

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 1 of 43

Sat., July 15, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Soul image
- 3- Updated Region 6B Legion Bracket
- 3- GDILIVE.COM Upcoming Event
- 4- Groton Legion drops first game of regions
- 5- Olde Bank Floral Ad
- 5- Bristol Ladies' Luncheon ad
- 6- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 7- Today in Weather History
- 8- Today's Forecast
- 9- Yesterday's Weather
- 9- Today's Weather Info
- 9- National Weather Map
- 10- Daily Devotional
- 11- News from the Associated Press

Official Notices

Groton City Book (updated 7-11)
Brown County Book (Updated 7-10)
Groton Area School Book
Other Official Notices Book
Claremont Town Official Notices Book
Frederick Area School Book

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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15

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

Legion: Regions in Groton (4 p.m.: Groton vs. Redfield)

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

U8B/R: Tourney at Hamlin



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Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 2 of 43

“Your time is
limited, so
don't waste

it living
someone
else's life.”

—Steve Jobs

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

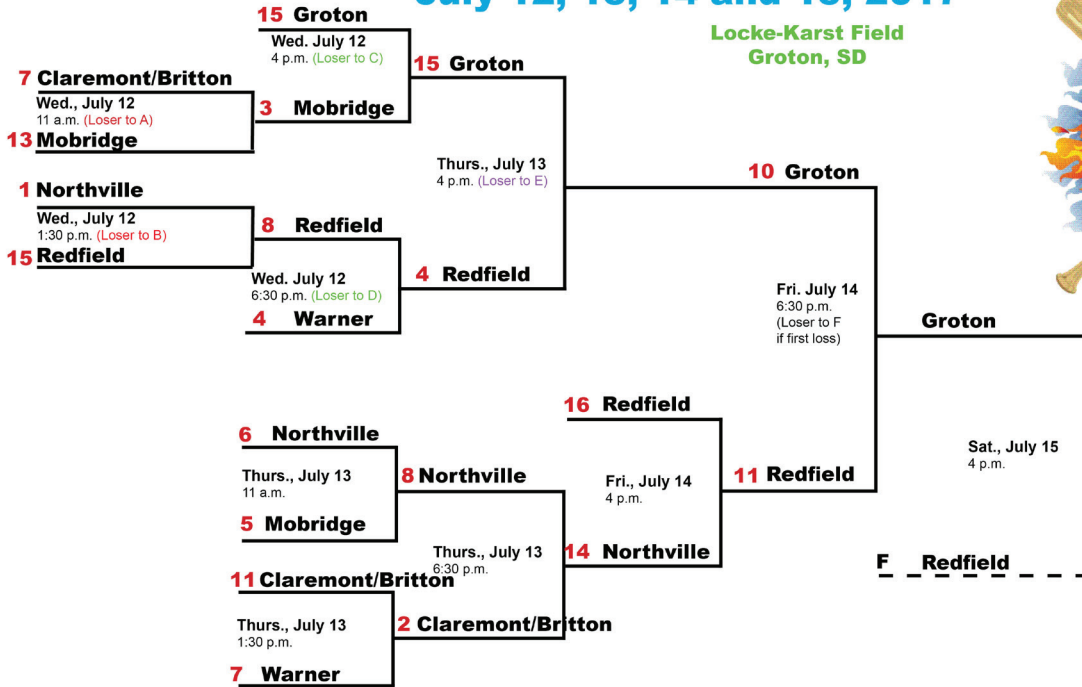
Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 3 of 43

American Legion Region 6B Tournament

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
July 12, 13, 14 and 15, 2017

Locke-Karst Field
Groton, SD



 **livestream**



Region 6B
Championship Game
Saturday, July 15
4:00 p.m.
Locke-Karst Field
Groton

gdilive.com

Redfield hands Groton Legion first loss of regions

Redfield had come off of a 16-14 win over Northville in the first game of the afternoon, and then came back to knock of Groton in the second game, 11-10. It was Groton's first loss which meant there will be a second game today at 4 p.m. at Locke-Karst Field in Groton.

The Groton-Redfield game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bahr Construction, Dakota Tree Company, Blocker Construction, Erickson Insurance, Groton Ford, Frost Construction, Hanlon Brothers, Harr Motors, KR Body Shop, James Valley Seed, Harry Implement, Olson Development, Harr Auto Body, Groton Subway. Today's game will also be carried live on GDILIVE.COM.

Redfield wasted no time in getting the jump on Groton, scored two runs on three hits and left two on base in the first inning to take a 2-1 lead. Bennett Shabazz had an RBI sacrifice to score Anthony Sippel in the top of the first inning. Groton had just one run and no hits and left no one on base.

Groton tied the game at the top of the second inning. Darian Shabazz got hit by the pitch to get on base and he later scored on a sacrifice by Wyatt Locke. Damon Becker got a lead off single in the bottom of the second and later scored as Redfield had three hits as Redfield took the lead, 3-2. In the second inning, Groton scored one run on no hits and left one on base. Redfield scored one run on three hits and left one on base. It was an actual amazing triple play for Groton in the bottom of the second inning. Barrett Wren hit a fly ball to Bennett Shabazz at center field. The throw to home got Bennett Osborn out and Christian DeYoung was called out for leaving third base too early and his score was rejected.

In the top of the third inning, Anthony Sippel and Brandon Keith each got on base with a single. Bennett Shabazz was walked to load the bases. Sean Schuring hit a two RBI single to score Sippel and Keith. Groton scored two runs on three hits and left one on base. Groton held a 4-3 lead. Redfield countered in the bottom of the third as Carter Klapperich hit a double and Alan Masat had an RBI double. Zach Binger was walked. Groton then changed pitchers. Austin Jones had eight hits, four runs, three walks and one strike-out. Luke Thorson would take to the mound. The side was retired with two runs, three hits and Redfield left two on base. Redfield led, 5-4.

In the top of the fourth inning, Groton got one hit by Anthony Sippel, but Groton could not score as they had no runs, one hit and left two on base. Redfield would extend their lead with the help of a two RBI home run by Zach Binger. Redfield scored three runs on three hits and left no one on base. Redfield took an 8-4 lead.

In the top of the fifth, Bennett Shabazz would have a lead off single and Sean Schuring would have an RBI double. Aaron Severson was hit by the pitch and Groton loaded the bases up as Darian Shabazz was walked. But Groton was retired with one run, one hit and left two on base. In the bottom of the inning, Redfield would score two runs with a two RBI double by Barrett Wren. Redfield scored two runs on two hits and left one on base and took a 10-5 lead.

Korbin Blackmun would start off the top of the sixth inning with a single. He would be out at second on a fielder's choice as Anthony Sippel got on first. Brandon Keith and Bennett Shabazz were both walked and the bases were loaded. Sippel and Keith would both score and Groton added two runs on one hit and left one base. Alan Masat would have a lead-off double to start the bottom of the sixth inning. Two batters were struck out and one flew out to the right fielder, Korbin Blackmun. Redfield had no runs, one hit and left one on base. Redfield led, 10-7.

Everyone one batted for Groton in the top of the seventh inning. Darian Shabazz was walked and Luke Thorson and Wyatt Locke were both hit by the pitch to load the bases. One would score on a fielder's choice from Blackmun. Two runs were walked in and the score was tied at 10. But Groton would end the inning with three runs, no hits and left three on base.

In the bottom of the seventh, Bennett Osborn would hit a double and would later steal third. Kevin Krumm hit one deep to center field that was caught by Bennett Shabazz and Osborn would then score to end the game, 11-10. Peyton Johnson would come in to pitch in the bottom of the seventh inning with one strike-out. Thorson finished his pitching with three nine hits, five runs, one walk and five strike-outs.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 5 of 43



Don't Miss Out!!!!

LOWEST prices EVER!!!

Almost EVERYTHING is
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July 13-14-15



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Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday - 9am-3pm (July 9th only)



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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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 6 of 43



Shaking Up the Status Quo in Washington

When you elected me as your United States Senator, you sent me to Washington to shake up the status quo and fix the mess we've been dealing with for years: the Obamacare disaster, our ballooning debt, overregulation and tax reform. In the two-and-a-half years I've been in office, these are the issues I've focused on. While some progress has been made, there is much more work to be done to get us back on track. That's why I was happy about the recent announcement that the Senate will be cutting short the August in-state work period to spend more time working in Washington so we can make further progress on these important issues.

I was part of a group of Republican senators who sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell at the end of June, requesting that rather than spending the whole month of August away from Washington, we remain in D.C. for a few weeks longer to get our work done. The fiscal year ends on September 30, and we still need to pass a budget to fund the government. We've been working every day on an agreement to repeal and replace Obamacare, and tax reform is a major priority that we'd like to accomplish before the end of the year. For these reasons, we found it necessary to request that we remain in Washington longer than planned and keep working on these issues that, once passed, will greatly benefit South Dakota families. I support Leader McConnell's decision, and I'm eager to roll up my sleeves and work with my colleagues to get much-needed results.

Meanwhile, I continue to get home to South Dakota nearly every weekend and get input from folks on the issues we're working on. During the Fourth of July in-state work period, I appreciated the chance to meet people at parades, pow-wows and coffees. The one thing nearly everyone continues to tell me when I'm traveling across the state is that they want to see results, not rhetoric. Nobody wants the status quo to continue on.

We expect to be back in South Dakota for our in-state work period starting mid-August, and until then I will continue returning home on weekends to speak with South Dakotans about their concerns. We will also continue holding tele-townhalls so that I can hear from you firsthand even when my work requires me to remain in Washington. Tele-townhalls are open to all South Dakotans, and folks can call in to ask me any questions they may have. We'll be distributing call-in information through our website, Facebook page and via our e-newsletter, the Rounds Report, which South Dakotans can subscribe to from my website, www.rounds.senate.gov. Additionally, folks are encouraged to call, email or stop by our offices in South Dakota or Washington. We go to great lengths to make ourselves available to answer questions and hear about the issues that are most important to you.

Getting real, positive results for the people of South Dakota remains my top priority. I'm happy that my colleagues agree that we need to be spending more time on issues like repealing and replacing Obamacare, reforming the tax code and passing a responsible budget. Families in South Dakota and across the country deserve better than a broken government, and this is one small step we can take toward fixing the problems in Washington.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 7 of 43

Today in Weather History

July 15, 1885: The first of three damaging tornadoes hit 7 miles NNE of Highmore and moved to the northeast. Two small homes were destroyed before the funnel turned to the east, then northeast and north before lifting. This tornado was estimated to have an F2 strength and was seen in all directions for 20 miles. The second tornado appeared to be motionless 3 miles east of Harrold, and then moved east to Holabird, in Hyde County, where it destroyed two homes and dissipated. A third tornado, this one with an estimated F3 strength, formed to the west of Highmore and moved east into town, then lifted about 4 miles east of town. Three homes were destroyed, and about 20 other buildings were damaged at Highmore. A farmer was killed 2 miles east of town. Losses totaled about \$55,000, which included many new buildings, including a church and a skating rink.

July 15, 1986: Thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to portions of Walworth to Marshall Counties. Three inches of rain in an hour and a half was reported in extreme northwest Marshall County. The highest rainfall amount was seven inches southeast of Bowdle. The rains caused lowland flooding, with water over several roads in Marshall County, including Highway 10, two miles east of Britton. In Britton, 3.86 inches of rain was reported.

July 15, 2006: Record heat occurred across central and north central South Dakota and into parts of northeast South Dakota. Afternoon high temperatures ranged from 105 to as high as 120 degrees. Record highs were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, and Timber Lake. Pierre set a new all-time record high of 117 degrees, and Mobridge tied their all-time record high of 116 degrees. Kennebec and Timber Lake both hit a record high temperature of 112 degrees. The coop observer station 17 miles west-southwest of Fort Pierre tied the state record high temperature with 120 degrees. Other high temperatures for the day were 116 degrees at Onida and Mission Ridge, 114 degrees at Murdo, 112 degrees at Redfield and Blunt, 111 degrees at Stephan, 110 degrees at Conde and Gann Valley, and 109 degrees at Aberdeen.

July 15, 2011: A large upper-level high-pressure area built over the region bringing sweltering and humid conditions. This heat was the worst to hit the area since July 2006. Beginning on Friday, July 15th and persisting through Wednesday, July 20th, many locations experienced high temperatures in the 90s to lower 100s, with low temperatures in the 70s at night. Also, humidity levels rose to extreme levels. Surface dew point temperatures in the 70s and lower 80s brought extreme heat index values of up to 110 to 125 degrees. The dew points were some of the highest ever recorded in the region on July 17th. The dew point at Aberdeen tied the previous record with 82 degrees. Sisseton also tied their record with 83 degrees. Watertown came a degree shy of tying their record with 80 degrees.








The prolonged heat took its toll on livestock with fifteen hundred cattle perishing during the heat. Numerous sports and outdoor activities were canceled. Some of the highest heat index values included; 110 degrees at Mobridge; 111 degrees at Watertown; 113 degrees at Miller and Gettysburg; 114 degrees at Wheaton and Faulkton; 116 degrees at Pierre; 118 degrees at Sisseton; and 121 degrees at Aberdeen. The highest heat index value occurred at Leola with a temperature of 98 degrees and a dew point of 82 degrees, and the heat index hit 125 degrees.

1888: The Bandai volcano erupts on the Japanese island of Honshu on this day in 1888, killing hundreds and burying many nearby villages in ash.

1901: The city of Marquette, Michigan set their all-time record high temperature with 108-degree reading.

Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 8 of 43

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Hot	Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 91 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 95 °F	Low: 70 °F	High: 100 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 87 °F

How Does South Dakota Forecast Compare To The Coldest Spot On Earth Today?

**Vostok Station
Antarctica
93°F Below Zero**

**Gettysburg – Miller - Redfield
South Dakota
93°F Above Zero**



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 7/15/2017 5:16 AM Central

Published on: 07/15/2017 at 5:24AM

How do we compare to the coldest spot on earth? Looks like some of us will end up on the opposite side of the thermometer!

Groton Daily Independent

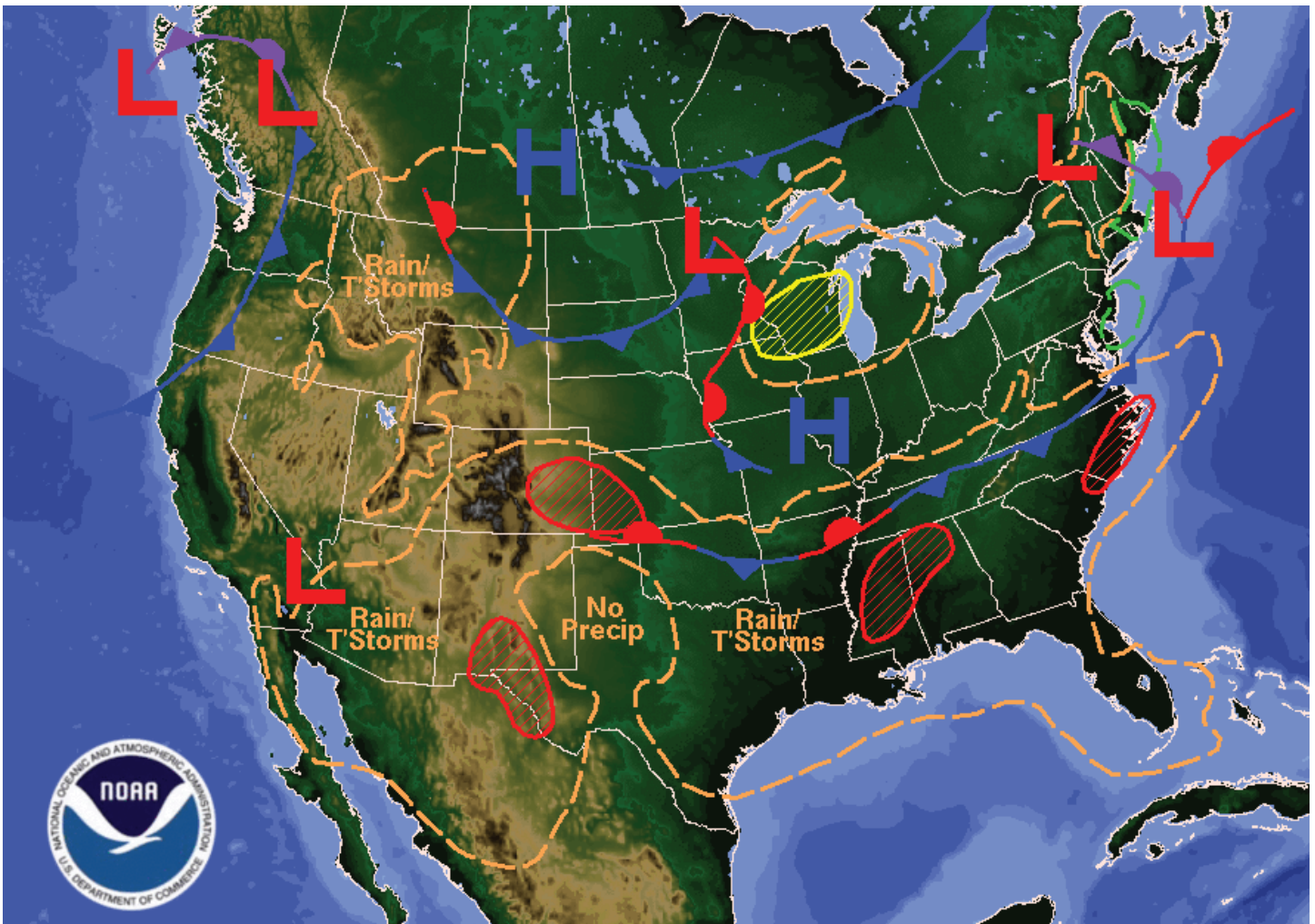
Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 9 of 43

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 89.9
Heat Index:
Low Outside Temp: 50.5
High Gust: 15
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 114° in 1931
Record Low: 41° in 1912
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 1.59
Precip to date in July: 0.17
Average Precip to date: 12.43
Precip Year to Date: 5.94
Sunset Tonight: 9:18 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:00 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jul 15, 2017, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate 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)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 10 of 43



LOOK AT ME, GOD!

"How bad do you want to be good?" he asked.

Confused, I asked, "What do you mean? Being bad to be good doesn't make sense."

"This has to do with motivation," came the reply. "Do you really want to be 'outstanding' or be just like so many others who do things half-heartedly or to just get by in life?" To be outstanding takes determination and David was a man of determination.

He was determined to be the man God wanted him to be. He was not content to go about his daily activities without making sure that he was a "man after God's own heart." So he asked God to "Test my motives and my heart."

That must have taken a great amount of courage – especially after he demanded, "Declare me innocent, O Lord!" Imagine his boldness: "I have acted with integrity...I have trusted without wavering...put me on trial and cross-examine me."

Rarely do we hear of God's judgment anymore. It is no longer a popular topic. Perhaps we have become so accustomed to God's blessings that we have forgotten that there will be a day when we will stand before our Savior and give an account to Him of every deed – good or bad – that we have ever done. Let us never forget that.

While this took courage for David to ask God to examine him, he had no fear or apprehension. Why? Because he was "aware of God's unfailing love" that far exceeds His judgment and certain punishment.

What a great example for each of us!

Prayer: Lord, search our hearts thoroughly. If there is any sin in our hearts, please forgive us and cleanse us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 26:1 Vindicate me, LORD, for I have led a blameless life; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

11-12-24-32-73, Mega Ball: 1, Megaplier: 4

(eleven, twelve, twenty-four, thirty-two, seventy-three; Mega Ball: one; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$217 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$172 million

North Carolina manufacturer facility to close, affecting 220

WASHINGTON, N.C. (AP) — A company that makes fuel products for transportation and off-highway markets says it's closing down its North Carolina operation, putting 220 people out of work.

WITN-TV reports The Filtration Group of Parker Hannifin Corp. has announced it will be closing its facility in Washington and transferring production to existing locations in South Dakota and Mississippi.

Aidan Gormley, director of global communications and branding, said the closing will allow the company to focus on the remaining facilities and ensure higher quality and shorter lead times for customers.

Gormley says the Washington closing will begin immediately and is expected to be complete by December. The affected workers are expected to receive severance pay and opportunities for other jobs.

Information from: WITN-TV, <http://www.witn.com/>

Florida man recovered from Missouri River in South Dakota

ELK POINT, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have recovered the body of a Florida man from the Missouri River near Elk Point in southwestern South Dakota.

Union County Sheriff Dan Limoges says the body of 27-year-old Chris Reeves, of Tallahassee, Florida, was found at about 1 p.m. Friday.

Reeves was swept away while swimming with friends Wednesday afternoon. Deputies have said that Reeves was not a strong swimmer and was not wearing a life vest at the time.

It was the third drowning in the Burbank Beach area on the river in three years.

An autopsy is planned.

Officers in South Dakota play ball for Good Samaritan

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — Police and fire departments in southeast South Dakota have played in a softball game to fundraise for an injured resident who helped an officer being assaulted.

The departments organized Thursday's game in Wagner to fundraise for 53-year-old Wayne Joseph, 53.

Officer James Flynn alleges he was assaulted by Jubal Grant Jr. in June when attempting to arrest the teenager on previous warrants. A bystander, Joseph tried to assist Flynn and was also assaulted. He is unable to work for 13 weeks and is struggling financially, the Mitchell Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2v14dSU>) reported.

"He just never even thought twice, he jumped in to help someone else and that's huge for our department," Wagner officer Brian McGuire said. "It really represents the good people in the community and

we owe him.”

Thursday’s game featured officials from more than 10 agencies.

“When a citizen steps in and helps the police, they’re really helping the whole community, so we were more than willing to jump in and help,” Wagner Fire Department member David Woods said.

Police have also organized a GoFundMe fundraising campaign to raise donations, and are considering other benefits to help offset the father of 14’s medical and living expenses. The web page has raised more than \$1,000 as of Thursday. Police said donations can also be dropped off at the department.

Officer Jerry Renken told The Associated Press that Grant was arrested later that night by the Yankton Sioux Tribal Police Department because non-tribal law enforcement is barred from arresting someone on tribal land. Grant is being held at Charles Mix County Jail on several charges the jail said can’t yet be disclosed due to jail policy.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

South Dakota officials: More pronghorns mean more hunting

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Wildlife officials in South Dakota have decided that a slowly growing pronghorn population justifies a slight increase in the number of hunting licenses available for the next two years.

The state’s Game, Fish and Parks Commission decided Thursday that it will issue resident hunters over 900 more buck-antelope hunting licenses and 1,400 more doe-antelope licenses in 2017 and 2018 than it did last year, when hunter success reached 70 percent. The hunting unit in Stanley County will allocate 40 licenses and the unit in Hughes County will have 50 licenses for each of the next two years.

The pronghorn is a land mammal known for its speed. They’re unique to North America but are commonly called antelope because of their resemblance to the African animal, the Pierre Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2taKWqT>) reported.

Population surveys by the commission said there will be about 48,000 pronghorns in the state, still about 10,000 short of the statewide-population objective called for in the department’s antelope-management plan.

In the last five years, the state’s pronghorn-antelope herd has been recovering from a decline. Harvest and hunter success has steadily increased since bottoming out in 2013.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Rapid City officer cleared of wrongdoing in fatal shooting

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City police officer who fatally shot a man last month has been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Attorney General Marty Jackley says a state investigation concluded that Officer Derek Uebel was justified in using lethal force.

Police responded to a report of an active shooter in a residential area on June 17. Shots were fired both before and after officers arrived on the scene. Authorities said Uebel shot and killed 48-year-old Joseph Hogan after Hogan fired at the officer.

Medical helicopter has close encounter with drone

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A medical team transporting a patient on board a Sanford AirMed helicopter says it recently had a close encounter with a drone flying well above the 400-foot (121.92-meter) ceiling required by federal rules.

AirMed Safety Officer Josh Weiland says the ‘near miss’ was reported to Air Traffic Control in Sioux Falls. Weiland tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2uZANKS>) a pilot, nurse and medic were transporting a patient Sunday over central Sioux Falls at about 700 feet (213.36 meters) when a team member saw the drone about 50 feet (15.24 meters) away.

Weiland says there are rules for a reason and drone operators need to be aware of what's going on 400 feet (121.92 meters) and up. The Federal Aviation Administration says the number of 'near misses' with aircraft is on the rise as is the number of drones.

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

Shantel Krebs: Congressional campaign raises over \$130K

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Shantel Krebs' congressional campaign says she raised more than \$130,000 in the second quarter of 2017 and ended the period with more than \$230,000 in the bank.

Krebs is South Dakota's secretary of state. She's competing in the 2018 Republican primary against former state public utilities commissioner and former governor chief of staff Dusty Johnson. Both want to succeed U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, who is running for governor.

Johnson earlier said he raised more than \$120,000 in the second quarter, ending the period with more than \$288,000.

Mount Vernon man pleads not guilty to child rape charge

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A Mount Vernon man accused of sexually assaulting a 7-year-old boy after promising him a video game has pleaded not guilty.

Twenty-seven-year-old Tyler Dobras is charged with first-degree rape of a minor in the alleged June 2016 incident. He could face up to life in prison if convicted.

The Daily Republic reports <http://bit.ly/2unP4Ed> that trial is scheduled for mid-September.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

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>

Turkey marks 1 year since coup attempt, fires 7,400 workers

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY, Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkish authorities sacked nearly 7,400 more civil servants for alleged links to terror groups as the country on Saturday marked the first anniversary of last summer's failed coup attempt that left some 250 people dead.

Thousands are expected to turn out for "national unity marches" in Istanbul and Ankara over the weekend, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will unveil the "Martyrs' Memorial" on an iconic Istanbul bridge to remember those who died opposing the coup.

"It has been exactly one year since Turkey's darkest and longest night was transformed into a bright day, since an enemy occupation turned into the people's legend," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Saturday in a special parliamentary session attended by Erdogan.

Turkish soldiers attempted to overthrow the government and Erdogan using tanks, warplanes and helicopters on July 15 last year. The coup plotters declared their seizure of power on the state broadcaster, bombed the country's parliament and other key locations, and raided an Aegean resort where Erdogan had been on vacation. But Erdogan had already



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, centre, attends a special session in Turkey's Parliament to mark the anniversary of the July 15, 2016 botched coup attempt, in Ankara, Turkey, Saturday, July 15, 2017. Turkey commemorates the first anniversary of the July 15 failed military attempt to overthrow Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, with a series of events honoring some 250 people, who were killed across Turkey while trying to oppose coup-plotters. (AP Photo/Ali Unal)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 15 of 43

left and the coup attempt was put down by civilians and security forces.

The Bosphorus Bridge, now called the July 15 Martyrs' Bridge, was the scene of clashes between civilians and soldiers in tanks. Some 250 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured across Turkey. Thirty-five coup plotters were also killed.

Yildirim thanked the thousands of people who heeded a call by the president to flood the streets to resist the coup.

"We are able to come together again here today because of our 250 heroic martyrs, 2,193 heroic veterans and the great Turkish people. Your country is grateful to you," Yildirim said.

In the aftermath of the coup attempt, Turkey declared a state of emergency that has been in place ever since, which has allowed the government to rule by decree and to dismiss tens of thousands of people from their jobs. More than 50,000 people have also been arrested for alleged links to U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Turkey blames for orchestrating the failed coup, and other terror groups.

Gulen has denied the allegations.

The latest decree published Friday evening sacked 7,395 more state employees including teachers, academics, military and police officers, bringing the number of dismissed to more than 110,000. The government calls the crackdown necessary to purge state institutions of those linked to Gulen, but critics say the dismissals are arbitrary and the victims' paths to recourse severely curtailed.

The U.S. State Department on Saturday issued a statement praising the bravery of the Turkish people who took to the streets to "preserve the rights and freedoms of their democratic society."

"The preservation of democracy requires perseverance, tolerance, dissent and safeguards for fundamental freedoms," the agency said, warning that curbs on those key freedoms erode "the foundations of democratic society."

"More voices, not fewer, are necessary in challenging times," the statement said.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg paid homage to those who lost lives resisting the coup and said attempts to undermine democracy in any one of the allied nations was "unacceptable."

July 15 has been declared a national holiday in Turkey.

Public transportation in Istanbul and Ankara is free over the weekend and bus destination signs displayed messages of congratulations.

As they did on the night of the 2016 coup attempt, after midnight Saturday mosques across Turkey will simultaneously recite a verse, usually read before Friday prayers, to alert and invite Muslims to the streets.

— Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey contributed.

Cast of characters populates the Trump campaign-Russia drama

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A billionaire real estate mogul, his pop singer son and a music promoter. A property lawyer, Russia's prosecutor general and a Russian-American lobbyist.

These unlikely figures have come to the fore as revelations that Donald Trump's presidential campaign sought potentially damaging information in June 2016 from Russia about his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

In emails sent shortly after Trump secured the GOP nomination, music publicist Rob Goldstone offered to connect Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., to Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya. The emails show Goldstone telling Trump that singer Emin Agalarov and his father, Moscow-based real estate developer Aras Agalarov, had "helped along" the Russian government's support for Donald Trump.

Goldstone also mentioned that a Russian prosecutor offered to provide the information on Clinton to the campaign. Goldstone mentioned Russia's "crown prosecutor," but may have been referring to Russia's top justice official, Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika, the equivalent of the U.S. attorney general.

A look at some of those involved in the email exchange and the meeting at Trump Tower that followed:
ARAS AND EMIN AGALAROV

Real estate tycoon Aras Agalarov, 61, and his 37-year-old singer-songwriter son, who goes by the stage

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 16 of 43

name Emin, both spent time with Trump in Russia after they bought the rights to hold the 2013 Miss Universe pageant in Moscow. The event, held at the elder Agalarov's Crocus City Mall, cost him \$20 million, he told The Associated Press earlier this year. The son performed at the pageant and Trump went to his birthday party, which coincided with the contest's finale. The future president also appeared in a music video with Emin while in town.

The elder Agalarov told AP that Trump "was thinking of building" a Trump Tower in Moscow and that they proposed a site. "He was considering this, but it didn't come to signing any deals," Agalarov said.

When he returned to the U.S., Trump tweeted to Aras on Nov. 11, 2013: "I had a great weekend with you and your family. You have done a FANTASTIC job. TRUMP TOWER-MOSCOW is next. EMIN was WOW!"

"Your performance at Miss Universe was fantastic - you are a STAR!" he followed up in a tweet to the son a day later.

Emin, a partner in his father's real estate business, responded: "Thank you so much for all your support! You are a great Man."

Although Aras Agalarov does not belong to President Vladimir Putin's inner circle, he has amassed numerous government contracts, an indication of Kremlin patronage. Putin has built a system in which the rich are expected to chip in for his pet projects in return for privileges in securing state loans or getting lucrative contacts. The Agalarovs have built infrastructure for an Asian summit off the coast of Vladivostok in 2012 and are finishing two stadiums for the 2018 World Cup.

Emin Agalarov was married for several years to the oldest daughter of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, and they had twin sons. They were reported to have separated in 2015.

Aras Agalarov tried to get Trump an audience with Putin in 2013, but the president canceled the session, the Washington Post reported, instead sending Trump a friendly letter and a lacquered box in appreciation.

ROB GOLDSTONE

The British-born Goldstone is the co-founder of Oui 2 Entertainment, a Manhattan-based music management company that says on its website it has represented Michael Jackson and BB King, among others.

The Agalarovs hired Goldstone to help with the Miss Universe pageant in Moscow, and Goldstone has worked with Emin Agalarov since then, most recently organizing a concert featuring Canadian musician David Foster in St. Petersburg last year.

In an interview Monday with the AP, Goldstone said he set up the 2016 meeting with Donald Trump Jr. and said Veselnitskaya stated that she had information about purported illegal campaign contributions to



In this file photo taken on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013, Vice President of Crocus Group Emin Agalarov, left, Miss Universe 2013 Gabriela Isler, from Venezuela, center, and pageant owner Donald Trump, of the United States attend the final of the 2013 Miss Universe pageant in Moscow, Russia. A billionaire real estate mogul, his pop singer son Emin Agalarov, a music promoter, a property lawyer and Russia's prosecutor general are unlikely figures who surfaced in emails released by Donald Trump Jr. as his father's presidential campaign sought potentially damaging information in 2016 from Russia about his opponent, Hillary Clinton. (Irina Bujor/Kommersant Photo via AP, file)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 17 of 43

the Democratic National Committee that she thought Trump Jr. might find helpful. Trump Jr. agreed to the meeting, Goldstone said, and it was attended by Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and then-campaign manager Paul Manafort.

The day after Trump was elected, Goldstone posted a photo on his Facebook page showing himself sitting next to Emin and Trump with the caption "The A Team — headed to the White House!" Other photos that he has posted show that he was in Russia at least three times last year and twice in Azerbaijan, the Agalarovs' home country.

NATALIA VESELNITSKAYA

Veselnitskaya started her career at the prosecutor's office in the Moscow region in 1999, but became known after 2001 for defending property deals that her opponents and activists labeled corporate land grabs. In the deals, run-down collective farms and bankrupt research centers were bought on the cheap or seized for expensive shopping malls, residential properties and highways.

In Russia's notoriously corrupt court systems, good connections are important, and she has them. She is married to Alexander Mitusov, former deputy prosecutor for the Moscow region, and she has represented the family of Pyotr Katsyov, vice president of state-owned Russian Railways and former transportation minister for the Moscow region. In 2012, the respected Novaya Gazeta newspaper documented how Veselnitskaya, her husband and the Katsyovs allegedly were involved in major corporate raiding cases.

She also represented Katsyov's son, Denis, in a money-laundering case in Manhattan that was settled for \$6 million in May, three days before it was to go to trial.

The case was related to a \$230 million Russian tax-fraud scheme that was brought to light by a whistleblower named Sergei Magnitsky, who was arrested and died in a Moscow prison in 2009. An official Russian investigation of his death said he suffered a heart attack, but a report by the presidential human rights commission found that Magnitsky was beaten and denied medical treatment. In 2012, the U.S. Congress passed the Magnitsky Act, imposing sanctions on Russian officials involved in alleged human rights violations in the case. Russian lawmakers responded by passed a measure that banned Americans from adopting Russian children.

Veselnitskaya helped promote a documentary that disputed the fact that Magnitsky uncovered the tax fraud and that he was beaten in jail. Human rights activists dismissed it as an attempt to whitewash torture.

William Browder, who led a campaign to bring Magnitsky's killers to justice, said Veselnitskaya ran "a fully funded operation" to promote the film and her client's interests in the United States.

Veselnitskaya has denied having any compromising information about Clinton. Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Kremlin does not know who she is, adding that it "cannot keep track" of every Russian lawyer and their meetings in Russia or abroad.

YURI CHAIKA

Chaika, prosecutor general since 2006, is a longtime confidant of Putin and one of Russia's most powerful law enforcement officials. The Russian president nominates the prosecutor general, who is approved by the upper chamber of parliament. In Putin's 17 years in power, the chamber largely has been a rubber-stamp body.

In 2015, Russian anti-corruption crusader Alexei Navalny, Putin's most popular opponent, published a damning investigation that detailed what he described as shady deals involving Chaika's sons and other senior prosecutors. It documented how the sons built a business empire on their father's connections. One son, the investigation alleged, was involved in business deals with the wives of Russian gangsters who terrorized a town in southern Russia until they were arrested and charged with killing a family of 12 in 2010. Despite evidence that local prosecutors had turned on a blind eye on the gang for years, Chaika kept his job.

Chaika called the accusations false and accused Navalny of following someone's "order" to discredit him. Amid public pressure to investigate Chaika and his family, Aras Agalarov was one of the few to spring to his defense, buying a newspaper ad lashing out at Navalny and dismissing his findings as relying on "groundless accusations."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 18 of 43

Public calls to investigate or fire Chaika fell flat. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev suggested that going after Chaika and other officials would be tantamount to returning to the purges under Josef Stalin.

Several months after Navalny's report, Chaika was reappointed for another five-year term.

RINAT AKHMETSHIN

Ashmetshin, the Russian-American lobbyist who attended a meeting at Trump Tower last year, is a former military officer who has attracted congressional scrutiny over his political activities and has been shadowed by allegations of connections to Russian intelligence.

Akhmetshin, who denies these allegations, confirmed his participation in the June 2016 meeting with Donald Trump Jr. to The Associated Press on Friday.

A naturalized American citizen who has lived in Washington since the early 1990s, Akhmetshin is known for having lobbied to weaken a U.S. law levying sanctions on Russians and his name has also surfaced in lawsuits, including one involving the hacking of a company's computer systems.

Akhmetshin denied suggestions made in media reports, congressional letters and litigation that he is a former officer in Russia's military intelligence service known as the GRU, dismissing the allegations as a "smear campaign." He told the AP that he served in the Soviet Army from 1986 to 1988 after he was drafted but was not trained in spy tradecraft. He said his unit operated in the Baltics and was "loosely part of counterintelligence."

Along with Veselnitskaya, Akhmetshin is known for lobbying efforts to undercut the Magnitsky Act, economic sanctions targeting Russian officials and individuals. Early in 2016, Akhmetshin said, he helped set up a non-profit foundation based in Delaware, the Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative, to lobby U.S. officials in an effort to strip Magnitsky's name from the law.

Several wealthy Russian oligarchs agreed to provide financial backing for the foundation's lobbying, Akhmetshin said, providing at least \$300,000. Among them, he said, was Denis Katsyv. Congressional lobbying documents show that the foundation spent \$290,000 last year on lobbying. At least \$10,000, the records indicate, was paid directly to Akhmetshin as a lobbyist.

Akhmetshin's name has also surfaced in lawsuits, including a New York court case in which a mining company branded him a "former Soviet military counterintelligence officer" and accused him of involvement in the hacking of its computer systems. Those claims were withdrawn last year, court records show.

Honolulu high-rise fire that left 3 dead like 'horror movie'

By **JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, MARCO GARCIA and AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press**

HONOLULU (AP) — Karen Hastings was in her 31st floor Honolulu apartment when she smelled smoke. She ran out to her balcony, looked down, and saw flames five floors below her.

"The fire just blew up and went flying right out the windows," the 71-year-old Hastings said of the first moments of the high-rise blaze that killed at least three people and injured 12. "And that was like a horror movie. Except it wasn't a horror movie, it was for real."

The fire broke out Friday afternoon in a unit on the 26th floor, where all three of the dead were found, Fire Chief Manuel Neves said.

The building known as the Marco Polo residences is not required to have fire sprinklers, which would have confined the blaze to the unit where it started, Neves said. The 36-floor building near the tourist mecca of Waikiki was built in 1971, before sprinklers were mandatory in high-rises. It has over 500 units.

Late into the night as embers smoldered, firefighters were searching the damaged areas to make sure no additional people perished.

Hastings said the fearsome flames drove her and a neighbor to run down 14 floors until they found a safe stairwell to get some air.

"We actually saw a person laying on a ledge and I don't know whether he made it not," Hastings said.

The building is vast and wave-shaped, and has several sections. The blaze was mostly confined to a single section, and only the units immediately above it and to the side of it were evacuated, while many residents stayed inside.

The blaze was still burning some four hours after it broke out as the sun set, but it was down to mostly embers by then, official said. A shelter was set up at a nearby school where about 50 residents had gathered late in the evening.

Most evacuations went calmly and smoothly, security guard Leonard Rosa said.

Cory La Roe, who is from Florida and stationed in Hawaii with the Air Force, works night shifts and was asleep when sirens woke him at about 2:15 p.m.

"First thing, I was kind of disoriented and confused about what was going on, so I looked out my window and saw people running away from the building, looking back toward it."

La Roe said he didn't hear any verbal announcements and there were no flashing fire alarm lights in the building, but "after I saw people running out and went out to the hallway, I knew it was a fire alarm."

He saw an elderly couple come down that looked "sooty" who were taken to the hospital. He saw other people brought out on stretchers.

He didn't realize that the building didn't have a sprinkler system and was surprised that was the case.

"That's one thing that I wasn't aware of prior to moving in," La Roe said. "It was definitely shocking for me to know that there weren't any sprinklers installed in the building."

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said the city needs to look at passing a law requiring older buildings be retrofitted with sprinklers.

"The biggest argument is the affordability," Caldwell said. "Residents have to pay. It's pretty expensive. But if it saves a life and it's your life, it's worth the cost."

No one from the building said they remembered recent fire drills, but Anna Viggiano, who lives on the 6th floor, said there were some after a 2013 fire that broke out two floors above her. She said since then she doesn't hesitate to evacuate when she hears the alarm.

"It was scary," she said. "It was terrifying."



A Honolulu Fire Department helicopter flies near a fire burning on a floor at the Marco Polo apartment complex, Friday, July 14, 2017, in Honolulu. (AP Photo/Marco Garcia)

Associated Press writer Caleb Jones contributed to this story.

14 years after 1st Wimbledon win, Federer eyes 8th vs. Cilic

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Much has changed for Roger Federer since he played in, and won, his first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon in 2003.

First of all, as he reminded everyone after moving into his 11th title match at the All England Club — with a shot at his eighth championship, more than any man in history — he favored a ponytail and some scruff on his cheeks way back then. Nowadays, his hair is short, his face clean shaven.

Another significant difference for Federer, whose 36th birthday is Aug. 8, making him the oldest men's

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 20 of 43

finalist at Wimbledon since 1974?

"I didn't have kids running around, potentially waking me up at night," he said. "Today we've got to, like, close down the doors. Say, 'Daddy is sleeping.'"

He's a father of four: twin boys, 3; twin girls, 8 soon.

On the court, there are ways in which the Federer who faces Marin Cilic on Sunday is not the same as the Federer who beat Mark Philippoussis 14 years ago. The larger racket, for example, or the increased willingness to hit over the top on his backhand.

In truth, though, what's most important is this: Federer is still as capable as ever of beating everyone who stands in his way.

"This guy doesn't really seem (to be) getting any older or anything like that," said Tomas Berdych, who lost to Federer in the semifinals, "or slowing down at all."

That's certainly the case.

Federer is 30-2 and tied for the tour lead with four titles in 2017, including at the Australian Open in January.

During Wimbledon, he has not lost a set through six matches; the last man to earn the title without ceding a set was Bjorn Borg, 31 years ago. He's only been broken four times, saving 16 of 20 break points along the way.

"Roger is playing maybe (some) of his best tennis of his career at the moment," said Cilic, the No. 7-seeded Croatian who hit 25 aces and returned quite well during his semifinal victory over Sam Querrey. "It's going to be a huge challenge."

They have played each other seven times previously, with Federer winning six, including in last year's Wimbledon quarterfinals. Cilic took the first two sets and even was one point from victory, before Federer came back.

The lone head-to-head win for Cilic came in one of the most significant matches of his career: 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals of the 2014 U.S. Open, where he went on to earn his only Grand Slam title.

"He knows he absolutely destroyed Roger," said Jonas Bjorkman, one of Cilic's two coaches.

That knowledge is key for this match, according to Bjorkman. So, too, is the past experience of participating in, and winning, a major final.

"He knows what it takes," Bjorkman said. "He knows how it feels to be out there, and he knows what it is to be under the pressure like that."

The 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) Cilic, who is 28, has improved since then, too. His serve is better, as are his volleys and his inclination to move to the net. Those can help on Sunday. Would also be useful if he is able to read Federer's serves as well as he did Querrey's.

Still, it's the mental side of things that matters for Cilic, according to the only Croatian man to win Wimbledon, Goran Ivanisevic.

"He needs to just believe," said Ivanisevic, the 2001 champion at the All England Club and Cilic's coach in New York three years ago. "It has nothing to do with tennis. In the end, it's all in your head."



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates after beating Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych in their Men's Singles semifinal match on day eleven at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Friday, July 14, 2017. (Gareth Fuller/

Pool Photo via AP)

Past history favors Federer by a wide margin.

His 11 Wimbledon finals are a record for a man at any Grand Slam tournament (no one else has played more than seven at the All England Club.)

His 29 Grand Slam finals are seven more than Rafael Nadal, who ranks No. 2.

His 18 Grand Slam titles are three more than Nadal, No. 2 in that category, too.

And only Pete Sampras and William Renshaw (who played in the 1880s, back when a previous year's champion only needed to win one match to retain the title) also can boast of seven men's trophies at Wimbledon.

Now Federer wants to collect another after missing out on chances with losses to Novak Djokovic in the 2014 and 2015 finals.

"It's a big deal. I love this tournament. All my dreams came true here as a player," Federer said. "To have another chance to go for No. 8 now, be kind of so close now at this stage, is a great feeling."

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

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

China cremates body of jailed Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo

By GILLIAN WONG and NG HAN GUAN, Associated Press

SHENYANG, China (AP) — China cremated the body of imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, who died this week after a battle with liver cancer amid international criticism of Beijing for not letting him travel abroad as he had wished.

The government of the city of Shenyang in northeastern China, where Liu had been treated for advanced liver cancer, said in a briefing that the cremation took place early Saturday morning in a ceremony attended by family, including his wife.

Liu died Thursday from multiple organ failure that followed a battle with liver cancer while serving an 11-year sentence for incitement to subvert state power. He was 61.

The briefing, at which officials also provided images of the funeral, was the latest in a tightly orchestrated Chinese government propaganda campaign seemingly aimed at countering criticism that Beijing has failed to handle Liu's case in a humanitarian way. A video about Liu's hospital treatment released on the website of the city's judicial bureau Friday appeared aimed at the same objective.

The wife and other family members of China's best-known political prisoner have been closely guarded by authorities and



ADDS IDS - In this photo provided by the Shenyang Municipal Information Office, Liu Xia, center, wife of jailed Nobel Peace Prize winner and Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, holds a portrait of him during his funeral at a funeral parlor in Shenyang in northeastern China's Liaoning Province, Saturday, July 15, 2017. The photo shows, from left to right, Liu Hui, younger brother of Liu Xia, Liu Xia and Liu Xiaoxuan, younger brother of Liu Xiaobo holding his cremated remains. (Shenyang Municipal

Information Office via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 22 of 43

remain largely out of contact with the outside world even after Liu's death. Governments around the world have urged China to free Liu Xia from the strict house arrest she has lived under for years even though she has not been convicted of any crime.

The handout images showed Liu's wife, who wore dark sunglasses, being comforted by her brother in a funeral parlor as they stood in a row with Liu's older and younger siblings and their wives. Liu's body lay in an open casket in the center of the room, surrounded by an arrangement of potted white flowers.

A black banner strung on the wall said "Mr. Liu Xiaobo's funeral" in white Chinese characters. It was positioned above a framed picture of Liu. A press release issued by the government said the ceremony was held at 6:30 a.m. to the music of Mozart's Requiem and that the body was cremated shortly afterward.

The government also said the couple's friends attended the ceremony, a claim that was disputed by people who have long been close to Liu. In the handout images, none among a group of people standing by the casket were identifiable as any of Liu's friends, said Mo Zhixu, a dissident writer who is friends with Liu.

"Not a single one of his real friends were there," Mo said by phone, adding that he thought the well-built young men with buzz cuts in the photos resembled security agents who kept track of Liu's wife. "This is just a big performance."

"This regime has long been acting without humanity, that's why they denied him even a minute of freedom even until his death. I have nothing to say other than that I'm extremely infuriated," Mo said.

In Shenyang, a spokesman for the city's information office said at the briefing that authorities were looking out for Liu Xia's interests and insisted that she is free.

"As far as I know, Liu Xia has freedom. But she just lost her relative and is in deep sorrow," spokesman Zhang Qingyang said. "After Liu Xiaobo's death, let Liu Xia tend to his affairs and try to keep her away from external interference."

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.

Tributes have rolled in from around the world to mourn Liu, but there is little mention of him in China's heavily-censored state media and social networking platforms. One notable exception is a newspaper published by the ruling Communist Party which on Saturday said the West was "deifying" Liu, a man the paper described as a criminal who was "paranoid, naive and arrogant."

"Liu's memorial tablet cannot find a place in China's cultural temple," the Global Times newspaper said in an editorial. "Deification of Liu by the West will be eventually overshadowed by China's denial of him."

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.

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 manipulation to demonize its critics.

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 an end to one-party rule.

He was in prison when he was awarded the Nobel in 2010, which Beijing condemned as an affront to its political and legal systems.

Wong reported from Beijing.

DOJ appeals judge's travel ban ruling to Supreme Court

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL and ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is seeking to close a legal window opened for tens of thousands of refugees to enter the United States, appealing a federal judge's order directly to the Supreme Court.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson had ordered the government to allow in refugees formally working with a resettlement agency in the United States. His order also vastly expanded the list of U.S. family relationships that refugees and visitors from six Muslim-majority countries can use to get into the country, including grandparents and grandchildren.

In its appeal Friday night, the Justice Department said Watson's interpretation of the Supreme Court's ruling on what family relationships qualify refugees and visitors from the six Muslim-majority countries to enter the U.S. "empties the court's decision of meaning, as it encompasses not just 'close' family members, but virtually all family members. Treating all of these relationships as 'close familial relationship(s)' reads the term 'close' out of the Court's decision."

Only the Supreme Court can decide these issues surrounding the travel ban, the Justice Department said. "Only this Court can definitively settle whether the government's reasonable implementation is consistent with this Court's stay," it said.

The long, tangled legal fight is expected to culminate with arguments before the nation's high court in October.

Watson's ruling could help more than 24,000 refugees already vetted and approved by the United States but barred by the 120-day freeze on refugee admissions, said Becca Heller, director of the International Refugee Assistance Project, a resettlement agency.

"Many of them had already sold all of their belongings to start their new lives in safety," she said. "This decision gives back hope to so many who would otherwise be stranded indefinitely."

Citing a need to review its vetting process to ensure national security, the administration capped refugee admissions at 50,000 for the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, a ceiling it hit this week.

The federal budget can accommodate up to 75,000 refugees, but admissions have slowed under Trump, and the government could hold them to a trickle, resettlement agencies say.

"Absolutely this is good news for refugees, but there's a lot of uncertainty," said Melanie Nezer, spokeswoman for HIAS, a resettlement agency. "It's really going to depend on how the administration reacts to this."

Attorney General Jeff Sessions had said the administration would ask the Supreme Court to weigh in,



In this July 6, 2017, file photo, Ali Said, of Somalia, center, waits at a center for refugees with his two sons in San Diego. Said, whose leg was blown off by a grenade, says he feels unbelievably lucky to be among one of the last refugees allowed into the United States before stricter rules were to kick in as part of the Trump administration's proposed travel ban. A federal judge in Hawaii further weakened the already-diluted travel ban Thursday, July 13, 2017, by vastly expanding the list of U.S. family relationships that visitors from six Muslim-majority countries can use to get into the country. (AP Photo/Gregory Bull, File)

bypassing the San Francisco-based 9th U.S Circuit Court of Appeals, which has ruled against it in the case.

The Supreme Court allowed a scaled-back version of the travel ban to take effect last month.

"Once again, we are faced with a situation in which a single federal district court has undertaken by a nationwide injunction to micromanage decisions of the co-equal executive branch related to our national security," Sessions said. "By this decision, the district court has improperly substituted its policy preferences for the national security judgments of the executive branch in a time of grave threats."

The administration took a first step by filing a notice of appeal to the 9th Circuit, allowing it to use a rule to petition the high court directly. There was no timetable for the Supreme Court to act, but the administration sought quick action to clarify the court's June opinion.

The justices now are scattered during their summer recess, so any short-term action would come in written filings.

The administration has lost most legal challenges on the travel ban, which applies to citizens of Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen.

The Supreme Court's ruling exempted a large swath of refugees and travelers with a "bona fide relationship" with a person or an entity in the U.S. The justices did not define those relationships but said they could include a close relative, a job offer or admission to a college or university.

The Trump administration defined the relationships as people who had a parent, spouse, fiancée, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the U.S.

Watson enlarged that group to include grandparents, grandchildren, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Hawaii Attorney General Douglas S. Chin, who sought the broader definition, said Thursday's ruling "makes 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.

Spagat reported from San Diego. Associated Press writers Julie Watson in San Diego, Jennifer Sinco Kelleher in Honolulu, Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco and Sadie Gurman and Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report.

Russian-American lobbyist says he was at Trump son's meeting

By **DESMOND BUTLER** and **CHAD DAY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A prominent Russian-American lobbyist and former Soviet military officer said he was at a meeting between a Russian lawyer and President Donald Trump's son, son-in-law and campaign chairman last year, adding a new wrinkle to the Trump team's evolving explanations about the June 2016 session.

Rinat Akhmetshin confirmed his involvement to The Associated Press in a Friday interview. He had not been previously identified as a participant in the meeting at Trump Tower in New York, which was billed as part of a Russian government effort to help the Republican's White House campaign.

The meeting has heightened questions about whether Trump's associates coordinated with Russia to meddle in the presidential election — to help him and thwart Hillary Clinton — and whether they've been forthcoming about their foreign contacts. Federal and congressional investigators are probing possible connections between the campaign and Moscow.

While Trump Jr. has confirmed that Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya was in the meeting, he has not disclosed Akhmetshin's presence.

Akhmetshin has been reported to have ties to Russian intelligence, a characterization he dismisses as a "smear campaign." He's a well-known Washington presence, lobbying for Russian interests trying to undermine the allegations of a lawyer who died in a Russian prison and is the namesake of a U.S. sanctions law.

Akhmetshin told the AP he served in the Soviet military in a unit that was part of counterintelligence but he was never formally trained as a spy.

In emails posted by Donald Trump Jr. earlier this week, a music publicist said he arranged the meeting

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 25 of 43

because a Russian lawyer wanted to pass on negative information about Democrat Clinton. The go-between stated that the discussion was part of a Russian government effort to help the GOP candidate.

The president's son has publicly discounted the meeting, saying he did not receive the information he was promised.

In a statement Sunday, Trump Jr. said the attorney had said she had information that people tied to Russia were funding the Democratic National Committee and supporting Clinton, a description that Akhmetshin backed up in his interview with the AP.

In his first public interview about the meeting, Akhmetshin said he accompanied Veselnitskaya to Trump Tower where they met an interpreter. He said he had learned about the meeting only that day when Veselnitskaya asked him to attend. He said he showed up in jeans and a T-shirt.

Veselnitskaya brought with her a plastic folder with printed-out documents that detailed what she believed was the flow of illicit funds to the Democrats, Akhmetshin said.

Veselnitskaya presented the contents of the documents to the Trump associates and suggested that making the information public could help the campaign, he said.

"This could be a good issue to expose how the DNC is accepting bad money," Akhmetshin recalled her saying.

Trump Jr. asked the attorney if she had sufficient evidence to back up her claims, including whether she could demonstrate the flow of the money. But Veselnitskaya said the Trump campaign would need to research it more. After that, Trump Jr. lost interest, according to Akhmetshin.

"They couldn't wait for the meeting to end," he said.

Akhmetshin said he does not know if Veselnitskaya's documents were provided by the Russian government. He said he thinks she left the materials with the Trump associates. It was unclear if she handed the documents to anyone in the room or simply left them behind, he said.

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and current White House senior adviser, and then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort also attended the meeting. Akhmetshin said he recognized Kushner and Trump Jr. He also said he recognized Manafort because they worked in "adjacent political circles" but never together.

He said there were others in the room but he didn't know them. Publicist Rob Goldstone, who brokered the meeting via email with Trump Jr., has told the AP that he was there.

Asked about Akhmetshin's participation, Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni declined comment. Trump Jr.'s attorney did not respond to inquiries, nor did a spokesman for Kushner. Veselnitskaya has denied having any ties to the Russian government. When reached by the AP this week, she declined comment. She did not respond to additional attempts to contact her Friday.

The confirmation of Akhmetshin's participation in the meeting drew swift reaction from the top Democrat



In this photo taken July 11, 2017, Donald Trump Jr. is interviewed by host Sean Hannity on his Fox News Channel television program, in New York. A Russian-American lobbyist says he attended a June 2016 meeting with President Donald Trump's son, marking another shift in the account of a discussion that was billed as part of a Russian government effort to help the Republican's White House campaign.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 26 of 43

on the House intelligence committee, Rep. Adam Schiff of California, who said he wanted Akhmetshin to appear before the committee and provide "any relevant documents and information."

Schiff said whether Akhmetshin is connected to Russian intelligence or not "it is clear the Kremlin got the message that Donald Trump welcomed the help of the Russian government in providing dirt on Hillary Clinton." Schiff said Trump Jr.'s omission of Akhmetshin's role in his public account of the meeting and the president's son's shifting explanations "paint a portrait of consistent dissembling and deceit."

Kushner disclosed the meeting on his security clearance paperwork, but Schiff said the Akhmetshin revelation raises questions about how much Kushner disclosed about it. He said he believes Kushner's clearance should be reviewed, and "if he was not perfectly candid," the clearance should be revoked.

Akhmetshin, who spoke to the AP while on vacation in France where he said he has been surfing, said the meeting was "not substantive" and he "actually expected more serious" discussion.

"I never thought this would be such a big deal, to be honest," he said.

The Russian government has denied any involvement or knowledge of the June 2016 meeting. Asked Friday about Akhmetshin, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters: "We don't know anything about this person."

Akhmetshin has been identified in media reports as a former officer in Russia's military intelligence service known as the GRU. He has denied that, saying he served in the Soviet Army from 1986 to 1988 after he was drafted but was not trained in spy tradecraft. He said his unit operated in the Baltics and was "loosely part of counterintelligence."

Akhmetshin said he has not been contacted by the U.S. special counsel's office or the FBI about the meeting with Trump Jr. He said he's willing to talk with the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman has pressed the Justice Department about why Akhmetshin has not registered as a foreign agent.

The chairman, Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa, said in a March letter that Akhmetshin has "reportedly admitted to being a 'Soviet counterintelligence officer' and has a long history of lobbying the U.S. government for pro-Russia matters."

Akhmetshin said that the Justice Department's Foreign Agents Registration Act unit sent him a letter in April and told him, "it has come to our attention you should have filed for FARA." He said he didn't believe he needed to file. He has previously registered with Congress for the lobbying work, and he plans to raise this issue before Grassley's committee.

"I think I have a legal right to tell my story," he said.

Separately on Friday, the data and digital director for Trump's presidential campaign said he will speak with the House Intelligence committee later this month as part of its own Russia probe.

Brad Parscale said in a statement that he is "unaware of any Russian involvement" in the data and digital operations but will voluntarily appear before the panel.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Stephen Braun and Julie Pace contributed to this report.

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Cuba's Raul Castro dismisses harsher US tone under Trump

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban President Raul Castro denounced President Donald Trump's tougher line on relations with Havana on Friday, calling it a setback but promising to continue working to normalize ties between the former Cold War rivals.

Castro's comments to Cuba's National Assembly were his first on Trump's June announcement of a partial rollback of the Cuba-U.S. detente achieved by then-President Barack Obama. They contained echoes of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 27 of 43

the harsh rhetoric of the past.

"Any strategy that seeks to destroy the revolution either through coercion or pressure or through more subtle methods will fail," Cuba's president told legislators.

He also rejected any "lessons" on human rights from the U.S., saying his country "has a lot to be proud about" on the issue.

Surrounded by Cuban-American exiles and Cuban dissidents in Miami, Trump announced last month that the U.S. would impose new limits on U.S. travelers to the island and ban any payments to the military-linked conglomerate that controls much of the island's tourism industry. He said the U.S. would consider lifting those and other restrictions only after Cuba returned fugitives and made a series of other internal changes including freeing political prisoners, allowing freedom of assembly and holding free elections.

Trump's policy retained elements of Obama's reforms but tightened restrictions on travel and employed harsh rhetoric on human rights.

On Friday in Washington, the Trump administration said it was suspending for another six months a provision of the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

The State Department said it told Congress that it will keep suspending a provision of the Helms-Burton Act that deals with property seized from Americans. The provision lets Americans use U.S. courts to sue non-American companies that operate and deal with property confiscated after Fidel Castro's revolution.

Speaking to the National Assembly, Castro called the Trump administration's policies a "setback," though he reiterated his government's position that it would work to normalize relations with Washington.

Earlier in the legislative session, Economy Minister Ricardo Cabrisas announced that Cuba's economy is growing again after a dip last year.

Cabrisas said the economy grew around 1 percent in the first half of 2017. That puts GDP growth on track to hit 2 percent for the year.

The government said the economy shrank last year by 1 percent amid falling support from troubled Venezuela. That was the first decrease reported in two decades. Cabrisas said that instability in the supply of Venezuelan oil weighs on the country but tourism, construction, transportation and communications were growing.

Foreign media did not have access to the National Assembly session.



In this March 17, 2015 file photo, Cuba's President Raul Castro listens to the playing of national hymns during his welcome ceremony at Miraflores presidential palace before the start of an emergency ALBA meeting in Caracas, Venezuela. Castro called President Donald Trump's new policy on Havana a setback for Cuba-U.S. relations on Friday, July 14, 2017, but said he was willing to continue normalizing ties on a basis of mutual respect. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos, File)

Growing sinkhole swallows 2 houses, 1 boat in Florida

By JENNIFER KAY and FREIDA FRISARO, Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A sinkhole that started out the size of a small swimming pool and continued to grow in Florida swallowed a boat, destroyed two homes and prompted officials to evacuate residents from about a dozen homes Friday.

Dramatic video showed the home in Land O' Lakes, north of Tampa in Pasco County, collapsing into the hole Friday morning. It quickly engulfed one home and a boat and then consumed about 80 percent of another home, said Kevin Guthrie, Pasco County's assistant county administrator for public safety.

By Friday afternoon, the hole stretched up to 250 feet (76 meters) wide and 50 feet (15 meters) deep, and threatened to damage a third home, Guthrie said.

Pasco County Fire Chief Shawn Whited told reporters that no one was home when crews responded to a call about a "depression" under a boat in the backyard of a house in Lake Padgett Estates in Land O'Lakes. Within minutes, he said, "the hole opened up" and the boat fell in.

Firefighters were able to get two dogs out of the home and retrieve some belongings before the first home started collapsing into the quickly expanding hole.

"This is people's lives. They have everything in that house. The house that I went into, the elderly woman was in a walker, so we wanted to make sure we got medications — things that she needed," Deputy Jay Murphy said.

No injuries have been reported.

Sheriff Chris Nocco said that within roughly 30 feet (9 meters) of the sinkhole, the ground was soft underfoot and felt like it was moving.

"Walking down the street, you can see in people's eyes the anxiety level. They're fearful," Nocco said.

The sinkhole had been dormant for about 90 minutes Friday night when Nocco addressed members of the media, but officials were cautious because it's the rainy season. A fence was being erected around the sinkhole. The scene is being considered a hazardous materials incident because of possible septic tank issues and building debris.

"We're all wondering what's going to happen next. We can't control this. This is mother nature," said the sheriff, who added that plenty of rescue crews were on standby to evacuate residents quickly, if necessary.

Eleven homes were evacuated, including the two destroyed. County property records show there was a sinkhole at the property where the first house was swallowed up, and that it had been stabilized in 2014. The home was sold in 2015, according to records. Messages left for its owner were not immediately returned Friday.

Sinkholes are stabilized by boring holes into the ground and injecting concrete.

Records also show a sinkhole was stabilized at the partially destroyed home in 2007. Two sisters renting



Debris is strewn about from a partially collapsed home in Land O' Lakes, Fla. on Friday, July 14, 2017. A sinkhole that started out the size of a small swimming pool and continued to grow has swallowed a home in Florida and severely damaged another. (Alessandra da Pra/Tampa Bay Times via AP)

that home with four other family members said they had left the house early Friday and returned to see their neighbor's home falling into the sinkhole.

The Tampa Bay Times reported that Edilia and Theresa Villa and their relatives had time to retrieve important documents and six dogs from their house before officials declared it unsafe. Theresa Villa's 15-year-old daughter, Thalia Chapman, told the newspaper the family moved into the home after arriving from Cuba about a decade ago.

Officials say Duke Energy cut power to about 100 homes in the neighborhood. The American Red Cross is assisting residents who've been displaced.

Guthrie said he was concerned that if the sinkhole continued to grow, it would damage septic tanks that could pollute a nearby lake.

Kelli Kennedy contributed from Fort Lauderdale.

Papers reveal pot dealer's grisly confession to 4 slayings

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A marijuana dealer gave police a grisly account of killing four men on his family's farm, saying he crushed one of them with a backhoe after shooting him and tried to set three of the bodies on fire in a metal bin with the help of his cousin, according to court papers filed Friday.

Cosmo DiNardo, who graduated from a Catholic prep school two years ago, said he killed a former schoolmate when he arrived with \$800 to buy \$8,000 worth of pot. DiNardo, who's charged along with his cousin, said he shot another man in the back as he tried to run away.

DiNardo, 20, pinned one of the deaths on his cousin, who was charged Friday, although the cousin told police that DiNardo shot all four of the victims.

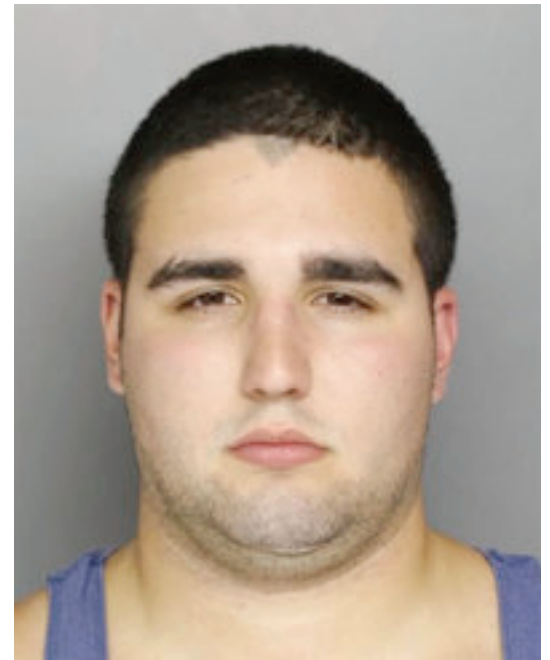
The only motive disclosed by investigators was that DiNardo said he wanted to set the victims up when they went to the farm to buy marijuana. One man vanished July 5, and the others vanished two days later.

Three of the slain men were buried at the farm, in Solebury, in an oil tank that had been converted into a cooker. The FBI found them Wednesday after four days of methodical hand-digging and sifting in a spot on the 90-acre farm that dogs had sniffed out.

Authorities might never have found the fourth body unless they worked with DiNardo, Bucks County District Attorney Matthew Weintraub said.

"I don't know what convinced him (to confess). I'd like to think he wanted to get these boys home," Weintraub said, explaining the surprise plea agreement forged Thursday that led to the final body.

DiNardo told police where to find 19-year-old Loyola University of Maryland student Jimi Taro Patrick, who was a year behind DiNardo at Holy Ghost Prep School near Bensalem, and agreed to plead guilty to four counts of first-degree murder. In exchange, he will be spared the death penalty.



This undated photo provided by the Bucks County District Attorney's Office in Doylestown, Pa., shows Cosmo DiNardo, of Bensalem, Pa., an admitted drug dealer with a history of mental illness who was charged Friday, July 14, 2017, with the killings of four Pennsylvania men who vanished a week ago. A second suspect was also arrested and charged in three of the deaths.

(Bucks County District Attorney's Office via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 30 of 43

Investigators would still be looking for Patrick's body had they not made the agreement with DiNardo, Weintraub said.

"It was so far away (from the others on the farm) that I started to get sick to my stomach on the ride," he said.

DiNardo's history of mental illness includes involuntary commitment, a schizophrenia diagnosis and repeated contacts with police. He also suffered a head injury last year in an ATV accident.

The commitment meant he was barred from possessing guns, but nonetheless he had one in February when police charged him with having a shotgun. He also used at least two guns in the slayings, investigators said.

A person with firsthand knowledge of DiNardo's confession said he acknowledged selling a variety of handguns to local residents. 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.

DiNardo is charged with four homicide counts and 20 other crimes, including abuse of a corpse, conspiracy and robbery.

"I'm sorry," DiNardo said Thursday as he was led into a police van.

His cousin Sean Kratz, 20, faces 20 counts, including three homicide counts. Both were being held in jail without bail.

DiNardo's parents, who own the farm property in Solebury and construction and concrete companies in Bensalem, where they live, declined to comment Thursday when they left a court building after their son confessed. Kratz's mother declined to comment on her son arrest's when reached by phone.

Kratz told a judge on Friday that he had no lawyer. The judge replied that he should hire one or apply for a public defender.

The other victims were 19-year-old Dean Finocchiaro, 22-year-old Mark Sturgis and 21-year-old Tom Meo.

AP reporter Anthony Izaguirre contributed from Philadelphia.

This story has been corrected to show DiNardo is 20, not 22.

Russian-American at Trump Jr. meeting is ex-military officer

By ERIC TUCKER and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Russian-American lobbyist who attended a meeting at Trump Tower last year is a former military officer who has attracted congressional scrutiny over his political activities and has been shadowed by allegations of connections to Russian intelligence that he denies.

Rinat Akhmetshin confirmed his participation in the meeting to The Associated Press on Friday, providing new details of a June 2016 sit-down that included a Russian lawyer and President Donald Trump's oldest son, son-in-law and campaign chairman.

His attendance at the meeting and his lobbying background created a new wrinkle to a story that has hounded the White House for days and added to questions about potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Akhmetshin is well-known in Washington for his advocacy efforts. He's been outspoken in recent years about a U.S. law levying sanctions on Russians and has worked to undermine the public narrative used to justify the bill. And his name has also surfaced in multiple American lawsuits, including one involving the hacking of a company's computer systems.

Emails released this week by Donald Trump Jr. show the president's son agreed to the Trump Tower meeting with the idea that he would receive damaging information on Hillary Clinton from someone described to him as a "Russian government attorney." Akhmetshin began working with that attorney, Natalia Veselnitskaya, in 2015, after a public relations person he declined to name introduced them.

The Russian government has denied any involvement or knowledge of the meeting. Asked Friday about

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 31 of 43

Akhmetshin, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters: "We don't know anything about this person."

In an interview, Akhmetshin denied suggestions made in media reports, congressional letters and litigation that he is a former officer in Russia's military intelligence service known as the GRU, dismissing the allegations as a "smear campaign."

He told the AP that he served in the Soviet Army from 1986 to 1988 after he was drafted but was not trained in spy tradecraft. He said his unit operated in the Baltics and was "loosely part of counterintelligence."

Akhmetshin, a naturalized American citizen who has lived in Washington since the early 1990s, and Veselnitskaya are known for lobbying efforts involving the Magnitsky Act, a brace of economic sanctions targeting Russian officials and individuals

The act passed by Congress was named for Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died in a Russian prison in 2009 after accusing Russian government officials and takeover raiders of a \$230 million tax fraud scheme in the seizure of an investment firm.

The original Magnitsky Act leveled U.S. financial sanctions on 18 Russian officials and individuals suspected of complicity in Magnitsky's prosecution, imprisonment and death.

A Global Magnitsky Act that passed in December 2016 gives the president power to impose visa bans and freeze U.S. assets of anyone who suppresses basic human rights or targets whistleblowers exposing corruption.

Early in 2016, Akhmetshin said, he helped set up a non-profit foundation based in Delaware to lobby U.S. officials in an effort to strip Magnitsky's name from the law, though he maintains that he was not attempting to undercut it.

As an adjunct to the foundation's lobbying, Veselnitskaya also organized and attended a screening of an anti-Magnitsky documentary film that played at the Newseum in Washington four days after she met with Trump Jr. in New York. Akhmetshin acknowledged he was also involved in promoting the film.

Several wealthy Russian oligarchs agreed to provide financial backing for the foundation's lobbying, Akhmetshin said, providing at least \$300,000.

Among them, he said, was Dennis Katsyv, the owner of a real estate investment firm who was battling against a Justice Department lawsuit at the time connected to the seized investment firm.

The federal government this year settled with Katsyv's firm, allowing the company to pay a \$6 million fine without admitting guilt.

Congressional lobbying documents show that the foundation Akhmetshin helped set up spent \$290,000 last year on lobbying. At least \$10,000, the records indicate, was paid directly to Akhmetshin as a lobbyist.

Akhmetshin's name has also surfaced in lawsuits, including a New York court case in which a mining company branded him a "former Soviet military counterintelligence officer" and accused him of involve-



In this photo provided by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Rinat Akhmetshin is photographed at the Newseum in Washington, June 13, 2016 after a documentary screening. Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking member on the Senate Intelligence Committee says reports that a second Russian person was in a meeting with Donald Trump Jr. last summer "adds another deeply disturbing fact about this secret meeting." Akhmetshin confirmed his participation to The Associated Press on Friday, July 14, 2017. (Radio Free

Europe/Radio Liberty via AP)

ment in the hacking of its computer systems. Those claims were withdrawn last year, court records show.

In a separate case, he described his business as "strategic communications" with clients including national governments and high-ranking officials of those governments. Disclosure of his communications, he said, could put lives at risk.

Akhmetshin said he has not been contacted by the special counsel's office or the FBI about the meeting with Trump Jr. He said he's willing to talk with the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose chairman has pressed the Justice Department about why Akhmetshin has not registered as a foreign agent.

The chairman, Republican Chuck Grassley of Iowa, said in a March letter that Akhmetshin has "reportedly admitted to being a 'Soviet counterintelligence officer' and has a long history of lobbying the U.S. government for pro-Russia matters."

Akhmetshin said the Justice Department prodded him several months ago to register as a foreign agent because of his lobbying work, though he said he doesn't believe he needs to do so. He has previously registered with Congress for the lobbying, and he plans to raise this issue before Grassley's committee.

"I think I have a legal right to tell my story," he said.

Associated Press writers Chad Day and Desmond Butler contributed to this report.

No one rule applies on how hot is too hot on an airliner

By THOMAS PEIPERT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Every day, tens of thousands of U.S. airline passengers settle into their seats, lower the window shades and reach up to twist the air vents without the benefit of something that might do even more to keep them cool: a rule setting temperature limits inside the cabin.

Airlines have their own guidelines — some allowing the mercury to hit 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) — and federal regulations cover air flow and, more generally, passenger safety and comfort.

But nowhere do authorities say how hot is too hot when a plane is sitting on the ground — a fact illustrated this summer when a mother holding her beet-red infant had to plead to be let off a broiling regional jet stuck on the tarmac at Denver International Airport.

Emily France said she and her 4-month-old son, Owen, sweltered aboard the 50-seat "oven with wings" for more than an hour June 22 before it returned to the gate and passengers were allowed off briefly.

When they re-boarded the United Airlines flight to El Paso, Texas, the cabin felt even warmer, France said.

With the flight delayed again, she stripped off Owen's clothing and applied ice bags brought by flight attendants, but his condition deteriorated.

"I heard a cry from my son that I have never heard before, and his skin looked a color that I had never



This June 22, 2017 photo provided by Maria de Los Angeles-Baida shows Emily France with her 4-month-old son Owen in Denver. France who says her infant son overheated on a delayed United Airlines flight at Denver's airport has hired an attorney and hopes the Federal Aviation Administration takes note. (Maria de Los Angeles-Baida via AP)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 33 of 43

seen before, and I knew he was in trouble," she said. "Then he just stopped crying. And he went limp in my arms."

"I said, 'Get an ambulance and get me off the plane,'" she recalled.

She and the boy were taken away by ambulance. Doctors determined the baby suffered no lasting effects.

France said she hopes federal regulators take note, and she has hired a lawyer who specializes in airline safety law. He is demanding an explanation.

"There is no reason why heat bad enough to cause people to pass out is happening in cabins," said the attorney, David Rapoport.

Authorities have heard complaints for years about stifling heat aboard airliners, though the Federal Aviation Administration does not keep track of how many.

To save fuel, pilots sometimes turn off the air conditioning when the plane is at the gate or taxiing, though some airports have ground AC units at the gates that pump cool air into the aircraft while it waits to push back. Sometimes the onboard air conditioning malfunctions or can't keep up.

During the summer of 2013, several passengers on a delayed Allegiant Air flight fell ill as their plane sat on the tarmac in the blazing desert heat in Las Vegas. A month later, more than 150 Allegiant passengers were forced to sweat it out for 2½ hours in Phoenix after a maintenance problem knocked out air conditioning on the plane.

Allegiant decided in September to spend more than \$1 million on six, 60-ton cooling units for use at the Las Vegas airport, said Michael Bowers, director of base operations.

The FAA declined to comment on the need for specific rules on cabin temperature when a plane is on the ground. But the agency noted in a statement that it specifies how many pounds of fresh air planes must pump through the cabin per minute and per passenger.

And it said it expects airlines to "take appropriate action if a cabin temperature condition occurs on the ground that could potentially affect passenger safety."

The 50,000-member Association of Flight Attendants has been lobbying Congress for years to set a maximum cabin temperature of 80 degrees (27 Celsius).

"Bottom line, the airlines and regulators do not consider temperature to be a safety issue," union spokeswoman Taylor Garland said. "Therefore, it's low on the list of priorities when it comes to on-time departures."

United, which was hit with bad publicity three months ago when a passenger was dragged off an overcrowded flight in Chicago, apologized to the baby's mother but had no explanation of what went wrong.

"This should never have happened," United spokeswoman Maggie Schmerin said. "We are profoundly sorry to our customer and her child for the experience they endured. We are actively looking into what happened to prevent this from occurring again."

A spokeswoman for Trans States Airlines, which operated the flight for United, did not respond to a request for comment.

United already requires flight crews to keep the cabin comfortable during delays, but the policy does not mention a specific temperature. Schmerin said that as temperatures rise this summer, United will make sure air conditioning is running while planes are parked at gates or taxiing.

Former US President Jimmy Carter out of hospital in Canada

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was back at a Habitat for Humanity worksite Friday, a day after he was hospitalized for dehydration while working with the organization to build homes for needy families in Canada.

A smiling Carter showed up in blue jeans and a work shirt to the site in the St. James neighborhood of Winnipeg, where hundreds of Habitat for Humanity volunteers joined the former president and his wife, Rosalynn, to build 25 homes.

Carter, 92, was discharged earlier in the morning from St. Boniface General Hospital where he was treated "as a precaution" for dehydration, Carter spokeswoman Deanna Congileo said.

"He and Mrs. Carter extend their appreciation for the many well-wishes he received worldwide," Cong-

ileo said.

Carter attended a "devotional" service and then left to spend the day resting. He and his wife were expected at a closing ceremony later at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.

In a tweet Friday afternoon, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said: "I spoke with Jimmy Carter today to see how he's doing. Glad you're OK, Mr. President, and thanks for choosing Canada for 2017's #Habitat CWP."

Habitat for Humanity, which has had a long association with the Carters, is constructing 150 homes this year for people in need in Canada to celebrate the country's 150th anniversary.

The former president and his wife were in Edmonton, where Habitat is building 75 homes, from Monday to Wednesday before coming to Winnipeg.

Carter had been working for about 90 minutes Thursday morning when he went to sit down in a chair, the Winnipeg Free Press reported. He

appeared to wobble, so Secret Service agents led him to his motorcade. He was treated by paramedics who took him away in an ambulance, without using lights or siren, the newspaper said.

This week's project building houses in several Canadian communities is the 34th time the Carters have pitched in on Habitat projects, lending a hand and their name to promote the work.

Carter was diagnosed with melanoma that spread to his brain in 2015 but announced in March of the following year that he no longer needed treatment. Carter continued to volunteer for Habitat while being treated for cancer, working alongside volunteers at a home in Memphis, Tennessee, in November 2015.



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter waves to assembled crowd members as he returns to a Habitat for Humanity, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Project build site for a press conference in Winnipeg, Friday, July 14, 2017. Carter was not feeling well and had to leave the site yesterday while working with the organization. He was hospitalized for dehydration and returned to the site today. (John Woods/The

Canadian Press via AP)

Ick-free and ready for a dip: Portland touts revived river

By GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Portland is well-known as a tree-hugging, outdoorsy city, but the river that powers through its downtown has never been part of that green reputation.

For decades, residents have been repulsed by the idea of swimming in the Willamette River because of weekly sewage overflows that created a bacterial stew.

Now, the recent completion of a \$1.4 billion sewage pipe has flushed those worries — and the river once shunned by swimmers is enjoying a rapid renaissance.

The city has partnered with a civic group called the Human Access Project to entice residents into the Willamette this summer with a roster of public swimming events and a flood of announcements that the river, finally, is safe for human use. The campaign is aimed at reversing the impact of decades of public health warnings in an eco-savvy city with a hard-earned green reputation.

The push mirrors efforts to revive ailing rivers in other U.S. cities, from the Charles River in Boston — where occasional city-sanctioned swimming started in 2013 — to the concrete-lined Los Angeles River,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 35 of 43

where efforts have been underway in recent years to reverse decades of environmental damage along an 11-mile (18-kilometer) stretch.

In Portland, the movement has clearly found its moment.

The river is the city's largest public space, but less than 5 percent of the city's footprint has access to the waterfront, said Willie Levenson, who heads the Human Access Project and is working closely with Portland to expand swimming options.

Beaches in other communities along the river attract crowds, but swimmers in downtown Portland have nowhere to dive in despite increasing demand. Since the completion of the sewage control project in 2011, swimmers have been congregating on a floating esplanade for bikers and runners and sneaking onto city docks reserved for fire boats.

"We cannot pretend that swimming isn't happening in downtown Portland anymore. It's a livability issue, and Portland cares about livability," Levenson said. "It's time for our community to stop making jokes about our river and start digging in and looking to make a difference."

The Human Access Project has been working for several years to generate interest in the Willamette and has found a willing partner in new Mayor Ted Wheeler.

This week, a new beach with lifeguards and safety ropes opened on the city's south waterfront, within walking distance of hipster-friendly cafes and shops.

An inner tube river parade planned by the Human Access Project for this weekend is expected to attract several thousand participants, and members of a river swim group cross the Willamette several times a week in fluorescent green swim caps bearing the name River Huggers.

Wheeler, himself a swimmer, laid out a multipoint plan for increasing access to the river earlier this year and plans to swim the river later this month with 500 residents in the inaugural "mayoral swim." The city hopes to open two more beaches in coming years, install floating docks along the riverbank and place public restrooms, picnic benches, umbrellas and showers on site.

In a recent state-of-the-city address, Wheeler even spoke of one day eliminating Interstate 5 where it snakes along the Willamette's east bank to improve river access.

"We have a chance to reshape the face of our city," he said. "I also believe we have a chance to reshape our spirit."

Portland's relationship with the Willamette River hasn't always been easy to navigate.

For decades, the river was considered a watery highway, and industrial pollution severely contaminated its waters. This winter, after a 16-year wait, federal environmental officials released a plan to clean a 10-mile (16-kilometer) stretch near its confluence with the Columbia River in a project that will take decades of work and billions of dollars.

But in the heart of Portland, the primary problem has been human excrement. Residents grew accus-



In this July 6, 2015 file photo, Justine Hicks floats with her dog, Kiana, on the Willamette River in Portland, Ore. Portland is well-known as a tree-hugging, outdoorsy city, but the river that powers through its downtown has never been part of that green reputation. For decades, residents have been repulsed by the idea of swimming in the Willamette River because of weekly sewage overflows that created a bacterial stew. Now, the recent completion of a \$1.4 billion sewage pipe has flushed those worries - and the river once shunned by swimmers is enjoying a rapid renaissance. (AP Photo/Don Ryan, File)

tomed to seeing near-weekly warnings about water quality during the winter rainy season, where even one-tenth of an inch (2.5 millimeters) of rain could trigger overflows.

Now, the city issues just a handful of warnings in winter and none during the peak swimming months of July and August, said Diane Dulken, spokeswoman for Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services. Testing at sites where people are already using the river show the water is safe, she added.

"We are really making a push to publicize our weekly testing because there is absolutely still a public perception out there, 'I will not go in the river.'"

On a recent blazing afternoon, Portland resident Alex Johnson was ready to take the city at its word.

The 24-year-old swim teacher and lifeguard began diving into the Willamette with the River Huggers swim group this month.

On this day, he joined 30 others as they swam from the Hawthorne Bridge to the Morrison Bridge — through Portland's bustling business district — and back in the 70-degree (21 Celsius) water. Teenagers lounged like harbor seals on a nearby dock and jet skis zipped by as the swimmers completed the more than half-mile (0.8-kilometer) journey.

"I've heard stories that it's pretty polluted. It tastes a little funny, but it is river water," Johnson said. "It's a huge resource, and we don't take advantage of it — and it feels great."

Follow Gillian Flaccus on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/gflaccus>

Senator selling stock after AP ties company to Mexican labor

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indiana senator and longtime critic of outsourcing jobs to foreign countries announced Friday that he's selling his stock in his family's arts and crafts company after The Associated Press reported it manufactures some products in Mexico.

Democrat Joe Donnelly said he hasn't had an active role in the company for 20 years but was taking the action to avoid allowing the issue to become "a distraction from our work to end outsourcing and keep American jobs here instead of shipping them to other countries." His campaign said he made the statement to reporters at an Indiana Black Expo luncheon.

The AP reported Thursday that Donnelly made at least \$15,001 in dividends last year on as much as \$50,000 of stock in Stewart Superior Corp., which used Mexican workers to produce dye for ink pads.

Donnelly, considered one of the nation's most vulnerable Democratic senators up for re-election next year, was highly critical of Carrier Corp., an



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

air conditioner and furnace maker. He accused it of exploiting \$3-an-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 37 of 43

hour workers when its parent company announced plans last year to cut some 2,000 jobs at two Indiana factories by moving production to Mexico.

The senator praised then President-elect Donald Trump in November for reaching a deal that saved 800 of the jobs at an Indianapolis factory.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee quickly criticized Donnelly in a statement Friday, alleging he is "hypocritically profiting" from the company's actions. It called on him to donate his sale profits to organizations helping the families of displaced workers.

Donnelly has sponsored a bill, titled the End Outsourcing Act, which aims to make it more difficult to transfer jobs to other countries.

"The real issue we need to focus on, days before 300 Carrier workers in Indianapolis face layoffs, is how we can keep manufacturing here in Indiana," he said in the news release, urging Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, to bring the bill to the floor next week.

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

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

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

Donnelly's brother runs the company, but the senator previously served as a corporate officer and its general counsel before he was first elected to Congress in 2006. He won election to the Senate in 2012.

Winners and losers complicate GOP's path on health care bill

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans' latest health care plan would create winners and losers among Americans up and down the income ladder, and across age groups.

It would give consumers more responsibility for their insurance choices, a goal long held by conservatives who argue that's key to a true health care market. Younger adults and healthy people in the solid middle class may find more agreeable options. But low-income people may not be able to afford coverage, along with older and sicker adults.

And there are potential unintended consequences for people with employer-provided insurance, currently about 170 million Americans. Allowing individuals to pay premiums from tax-sheltered accounts may create incentives for employers to stop offering coverage, say some independent analysts.

The legislation would put limits on federal spending for Medicaid, a partnership program with states to cover low-income people, the disabled and nursing home residents. The drawback is that state officials could eventually face no-win choices, such as having to pick between paying for coverage for low-wage working mothers and support services for elderly people trying to stay out of nursing homes.

As Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., steers toward debate and votes next week, here is a look at some of the latest changes and major issues:

CRUZ'S PLAN

The new Senate bill incorporates the core of a proposal from Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, that would reorganize the market for policies purchased by individuals. As many as 20 million Americans get coverage this way, about half through subsidized markets like HealthCare.gov, created under former President Barack Obama.

Cruz would change basic requirements that Obama's law imposed on individual plans, including standard benefits such as pregnancy, maternity and newborn care; wellness visits and mental health treatment. The

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 38 of 43

law also requires the same premium rates for sick and healthy people.

Under the Cruz approach, an insurer can offer plans that don't comply with such requirements, provided they also offer coverage that does. The problem, say critics, is that the healthy would flock to low-premium, skimpy plans, leaving the sick to face escalating prices for comprehensive coverage.

"Healthy people would have opportunities to buy lower-premium, skinnier plans, while people with pre-existing conditions not eligible for premium subsidies could find themselves priced out of insurance," said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

The latest bill includes another \$70 billion to help states keep health insurance affordable for older, sicker customers. But it's not clear how those backstops would work, and the federal funding eventually would end.

Some insurers are worried because of a technical change with huge practical implications: Health plans that enroll healthier customers would no longer have to cross-subsidize those with sicker patients, as is currently required.

"We think it is unworkable," said Justine Handelman, top Washington lobbyist for the BlueCross BlueShield Association. She predicted skyrocketing costs for taxpayers also, stuck with the bill for sicker patients.



In this July 13, 2017 file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. walks to his office on Capitol Hill in Washington. Republicans' latest health care plan would create winners and losers among Americans up and down the income ladder, and across age groups. (AP

Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

EMPLOYER ESCAPE HATCH?

McConnell's new bill made a major change to tax-sheltered health savings accounts, which was also advocated by Cruz.

Under the bill, health savings accounts could be used to pay premiums with pre-tax money. Under current law, they can only be used to cover out-of-pocket costs, such as deductibles and copayments.

The change is meant to level the playing field for people buying individual plans, as compared to people getting employer coverage. The value of workplace insurance is tax-free for employees and tax-deductible for employers.

But some analysts say McConnell risks undermining workplace coverage.

The upside is that the change might encourage more self-employed people to buy individual health insurance policies. The downside is that some employers may see it as an invitation to drop health benefits, particularly since the GOP also would repeal Obama's requirement that larger companies provide health care or face fines.

"Allowing individuals to purchase insurance with pre-tax dollars eliminates one of the advantages to employer-provided insurance," said Elizabeth Carpenter of the Avalere Health consulting firm. "That may lead some employers to consider whether or not they want to continue to offer health insurance."

THE POOR AND THE SICK

McConnell kept some of the Obama-era tax increases used by Democrats to finance expanded coverage.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 39 of 43

But the money will be going to shore up private insurance, not the Medicaid program. Medicaid accounts for half or more of the 20 million Americans gaining coverage as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

Medicaid covers low-income people, from many pregnant women and newborns, to disabled people and many elderly nursing home residents. The GOP bill would start by phasing out enhanced federal financing for Obama's Medicaid expansion, adopted by 31 states. Perhaps more significantly, it would limit future federal funding for the overall program. As a result, it's estimated Medicaid would cover 15 million fewer people by 2026.

The bill would add \$45 billion to help states confronting the opioid epidemic pay for treatment and recovery. But that hasn't swayed the American Medical Association, which points out that people in recovery also need comprehensive health insurance.

Republican governors don't like the Medicaid cuts, and some have been vocal. About half the states that expanded Medicaid now have GOP chief executives.

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, a Republican who oversaw a Medicaid expansion, said more than 200,000 people gained coverage in his state.

"You think about 210,000 men, women and children, senior citizens, the drug addicted, the chronically ill," Sandoval said. "These are people that used to get their treatment in emergency rooms, if they got any treatment at all. I keep going back to the fact that they are living a better quality of life."

Associated Press writer Jennifer McDermott in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Court: Commissioners' prayer practice violated Constitution

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Elected officials in North Carolina violated the Constitution by opening meetings with Christian prayers and inviting audience members to join, a federal appeals court ruled Friday in a closely watched case that could end up in the Supreme Court.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that found the Rowan County Board of Commissioners' prayer practice to be "unconstitutionally coercive."

The Supreme Court already has ruled that it's appropriate for local clergy to deliver predominantly Christian prayers and town meetings in New York. The question in the Rowan County case was whether it makes a difference that the prayers were given by the commissioners themselves and whether their invitation for the audience to join them in prayer was coercive.

The 4th Circuit, located in Richmond, Virginia, stressed that it's not inherently unconstitutional for lawmakers to lead prayers. But the fact that the Rowan County commissioners were the exclusive prayer givers combined with them consistently invoking one faith and inviting the audience members to participate sent the message that they preferred Christianity above other religions, the court said.

"The principle at stake here may be a profound one, but it is also simple. The Establishment Clause does not permit a seat of government to wrap itself in a single faith," Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III wrote in the majority opinion that was joined by nine other judges.

Dissenting judges said the majority opinion can't be reconciled with Supreme Court rulings upholding government prayer. Judge Paul Niemeyer said the majority's decision "actively undermines the appropriate role of prayer in American civil life."

"In finding Rowan County's prayer practice unconstitutional, essentially because the prayers were sectarian, the majority's opinion strikes at the very trunk of religion, seeking to outlaw most prayer given in government assemblies, even though such prayer has been an important part of the fabric of our democracy and civic life," he wrote. Four other judges also dissented.

The full 4th Circuit heard the case in March after a divided three-judge panel said Rowan County commissioners had a constitutional right to open meetings with prayers as long as they don't pressure observers to participate.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of non-Christians who say the prayers made

them feel excluded and sent the message that the board favored a particular religion.

Attorneys for Rowan County argued that the prayers fell within the bounds of the practice endorsed by the Supreme Court. The commissioners don't force anyone to participate, their attorneys said, noting that people can leave the room or stay seated during the prayer. Since the lower court's decision deemed the prayers unconstitutional, the commission has invited a volunteer chaplain to lead prayer.

Board of Commissioners Chairman Greg Edds said in an email that it will be meeting with its legal team in the coming weeks to decide the next steps. Mike Berry, deputy general counsel for the First Liberty Institute — one of the firms representing the county, said it will be up to the county whether to appeal, but he believes the case is ripe for Supreme Court review because it conflicts with the justices' prior rulings.

The First Liberty Institute is also involved in a similar case in Michigan. In that case, a divided three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the Jackson County Board of Commissioners' tradition of Christian-only prayers was unconstitutional. The full 6th Circuit heard arguments in the case last month.

If the two circuits split, the Supreme Court may feel more compelled to take up the issue.

The chairman of the Rowan County didn't immediately respond to an email Friday.

The 4th Circuit said the intimate local board meeting setting, as opposed to a gathering of Congress or state lawmakers, increases the risk that residents would feel coerced to participate in the prayers moments before seeking approval for things such as zoning petitions and permits applications. The judges also found it troubling that the commissioners' prayers sometimes implied that other faiths were "in some way condemned," with messages suggesting that Christianity was "the one and only way to salvation."

ACLU of North Carolina Legal Director Chris Brook, who argued the case, called the ruling a "great victory for the rights of all residents to participate in their local government without fearing discrimination."

"No one in this community should fear being forced by government officials to participate in a prayer, or fear being discriminated against because they didn't participate in a prayer before a meeting for all the public," Nan Lund, one of the residents who brought the case, said in a statement.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher> . Read more of her work at <http://apnews/2hIhzDb>

Bastille Day: Macron vows merciless fight against terror

By ELAINE GANLEY and MILOS KRIVOKAPIC, Associated Press

NICE, France (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday vowed to "fight without mercy" inside and outside France to end extremist attacks like the one that killed 86 revelers on Bastille Day in the Riviera city of Nice one year ago.

In a speech on the anniversary of the atrocity, Macron said "this is what we owe you." Some of the victims and their families present as well as dignitaries and the corps of first responders, from police to rescue crews and hospital workers, were among those he addressed.

Commemorations followed celebrations on Bastille Day for Macron, who traveled to Nice for a solemn remembrance of the lives lost on July 14, 2016, when a huge truck barreled down a famed beachside promenade, running over revelers awaiting the fireworks display on France's national day.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, though it remains unclear whether the Tunisian at the wheel of the truck, a longtime Nice resident, had any formal links to the organization.

Fireworks were lighting up the Paris sky on Friday night near the Eiffel Tower, but they were banned in Nice.

The solemnity in a city still coping with the aftermath of the attack was in sharp contrast to the pomp and display of French military might at the Bastille Day parade hours earlier in the French capital before Macron's guest of honor, President Donald Trump. There, U.S. soldiers joined the traditional military parade, a bow to the centennial of the entry of U.S. soldiers into World War I, fighting and dying alongside the French, and to French-U.S. friendship.

In Nice, the honors went to victims of the carnage last year as the city, which is considered the jewel

of the Riviera and best known as a center of carefree urban life, tries to move forward without forgetting.

In a deeply moving sequence of the day-long commemoration, the names of the victims, from toddlers to a 92-year-old, were read aloud and posted on a board to form the shape of a heart. The sequence, accompanied by a choir, with at least one member holding back tears, ended with a minute of silence.

The reading of names underscored the nature of a threat that leaves everyone a potential target and is blind to the military power like that on display in Paris in the morning.

The Nice attack wasn't the first to hit France, nor the last. More than 230 people have been killed in extremist violence since 2015.

As in Paris, security was tight, the city heavily guarded on land and in the Mediterranean Sea. Place Massena, the central square where Macron spoke, was protected by cement barriers.

"What our attackers want is to simply see us cry, and you responded with dignity," Macron told the crowd. "We'll respond by a fight without mercy outside and inside our borders against terrorism, everywhere."

The president was echoing the firmness he promised in a speech Thursday to military personnel, vowing to work "until those who organized attacks in Paris, in Nice and elsewhere are definitively vanquished."

"My determination is total," Macron said.

Then and again in Nice, he said the combat goes beyond firepower to a long-term effort to partner with countries where extremism breeds and fight it back via education, economic and social means so "fanaticism can't grow in the terrain of misery."

Despite the solemnity, French fighter jets streamed the national colors — blue, white and red — over the crowd, hours after flying over the Champs-Élysées to open the Bastille Day parade in Paris.

Two former French presidents, conservative Nicolas Sarkozy and Socialist Francois Hollande, Macron's predecessor, arrived together. Among other dignitaries present was Prince Albert of Monaco.

Hundreds gathered on the famed Promenade des Anglais, where the truck careened into crowds. They laid plaques in the national colors, bearing names of the victims, which at day's end would form a 160-meter-long (525-foot-long) message — "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

Nice resident Jean-Paul Collona, 36, was among those attending the commemoration "because my parents were present during the attack, and their names could simply have been on those plaques."

Macron addressed ambient anger visible in the days after the attack with many saying the promenade had been poorly protected and the truck simply wheeled over a sidewalk to get through, saying "I understand your rage."

Some of the most robust applause came when Franck Terrier was awarded the Legion of Honor. He had chased the enormous truck on his scooter in a vain bid to stop it.



French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during a ceremony in Nice, southern France, Friday, July 14, 2017. Commemorations followed Bastille Day celebrations for Macron, heading to the Riviera city of Nice for a solemn remembrance of the 86 lives lost one year ago when a 19-ton truck throttled through revelers feting France's national day in a terror attack that jolted the nation and stunned the world. (AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 42 of 43

Elaine Ganley reported from Paris. Philippe Sotto in Paris contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 15, the 196th day of 2017. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 15, 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace (ver-SAH'-chay), 50, was shot dead outside his Miami Beach home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan, 27, was found dead eight days later, a suicide. (Investigators believed Cunanan killed four other victims before Versace in a cross-country spree that began the previous March.)

On this date:

In 1799, French soldiers in Egypt discovered the Rosetta Stone, which proved instrumental in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union. Manitoba entered confederation as the fifth Canadian province.

In 1916, Boeing Co., originally known as Pacific Aero Products Co., was founded in Seattle.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover announced he was slashing his own salary by 20 percent, from \$75,000 to \$60,000 a year; he also cut Cabinet members' salaries by 15 percent, from \$15,000 to \$12,750 a year.

In 1942, "The Pride of the Yankees," Samuel Goldwyn's biopic starring Gary Cooper as baseball star Lou Gehrig, premiered in New York.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman was nominated for another term of office by the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.

In 1964, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was nominated for president by the Republican national convention in San Francisco.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, California, by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed; the kidnappers were caught.)

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter delivered his "malaise" speech in which he lamented what he called a "crisis of confidence" in America.

In 1985, a visibly gaunt Rock Hudson appeared at a news conference with actress Doris Day (it was later revealed Hudson was suffering from AIDS).

In 1992, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton was nominated for president at the Democratic national convention in New York.

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, an American who'd fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, to two felonies in a deal sparing him life in prison. Five-year-old Samantha Runnion was kidnapped outside an apartment complex in Stanton, California. (Samantha's body was found the next day; factory worker Alejandro Avila (ah-lay-HAHN'-droh AH'-vee-lah) was later convicted of murder, kidnapping and sexual assault and sent to death row, where he remains.)

Ten years ago: Cardinal Roger Mahony, leader of the nation's largest Roman Catholic archdiocese, apologized to the hundreds of people set to receive a share of a \$660 million settlement over allegations of clergy sex abuse. The Philadelphia Phillies became the first team in professional sports to lose 10,000 games as they fell 10-2 to the visiting St. Louis Cardinals.

Five years ago: Syria's 16-month bloodbath crossed an important symbolic threshold as the international Red Cross formally declared the conflict a civil war, a status with implications for potential war crimes prosecutions. A Russian Soyuz craft launched into the morning skies over Kazakhstan, carrying three space travelers, including NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, to the International Space Station. Oscar-winning actress Celeste Holm, 95, died in New York. Microsoft pulled out of the joint venture with NBC News that

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 15, 2017 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 015 ~ 43 of 43

owned MSNBC.com, which was rebranded as NBCNews.com. The video of "Gangnam Style," the hit single by South Korean rapper PSY, was released on YouTube where, to date, it's been viewed more than 2.8 billion times.

One year ago: Republican Donald Trump chose Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, an experienced politician with deep Washington connections, as his running mate. An attempted military coup in Turkey failed. New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said on Facebook he would not ask the U.S. Supreme Court to block his four-game "Deflategate" suspension.

Today's Birthdays: Author Clive Cussler is 86. Actor Ken Kercheval is 82. Actor Patrick Wayne is 78. Actor Jan-Michael Vincent is 73. Rhythm-and-blues singer Millie Jackson is 73. Rock singer-musician Peter Lewis (Moby Grape) is 72. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 71. Rock musician Artimus Pyle is 69. Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, is 67. Actress Celia Imrie is 65. Actor Terry O'Quinn is 65. Rock singer-musician David Pack is 65. Rock musician Marky Ramone is 61. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 61. Country singer-songwriter Mac McAnally is 60. Model Kim Alexis is 57. Actor Willie Aames is 57. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 56. Actress Lolita Davidovich is 56. Actress Shari Headley is 54. Actress Brigitte Nielsen is 54. Rock musician Jason Bonham is 51. Actress Amanda Foreman is 51. Actor Kristoff St. John is 51. Rock musician Phillip Fisher is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Stokley (Mint Condition) is 50. Actor-comedian Eddie Griffin is 49. Actor Stan Kirsch is 49. Actor Reggie Hayes is 48. Actor-screenwriter Jim Rash is 46. Rock musician John Dolmayan is 45. Actor Scott Foley is 45. Actor Brian Austin Green is 44. Rapper Jim Jones is 41. Actress Diane Kruger is 41. Actress Lana Parrilla (LAH'-nuh pa-REE'-uh) is 40. Rock musician Ray Toro (My Chemical Romance) is 40. Actress Laura Benanti is 38. Actor Travis Fimmel is 38. Actor Taylor Kinney is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kia Thornton (Divine) is 36. Actor-singer Tristan "Mack" Wilds is 28. Actor Iain Armitage (TV: "Big Little Lies" "Young Sheldon") is nine.

Thought for Today: "There are two kinds of worries — those you can do something about and those you can't. Don't spend any time on the latter." — Duke Ellington, American jazz artist (1899-1974).