigators this week to the spot on the family farm where they discovered human



A law enforcement official escorts Cosmo DiNardo to a vehicle Thursday, July 13, 2017, in Doylestown, Pa. Lawyer Paul Lang, a defense attorney for DiNardo, said Thursday that his client has admitted killing the four men who went missing last week and told authorities the location of the bodies. Lang says prosecutors agreed to take the death penalty off the table in return for DiNardo's cooperation.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

remains inside a 12 ½-foot-deep common grave. So far, investigators have only been able to identify one set of remains — those of Finocchiaro.

China media: Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo 'led astray by West'

BEIJING (AP) — As tributes rolled in Friday to mourn China's most famous political prisoner, a newspaper published by the ruling Communist Party dismissed late Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo as a pawn of the West whose legacy will soon fade.

The newspaper's editorial marked a rare mention of Liu in the Chinese-language media, possibly indicating a desire to guide popular opinion amid widespread reporting of his death in the overseas press and on social media platforms such as Twitter that are blocked in China.

Liu died Thursday of liver cancer while serving an 11-year sentence for incitement to subvert state power. He was 61.

Liu lived a "tragic life" because he sought to confront Chinese mainstream society with outside support, The Global Times said in its editorial headlined, "Liu Xiaobo a victim led astray by West."

"Liu's last days were politicized by the forces overseas. They used Liu's illness as a tool to boost their image and demonize China," the paper said.

"The West has bestowed upon Liu a halo, which will not linger," it said. "By granting him the Nobel Prize, the West has 'kidnapped' Liu. However, the West only puts a halo on those useful to them."

While Liu did have considerable renown abroad — official censorship made him virtually a non-person at home — the party frequently uses the specter of Western manipulate to demonize its critics.

"Liu lived in an era when China witnessed the most rapid growth in recent history, but he attempted to confront Chinese mainstream society under Western support. This has determined his tragic life," the paper continued. "If he could live longer, he would never have achieved political goals that are in opposition to the path of history."

President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron were among Western leaders offering praise for Liu. Trump's spokesman Sean Spicer called Liu a "poet, scholar, and courageous advocate," who "dedicated his life to the pursuit of democracy and liberty."

They also urged China to free Liu's wife, the artist and poet Liu Xia, from the strict house arrest she has lived under for years even though she has not been convicted of any crime.

Responding to such calls early Friday, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang chastised foreign officials for "making improper comments on Liu Xiaobo's death of illness."

"China is a country under the rule of law. The handling of Liu Xiaobo's case belongs to China's internal



Coils of barbed wire top a fence next to an apartment building where Liu Xia, the wife of Chinese dissident and Nobel Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, had been living under house arrest in Beijing, Friday, July 14, 2017. Imprisoned for all the seven years since he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, Liu Xiaobo never renounced the pursuit of human rights in China, insisting on living a life of "honesty, responsibility and dignity." China's most prominent political prisoner died Thursday of liver cancer at 61. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

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affairs, and foreign countries are in no position to make improper remarks," Geng said.

Geng's comments were issued by the ministry's official social media account. But the statement did not appear on its website, where transcripts of daily news briefings have been scrubbed clean of all mentions of Liu.

Liu rose to prominence during the 1989 pro-democracy protests centered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, and became one of hundreds of Chinese imprisoned for crimes linked to the demonstrations after they were crushed by the military. It was the first of four imprisonments.

His last was for co-authoring "Charter 08," a document circulated in 2008 that called for more freedom of expression, human rights and an independent judiciary.

He was in prison when he was awarded the Nobel in 2010 by a committee that lauded Liu's "long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China."

The government condemned the award as political farce, put Liu Xia under house arrest and even suspended a trade deal with Norway to punish the country where the prizes are awarded even though the Norwegian government has no role in the committee's decisions. Liu's absence at the prize-giving ceremony in Oslo, Norway, was marked by an empty chair.

In recent days, supporters and foreign governments urged China to allow him to be treated for cancer abroad, but Chinese authorities insisted he was receiving the best care possible.

On Thursday, the Nobel Committee said Beijing bore a heavy responsibility for Liu's death. But it also leveled harsh criticism at the "free world" for its "hesitant, belated reactions" to his serious illness and imprisonment.

"It is a sad and disturbing fact that the representatives of the free world, who themselves hold democracy and human rights in high regard, are less willing to stand up for those rights for the benefit of others," said the organization's chairwoman, Berit Reiss-Andersen.

Liu was only the second Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in prison, a fact pointed to by human rights groups as an indication of the Chinese Communist Party's increasingly hard line against its critics. The first, Carl von Ossietzky, died from tuberculosis in Germany in 1938 while serving a sentence for opposing Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

House panel rejects corruption claim, boosting Brazil leader

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and SARAH DILORENZO, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — A congressional committee rejected a recommendation to try Brazil's president for corruption, handing him a symbolic victory Thursday a day after a former president was convicted of graft.

The corruption cases against two major Brazilian figures underscored the extent of political turmoil in Latin America's largest country, where a spreading corruption investigation has uncovered a scheme to exchange bribes and kickbacks for political favors and public contracts.

That probe has led to an accusation that President Michel Temer accepted bribes from a meatpacking executive in exchange for helping the company obtain favorable government decisions. Temer has denied wrongdoing.

Earlier this week, a lawmaker appointed to study Temer's case recommended that the charge be accepted, a setback for Temer. But on Thursday, a Chamber of Deputies committee rejected that recommendation, swinging the pendulum back in Temer's favor.

Both moves are largely symbolic. The decision to suspend Temer and put him on trial rests with the full lower house, which is scheduled to vote on the matter Aug. 2. If two-thirds of the 513 deputies should vote against Temer, lower house Speaker Rodrigo Maia would take over presidential duties while Brazil's Supreme Court tried the president.

After the contentious committee vote, which occasionally descended into shouting matches, some lawmakers cried "Temer out!" and "Purchased vote!" Others responded with "Long live Temer!"

The president issued a statement calling the vote "a win for democracy and the law." Temer, who has single-digit popularity in the polls, also said his allies are part of a "solid majority" that has "civic courage"

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to defend him.

Some lawmakers complained that the extensive substitution of committee members in recent days made the committee vote a farce. Party leaders have the right to replace their members on committees as they see fit, and Brazilian media reported that parties allied with Temer made several such substitutions — in an apparent bid to guarantee the vote went the president's way.

The mammoth "Operation Car Wash" investigation has led to political tensions in Brazil between those who consider the prosecutors and judges pursuing corruption to be heroes and those who think some of the prosecutions are politically motivated.

A day after being convicted of corruption, former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva stoked those flames Thursday with a defiant public defense accusing his political opponents of trying to prevent him from becoming president again.

Federal judge Sergio Moro, hailed by many Brazilians as a hero and by others as a zealot, found Silva guilty Wednesday and sentenced him to nearly 10 years in prison, though the charismatic leader remains free while an appeal is heard.

The man popularly known as simply "Lula" told supporters the court had no proof and the conviction was politically motivated. As he grew increasingly animated while speaking, beads of sweat collected on his forehead.

To cheers, he said he wants to run for re-election next year.

"If anyone thinks that with this sentence they will pull me out of the game, they should know that I am in the game," Silva said. "The only people who can declare my end are the Brazilian people."

At various points the crowd broke into cheers of "Lula for president!" A supporter raised a poster behind him that read, "Election without Lula is a fraud."

His case now goes before a group of magistrates, and one of those judges promised Thursday that action will be taken before the October 2018 elections. If they uphold the conviction, Brazilian law says Silva would be barred from seeking office.

"By August next year, this case will be decided," said Judge Carlos Eduardo Thompson, chairman of the court that will hear the appeal. "Either the court will confirm this decision and he will be unelectable or it will amend the decision and he will be able to run."

Three judges are expected to be part of that trial: Joao Pedro Gebran Neto, who has mostly upheld or increased sentences given by Moro, plus Victor Laus and Leandro Paulsen, both seen as more unpredictable.

Silva was accused of receiving a beachfront apartment and repairs to the property as kickbacks from construction company OAS. He never owned the apartment, but prosecutors argued it was intended for him.

Silva is the highest-profile figure to be convicted in the corruption investigation so far, and the first Brazilian ex-president to be found guilty in a criminal proceeding at least since the restoration of democracy



Brazil's President Michel Temer arrives for a ceremony to sign a controversial labor reform into law at Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Thursday, July 13, 2017. A Brazilian congressional committee has given a boost to the embattled president by rejecting a colleague's report that said he should be suspended and tried on a corruption charge. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres)

in the 1980s.

He was Brazil's first working-class president and remains beloved in many quarters, though the corruption probe has dented his reputation. He faces charges in four other cases but has been considered a front-runner for next year's election.

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

Prosecutors said they would appeal seeking to increase the 9½-year sentence.

Associated Press writer Mauricio Savarese reported this story from Rio de Janeiro and AP writer Sarah DiLorenzo reported in 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>

Trump: Son's Russia meeting 'standard campaign practice'

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Thursday defended his son's meeting with a Russian lawyer, characterizing it as standard campaign practice and maintaining that "nothing happened" as a result of the June 2016 sit-down.

The remarks in Paris during a joint news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron came even though Trump's own FBI pick has said the authorities should be alerted to requests for such meetings during a campaign and even after Donald Trump Jr. said he would rethink his own conduct in agreeing to the gathering in the first place.

"I think from a practical standpoint most people would've taken that meeting. It's called opposition research, or even research into your opponent," Trump said.

Trump Jr. released emails this week from 2016 in which he appeared eager to accept information from the Russian government that could have damaged Hillary Clinton's campaign. The emails were sent ahead of a Trump Tower meeting with a Russian lawyer that Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, also attended.

Asked about the meeting Thursday, Trump said "politics is not the nicest business in the world" and that it's standard for candidates to welcome negative information about an opponent. In this case, he added, "nothing happened from the meeting, zero happened from the meeting."

Trump's comments stood in contrast to the position of his nominee for FBI director, Christopher Wray, who at his confirmation hearing Wednesday was asked what candidates should do if they're told a foreign



President Donald Trump pauses during a joint news conference with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Thursday, July 13, 2017. (AP Photo/

Carolyn Kaster)

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government wants to help by offering damaging information about an opponent.

"Any threat or effort to interfere with our elections from any nation-state or any non-state actor," Wray said, "is the kind of thing the FBI would want to know."

Trump Jr. himself said in a Fox News interview Tuesday night that "in retrospect I probably would have done things a little differently."

Meanwhile, the Republican chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said he would call on Trump Jr. to testify as part of an investigation into Russian meddling in last year's election and would subpoena him if necessary. Witnesses who refuse to comply with subpoenas risk being held in contempt.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said he wants Trump Jr. to testify "pretty soon," perhaps as early as next week. He wouldn't say what he wants to hear from Trump Jr., but said members aren't restricted "from asking anything they want to ask." The panel's top Democrat, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, had also called on Trump Jr. to testify.

A lawyer for Donald Trump Jr. did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. A spokesman for the Senate Judiciary Committee said the letter hasn't been sent.

The Judiciary Committee is one of several congressional panels investigating Russian meddling in the U.S. election, along with Special Counsel Robert Mueller. U.S. intelligence agencies have accused the Russian government of meddling through hacking in last year's election to benefit Trump and harm Clinton, and authorities are exploring potential coordination between Moscow and the Trump campaign.

Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, has also said he'd like to hear from Trump Jr. and said the panel has requested documents from him. But committee chairman, Republican Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, hasn't said whether the secretive committee will call him in. Trump Jr. tweeted Monday that he was "happy to work with the committee to pass on what I know."

It's unclear whether Trump Jr. would be as eager to testify before the Judiciary panel, which generally conducts open hearings. The Senate intelligence committee interviews many of its witnesses behind closed doors, though it has held an unusual number of open hearings as part of the Russia probe.

The June 9 meeting involved a lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, who was described to Trump Jr. in emails as a "Russian government attorney" who had damaging information on Clinton.

Trump, apparently referencing an article in The Hill newspaper that said the Justice Department had enabled the attorney to be in the country, suggested Thursday "she was here" because of former Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

As an attorney, Veselnitskaya was involved in a Justice Department lawsuit against a Russian investment law firm where her access to the U.S. became an issue.

In a January court hearing in New York, an assistant United States attorney said the federal government had bypassed the normal visa process and granted a "type of extraordinary permission" so that her client could be in the U.S. to testify in the case. The government, the lawyer said, "made the further accommodation of allowing his Russian lawyer into the country to assist."

In a statement, Lynch said she had no knowledge of Veselnitskaya's travel. "The State Department issues visas, and the Department of Homeland Security oversees entry to the United States at airports," the statement said.

Also Thursday, the Justice Department released a heavily redacted page from Attorney General Jeff Sessions' security clearance application in response to a government watchdog group's lawsuit.

The application page asks whether Sessions, a senator before joining the Trump administration, or anyone in his immediate family had contact within the past seven years with a foreign government or its representatives. There's a "no" box checked. The rest of the answer is redacted.

The department had already acknowledged that Sessions omitted from his form meetings he had with foreign dignitaries, including the Russian ambassador. A department spokesman said Sessions had been told that routine encounters as part of Sessions' Senate duties didn't have to be included on the form.

Associated Press writers Jessica Gresko and Richard Lardner in Washington contributed to this report.

Education official apologizes anew, this time to victims

By LAURIE KELLMAN and CAROLE FELDMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Education Department's top civil rights official's "flippant" remarks are raising questions about the government's commitment to fighting campus sexual violence, even as she issued her second apology in as many days for attributing 90 percent of sexual assault claims to both parties being drunk.

Candice Jackson, assistant secretary for civil rights, told victims of sexual assault meeting with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on Thursday that she was sorry for her remarks.

"As much as I appreciate apologies, which are difficult, unfortunately, there's no way to take it back. It's out there," said Fatima Goss Graves, president of the National Women's Law Center, who attended the meeting and relayed Jackson's apology Thursday. "What's extremely important now is that they do the hard work to counter those sorts of rape myths. They need to explicitly reject them."

DeVos also met Thursday with people who say they were falsely accused and disciplined and representatives of colleges and universities to talk about the impact of stepped-up efforts by the Obama administration to enforce the law known as Title IX as it relates to sexual assault.

"We can't go back to the days when allegations were swept under the rug," DeVos said at the meeting. "And I acknowledge there was a time when women were essentially dismissed. That is not acceptable. It's clear that there are failings in this process. A system without due process protections ultimately serves no one in the end."

The lawyer for a college football player who says he was falsely accused of sexual assault says DeVos sees federal rules on enforcement as unfair and in need of change.

Kerry Sutton was in the room with DeVos on Thursday when six people told "gut-wrenching" stories about being falsely accused of sexual violence on campus. "They made the point that we're not saying that sexual assault victims don't have important rights," she told The Associated Press. "We're just saying that the system has to be fair."

Sutton represents University of North Carolina football player Allen Artis, who was charged last year with misdemeanor sexual battery and assault on a female. He was suspended from football but has since been reinstated. He has said the encounter was consensual.

Michelle R. Johnston, president of the University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College, said she suggested to DeVos that whatever policy the administration decides, it should give schools more guidance on how to comply.

DeVos' "listening sessions" came the day after Jackson was quoted in The New York Times as saying federal rules have resulted in many false accusations.

In most investigations, Jackson told the newspaper, there's "not even an accusation that these accused students overrode the will of a young woman."



Education Secretary Betsy DeVos speaks with the media after a series of listening sessions about campus sexual violence, Thursday, July 13, 2017, in Washington. (AP Photo/

Alex Brandon)

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"Rather, the accusations — 90 percent of them — fall into the category of, 'We were both drunk, we broke up, and six months later I found myself under a Title IX investigation because she just decided that our last sleeping together was not quite right,'" Jackson is quoted as saying in an interview.

In her apology on Wednesday night, Jackson said, "What I said was flippant, and I am sorry." She sought to issue reassurances that both she and the department believe "all sexual harassment and sexual assault must be taken seriously."

Asked about the civil rights official's remarks, DeVos noted that Jackson had apologized.

Advocates for assault survivors who have spent years trying to get schools to take victims and a "rape culture" seriously worry that DeVos' series of roundtable meetings are really a preview for changing former President Barack Obama's guidance.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, called Jackson's statements unsubstantiated and said it minimizes the serious problem of sexual violence on campuses.

"For months, DeVos' Education Department has sent a chilling message to students and survivors by openly questioning Obama-era rules to protect students," Weingarten said. "DeVos' meetings today with so-called men's rights groups, and other fringe groups that want to silence sexual assault survivors' voices, legitimize those efforts."

Sen. Patty Murray, the senior Democrat on the Senate committee overseeing the Education Department, said in a letter to DeVos that Jackson's remark "suggests a fundamental misunderstanding of campus sexual assault and suggests that (Jackson's office) is not prepared to take accounts from survivors seriously."

But groups representing those who say they have been falsely accused suggest the Obama-era guidance weighted campus justice systems in favor of those alleging sexual violence. Jackson said in the Times interview that investigations have not been "fairly balanced between the accusing victim and the accused student."

Many of those who want Obama's guidance reversed have said they want assault cases referred to law enforcement.

As of Wednesday, there were 344 open sexual violence investigations at 242 postsecondary schools, according to a Title IX report provided by the Education Department.

Several schools had multiple cases pending, including Kansas State University and Indiana University at Bloomington with five each, the department list shows.

Baylor University in Texas had a single open case. The school has been embroiled in controversy over its handling of sexual assault allegations, and several women have sued. Art Briles was fired as football coach and Ken Starr was demoted from president and later resigned after a law firm reported in May 2016 that an investigation had found that the school had "created barriers" discouraging the reporting of sexual assaults.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at: <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman> and Feldman at <http://www.twitter.com/CaroleFeldman>

Kim's N. Korea gains a little economically, a lot militarily

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

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

When Kim Jong Un took control 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

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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 1994 to 2011, also ordered a series 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.



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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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.

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

New Senate GOP health care bill teeters on the brink

By ERICA WERNER and ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders unveiled a new health care bill Thursday in their increasingly desperate effort to deliver on seven years of promises to repeal and replace "Obamacare." They immediately lost two key votes, leaving none to spare as the party's own divisions put its top campaign pledge in serious jeopardy.

President Donald Trump declared a day earlier that failure would make him "very angry" and that he

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would blame Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

But talking with reporters aboard Air Force One en route to France, Trump also acknowledged the challenges lawmakers face.

"I'd say the only thing more difficult than peace between Israel and the Palestinians is health care," Trump said. "But I think we're going to have something that's really good and that people are going to like."

The reworked bill McConnell presented to fellow Republicans aims to win conservatives' support by letting insurers sell low-cost, skimpy policies. At the same time, he seeks to placate hesitant moderates by adding billions to combat opioid abuse and help consumers with skyrocketing insurance costs.

But it was not clear whether the Republican leader has achieved the delicate balance he needs after an embarrassing setback last month when he abruptly canceled a vote in the face of widespread opposition to a bill he crafted largely in secret.

Moderate Sen. Susan Collins of Maine told reporters she had informed McConnell she would be voting against beginning debate on the bill, citing in part cuts in the Medicaid health program for the poor and disabled. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who has repeatedly complained that McConnell's efforts don't amount to a full-blown repeal of Obamacare, also announced he was a "no."

That means McConnell cannot lose any other Republican senators. With Democrats unanimously opposed in a Senate split 52-48 in favor of the GOP, he needs 50 votes, with Vice President Mike Pence breaking the tie, to get past a procedural hurdle and begin debate on the bill.

The showdown vote is set for next week, though McConnell could cancel again if he's short of support. He and other GOP leaders are urging senators to at least vote in favor of opening debate, which would open the measure up to amendments. And GOP leaders express optimism that they are getting closer to a version that could pass the Senate.

"It's in the best shape it's been in so far," said Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri. "Now that members actually have paper in their hand they can look at what is likely to be very close to the final bill we'll be voting on and move forward."

McConnell said the 172-page legislation is the senators' opportunity to make good on years of promises. "This is our chance to bring about changes we've been talking about since Obamacare was forced on the American people," he said.

Many Republicans believe the party could face electoral catastrophe if it alienates GOP voters by failing to deliver after taking control of both chambers of Congress and the White House while vowing to get rid of former President Barack Obama's law.

"It could be the biggest political broken promise in many years," said conservative former Sen. Jim DeMint, former president of the Heritage Foundation, as he passed through the Capitol.



Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine is surrounded by reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 13, 2017, after a revised version of the Republican health care bill was announced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. The bill has faced opposition and challenges within the Republican ranks, including by Sen. Collins. (AP

Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Throughout the day McConnell huddled in his office with holdouts, including Dean Heller of Nevada, the most endangered Senate Republican in next year's midterms, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Rob Portman of Ohio and John Hoeven of North Dakota.

The lawmakers wanted details and numbers on how the bill would impact rural and Medicaid-dependent people in their states. All had opposed McConnell's earlier bill, but this time around several exited their meetings saying they were undecided and needed more time to evaluate the legislation.

Hoeven said of McConnell: "He's asking everybody to work with him, and a lot of us are saying 'yeah,' and we've got more work to do."

Like legislation earlier passed by the House after struggles of its own, the Senate bill would get rid of Obamacare's mandates for individuals to buy insurance and for companies to offer it, repeal taxes and unwind the Medicaid expansion created by the Affordable Care Act. Analyses by the Congressional Budget Office have found the House bill and the earlier Senate version both would eliminate insurance coverage for more than 20 million people over the next decade.

The new bill contains language demanded by conservative Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas letting insurers sell plans with minimal coverage, as long as they also sell policies that meet strict coverage requirements set by Obama's 2010 statute. Moderate Republicans have objected that that would make policies excessively costly for people with serious illnesses because healthy people would flock to the cheaper coverage.

The Cruz provision appears in the legislative text in brackets, meaning specific language is still being composed. That could give McConnell, Cruz and other conservatives time to work out a provision with broader support.

The retooled measure retains McConnell's plan to phase out the extra money 31 states have used to expand Medicaid under Obama's statute, and to tightly limit the overall program's future growth. Since its creation in 1965, Medicaid has provided open-ended federal funds to help states pay the program's costs.

The rewritten package would add \$70 billion to the \$112 billion McConnell originally sought that states could use to help insurers curb the growth of premiums and consumers' other out-of-pocket costs.

It has an added \$45 billion for states to combat the misuse of drugs like opioids. That's a boost over the \$2 billion in the initial bill, an addition demanded by Republicans from states in the Midwest and Northeast that have been ravaged by the drugs.

To help pay for the added spending, the measure would retain three tax increases Obama's law slapped on higher-earning people.

And the legislation has a provision that appears to benefit only one state, Alaska, by setting aside some federal assistance for states with extremely high premiums. Alaska is the only state that fits the bill and it's home to a key senator McConnell wants to win over, Lisa Murkowski. It could gain nearly \$2 billion over a decade, one analyst said.

AP reporters Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Mary Clare Jalonick, Julie Bykowicz, Matthew Daly and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Emmy nominations pit mainstream programs against niche fare

By **FRAZIER MOORE** and **LYNN ELBER**, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "This Is Us." And that is them.

When Emmy nominations were announced Thursday, one side of the TV coin hinted that broadcast's cultural relevance might be staging a comeback. This was thanks largely to the 11 nods granted NBC's "This Is Us," which broke out last fall as something no one had seen in years: a hit mainstream family drama that had everybody talking (and sometimes choking up) while critics swooned.

The show's hold on the nation's hearts and eyeballs was further demonstrated by Emmy nominations that include those for best drama series, two for lead actor, and two more for best supporting actor and supporting actress.

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NBC also scored mightily with its 22 nominations for "Saturday Night Live," which, flourishing in the politically charged Age of Donald Trump, tied with HBO's exotic thriller "Westworld" for most nominations.

In all, NBC landed 64 nominations, vaulting far ahead of fellow broadcast networks ABC with 34, CBS with 29 and Fox's 21.

Even so, HBO, as usual, claimed first place with 110 nods, while streaming service Netflix had a robust 91.

That represents the other side of the coin, both in the TV universe overall, and, more specifically, for the Emmys, where broad-based, popular programs must vie with niche and premium programming for Emmy love. (The awards-cast is scheduled to air Sept. 17 on CBS, with Stephen Colbert as host.)

Netflix big-shouldered the nominations' best drama category with three contenders: "The Crown," "House of Cards" and "Stranger Things." Rival streaming platform Hulu got its first-ever nods, totaling 18, and Amazon had 16.

"This Is Us" creator Dan Fogelman

says he initially had an instinct to pitch his prospective series not to a broadcast network, but to cable, "because cable can be considered cooler," as he explained Thursday. "But the show didn't feel like it needed to be on cable."

"I think there is a place for television that is for everybody, art that is for everybody, that also hopefully can live in the conversation with the darker, edgier stuff," he said.

This is the remarkable feat of "This Is Us."

FX was the leader among cable, scoring 55 nominations and reinforcing its image of coolness with such edgy fare as "Feud: Bette and Joan," about the epic clash of Hollywood divas Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, which reaped 18 nominations, and the third season of " Fargo," which got 16 nods.

HBO's "Veep," the most-nominated comedy with 17 bids, is bucking for its third consecutive top comedy trophy. Star Julia Louis-Dreyfus has the chance to build on her record of most wins for a lead comedy actress: She has five for "Veep" and one for "The New Adventures of Old Christine."

But Emmy voters showed their willingness to recognize new comic faces and voices, which are flourishing on streaming networks and cable. Donald Glover's freshman FX series "Atlanta" earned a best comedy bid, as did Netflix's "Master of None," starring Aziz Ansari.

There was also room for "Modern Family," an old favorite on broadcast network ABC, although it earned only a handful of bids besides best comedy, including for Ty Burrell in the supporting actor category. HBO's "Silicon Valley" and Netflix's "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt" round out the best comedy ranks.

Samantha Bee, who broke into the late-night male domain with TBS' "Full Frontal with Samantha Bee," earned a variety talk show nomination for her efforts. Her competitors include "Late Show" host Colbert as well as Jimmy Kimmel, John Oliver, James Corden and Bill Maher.



This Jan. 14, 2017 photo released by NBC shows Alec Baldwin President Elect Donald J. Trump in a sketch on "Saturday Night Live," in New York. Baldwin was nominated for an Emmy Award for outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series on Thursday, July 13, 2017. The Emmy Awards ceremony, airing Sept. 17 on CBS, will be hosted by Stephen Colbert. (Will Heath/NBC via AP)

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Netflix's sci-fi series "Stranger Things" received an impressive 18 bids, including one for star Millie Bobby Brown, while its "The Crown," a lavish peek at the life of Britain's Queen Elizabeth as played by the nominated Claire Foy, received a total of 13 bids.

So did the dystopian Hulu saga "The Handmaid's Tale," including a nomination for star Elisabeth Moss. AMC's "Better Call Saul," the "Breaking Bad" spinoff, is also nominated, along with star Bob Odenkirk.

"Girls" didn't get a best comedy bid for its sixth and final season. But this groundbreaking HBO series cleaned up for its guest actors, with nods going to Becky Ann Baker, Riz Ahmed and Matthew Rhys, with Ahmed and Rhys nominated in drama categories as well, for HBO's "The Night Of" and FX's "The Americans," respectively.

Competing with Rhys, Odenkirk, Sterling K. Brown and Milo Ventimiglia (both of "This Is Us") and Anthony Hopkins ("Westworld") for best drama acting honors are Liev Schreiber from Showtime's "Ray Donovan" and Kevin Spacey of Netflix's "House Of Cards."

Foy and Moss are joined in the best drama actress category by 2015 winner Viola Davis from ABC's "How To Get Away With Murder," Keri Russell of "The Americans," Evan Rachel Wood in "Westworld" and Robin Wright from "House Of Cards."

As the Emmy hubbub over "This Is Us" suggests, this is all a different world from TV's early decades, when the Emmys were largely divvied up among just three commercial networks; a world where, until the late 1980s, cable fare didn't even qualify for Emmys.

When viewers tune in the Emmycast in September, they may never have seen, nor even heard of, many of the programs competing for awards. Bedrock shows like "SNL," "Modern Family" and now "This Is Us" will represent a throwback: TV that more viewers have a rooting interest in.

Entertainment Writer Sandy Cohen in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Frazier Moore is a national television columnist for The Associated Press. He can be reached at fmoore@ap.org.

Qatar crisis grinds on as top US diplomat leaves the Gulf

By ADAM SCHRECK and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The top U.S. diplomat concluded a week of shuttle diplomacy in the Persian Gulf crisis on Thursday bearing no promise of an imminent breakthrough, but he voiced optimism that Qatar and its four Arab neighbors might soon at least be willing to talk face to face.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson traveled to tiny, gas-rich Qatar for a second time for a lunch meeting with 37-year-old Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, following talks earlier in the week in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. As he flew back to Washington, Tillerson told reporters that the discussions had been "helpful" and that the U.S. planned to keep at it.

"In my view, there's a changed sense of willingness to at least be open to talking to one another, and that was not the case before I came," Tillerson said.

It was a far cry from a U.S.-brokered resolution to the crisis that has now spanned more than a month, and no meeting of the feuding nations has yet been announced. But Tillerson's aides had said ahead of time they didn't expect a quick solution would result from his four days of talks.

Tillerson, a former Exxon Mobil CEO with deep experience in the oil-rich Gulf, has been shuttling between Qatar, Saudi Arabia and mediator Kuwait since Monday trying to repair a rift that is dividing some of America's most important Mideast allies. Ahead of the trip, the U.S. said the crisis was at an "impasse," but on Thursday the State Department said that was no longer the case.

Tillerson's clearest achievement was 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.

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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 — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates — argues that the pressure and demands it has placed on Qatar helped lead to the counterterrorism pact, but it says the agreement does not go far enough to end the dispute.

Those countries are holding fast to their insistence that Qatar bow to a 13-point list of demands that includes 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.

As he returned to Washington, Tillerson he'd sought to catalog the Arab nations' concerns in written documents and sort them into "buckets" so they would be easier to address. He said some categories of concerns could be "addressed up front fairly quickly" but others were more complex and would take longer to resolve.

"If we can begin to have some success beginning to take some of these issues off the table, because we now have a way to move forward, then I'm hoping that will start the process of returning, normalizing relations," Tillerson said.

Qatar has rejected the demands, saying that agreeing to them wholesale would undermine its sovereignty. It is intent on waiting out the crisis despite its neighbors' attempts to isolate it.

Shipping companies have set up alternate routes to get supplies into Qatar without going through the blockading countries, and flag carrier Qatar Airways continues to operate its 200-strong fleet by detouring over friendlier airspace.

The government says it is covering a tenfold increase in shipping costs for essentials. Ally Turkey and nearby Iran have also boosted exports to Qatar, and the country has even taken to importing cows to meet a dairy shortfall caused by the closure of its only land border with Saudi Arabia.

Still, the rift is causing hardship for some.

Human Rights Watch said Thursday the dispute has left families separated, forced students out of their universities, and impeded medical care, including for a child who missed a scheduled brain surgery.

The rights group also raised concerns about migrant workers based in Qatar who have been left stranded in Saudi Arabia and others in Doha who are struggling with a rise in food costs because of the blockade.

"Gulf autocrats' political disputes are violating the rights of peaceful Gulf residents who were living their lives and caring for their families," Sarah Leah Whitson, the group's Mideast director, said in a statement.

Meanwhile, 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.



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)

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.

Lederman reported from Washington.

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

Room with a view: 2 ex- Vatican hospital officials charged

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The scandal was remarkable even by Vatican standards: The president of the "pope's hospital" for sick children had taken nearly a half-million dollars in hospital donations and used them to spruce up the penthouse apartment of the Vatican cardinal who had appointed him.

On Thursday, the Vatican tribunal indicted Giuseppe Profiti and the hospital's former treasurer on charges they illegally diverted the money, and ordered them to stand trial. The case answers a key question raised by a recent Associated Press investigation that found that the hospital's mission under Profiti's leadership had been lost and was "more aimed at profit than caring for children."

So where did the money go?

According to the indictment, at least some 422,000 euros (\$481,000) in donations to the fundraising foundation of the Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital — popularly known as the

"pope's hospital" — went instead to renovate the penthouse of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who retired in 2013 as the second most powerful man in the Catholic Church.

Profiti acknowledged the payment, but said it was an investment so the hospital could use Bertone's apartment, with its enormous rooftop terrace overlooking St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican gardens below, for fundraising events to benefit sick children.

Bertone, who had appointed Profiti as president of the hospital in 2008, denied knowledge of the payment and said he had paid some 300,000 euros for the renovations out of his own pocket. That suggested the construction company was either paid twice for the work or that Bertone paid for some of it, and the hospital foundation the rest.

Regardless, the total payout came to nearly three-quarters of a million euros (dollars) to renovate a retired cardinal's apartment and the leaky rooftop terrace above it, all in the shadow of the two-room hotel suite where Pope Francis lives and preaches his "church of the poor and for the poor" gospel.

Significantly, Bertone wasn't charged or even placed under investigation, even though he personally



This April 1, 2016 file photo shows a view of the Vatican-run Bambino Gesù' pediatric hospital, in Rome. On Thursday, July 13, 2017 Vatican prosecutors indicted the former president and ex-treasurer of the Vatican-run children's hospital for allegedly diverting money from the hospital's foundation to pay for renovations on a top cardinal's apartment. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, files)

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benefited from the diverted money. Nor were the Castelli Re construction company or its owner, Gianantonio Bandera, though Bandera was referenced as having received the "illegally" diverted funds. The trial of Profiti and Massimo Spina, the former hospital treasurer, is scheduled to open on Tuesday.

The apartment is owned by the Vatican, but was assigned to Bertone for his personal use after he retired as the Vatican's secretary of state under Pope Benedict XVI. Located on the edge of the Vatican gardens next to the Domus Santa Marta hotel where Pope Francis lives, the third-floor apartment has been the source of endless speculation ever since the diverted hospital funds were revealed in 2015.

Bertone has defended its relatively large size — some 3,230 square feet (300 square meters) — by saying other cardinals have even bigger apartments and that he lives there with a secretary and three nuns who help care for him, and that he needed the space for his archive and library.

While denying any wrongdoing, Bertone nevertheless made a 150,000-euro "donation" to the hospital, whose name in English means Baby Jesus, to make up for the reputational damage it incurred as a result of the scandal.

Profiti resigned suddenly as president of the hospital in January 2015, nine months into a new three-year term. According to the AP investigation, a secret Vatican-authorized task force had concluded in 2014 that under his administration, the hospital's mission had been "lost" and was "substituted by an attitude aimed almost exclusively at profit."

The AP inquiry found that children sometimes paid the price as the medical center expanded its specialized services, increased volume and tried to cut costs, with overcrowding and poor hygiene contributing to deadly infections. One extremely drug-resistant superbug outbreak that wore on for nearly two years killed eight children in the hospital's cancer ward.

The hospital has called the AP report a "hoax" and denied problems. The current Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, has said some issues were "truly unfounded" but acknowledged there were past problems at the hospital that the current administration was working to fix.

Profiti, who now heads a small medical clinic in southern Campania, said in a May 29 interview that he told Vatican prosecutors that none of the money used for the renovations had been intended for the health care of children. He laughed when told of the results of the 2014 Vatican-authorized task force investigation and called it "rumor."

Profiti was not in his office on Thursday, a secretary said, and he didn't respond to an email seeking comment. Through his lawyer, Bertone declined to comment out of respect for the Vatican judiciary.

After the task force turned in the results of its three-month investigation in April 2014, the Vatican ordered a second in-house clinical assessment into childcare at the hospital. After a three-day visit in early 2015, that investigation found the hospital in many ways was "best in class."

At the same time, a Vatican-ordered external audit by PricewaterhouseCoopers confirmed that the hospital's mission had been "modified in the last few years" to focus on expansion and commercial activities without sufficient governance controls.

The audit, portions of which were obtained by the AP, flagged particular problems with the fundraising foundation, which Profiti headed. PwC found that five years after it was created, the foundation still didn't have an executive committee, audit board or organizational model as called for by its statutes. Its operating costs in 2012 included 145,000 euros in compensation to its board, of which 109,000 euros was paid in cash to its general secretariat.

The audit also found that the foundation paid 24,000 euros to rent a helicopter to ferry Bertone to a hospital-related opening in southern Italy, and recommended that the hospital define policies about what types of expenses could be allowed and how much cash to have on hand.

Flagging the problems as requiring immediate action, PwC suggested that the hospital revamp the board and appoint an executive committee "considering the not-for-profit mission of the Bambino Gesù foundation and the reputational risk associated to its activities for ... the Holy See."

The audit and details of the funds diverted for the Bertone apartment renovation were first revealed in a 2015 book, "Avarice," by Italian investigative journalist Emiliano Fittipaldi.

Fittipaldi and another Italian journalist were subsequently put on trial at the Vatican for having obtained leaked documents. The court ultimately ruled it had no jurisdiction to prosecute them.

In an email to AP on Thursday, Fittipaldi said it "seemed strange" that Bertone wasn't even placed under investigation in the case, given that letters published in his L'Espresso magazine show that Bertone was well aware the foundation was interested in renovating the apartment. However, in the letter exchange, Bertone also made clear he didn't want the foundation to pay for the construction.

"I'm just sorry that Bertone was allowed to stay in his penthouse, while the journalist who discovered the scandal ended up on trial," Fittipaldi said. "Different standards for different people."

Follow Nicole Winfield at www.twitter.com/nwinfield

Trustees project biggest Social Security increase in years

By **STEPHEN OHLEMACHER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of Americans who rely on Social Security can expect to receive their biggest payment increase in years this January, according to projections released Thursday by the trustees who oversee the program.

But older Americans shouldn't get too excited.

The increase is projected to be just 2.2 percent, or about \$28 a month for the average recipient. Social Security recipients have gone years with tiny increases in benefits. This year they received an increase of 0.3 percent, after getting nothing last year.

Some good news for seniors: The trustees project that Medicare Part B premiums will remain unchanged next year. Most beneficiaries pay \$134 a month, though retirees with higher incomes pay more.

Both Social Security's cost-of-living adjustment and the Medicare Part B premium are to be announced in the fall.

The trustees released the 2018 projections Thursday, along with their annual warning about the long-term financial problems of Social Security and Medicare, the federal government's two bedrock retirement programs.

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.

Unless Congress acts, the trust funds that support Social Security are estimated to run dry in 2034, the same year as last year's projection. Medicare's trust fund for inpatient care is projected to be depleted in 2029, a year later than last year's forecast.

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

Neither Social Security nor Medicare faces an immediate crisis — they both currently have surpluses. But the trustees warn that the longer Congress waits to address the programs' problems, the harder it will be to sustain Social Security and Medicare without steep cuts in benefits, big tax increases or both.

For example, in 2034, Social Security is projected to have a \$546 billion shortfall, which would grow to more than \$3 trillion in the first five years.

"Congress must act to ensure the long-term fiscal viability and sustainability and survival of Medicare and Social Security," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price. "There are a great many ways

Social Security benefit boost

Annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) since 1975



The 1983 adjustment was delayed until January 1984; there were no increases in 2010, 2011 and 2016.

Graphic shows annual Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

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that the situation can be addressed. The bottom line is that it must be addressed.”

Republicans in Washington have long clamored to address the long-term financial problems of Social Security and Medicare, the largest benefit programs run by the federal government. But don't expect them to do much about it.

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

Now that Republicans control Congress and the White House, Ryan says he doesn't want to tackle Social Security. Instead, Republicans and the White House are focused on repealing and replacing former President Barack Obama's health care law.

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

A big reason why Congress doesn't shore up Social Security and Medicare is that Democrats and Republicans don't agree on the urgency of the problem. Many Democrats and liberals focus on the fact that both programs are funded for years to come.

“Opponents of Social Security may once again try to use this report as an excuse to cut benefits, including raising the retirement age,” said Max Richtman, who heads the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. “We must, instead, look to modest and manageable solutions that will keep Social Security solvent well into the future without punishing seniors and disabled Americans.”

Republicans, meanwhile, note that both programs face steep shortfalls as soon as their trust funds run out of money.

“With an aging population, our nation's most critical retirement programs — Medicare and Social Security — are feeling an increased financial squeeze that puts their future viability at serious risk,” said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

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

In addition to Price, the trustees who oversee Social Security and Medicare are Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta and acting Social Security Commissioner Nancy Berryhill.

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

What 'Thrones' fans already know: Ravens can see ahead

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 170 years after Edgar Allan Poe's fictional raven croaked, “Nevermore,” scientists are reporting that real-life ravens think about the future.

In a series of tests, ravens showed signs of a general planning ability that previously had been documented only in people and great apes. Even monkeys have failed to show it.

It's not like you could ask a raven to arrange your wedding: Ravens showed they could plan by setting aside a tool that they suspected would get them a tasty treat later. And they prepared for future bartering, too.

Still, it's impressive. Ravens, along with crows, jays and others, belong to a bird group called corvids.

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Some corvids have shown that in hoarding food, they do some planning for the future instead of just acting on natural urges. But does such foresight appear only for that behavior, as has been proposed? Or can corvids, like people and great apes, apply it to other activities?

This more general planning ability results from the combination of several skills, and if it appears in both corvids and great apes, it must have evolved more than once, the Swedish researchers said.

So the researchers, Can Kabadayi and Mathias Osvath of Lund University, tested five captive ravens in two tasks they don't do in the wild: using tools and bartering with humans. They reported the results in a paper released Thursday by the journal *Science*.

The birds were shown a box that had a tube sticking out of the top, plus three stones. They learned that they could use a stone as a tool. If they dropped it down the tube, the box would release a coveted doggie treat. They also learned that some other familiar objects, like a small wooden wheel and a ball, would not work.

Now the fun began.

In one experiment, the ravens were shown the box, but without any stones available. Then the box was taken away. An hour later, in another location, they were presented with a tray containing a stone plus three objects the birds knew would be useless for releasing the treat.

They were allowed to choose one thing from the tray. Fifteen minutes later, the box would show up again. Sure enough, in 14 cases of encountering the tray and later seeing the box reappear, they usually chose the stone and proceeded to use it correctly.

The same thing happened in another experiment, when the box didn't show up again until the next day, a delay of 17 hours.

Further work showed the ravens would pass up an immediate reward if they could get a better one by waiting a while.

The ravens also showed they could barter for what they needed. The birds learned that they could exchange a blue plastic bottle cap with one of the experimenters for the favored doggie treat. When the experiments were repeated with the bottle cap replacing the stone, and an experimenter instead of the box, the results were basically the same.

The work presents "compelling evidence" of planning ability that goes beyond stashing food away, Markus Boeckle and Nicola Clayton of Cambridge University wrote in an accompanying commentary.

Although the evidence is new, the ability of ravens to see ahead has long been suspected: In Greek mythology, they are associated with the god of prophecy, an old term for a group of ravens is "conspiracy" and in "Game of Thrones" a three-eyed raven appears in a prince's prophetic visions.



This 2016 photo made available by Lund University shows a raven holding a piece of wood next to a testing device in Lund, Sweden. In earlier experiments, this and four other hand-raised ravens showed a flexible planning ability that previously had been documented only in people and great apes. (Helena Osvath/Lund University via AP)

Report: Asia facing dire future toll from climate change

By The Associated Press

A report by the Asia Development Bank says Asia will endure extreme heat, rising sea levels, growing losses from severe weather and increasing food insecurity in coming decades as climate change raises temperatures and alters weather patterns across the globe.

The survey released Friday by the Manila-based lender paints a grim outlook for many communities in Asia, home to about 4 billion people. It's based on the latest scientific research, with or without more aggressive efforts to curb carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. Here are some of its main findings:



EXTREME HEAT: Even if global warming is limited to 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius (34.7-35.6 F) above pre-industrial levels, from mountain communities in Japan to the tropics of South Asia and deserts of Australia, rising temperatures are altering ecosystems, damaging crops and causing thousands more deaths each year. The report forecasts that Asian summer temperatures could rise by 6 C (42.8 F) by 2100 if warming trends are not curbed. India suffered heat waves in 2015 and 2016 with temperatures at times around 50 C (122 F). When temperatures stay above 35 C (95 F) for extended periods of time, both people and animals are at risk of heat stroke.

In this photo taken Friday, May 14, 2010, a village girl sits on a vessel as she waits with others in a queue for water supplied by tankers at an area affected by last year's cyclone Aila in Nildumur, Satkhira district, about 176 kilometers (110 miles) southwest of the capital Dhaka, Bangladesh. A report by the Asia Development Bank on Friday, July 14, 2017, says Asia will endure extreme heat, rising sea levels, growing losses from severe weather and increasing food insecurity in coming decades as climate change raises temperatures and alters weather patterns across the globe. Up to a quarter of Bangladesh is inundated in a normal year, and century-level flooding could put 60 percent of the country under water, the report says. Storm surges from tropical cyclones, destructive winds and landslides are other risks from weather extremes. (AP Photo/Pavel Rahman, File)

RISING SEA LEVELS: Sea levels rose about 19 centimeters (7 1/2 inches) globally over the past century and are forecast to rise by about 2.3 meters (7 1/2 feet) for every degree Celsius of global warming as glaciers and ice caps melt, the report says, citing past climate observations. Losses due to coastal flooding of the world's biggest cities are expected to rise to \$52 billion a year. The report says Indonesia will be the worst affected in Asia, with 5.9 million people flooded out each year by 2100. But across South Asia, 130 million people living in low-lying areas may be displaced under worst-case scenarios, it says.

EXTREME WEATHER: Changes to the jet stream can bring on unprecedented rainfall and massive flooding. Floods in Pakistan in 2010, the worst ever, killed about 3,000 people and left millions homeless. While some areas are suffering extreme droughts, in Southeast Asia, the number of record-setting daily rainfall

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amounts doubled over the past three decades. Up to a quarter of Bangladesh is inundated in a normal year, and century-level flooding could put 60 percent of the country under water, the report says. Storm surges from tropical cyclones, destructive winds and landslides are other risks from weather extremes.

FOOD INSECURITY: A 3 C (37.4 F) rise in regional temperature is likely to cause grain output to fall by up to 10 percent, the report says, causing tens of millions of people to go hungry. Weaker wheat yields in China and loss of rice paddy in Vietnam due to rising sea levels and extreme weather are among the changes expected in coming decades. At the same time, desertification is spreading in Central Asia, a region where about 7-8 percent of the population lacks secure access to food. Growing ocean acidity due to changes in the atmosphere and warming temperatures are meanwhile straining marine ecosystems, hurting fisheries that are a crucial source of food across the region.

HEALTH RISKS: Increased flooding can taint water supplies, increasing deaths from cholera and other waterborne diseases. Meanwhile, rising temperatures will further push tropical illnesses such as dengue and malaria into areas that once saw few cases, the report says. It also noted rising risks from displacement of communities due to flooding and rising sea levels, conflict over scarce water, malnutrition and other troubles brought on by climate change.

MIGRATION: The combination of all the trends above will put heavy demands on scarce resources at a time when larger numbers of people are migrating to escape rising sea levels, extreme weather and drought. At the same time, climate-related disasters are likely to cause economic disruptions across many regions. "The magnitude of the challenge for the people of the region is immense, with the livelihoods and welfare of hundreds of millions of people at stake," the report said.

Online:

Asian Development Bank: <http://www.adb.org>

Asian markets edge higher as investors await earnings

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian shares were marginally higher on Friday as investors awaited a raft of corporate earnings due out next week. The Federal Reserve chair's second day of testimony to Congress generated little market-moving news.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.2 percent to 20,144.82 and South Korea's Kospi rose 0.3 percent to 2,415.30. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was flat at 26,344.27 and the Shanghai Composite Index slipped 0.2 percent to 3,212.46. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.5 percent to 5,767.80. Stocks in Southeast Asia were mixed.

EARNINGS WATCH: Companies in the U.S. and in Asia will begin reporting their quarterly financial results and give their earnings forecasts for upcoming quarters next week. Upbeat earnings in the U.S. could boost the sentiment of investors in Asia.

ANALYST'S VIEW: "Looking forward, market participants are waiting for earnings season to paint a clearer picture of market direction over the next few weeks, as the market focus has now shifted to companies' mid-year reports," said Margaret Yang, a market analyst at CMC Markets in Singapore.

FED WATCH: Yellen rehashed her key message in comments to Congress on Thursday, speaking of the dual risks of inflation: prices rising too slowly and prices accelerating too quickly. She also said it would be premature to conclude that a recent slowdown in price gains means the Fed cannot achieve its goal of 2 percent annual inflation. The remarks were seen as signaling that the Fed might slow the pace of rate hikes if inflation remains below the Fed's 2 percent target. That has eased concerns the Fed was raising interest rates too quickly.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks finished with modest gains on Thursday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index

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gained 0.2 percent to 2,447.83. The Dow rose 0.1 percent to 21,553.09. The Nasdaq composite added 0.2 percent to 6,274.44. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks inched up 0.1 percent to 1,425.66.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 9 cents to \$45.99 per barrel in electronic trading on New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 59 cents, or 1.3 percent, to settle at \$46.08 per barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dipped 7 cents to \$48.35 per barrel in London. On Thursday, it added 68 cents, or 1.4 percent, to close at \$48.42 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 113.44 yen from 113.28 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1408 from \$1.1398.



A man cycles past in front of an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Friday, July 14, 2017. Asian stock markets were range-bound on Friday as the Federal Reserve chair's speech generated little market-moving news and investors waited for the corporate earnings report season kicking off next week. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 14, the 195th day of 2017. There are 170 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 14, 1789, in an event symbolizing the start of the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners inside.

On this date:

In 1798, Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it a federal crime to publish false, scandalous or malicious writing about the United States government.

In 1881, outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias "Billy the Kid," was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner in present-day New Mexico.

In 1913, Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr., the 38th president of the United States, was born Leslie Lynch King Jr. in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1917, CBS newsman Douglas Edwards, who in 1948 became network television's first nightly news anchor, was born in Ada, Oklahoma.

In 1921, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were convicted in Dedham, Massachusetts, of murdering a shoe company paymaster and his guard. (Sacco and Vanzetti were executed six years later.)

In 1933, all German political parties, except the Nazi Party, were outlawed. Cartoon character Popeye the Sailor made his movie debut in the Fleischer Studios animated short, "Popeye the Sailor."

In 1945, Italy formally declared war on Japan, its former Axis partner during World War II.

In 1958, the army of Iraq overthrew the monarchy.

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In 1966, the city of Chicago awoke to the shocking news that eight student nurses had been brutally slain during the night in a South Side dormitory. Drifter Richard Speck was convicted of the mass killing and condemned to death, but had his sentence reduced to life in prison, where he died in 1991.

In 1976, Jimmy Carter won the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in New York.

In 1980, the Republican national convention opened in Detroit, where nominee-apparent Ronald Reagan told a welcoming rally he and his supporters were determined to "make America great again."

In 1999, race-based school busing in Boston came to an end after 25 years.

Ten years ago: North Korea told the United States it had shut down its nuclear reactor, hours after a ship cruised into port loaded with oil promised in return for the country's pledge to disarm. Former presidents, fellow first ladies and about 1,800 other people attended a private funeral in Austin, Texas, for Lady Bird Johnson, the widow of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Five years ago: A suicide bomber blew himself up among guests at a wedding hall in northern Afghanistan, killing 23 people, including a prominent ex-Uzbek warlord turned lawmaker who was the father of the bride. Nick Buckles, the boss of British security group G4S, went on BBC Television to say he was sorry that his company had bungled the contract to help protect the upcoming 2012 London Olympic Games.

One year ago: Terror struck Bastille Day celebrations in the French Riviera city of Nice (nees) as a large truck plowed into a festive crowd, killing 86 people in an attack claimed by Islamic State extremists; the driver was shot dead by police.

(Stations: "taboo," lower case, is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harry Dean Stanton is 91. Actress Nancy Olson is 89. Former football player and actor Rosey Grier is 85. Actor Vincent Pastore is 71. Music company executive Tommy Mottola (muh-TOH'-luh) is 69. Rock musician Chris Cross (Ultravox) is 65. Actor Jerry Houser is 65. Actor-director Eric Laneville is 65. Actor Stan Shaw is 65. Movie producer Scott Rudin is 59. Singer-guitarist Kyle Gass is 57. Country musician Ray Herndon (McBride and the Ride) is 57. Actress Jane Lynch is 57. Actor Jackie Earle Haley is 56. Actor Matthew Fox is 51. Rock musician Ellen Reid (Crash Test Dummies) is 51. Rock singer-musician Tanya Donnelly is 51. Actress Missy Gold is 47. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Ross Rebagliati is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tameka Cottle (Xscape) is 42. Country singer Jamey Johnson is 42. Hip-hop musician taboo (Black Eyed Peas) is 42. Actor Scott Porter is 38. Rock singer Dan Smith (Bastille) is 31. Actress Sara Canning (TV: "The Vampire Diaries") is 30. Rock singer Dan Reynolds (Imagine Dragons) is 30.

Thought for Today: "If the government is big enough to give you everything you want, it is big enough to take away everything you have." — President Gerald R. Ford (1913-2006).