

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sat., July 22, 2017

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### 22

**Legion:** State at Winner  
Jr. Teener Tourney in Baltic: Groton vs. Parkston at 2:30 pm.

### 23

**Legion:** State at Winner  
**Summer Fest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., City Park**  
**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m.  
**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m.  
**United Methodist Church:** Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.  
**Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.  
**First Presbyterian:** Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.

## Official Notices

**Frederick Town (updated 7-18)**  
**Brown County Book (Updated 7-16)**  
**Groton City Book (updated 7-11)**  
**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**



The city of Groton will be doing mosquito control this evening.



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## Final pour for US Highway 12 this morning

It was an all out assault on tackling the US Highway 12 project Saturday morning. According to John Shoemaker of Webster Scale, the general contractor, the final put was suppose to happen on Monday and Tuesday, but rain forced the cancellation of the pours. "We had to stop because of the rain and then we lost our line for concrete," Shoemaker said. "There is a lot of demand for concrete right now with bean plant and the transmission line work starting in the area." There were over 30 people working Saturday morning from different companies in getting the work done today. "We wanted to get it done today (Saturday) instead of Monday," Shoemaker said. The plan for opening US12 to through traffic remains for July 28. Shoemaker said there is about a six-day curing time right now. With the pour on Saturday, July 22, it will be cutting it close for opening on the 28th. In the above photo, Chad Menzia, Groton, is coordinating the concrete trucks for GCC of Aberdeen. The above crew is from Wright and Sudlow and the photo below features the crew from Reed Construction, both of Aberdeen. In addition, Webster Scale was working on getting the sidewalk and curb work ready in front of Ken's so that can be poured on Monday. The US12 entrance in the Red Horse will be opened today, according to Shoemaker.





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**Saw cuts were being made on the concrete road Saturday morning.**



**John Shoemaker (right) of Webster Scale is talking with one of his employees, Mo. Mo is on the packer getting the sidewalk and curb ready on Saturday so it can be poured on Monday.**



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**Bruce Schroeder from the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is the project engineer. He even worked a wheel barrel Saturday morning.**

**This gives a bigger view of the Wright and Sudlow crew activity going on at US12 in Groton Saturday morning.**





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**This is another view of the Reede Construction Company crew working on US12 Saturday morning. The general contractor, John Shoemaker of Webster Scale, is pictured on the right in front.**

**The concrete comes rolling down the channel as the crew is putting it in place. Even John Shoemaker, general contractor with Webster Scale, is pushing concrete. He is pictured on the right.**





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## Jr. Teeners drop first game to Baltic in state tourney

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Groton	0	0	2	0	6	0	4	- 12
Baltic	2	0	1	12	0	0	X	- 15

Three walks loaded the bases for Groton with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, but the side was retired leaving them there and the game ending three-run win for Baltic. This was Groton's first game in the Junior Teener State Tournament being played in Baltic.

Baltic had a big rally in the fourth inning, scoring 12 runs with the help of four Groton errors and a walk. Groton recovered half of the runs in the top of the fifth and added four in the top of the seventh.

Lucas Simon had three singles, Trevor Harry had two singles and Alex Morris and Lane Krueger each had a single.

Alex Morris was the pitcher and Kaden Kurtz was the catcher.

Groton plays Parkston at 2:30 p.m. today for a chance to get to the consolation game.

## Legion Team eliminated from state tournament

The Groton American Legion Post #39 was eliminated in the first two games of the state tournament being played in Winner. Yesterday, Vermillion defeated Groton, 13-2, and today, Platte-Geddes defeated Groton, 12-4.



Call or Text  
Paul at  
397-7460  
or Tina at  
397-7285  
for  
membership  
Information



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## Today in Weather History

July 22, 1926: An estimated F2 tornado moved east across the northern part of Hyde County, destroying two barns.

July 22, 1999: An F0 tornado touched down briefly on a farm southeast of Onida. Over half of the roof of a 40 by 45-foot building was torn off and deposited in a tree belt 200 yards to the north. A grain auger was also damaged when it was pushed up against a granary. A semi-trailer was blown over. About 400 acres of ripe wheat was also flattened, and some sunflowers suffered damage as a result of the tornado.

July 22, 2011: Numerous severe thunderstorms brought hail up to the size of golf balls, damaging winds over 70 mph, along with flash flooding to parts of north central and northeast South Dakota. Most of the hail occurred in Grant and Codington counties. Several roads were flooded by nearly 4 inches of rain in Grant County. Five miles west of South Shore in Codington County, over 3 inches of rain brought flash flooding to several roads. The strong winds were observed in Corson, Walworth, and McPherson counties. About 9 miles west of Long Lake, eighty mph winds ripped a grain bin from the fasteners, pushed the north wall of a garage in, snapped several corral poles, tipped over a grain vac and feeder wagon, moved a semitrailer four feet, and caused some minor damage to the house. Also, many branches were broken off along with several trees uprooted.

1988: Dust devils are not a unique phenomenon, but usually they stay minimal. This was not the case in Dickinson County, Iowa where a powerful dust devil developed on the edge of Lake Okoboji. It picked up whole sections of several docks and swept away all of the loose dirt in the area. Estimated winds exceeded 60 mph.

1993: The levee, holding back the flooding Mississippi River at Kaskaskia, Illinois, ruptures, forcing the town's people to flee on barges. The incident at Kaskaskia was the most dramatic event of the flood. At 9:48 a.m., the levee broke, leaving the people of Kaskaskia with no escape route other than two Army Corp of Engineers barges. By 2 p.m., the entire town was underwater.

1918 - A single bolt of lightning struck 504 sheep dead in their tracks at the Wasatch National Forest in Utah. Sheep often herd together in storms, and as a result the shock from the lightning bolt was passed from one animal to another. (David Ludlum)

1986 - Hurricane Estelle passed 120 miles south of the Hawaiian Islands creating a ten to twenty foot surf. The large swells resulted from a combination of high tides, a full moon, and 50 mph winds. The hurricane also deluged Oahu Island with as much as 6.86 inches of rain on the 24th and 25th of the month. (Storm Data)

1987 - Barrow, AK, receives 1.38 inches in 24 hours on the 21st and 22nd, an all-time record for that location. The average annual precipitation for Barrow is just 4.75 inches. Thunderstorms in Montana produced 4 to 6 inches of rain in Glacier County causing extensive flooding along Divide Creek. Missoula, MT, received 1.71 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (The Weather Channel)








1988 - Six cities in the south central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Pueblo, CO, with a reading of 48 degrees. Thunderstorms over the Atlantic Coast Region drenched Wilmington, NC, with 6.49 inches of rain in about eight hours. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms prevailed across the southeastern third of the country. Afternoon thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Zephyrhills, and gusts to 92 mph at Carrollwood and Lutz. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 69 mph at Crystal Lake damaged nineteen mobile homes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)



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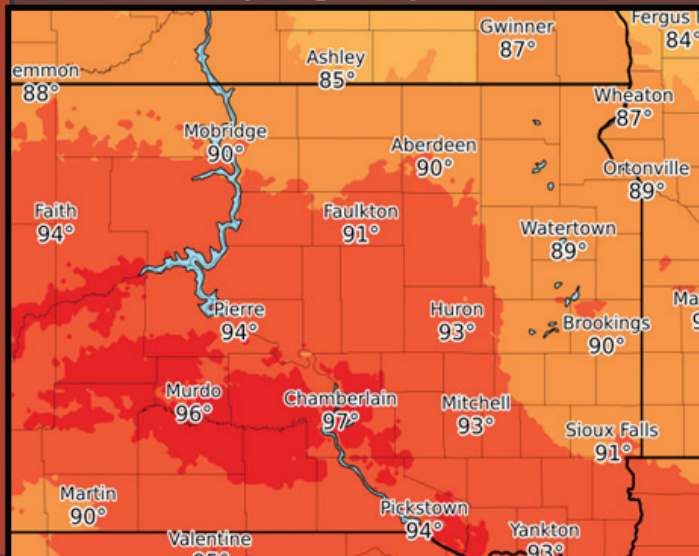
Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Hot	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny
High: 90 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 86 °F

## High/Very High Fire Danger This Afternoon

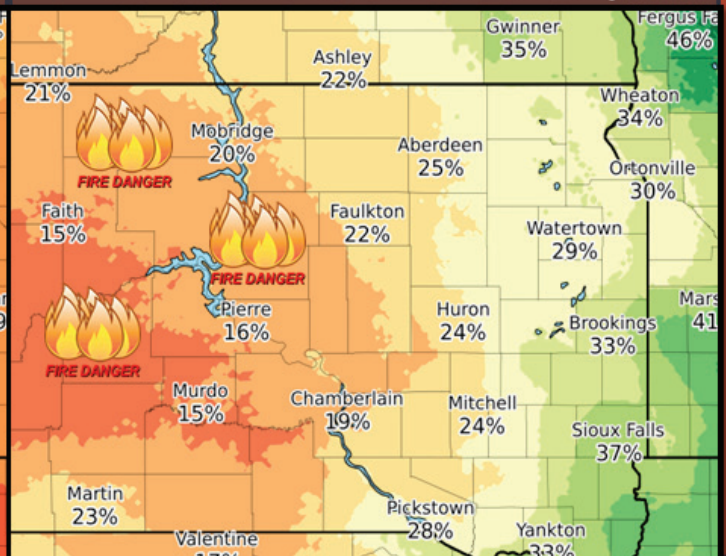
- Areas west of the James River in high to very high fire danger
- Lowest humidity over central SD
- Highest wind gusts across northern SD



Today's High Temperatures



Minimum Afternoon Relative Humidity



weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 7/22/2017 5:28 AM Central

Published on: 07/22/2017 at 5:32AM

A drier air mass will move into the region today as breezy northwest winds also develop. Temperatures will remain high, with highs in the 80s and 90s, while relative humidity drops into the teens and 20s across central South Dakota. Gusty northwest winds will develop across north central South Dakota this afternoon. The combination of dry fuels, low humidity, and breezy northwest winds will bring very high fire danger to central South Dakota. High fire danger will spread east into the James River valley.



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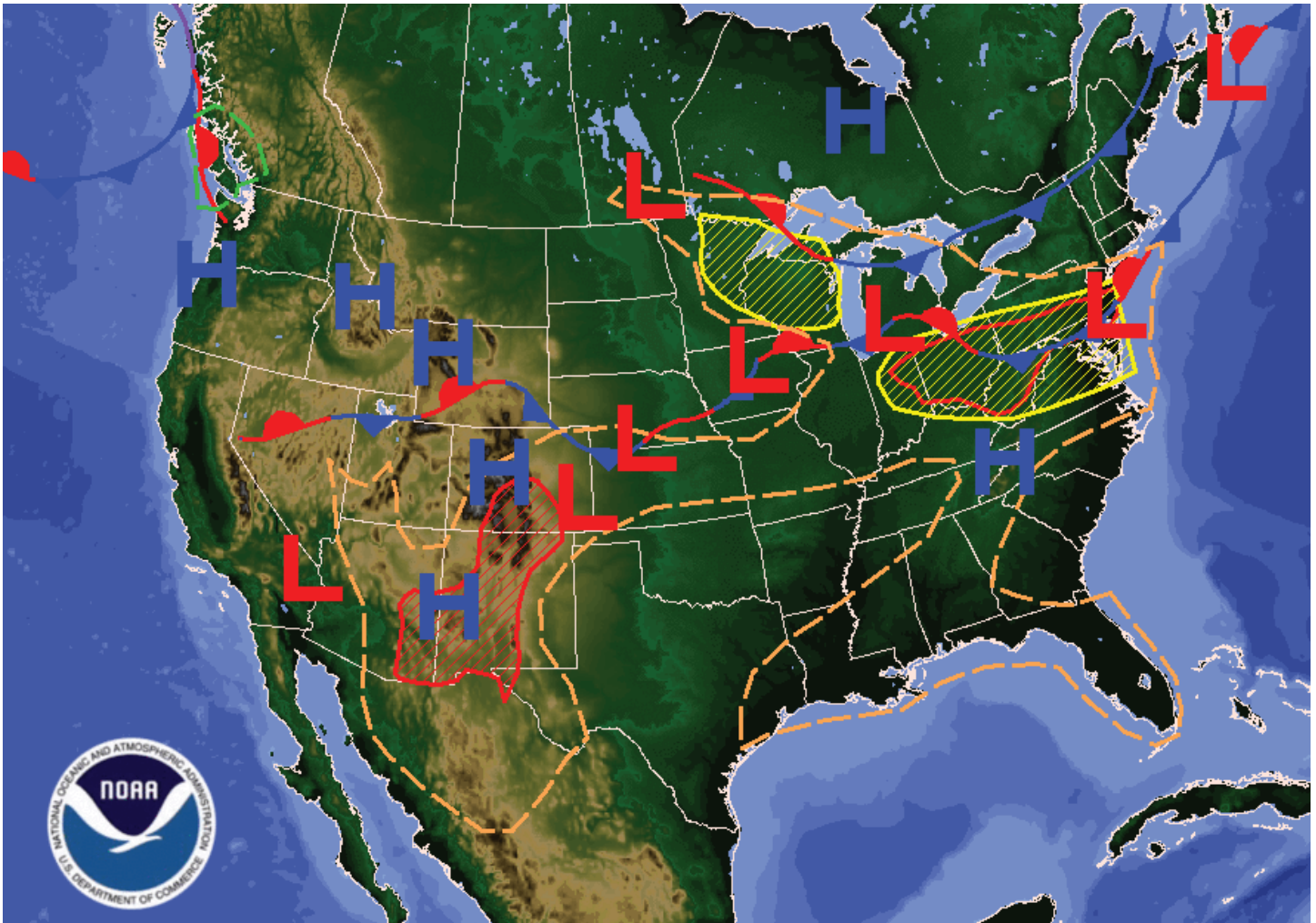
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 91.6**  
**Heat Index:**  
**Low Outside Temp: 69.0**  
**High Gust: 15**  
**Precip: 0.14**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 111° in 1934**  
**Record Low: 46° in 1949**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 60°F**  
**Average Precip in July: 2.25**  
**Precip to date in July: 1.27**  
**Average Precip to date: 13.09**  
**Precip Year to Date: 7.04**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:12 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:08 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jul 22, 2017, issued 4:28 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Krekeler with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow

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



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## TEACH ME AND LEAD ME, LORD

Success in the Christian life begins with our being willing to be willing. It is our willingness, our innermost desire, to want to know God, understand Him and do His will that makes the difference in who we become, what we live for and give our lives to.

David set the example and gives us an excellent program of being willing to be willing to become a "man after God's own heart." He asked God to "Teach me how to live, O Lord, (and) Lead me along right paths." This short, simple and specific prayer exposes David's desire: to know God and to make Him known.

When he asked God to "teach" him, David was pleading for God to give him guidance. This prayer did not arise out of need to confess his sins. It came from a deep desire to have an intimate relationship with God – to experience Him as a friend and confidant. David was well aware of the fact that if he did not allow God to be his teacher, he would not enjoy God's protection and would not be "led along right paths." And if he did not travel on "right paths," he certainly could not make God known to those seeking Him.

David, in this verse, also prays for "victory over his enemies" who were waiting to destroy him. David knew that if God was with him no force was powerful enough to harm him or hurt him. Regardless of whom the enemy might be, those who believe in God have nothing to fear. No one or no thing can undo the work of God. What He has done will withstand any attack of Satan.

Prayer: Give us Your assurance, Lord, that as we know You and do Your will, You will always guard us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 27:11 Teach me your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.

## News from the Associated Press

### Nebraska soybean plant predictor of South Dakota project

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Many local officials have called a soybean processing plant that's being built in the northern part of South Dakota a huge economic win for the state, but it's difficult to find data or details to back those assertions.

The history and status of Ag Processing Inc.'s soybean plant in southern Nebraska can more accurately predict what Aberdeen and the surrounding area can expect, the Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2txVqk0>) reported.

Many of the same things officials have said about Aberdeen's plant match what was said when the expansion of the soybean processing facility in Hastings was announced.

Yet, some things are different. For example, some of the infrastructure was already in place in Hastings. Hastings Economic Development Corp. Executive Director Dave Rippe estimated that the company has spent at least a half-billion dollars in Hastings since it opened in the 1990s.

"They are very committed to their facilities and their communities," he said.

Although it's hard to quantify the company's economic impact in precise numbers, Rippe said there are a number of positive indicators, including property taxes, utility use, farmer benefits, and payroll.

"The property tax windfall is huge," Rippe said.

The company also is the greatest utility user in Hastings across the board, he said.

"The next level of benefit is to your farmers," he said.

The company plans to gather beans from a 100-mile radius of Aberdeen, using about 20 percent of the area crop.

"That's a ready market paying a premium to farmers not have to haul their soybeans farther away," Rippe said.

The Aberdeen soybean plant is expected to begin operating in fall 2019.

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

### South Dakota fish hatchery sees changes amid zebra mussels

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — A fish hatchery in South Dakota has seen big changes after the discovery of invasive zebra mussels in the Missouri River in recent years.

The Gavins Point Fish Hatchery focuses on sturgeon recovery, Missouri River paddlefish restoration and providing recreational sport fish like walleye and yellow perch.

"In 2003, they found the first suspect veliger (zebra mussel larvae) in Lewis and Clark Lake," said Jeff Powell of the hatchery. "That was when we set up a hazard analysis and critical control points plan. So, basically, since 2003, we have treated our lake water as positive for zebra mussels."

The hatchery now has a slew of new precautions to ensure that the mussels would not contaminate any other bodies of water across the state. It also has a filter building at a total cost of about \$700,000 to the South Dakota Fish and Wildlife Service, the Press and Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2uNBgms>) reported.

"We had to begin using filter socks on our ponds and drum filters on our sturgeon and endangered species buildings," Powell said. "We also had to start using a chemical treatment on our fish prior to stocking to ensure that there are no zebra mussels in the water."

While the new filtration system creates a barrier against aquatic invasive species, it has also stopped some of the hatchery's natural food sources from entering the facility.

"It filters out all the zooplankton and some of the phytoplankton," Powell said. "That has caused a little shift in our fertilization rates because we don't get that larger amount of plankton. It puts us about a week behind, so we have to be a week ahead of where we used to be when filling up our ponds."

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



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## Corps reminds public: Missouri River sandbars closed to use

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is reminding the public that some sandbars in the Missouri River between Nebraska and South Dakota are closed to recreational use to keep endangered bird species' nests safe.

The Corps says endangered interior least terns and threatened piping plovers are currently nesting on sandbars around the Fort Randall Dam in South Dakota and Ponca State Park in Nebraska. The birds use the sandbars to lay their eggs and hatch chicks.

Corps Senior Program Manager Mark Harberg says closed sandbars are marked with signs warning the public to keep out of the area, but that some signs have been vandalized.

The nesting season runs from mid-May through August.

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

18-31-36-50-74, Mega Ball: 10, Megaplier: 4

(eighteen, thirty-one, thirty-six, fifty, seventy-four; Mega Ball: ten; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$248 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$205 million

## Trump nominates Parsons as US attorney for South Dakota

ST. JOHNS, S.D. (AP) — Ron Parsons, a Sioux Falls attorney who has specialized in appellate and constitutional law, has been nominated by President Donald Trump for U.S. attorney for South Dakota.

The White House announced the nomination, subject to confirmation in the Senate, on Friday.

Parsons, 49, is a partner at Johnson Janklow Abdallah Reiter and Parsons. The Argus Leader reported (<http://argusne.ws/2toxdst>) that one of his specialties has been handling appeals in the 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Parsons clerked for 8th Circuit Judge Roger Wollman. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota — he has a collection of short stories to his credit — and his law degree from the University of South Dakota School of Law.

Parsons would replace Randy Seiler, who took the post in 2015. Parsons lives in Sioux Falls with his wife and daughter.

## South Dakota lawmaker continues to disapprove of Trump

ST. JOHNS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota lawmaker says he still disapproves of President Donald Trump a year after he expressed disdain against the Republican National Convention's support for the then-candidate.

Republican Rep. Isaac Latterell of Sioux Falls was among the nearly 30 delegates who cast South Dakota's votes for Trump at the July 2016 convention, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2vsPpTe>) reported.

But the lawmaker made it clear he wasn't happy about the party's decision when he rolled his eyes and put his hand over his face in an act of protest at the convention.

"I just think that it's a sad day for the Republican Party," Latterell said following last year's convention. "I don't think that the candidate that was chosen has a chance of winning the election, or being different than the other nominee."

Latterell said Tuesday that Trump surprised him by winning the presidency, rolling back restrictions on energy producers and following through on nominating a conservative to the Supreme Court.



He said he's disappointed the president is failing to repeal the Affordable Care Act, pass a budget or bring tax reform.

"He's been drowning in the D.C. swamp and failing on his promise to drain it," Latterell said.

He said that rather than pushing against the Republican establishment and GOP leaders in Congress, Trump joined them when taking office.

"I could see who he really was and what was behind all the things he was saying and a lot of other people were believing him," Latterell said. "I think he's a result of the problem, but he isn't the solution."

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

## Ground broken on US subatomic particle experiment sites

BATAVIA, Ill. (AP) — Ground has been broken on the site of a physics experiment that would send subatomic particles 800 miles underground from the Chicago suburbs to South Dakota.

Friday afternoon's groundbreaking for the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility was held simultaneously at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, and Sanford Lab in South Dakota. Construction over the next decade will create the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment. The project includes 1,000 scientists and engineers from more than 30 countries.

The experiment would send a beam of neutrinos 800 miles through the earth to let scientists study their interaction with other particles. The beam would be one of the biggest U.S. particle physics projects in many years.

Neutrinos are so fast and small that scientists have barely detected them for study. Experts say the ultimate goal is to better understand the origins of the universe.

## Woman pleads guilty to killing her child on reservation

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A McLaughlin-area woman accused of beating her 5-year-old daughter to death last year has pleaded guilty to murder.

The American News reports (<http://bit.ly/2uIxjyP>) that 26-year-old Desarae Makes Him First appeared in federal court in Aberdeen on Thursday. She could face life in prison when sentenced on Oct. 30.

Makes Him First and Matthew St. Pierre were charged last October in the killing on the South Dakota side of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. St. Pierre is still scheduled for trial next month.

Authorities say the girl had bruises all over her body. Court records say she died of blunt force trauma to her abdomen.

This story has been corrected to show court records say the girl died of trauma to her abdomen, rather than head trauma.

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

## Dakota Access developer gets OK to replace trees

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota regulators approved a plan by the developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline to replace trees removed during construction, but the permission won't impact an upcoming decision on whether Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners is fined for removing too many.

Meanwhile, the tree work has been stalled by drought and won't be completed for another year.

Public Service Commission Public Utilities Director Patrick Fahn earlier this month signed off on the company's plan to plant two trees for every one removed — a total of about 94,000 along the route of the \$3.8 billion pipeline that on June 1 began moving oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

A law firm representing numerous North Dakota landowners in May filed a consultant's report that said

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ETP's plan had flaws, including planting far fewer species than were removed. Landowner attorney Derrick Braaten said in an interview Friday that talks continue with the company to resolve numerous issues. While taking the company to court remains an option, "that's certainly not the direction I'd want to go," he said.

ETP spokeswoman Lisa Dillinger said the company continues to work with landowners to address concerns. The tree work began in May but has been put on hold due to drought and won't be completed until next spring, she said.

A report last December from a third-party inspector for the Public Service Commission identified 83 sites along the 380-mile (610-kilometer) pipeline corridor in North Dakota where trees might have been cleared in violation of the commission's orders. The commission has scheduled an Aug. 17 public hearing. ETP, which could face fines of up to \$200,000, maintains it did nothing wrong.

The tree replacement plan isn't part of the discussion and the company's double planting of trees won't be a possible mitigating factor in any decision on fines, according to Commissioner Julie Fedorchak. The ratio is standard, she said, and it's also impossible to know how many of the new trees will survive.

"The concern in this whole tree removal issue is that there is a good portion of North Dakota where growing trees is a challenge," she said. "If you've got trees in existence that are helping prevent erosion and providing wildlife habitat, we want to minimize the amount that are removed."

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Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

## Oglala Sioux, law enforcement work on policing agreement

KYLE, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement leaders from the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Pennington County are working on an agreement to make it harder for violent offenders to escape justice by fleeing to another jurisdiction.

Tribal leaders met with the Pennington County sheriff and states attorney and the Rapid City police chief Thursday night in Kyle. Oglala tribal member Dave Swallow expressed concern about a cooperative agreement, saying the 1851 treaty with the U.S. government precludes any county presence on the reservation.

KOTA-TV (<http://bit.ly/2uQ4dhP>) reports law enforcement leaders hope to convince tribal members that cooperation is key to improving public safety and that there's no effort to impinge on tribal sovereignty.

Rapid City Chief Karl Jegeris says it will take patience and persistence to work out an agreement.

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

## Aid increasing for drought-stricken High Plains producers

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — State and federal aid is increasing for North Dakota farmers and ranchers dealing with drought.

The federal Agriculture Department has authorized haying and grazing on additional Conservation Reserve Program acres in portions of not only North Dakota but also South Dakota and Montana.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue cites "epic dry conditions" for the move.

The federal government also is increasing staffing at Farm Service Agency offices in North Dakota to help with aid requests.

North Dakota's Water Commission also has authorized more money for the state's Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply cost-share program. The state has now committed \$825,000.

Almost all of western North Dakota is in severe, extreme or exceptional drought.

The federal government has declared numerous counties in the three-state region to be disaster areas.



## Brookings man sentenced in large illegal drug case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Brookings man has been sentenced to more than 15 years in prison for conspiring to distribute large amounts of illegal drugs.

Authorities began investigating 20-year-old Luis Cabrera last year when they intercepted packages linked to him that contained more than 2 pounds of heroin and about 5 pounds of meth.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Cabrera pleaded guilty in April to drug conspiracy and was sentenced this week to 15 years and eight months in prison.

## Arizona man sentenced for mailing mercury to South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An Arizona man has been sentenced to five years of probation and restitution for airmailing a package of hazardous mercury that leaked at a South Dakota airport.

The Rapid City Journal reports <http://bit.ly/2uItvgR> that 45-year-old Darren VanHouten pleaded guilty Wednesday to a charge of mailing a dangerous substance. Exposure to mercury can make people sick.

VanHouten admitted mailing a package containing about 10 pounds of mercury from the post office in Kingman, Arizona, to an address in Hill City, South Dakota, in 2015. The reason isn't clear. The package leaked at a mail-sorting facility at the Sioux Falls airport.

The facility was shut down for nearly a week while the building was cleaned and its air quality monitored. VanHouten was ordered to reimburse the \$203,000 cost of the effort.

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

## Trump helps commission \$12.9 billion aircraft carrier

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump helped commission the USS Gerald R. Ford on Saturday and declared that the most advanced aircraft carrier to join the Navy will cause America's enemies to "shake with fear" whenever they see its form cutting across the horizon.

"I hereby place United States Ship Gerald R. Ford in commission," Trump said after delivering a speech in which he praised the U.S. military and the American labor that went into building the 100,000 ton, \$12.9 billion warship.

"May God bless and guide this warship and all who shall sail in her," Trump said.

He was followed shortly by Susan Ford Bales, the ship's sponsor and daughter of the 38th president, whom the ship honors.

"There is no one, absolutely no one, who would be prouder of the commissioning of this mighty ship than the president of the United States,



**President Donald Trump, left, puts the USS Gerald Ford into commission as Ships commander Capt. Richard McCormack, front right, listens aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford for its commissioning at Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Va., Saturday, July 22, 2017.** (AP

Photo/Steve Helber)

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Gerald R. Ford," she said. "I am honored to give the command: 'Officers and crew of the United States Gerald R. Ford, man our ship and bring her to life.'"

And with those few words, the ship was brought to life. "Anchors Aweigh" played and sailors who stood in formation in their crisp, white uniforms began filing off to their stations.

Sirens and bells sounds. Horns blared. The U.S. flag was raised to full mast.

Within minutes, the captain was informed that "the ship is manned and ready and reports for duty to the fleet."

Trump arrived aboard the carrier's steamy flight deck by the Marine One presidential helicopter and was greeted by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other officials.

Trump, who visited the carrier in March to promote his plans for a military buildup, told Time magazine this year that the Navy should revert to using steam catapults to launch fighter jets because some of the state-of-the-art systems and technology aboard the USS Ford "costs hundreds of millions of dollars more money and it's no good."

Construction on the USS Ford started in 2009 and was to be completed by September 2015 at a cost of \$10.5 billion. The Navy has attributed the delays and budget overruns to the ship's state-of-the-art systems and technology, including electromagnetic launch systems for jets and drones that will replace steam catapults.

The warship also has a smaller island that sits farther back on the ship to make it easier and quicker to refuel, re-arm and relaunch planes, and a nuclear power plant designed to allow cruising speeds of more than 30 knots and operation for 20 years without refueling.

The vessel completed sea trials in April but still will go through a battery of tests and workups at sea before becoming operational and ready for deployment, work that is expected to cost nearly \$780 million and take more than four years to complete, congressional auditors said in a report this month.

The USS Ford is named after the country's 38th president, who rose to the rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy during World War II. After military service, Ford was elected to the House of Representatives, serving Michigan until he was tapped by President Richard M. Nixon to become vice president.

Ford became president after Nixon resigned during the Watergate scandal.

Docked at Naval Station Norfolk, the USS Ford eventually will house about 2,600 sailors, 600 fewer than the previous generation of aircraft carriers. The Navy says that will save more than \$4 billion over the ship's 50-year lifespan.

The air wing to support the Ford could add more personnel to the ship, which is designed to house more than 4,600 crew members.

"I was with you four months ago and I knew that I had to be here today and I told you I'd be back to congratulate you and the crew and everybody involved in commissioning the newest, largest and most advanced aircraft carrier in the history of this world," Trump said Saturday. "That's a big achievement."

The return visit Saturday fell during what the White House has coined as "Made in America" week, during which Trump and other administration officials highlighted a wide assortment of products — ranging from trucks and helicopters to baseball bats and glass bottles for pharmaceuticals — that are manufactured in the United States.

"This is American craftsmanship at its biggest, at its best, at its finest," Trump said aboard the carrier during his previous visit. "American workers are the greatest anywhere in the world. This warship, and all who serve on it, should be a source of shared pride for our nation."

The Ford was built at Newport News Shipbuilding, the giant Navy contractor in Virginia. Trump tweeted before departing Saturday for the ceremony that the Ford is the largest aircraft carrier in the world.

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Associated Press writer Steve McMillan in Richmond, Virginia, and Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia, contributed to this report.

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## Police: Errant US bombing kills 12 Afghan security forces

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An errant U.S. airstrike confirmed by the Pentagon killed 12 Afghan National Police officers and wounded two others, Helmand provincial police chief Abdul Ghafar Safi said Saturday. The death toll in Friday's airstrike was determined after a site inspection of the compound in the Gereshk district, he said.

The United States in a statement confirmed that the airstrike on the Security Forces compound occurred during a U.S.-supported operation against Taliban insurgents in the area. In the statement, the U.S. offered its condolences to the families of the security forces who were killed.

While much of Helmand province is under the control of Taliban, Afghan national security forces have been waging fierce battles to retake territory. NATO and U.S. troops are in Helmand to assist Afghan troops.

Safi told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that the dead were police officers who were operating with the army in the area. He said they had recaptured the post from the Taliban when the airstrike occurred. On Friday, the Helmand Gov. Hayatullah Hayat said it was believed the police officers were not in uniform, which may have resulted in mistakenly identifying them as Taliban fighters.

Among the Taliban fighters killed in fighting in Helmand's Gereshk district was Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhunzada's 25-year-old son Hafiz Abdur Rahman Khalid, according to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, in northern Badakhshan province Gov. Ahmad Faisal Bigzad said Saturday that 11 police were killed and another six wounded during a roaring battle with Taliban insurgents in the remote Tagab region.

Bigzad said another 20 members of a local police force were missing following Friday's firefight. It wasn't immediately clear if they had been kidnapped or had escaped.

The area in which the fighting occurred is tucked inside a mountainous region where access is restricted and telephone contact is unsteady.

In western Farah province, a ferocious gun battle between the Afghan army and Taliban insurgents left six Afghan soldiers dead and 12 Taliban killed, said Mohammad Naser Mehri, spokesman for the provincial governor.

The five-hour battle Friday occurred after Taliban insurgents stormed a compound of the Afghan National Security Force in Pusht Rod district, he said.

A Taliban statement meanwhile claimed a victory and said 16 Afghan soldiers were killed. Taliban have in the past exaggerated their successes and the remoteness of the area makes it near impossible to independently verify.

Associated Press writer Robert Burns in Washington and Mir Wais Khan in Kandahar, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.

## The Latest: Trump calls on Congress to raise defense budget

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's visit to Virginia to commission an aircraft carrier (all times local):

11:40 a.m.

President Donald Trump is calling on Congress to approve higher military spending so the U.S. can build "the best equipment."

Trump spoke aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford in Norfolk, Virginia, during the commissioning ceremony for the \$12.9 billion state-of-the-art aircraft carrier.

He criticized what he called a lack of investment in new military technology and "a shortfall in military readiness" under the previous administration.

Trump called on Congress "to do its job and pass the budget," which increases funding for the military. The USS Ford is the first member of the next generation of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

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Construction started in 2009 and was to be completed by September 2015 at a cost of \$10.5 billion. The Navy blames the delays and budget overruns on the ship's state-of-the-art systems.

11:25 a.m.

President Donald Trump is calling a new state-of-the-art aircraft carrier "A 100,000-ton message to the world" of American military might.

Trump spoke Saturday during the commissioning ceremony for the USS Gerald R. Ford in Norfolk, Virginia.

He said: "Wherever this vessel cuts through the horizon our allies will rest easy and our enemies will shake will fear because everyone will know that America is coming and America is coming strong."

The vessel is the first member of the next generation of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and is named after the country's 38th president.

Construction started in 2009 and was to be completed by September 2015 at a cost of \$10.5 billion. The Navy blames the delays and budget overruns on the ship's state-of-the-art systems.

11:05 a.m.

Former defense secretaries Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney are among a host of officials attending the commissioning ceremony for the USS Gerald R. Ford in Virginia.

President Donald Trump is presiding over the event at which the \$12.9 billion state-of-the-art aircraft carrier will be turned over to the Navy. He is joined by the current defense secretary, Jim Mattis.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and members of Congress from Virginia and Michigan are on hand for the shipboard ceremony.

Ford represented Michigan in Congress. His daughter, Susan Ford Bales, is also attending. She is the ship's sponsor.

10:35 a.m.

President Donald Trump has landed on the deck of the USS Gerald R. Ford for a ceremony to officially turn the aircraft carrier over to the Navy.

Trump was greeted by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other officials, and huddled with them for several minutes on the steamy deck of the warship docked in Norfolk, Virginia.

Trump flew to the aircraft carrier on the Marine One helicopter, accompanied by chief of staff Reince Priebus, adviser Stephen Miller and Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin.

The USS Ford is the first member of the next generation of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and is named after the country's 38th president.

10:15 a.m.

President Donald Trump has arrived in Virginia to help commission the USS Gerald R. Ford, a \$12.9 billion warship that will officially be turned over to the Navy.



**President Donald Trump, joined by Ships Captain Rick McCormack, right, walks to the podium to speak during the the commissioning ceremony of the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., Saturday, July, 22, 2017.** (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)



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Trump will preside over Saturday's ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk, during which the USS Ford will formally join the fleet. The vessel is the first member of the next generation of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and is named after the country's 38th president.

Construction started in 2009 and was to be completed by September 2015 at a cost of \$10.5 billion. The Navy blames the delays and budget overruns on the ship's state-of-the-art systems.

The vessel completed sea trials in April but still will go through a battery of tests and workups at sea.

3:20 a.m.

President Donald Trump will help commission the USS Gerald R. Ford, a \$12.9 billion warship that will officially be turned over to the Navy.

The nation's commander in chief is traveling to Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia on Saturday to preside over a ceremony during which the USS Ford will formally join the fleet. The vessel is the first member of the next generation of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and is named after the country's 38th president.

Construction started in 2009 and was to be completed by September 2015 at a cost of \$10.5 billion. The Navy blames the delays and budget overruns on the ship's state-of-the-art systems.

The vessel completed sea trials in April but still will go through a battery of tests and workups at sea.

## Actor John Heard, of 'Home Alone' movies, dies at 72

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor John Heard, best known for playing the father in the "Home Alone" movie series, has died. He was 72.

His death was confirmed by the Santa Clara Medical Examiner's office in California on Saturday. TMZ reported that Heard, who lived in southern California, was found at a Palo Alto, California, hotel where he was recovering from back surgery.

Heard played Peter McCallister, the father of Kevin, played by Macaulay Culkin, in "Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York."

He earned an Emmy nomination for a guest role as a corrupt police detective in "The Sopranos." Heard also played Tom Hanks' rival in the movie "Big."

He was briefly married to fellow actor Margot Kidder.



**In this April 5, 2006 file photo, actor John Heard, who stars as Alex, rehearses for Steppenwolf Theatre's production of Don DeLillo's play, "Love-Lies-Bleeding," in Chicago. Heard, best known for playing the father in the "Home Alone" movie series, has died. He was 72. His death was confirmed by the Santa Clara Medical Examiner's office in California on Saturday, July 22, 2017. (AP Photo/Brian**

Kersey, File)

## 'Let 1994 go': Simpson case's racial symbolism now a relic

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, Associated Press

Justin Zimmerman was a 7-year-old black boy in Moreno Valley, California, when O.J. Simpson was on trial for murder.

He wasn't old enough to understand the "trial of the century," but his parents and the older black people in his community made their position clear: They were cheering for Simpson, and were convinced the former NFL star was an innocent dupe in a racial conspiracy. For them, Simpson was a symbol of racial tension and uneven justice.

But Zimmerman, now 30 and living in Washington, D.C., grew up amid the hashtags that have come to symbolize the killings of unarmed black men by police. On his Facebook page on Thursday — after Simpson was granted parole from armed robbery and assault convictions — Zimmerman posted: "Let 1994 go guys."

"The most relevant thing that came out of O.J. since the trial was the Kardashians for millennials," said Zimmerman, referring to Simpson's close friendship with the reality-TV clan that was highlighted in a recent television series about the case. Family patriarch Robert Kardashian, a lawyer, was on Simpson's defense team during the murder trial.

"We don't have an O.J.," Zimmerman said. "For me, that was Trayvon Martin. He was me. That resonates more to me ... It wasn't like (Simpson) was at the forefront of any movement."

While millions watched Simpson's parole hearing last week, audiences were hardly as emotionally invested as they were a generation ago watching his murder trial. Simpson's 1995 acquittal in the deaths of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman bitterly polarized Americans around race.

But interest has waned, attitudes have changed and black Americans are wrestling with more familiar injustices.

Today, Simpson's racial symbolism is largely seen as a relic.

"We just have bigger concerns that are much more directly impacting our specific lives," said University of Pennsylvania sociologist Camille Z. Charles. "We now have symbols that reflect what actually happens to most black people. Most black people don't get fancy lawyers that get them off. They don't have jurors that will be sympathetic because of celebrity. The tide has shifted."

On Oct. 3, 1995, an estimated 150 million people — more than half the country at the time — tuned in to hear the jury's verdict in Simpson's trial for the Brown-Goldman murders. The strategy for Simpson's defense team — which included legendary black litigator Johnnie Cochran — was to frame the case around race. They argued that Simpson had been framed by a corrupt and racist Los Angeles Police Department.



**In this Oct. 3, 1995 file photo, O.J. Simpson reacts as he is found not guilty of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman, at the Criminal Courts Building in Los Angeles. For an earlier generation, OJ Simpson was a symbol of racial tension and uneven justice. While the issues around race and policing remain today, Simpson's racial symbolism is largely seen as a relic. At left is defense lawyer F. Lee Bailey and at right is defense attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. Defense attorney Robert Shapiro is in profile behind them.** (AP Photo/Daily News, Myung

J. Chun, Pool, File)



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Simpson spent much of his life distancing himself from the black community. He lived in the wealthy enclave of Brentwood in Los Angeles and traded his black college sweetheart for a blonde, white woman. And he once said, "I'm not black. I'm OJ." Still, many African-Americans saw the former running back and actor as a pioneer and cultural icon. Even before he became a criminal defendant, Simpson stood for something bigger.

Charles McKinney, who is black, was at work on June 17, 1994, when a friend called and told him to turn on the television. In his office with his white co-worker, the two saw the infamous Bronco chase as Simpson tried to elude police on a California highway.

"My co-worker was like, 'I think we should both go home and watch this,'" recalled McKinney, now 49, and a resident of Memphis, Tennessee. "I knew it was a simultaneously fascinating and toxic mix of race, reality television and celebrity, to see how quickly the nation just split itself along racial lines and how black folks tried to navigate this moment."

At the time, many blacks were less concerned with Simpson's guilt or innocence. For them, Simpson's wealth balanced the scales of justice in a way that was impossible for most black defendants: He could afford to buy his freedom.

"That sort of euphoria around somebody black working the criminal justice system and having it come out the way that it comes out for white folks all the time was kind of a big deal," Charles said. "We knew 'not guilty' didn't mean 'innocent.'"

Time has sobered the view of many blacks since the verdict. Recent polls show that a majority of blacks now say they believe Simpson was guilty — a view shared by only about 20 percent of blacks at the time of the trial.

Simpson found new relevance with millennials and sparked nostalgia with Generation Xers last year with a wildly popular docuseries and documentary about the murder case. And rapper Jay-Z's new album, "4:44," includes a song titled "Story of OJ."

When Simpson was convicted in Nevada for a hotel-room heist in 2008 and sentenced to up to 33 years in prison, blacks and whites perceived the harsh sentence as a proxy justice for his earlier acquittal. Still, McKinney wasn't glued to his television for Thursday's hearing. His initial reaction: Who cares?

"It's older white people or people who were around in 1994," McKinney said. "You get them mad about the case again. For folks in my generation, nobody was running home to watch this. He's a symbol, but we have lots of symbols now of people who embody these tensions."

Simpson's hearing on Thursday also didn't resonate with Shane Walk, 23, of Albuquerque, a white man who was an infant when the verdict came down.

"I didn't live through the trial, so he doesn't represent to me, at least, to be a racial, polarizing figure as he did with previous generations," said Walk, adding that he felt the hearing was just another passing fad for the media and that people his age should focus on the current divisions in our country.

For Zimmerman, that focus belongs more on the modern-day issues around race and policing that Simpson's case once captured.

"I have no vested interest in O.J.," Zimmerman said. "I would like for our country to get over certain things that just really don't affect us. His freedom doesn't affect anybody. There's no systemic issue with O.J. being free."

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Associated Press writer Russell Contreras contributed to this story from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Contreras and Whack are members of AP's race and ethnicity team. Follow Errin Haines Whack on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>

## Country singer Scotty McCreery cited for handgun at airport

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Country singer Scotty McCreery has been cited after authorities say he had a loaded handgun with him in Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

Authorities told local media organizations that they found a loaded 9 millimeter handgun in McCreery's backpack at a security checkpoint on July 13. He told authorities he had been at a firing range and forgot to take the gun out. He was flying to Nashville, Tennessee.

Authorities say he had a valid concealed carry permit. He was cited for a misdemeanor concealed weapon permit violation and released.

McCreery told WTVD-TV in a statement that he has learned a lesson he won't forget, adding, "I take gun safety very seriously."

The singer is an "American Idol" winner and North Carolina native.

## Trump Jr., Manafort may be interviewed privately by senators

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's eldest son and his former campaign chairman won't be forced to testify publicly next week and are instead discussing being privately interviewed by a Senate committee investigating Russia's meddling in the 2016 election, the panel said.

The Senate Judiciary Committee initially called for Donald Trump Jr. and Paul Manafort to appear at a public hearing Wednesday. But the top Republican and Democrat on the panel now say the men are negotiating the terms of their appearances, and lawmakers don't currently plan to issue subpoenas to compel their public testimony.

In a joint statement, Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., also said they are negotiating with Trump Jr. and Manafort about possibly turning over documents. Grassley tweeted late Friday that Trump Jr.'s interview, while not public, will still be on the record. Feinstein and Grassley both said on Twitter that the two men will testify in public after private interviews, but they did not elaborate on when that might occur.

Both men face questions about attending a Trump Tower meeting with a Russian lawyer in June 2016 that was described to Trump Jr. in emails as part of a Russian government effort to help his father's campaign. Trump Jr. was told the lawyer had damaging information that could be used against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and top White House aide, also attended the meeting. He is sched-



**In this July 17, 2016 file photo, Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort talks to reporters on the floor of the Republican National Convention at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland as Rick Gates listens at back left. President Donald Trump's eldest son and his former campaign chairman are agreeing to discuss being privately interviewed by a Senate committee investigating Russia's meddling in the 2016 election.** (AP Photo/Matt

Rourke, File)



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uled to speak behind closed doors with the Senate intelligence committee Monday and with the House intelligence committee Tuesday.

The revelation of the Trump Tower meeting renewed questions about the Trump campaign's possible connections with Russia and put some of Trump's inner circle at the forefront of ongoing federal and congressional probes.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni declined to comment on the committee's announcement. Trump Jr. attorney Alan Futerfas did not respond to several attempts by The Associated Press to contact him this week, including calls and emails Friday.

Also Friday, The Washington Post, citing anonymous U.S. officials, reported that the Russian ambassador to the U.S. has said he discussed election-related issues with Jeff Sessions, then a U.S. senator and foreign policy adviser to Trump, when the two men met during the 2016 presidential race.

Trump responded to the report on Twitter on Saturday, complaining about "illegal leaks."

"A new INTELLIGENCE LEAK from the Amazon Washington Post, this time against A.G. Jeff Sessions," he tweeted. "These illegal leaks, like Comey's, must stop!"

The Post had cited anonymous U.S. officials who described U.S. intelligence intercepts of Ambassador Sergey Kislyak's descriptions of his meetings with Sessions, who now serves as attorney general.

Department of Justice spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said Sessions stands by his previous assertion that he never had conversations with Russian officials about any type of interference with the election.

Word of the negotiations with Trump Jr. and Manafort comes as the president's legal team evaluates potential conflicts of interest among members of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigative team, according to three people with knowledge of the matter. Mueller's probe into Russia's election meddling also appears likely to include some of the Trump family's business ties.

Attorney Jay Sekulow, a member of the president's external legal team, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the lawyers "will consistently evaluate the issue of conflicts and raise them in the appropriate venue."

Two of the people with knowledge of that process say those efforts include probing the political affiliations of Mueller's investigators and their past work history. The people insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Trump himself has publicly challenged Mueller, declaring this week that the former FBI director would be crossing a line if he investigated the president's personal business ties.

The White House push against the special counsel's probe and the attempts to put the focus on potential conflicts with Mueller's team may well be an effort to distract from snowballing federal and congressional investigations into possible election-year coordination between Trump's campaign and Russia. While Trump has assailed the probes as a partisan "witch hunt," the investigations have increasingly ensnared his family and close advisers.

Since the 2016 Trump Tower meeting became public, Trump Jr. has faced tough questions from lawmakers about why he agreed to participate. He and his father have downplayed it as politics as usual, saying they believe most people would have taken the meeting to learn about damaging information on an opponent.

Manafort had attracted scrutiny for months from congressional committees and Mueller. The Associated Press reported in June that Mueller's probe has incorporated a long-standing federal investigation into Manafort's financial dealings. That investigation is scrutinizing political consulting work he did for a pro-Russian political party in Ukraine and the country's former president, Viktor Yanukovich.

Manafort has denied any wrongdoing related to his Ukrainian work, saying through a spokesman that it "was totally open and appropriate."

Manafort also recently registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent for parts of Ukrainian work that occurred in Washington. The filing under the Foreign Agents Registration Act came retroactively, a tacit acknowledgement that he operated in Washington in violation of the federal transparency law.

That law was scheduled to be the topic of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in which he was called to appear.

The committee also is looking at the work of Glenn Simpson, a political operative who was involved in the compilation of a dossier of unsubstantiated and sometimes salacious information about Trump and his associates and their interactions with Russians.

Grassley and Feinstein said Friday that they have issued a subpoena for Simpson to appear before the committee next week.

Trump has accused former FBI Director James Comey of having leaked classified information to the media. A close friend of Comey's has disputed that.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace, Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

## The Latest: Amid bloodshed, Israel sends troops to West Bank

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Latest on developments in Israel (all times local):

6: p.m.

Israel's military has sent more troops to the West Bank and placed forces on high alert a day after a Palestinian stabbed to death three members of an Israeli family and Israeli-Palestinian clashes erupted over tensions at the Holy Land's most contested shrine.

The father of the 20-year-old Palestinian assailant says Saturday he believes his son was upset over the loss of Palestinian lives and wanted to protect the "honor" of the Jerusalem holy site.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman visited the site of the attack, the Israeli settlement of Halamish, and consulted with top commanders. Lieberman said the attacker's home would be demolished swiftly. He called on Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to condemn what he said was a "slaughter."

12:15 p.m.

Israel's deputy minister for public diplomacy says Palestinian leaders must call for calm as tensions soar over security measures at a major Jerusalem shrine.

Michael Oren, who works in the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, spoke a day after a Palestinian stabbed three Israelis to death in their home and three Palestinians were killed during clashes over metal detectors Israel set at the entrance to the shrine following a deadly Palestinian attack there.

Oren said Saturday that the Islamic militant Hamas and other groups are exploiting the tensions to incite to violence. He said their claims that Israel is changing the delicate arrangement at the site, holy to both Muslims and Jews, are "emphatically untrue."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Friday he is freezing ties with Israel until the devices are



**Israeli border border police fire tear gas at Palestinians during clashes in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Friday, July 21, 2017. Israel police severely restricted Muslim access to a contested shrine in Jerusalem's Old City on Friday to prevent protests over the installation of metal detectors at the holy site.**(AP Photo/Nasser Shiyoukhi)



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removed.

Oren said Abbas' declaration may serve a political need but it "cuts off the limb on which he sits."

10 a.m.

Israel's military says it has sent more troops to the West Bank after a Palestinian infiltrated a settlement and stabbed three Israelis to death in their home.

The decision came Saturday after military officials met overnight following the attack.

It did not elaborate but said it was in addition to hundreds of soldiers in place Friday over tensions at a major Jerusalem shrine.

Israel's Chief of Staff and Defense Minister are expected later in Halamish, the West Bank settlement where Friday night's attack took place.

The Palestinian killed three members of the same Israeli family as they ate the traditional Sabbath meal.

The attack came after three Palestinians were killed and hundreds injured in protests over metal detectors Israel set at the entrance to the shrine following a deadly Palestinian attack there.

9:15 a.m.

A relative says Israeli troops have arrested the brother of a 20-year-old Palestinian who stabbed to death three members of an Israeli family.

The assailant, identified as Omar al-Abed had sneaked over the fence of the Israeli settlement of Halamish in the West Bank late Friday and infiltrated the family's home, surprising them during a Sabbath dinner.

The army says the attacker killed a man and two of his children, while a woman was wounded. Al-Abed is hospitalized in Israel after being shot.

Ibrahim al-Abed, an uncle, says troops searched the family home in the village of Kobar on Saturday and arrested al-Abed's brother Monir, 21.

In a Facebook post Friday, Omar al-Abed said he was avenging what he called Israel's "desecration" of a Jerusalem shrine.

8:15 a.m.

Six people are dead after Israeli-Palestinian tensions over the Holy Land's most contested shrine boiled over into violence.

Three Palestinians died in street clashes in Jerusalem and three Israelis in a stabbing attack at a West Bank settlement Friday.

After nightfall, a Palestinian sneaked into a home in the Israeli settlement of Halamish in the West Bank and stabbed to death three Israelis.

Earlier, several thousand Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank clashed with Israeli troops, burning tires or throwing stones and firecrackers. Troops fired live rounds, rubber bullets and tear gas. Three Palestinians were killed and several dozen hospitalized with live or rubber bullet injuries.

## Experts inspect Greek quake damage; islanders sleep outdoors

By COSTAS KANTOURIS, Associated Press

KOS, Greece (AP) — Crews of experts on Saturday began examining the damage to infrastructure and cultural monuments on the eastern Greek island of Kos after a powerful earthquake killed two tourists and injured nearly 500 others in the Aegean Sea region that stretches to Turkey's sprawling coast.

In Kos, churches, an old mosque, the port's 14th-century castle and other old buildings suffered in the quake and were being checked by archaeologists and experts from Greece's Culture Ministry.

Hundreds of residents and tourists spent the night sleeping outdoors on the island, too afraid to return to their homes or hotels after the quake that struck in early Friday. Many camped out in parks and olive groves, or slept in their cars or on beach and swimming pool lounge chairs.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake as being of magnitude 6.7, with Greek and Turkish es-

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estimates a fraction lower. Two men, a Turk and a Swede, were killed when a collapsing wall smashed into a popular bar in the Old Town of Kos.

The most seriously injured in Greece were airlifted to hospitals on the mainland and the southern island of Crete, and at least two were still in critical condition Saturday.

The Turkish man's parents were on the island Saturday making arrangements to repatriate his body home by boat, possibly on Sunday.

Panagiotis Bekali, a 30-year-old who has lived on Kos for several years, spent the night sleeping in an olive grove with relatives while his 5-year-old son and 16-year-old nephew slept in the family car.

"There were cracks in the house (from the earthquake) so we went straight out," he said. "We were afraid to stay indoors, so the whole family slept outside."

Dozens of aftershocks have shaken the island, further rattling residents and tourists.

John Grant, a 60-year-old tourist from Britain, said he felt safer sleeping outside.

"I think coming from somewhere that doesn't have earthquakes, you don't understand," he said from his makeshift bed on a lounge chair. "So to me it was very frightening being in the building. But being outside, I know I'm safe."

About 350 of the injuries occurred in Turkey, in Bodrum and other beach resorts, as people fled buildings and as the sea swell flung cars off the road and pushed boats ashore. Seismologists said the shallow depth of the undersea quake was to blame for the damage.

In Kos, the quake damaged the island's main port, so ferries were being diverted to the smaller port of Kefalos on the island's southwestern coast.

Serif Damadoglou Soukri, the imam of Kos, said the greatest damage to Kos mosques was sustained by the central 17th-century Defternatar Ibrahim Pasa mosque, whose minaret, restored a few years ago, collapsed completely. Ancient columns also toppled over in the southern part of the 2nd-century agora in the main town.

Greek Orthodox Priest Vassilis Hlampanis said one of the damaged churches was repairable.

"The greatest damage was sustained mainly in part of the sanctuary, in the middle part which fell, but there are also other sections around the external brickwork and certainly also internally," he said.

Kos Mayor Giorgos Kyritsis said island's biggest infrastructure problem was the damage to the main port. Coast guard divers were on the scene inspecting the jetty.

"Life on the island is returning to normal," Kyritsis said. "The infrastructure problems are being repaired."

The mayor said Kos hadn't seen many tourist booking cancellations as a result of the quake.

"(Visitors) are touring the island with their tour guides. We don't have a big problem. The ferry connection has been restored with the port of Kefalos and we are waiting as soon as possible to repair the damage at the port," he said.



**Tourist sleep on sun beds at a beach of the Greek island of Kos, on Saturday, July 22, 2017. Hundreds of residents and tourists on the eastern Greek island of Kos spent the night sleeping outdoors, on beach lounge-chairs, in parks and olive groves or in their cars, a night after a powerful earthquake killed two tourists and injured nearly 500 others across the Aegean Sea region, in Greece and Turkey.**

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)



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Gift shop owner Giannis Manoutkos said life on the island had returned to normal.

"Everything is normal now. The situation was bad for two days ... we are coming to a normal life again," he said.

Elena Becatoros in Athens and Sylvain Plazy in Kos contributed to this report.

Trump fires off volley of angry tweets on Russia probe

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hours before he was to help commission a new aircraft carrier at a patriotic ceremony on the Virginia coast, President Donald Trump fired off a volley of early morning tweets that again showed how furious he remains over multiple investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The tweets were unusual in their breadth and scope, even for Trump, given the wide variety of topics he touched on as Saturday dawned. His 10 tweets, all sent within two hours starting before 6:30 a.m., ranged from the Russia investigation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions to Hillary Clinton, the health care effort and his newly appointed White House communications director.

Trump said in one missive: "While all agree the U. S. President has the complete power to pardon, why think of that when only crime so far is LEAKS against us. FAKE NEWS."

The Washington Post recently reported that Trump has inquired about the authority he has as president to pardon aides, relatives or even himself in connection with the widening investigation into Russian interference in the election and whether any Trump associates were involved.

The president has long criticized leaks of information about the investigation and has urged authorities to prosecute leakers.

Trump maintains that no crimes have been committed.

One of Trump's attorneys, Jay Sekulow, said the president has not discussed the issue of pardons with his outside legal team.

Next week, Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr.; his son-in-law and White House adviser, Jared Kushner; and Paul Manafort, a former campaign chairman, are scheduled to appear before Senate committees investigating Russian meddling.

Trump defended his son, saying he "openly gave his e-mails to the media & authorities whereas Crooked Hillary Clinton deleted (& acid washed) her 33,000 e-mails!" Trump's namesake has become a focus of the investigation after it was revealed that he, Kushner and Manafort met with Russian representatives at Trump Tower in June 2016. Trump Jr. later released email exchanges concerning the meeting on Twitter, after learning that The New York Times was about to publish them.

The FBI investigated Clinton for using a private email server as secretary of state. She turned thousands of emails over to the government, but deleted thousands of others that she said were personal or unrelated to her work as the nation's top diplomat.



**President Donald Trump waves as he boards Air Force One, Saturday, July 22, 2017, in Andrews Air Force Base, Md., en route to Naval Air Station Norfolk, in Norfolk, Va., to attend the commissioning ceremony of the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78).** (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Trump also complained Saturday about a Washington Post report that the Russian ambassador to the U.S. said he discussed election-related issues with Jeff Sessions when the men met during the 2016 presidential race. Sessions, now the attorney general, at the time was a U.S. senator and foreign policy adviser to Trump.

Trump tweeted: "A new INTELLIGENCE LEAK from the Amazon Washington Post, this time against A.G. Jeff Sessions. These illegal leaks, like Comey's, must stop!"

The Post on Friday cited anonymous U.S. officials who described U.S. intelligence intercepts of Ambassador Sergey Kislyak's descriptions of his meetings with Sessions.

The Justice Department said Sessions stands by his previous assertion that he never had conversations with Russian officials about any type of interference with the election.

Trump also said "Republican Senators must step up to the plate and, after 7 years, vote to Repeal and Replace" the Obama-era health care law. An effort to advance legislation collapsed in the Senate earlier this week after several Republicans said they wouldn't vote for the bill.

Trump ended the tweet with "Tax Reform and Infrastructure. WIN!"

AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

## Hungary's leader: EU and Soros seek to "Muslimize" Europe

By PABLO GORONDI, Associated Press

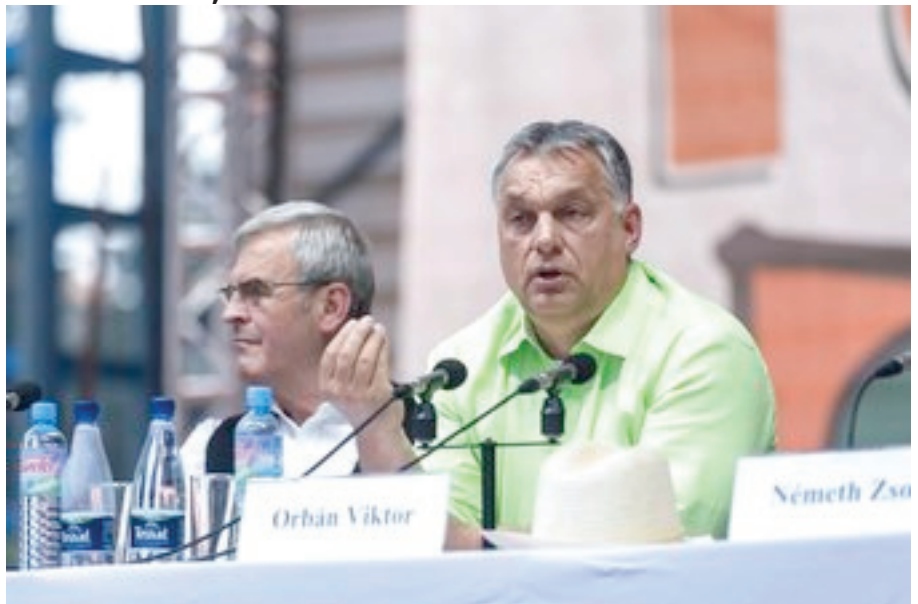
BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — European Union leaders and Hungarian-American billionaire George Soros are seeking a "new, mixed, Muslimized Europe," Hungary's anti-migration prime minister said Saturday.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban said during a visit to Romania that Hungary's border fences, supported by other Central European countries, will block the EU-Soros effort to increase Muslim migration into Europe.

While Hungary opposed taking in migrants "who could change the country's cultural identity," Orban said under his leadership, Hungary would remain a place where "Western European Christians will always be able to find security."

Orban, who will seek a fourth term in April 2018, said Hungary's opposition parties were no match for his government.

"In the upcoming campaign, first of all we have to confront external powers," Orban said at a cultural festival in Baile Tuznad, Romania. "We have to stand our ground against the Soros mafia network and the Brussels bureaucrats. And, during the next nine months, we will have to fight against the media they operate."



**Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban delivers his speech at the 28th Balvanyos Summer University and Students' Camp in Baile Tuznad, Transylvania, Romania, Saturday, July 22, 2017. At left President of the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania Laszlo Tokes looks on.**

(Nandor Veres/MTI via AP)



Soros has become a key target of Orban and his government.

Recent legislation in Hungary seeks to close or expel the Budapest-based Central European University, founded by Soros in 1991. There are also new rules about non-governmental organizations funded at least partly from abroad — which critics say stigmatize the NGOs, many of which are backed by Soros' Open Society Foundations.

Orban reiterated his charge that Soros-funded NGOs want to weaken Hungary's security with their advocacy for asylum-seekers and said Hungary had managed to stop the "migrant invasion" with razor-wire fences on its borders with Serbia and Croatia.

A recently ended anti-Soros billboard and poster campaign in Hungary has been criticized by Jewish groups for its anti-Semitic overtones.

In the speech broadcast by Hungarian state media, Orban repeated his claim that the EU leadership was encroaching on member states' rights and trying to apply policies, such as increased immigration, which he said were opposed by most Europeans.

Orban said Poland, which is under pressure from the EU because of attempts to put its Supreme Court under political control, had replaced Hungary as the target of the EU's "chief inquisitor," whom he identified as European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans.

"The main target of the inquisition, the example of national governance to be weakened, destroyed and broken is Poland," Orban said, vowing to defend the Polish government. "Hungary will use every legal possibility in the European Union to be in solidarity with the Poles."

Asked about choosing between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Orban answered with a joke about a Pole being asked in the communist era to choose between Hitler and Stalin.

"He answered that he chooses Marlene Dietrich," Orban said with a laugh. "What I want to say with this is that you can't give a good answer to a bad question."

Orban first expressed his support for Trump a year ago, while Putin has visited Hungary twice in two years. Hungary is expanding its energy ties with Moscow, including Russia's construction of new reactors at Hungary's only nuclear power plant.

Orban said "Hungarian interests" would be the "guiding star" of his country's foreign policy, not "Trump, Putin or (German Chancellor Angela) Merkel."

Orban said Hungary's low birth rate made the country an "endangered species," and that the government was using taxes on multinational companies to fund social policies that would spur families to have more children.

## More Israeli troops sent to West Bank, placed on high alert

By **MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH** and **KARIN LAUB**, Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israel's military sent more troops to the West Bank and placed forces on high alert Saturday, a day after a Palestinian stabbed to death three members of an Israeli family and Israeli-Palestinian clashes erupted over tensions at the Holy Land's most contested shrine.

The father of the 20-year-old Palestinian assailant said he believes his son was upset over the loss of Palestinian lives and wanted to protect the "honor" of the Jerusalem holy site.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman visited the site of the attack, the Israeli settlement of Halamish, and consulted with top commanders. Lieberman said the attacker's home would be demolished swiftly. He called on Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to condemn what he said was a "slaughter."

Disputes over the shrine, revered by Muslims and Jews, have set off major rounds of Israeli-Palestinian confrontations in the past. They were also at the root of the current violence which began last week when Arab gunmen fired from the shrine, killing two Israeli policemen.

In response, Israel installed metal detectors at the gates of the 37-acre (15-hectare) walled compound, saying the devices were a needed security measure to prevent more attacks.

Muslims alleged Israel was trying to expand its control at the Muslim-administered site under the guise

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of security — a claim Israel denies — and launched mass prayer protests.

On Friday, anger boiled over and several thousand Palestinians clashed with Israeli security forces in the West Bank and in Jerusalem after noon prayers — the congregational prayers of the Muslim religious week. Three Palestinians were killed and several dozen wounded by live rounds and bullets in some of the worst street clashes in two years.

On Friday evening, a Palestinian identified as Omar al-Abed jumped over the fence of the Halamish settlement and entered a home, surprising a family during their Sabbath dinner.

The Israeli military said the assailant killed a man and two of his adult children, while a woman was wounded. A neighbor heard the screams, rushed to the home and opened fire, wounding al-Abed who was taken to an Israeli hospital, said the head of Israel's rescue service.

Itai Orayon, a medic, said he found "blood everywhere" in the house. He told Israel Army Radio that three people were on the floor, unconscious

with deep stab wounds all over their bodies," and that the medical team was unable to save them. On Saturday morning, Israeli troops searched the assailant's family home in the West Bank village of Kobar and detained one of his brothers, the army said. Video footage released by the military shows soldiers leading away a handcuffed and blindfolded man.

The army said soldiers searched the house and measured it in preparation for demolition.

The assailant's father said his son had been angered by the escalating violence at the Jerusalem shrine, known to Muslims as the Haram al-Sharif, or Noble Sanctuary, and to Jews as the Temple Mount.

"The honor of Muslims is the only Haram," Mohammed al-Abed said. "If it's gone, the Muslims' honor is gone. This was the motive for my son."

Ibrahim al-Abed, an uncle of the assailant, said his nephew had been arrested three months ago by security forces of Abbas, the Palestinian leader who presides over autonomous enclaves in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The uncle said his nephew had spent two weeks in detention and was violently interrogated about alleged plans to attack Israelis before he was released.

The assailant said in a pre-attack Facebook post that he expected to be killed in the attack. He wrote that he wanted his body to be covered by a banner of the Islamic militant group Hamas and a photo of Abbas' predecessor, Yasser Arafat, founder of Hamas' main rival, the Fatah movement.

The Israeli army said it sent more troops to the West Bank and placed forces on high alert, amid concerns of further violence. The Israeli daily Haaretz said several thousand more soldiers were deployed.

Israel has repeatedly accused Abbas and his Palestinian Authority of permitting anti-Israeli incitement in the public Palestinian discourse.



**This handout photo provided by the Israeli military on Saturday, July 22, 2017, shows Israel's defense minister, Avigdor Lieberman talking to army chief Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot at an Israeli military base in the West Bank. Israel has sent more troops to the West Bank. This comes a day after a Palestinian stabbed to death three members of an Israeli family in their home and after widespread Israeli-Palestinian clashes erupted over escalating tensions at the Holy Land's most contested shrine.** (Israeli military via AP)



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Michael Oren, a deputy minister for public diplomacy, alleged Saturday that Hamas and Abbas' government are exploiting tensions to incite violence. He said claims that Israel intends to change delicate arrangements at the Muslim-administered Jerusalem shrine are "emphatically untrue."

Oren also argued that metal detectors are a routine security measure at holy sites around the world and that Palestinian leaders seized on the issue as a pretext to whip up anti-Israeli sentiment.

Israeli officials have said they would guarantee continued access to Muslim worshippers but have not said how huge crowds could speedily pass through metal detectors during busy periods.

Abbas has rejected Israeli incitement allegations, saying Israel's 50-year-old occupation of lands sought for a Palestinian state is at the root of widespread Palestinian anger and helps drive violence.

Abbas is a staunch opponent of violence and in 12 years in power has stuck to security coordination between his forces and Israeli troops against a common enemy — Hamas.

On Friday evening, Abbas announced that he would "freeze" ties with Israel "on all levels" until the metal detectors are removed from the shrine, but did not say whether this means halting security coordination. Ending such ties would have far-reaching repercussions and sharply raise tensions with Israel.

Even if largely meant for domestic Palestinian consumption, the Abbas announcement dealt a setback to fledgling efforts by the Trump administration to revive long-dormant Israeli-Palestinian talks on a peace deal.

Such efforts now seem moot as Israelis and Palestinians refuse to budge in the showdown over the shrine and violence threatens to escalate.

Laub reported from Jericho, West Bank. Associated Press writer Ian Deitch in Jerusalem contributed to this report.

## Poland's senators approve contentious court overhaul

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA, Associated Press**

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's Senate approved a contentious law on Saturday that gives politicians substantial influence over the Supreme Court, in defiance of European Union criticism.

The bill proposed by the populist ruling party only needs the signature of President Andrzej Duda to become binding. Duda has so far followed the ruling party line.

The vote was 55-23 with two abstentions.

It was met with boos from protesters gathered in front of the Senate building.

EU leaders say the bill would kill judicial independence and threaten the rule of law in the EU's largest member in Central and Eastern Europe. The U.S. Department of State voiced concern on Friday.

Jaroslav Kaczynski, head of Poland's ruling Law and Justice party, contends the judiciary still works along a communist-era model and harbors many judges from that time. Communist rule ended in 1989. He says the justice system needs "radical changes" to become efficient and reliable.

Prime Minister Beata Szydlo says the legislation is an internal matter and the government will not bow to any foreign pressure.

The legislation calls for firing current Supreme Court judges, except those chosen by the justice minister and approved by the president. It gives the president the power to issue regulations for the court's work. It also introduces a disciplinary chamber that, on a motion from the justice minister, would handle suspected breaches of regulations or ethics.

In anticipation of the vote, crowds gathered Friday night for yet another protest in front of the Supreme Court building in Warsaw and in some other cities. About 200 protesters also gathered in front of Duda's vacation home in Jurata, on the Baltic coast, to demand that he doesn't sign the bill.

The president has 21 days to sign it, and is not expected to do it before his meeting Monday with the head of the court, Malgorzata Gersdorf.

Two other bills on a key judicial body and on regular courts also await Duda's signature.

Duda won election as a Law and Justice member but has left the party in accord with Poland's tradition of a nonpartisan presidency. He is expected to sign the legislation.

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The U.S. Department of State on Friday urged all sides to “ensure that any judicial reform does not violate Poland’s constitution or international legal obligations and respects the principles of judicial independence and separation of powers,” and urged dialogue.

Duda has so far not accepted an invitation for talks on the issue from European Council President Donald Tusk, a former Polish prime minister.

Speaking to Poland’s TVN24, Tusk repeated his readiness for talks and said he was a “little disappointed” there has been no meeting.

“Poland’s president should be concerned about a situation that is, let’s say, serious,” Tusk said.

Tusk said the steps the Polish government is taking toward the judiciary would allow it to limit social freedoms if it wants. He said they are in conflict with the EU’s principles and are damaging to Poland’s international standing.

But he conceded that, during his seven years as Poland’s prime minister, he did encounter some resistance against judicial reform.

“The price for judicial independence, which is a value, was a lack of compulsory reform,” Tusk said.

European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans has warned that Poland could face a proceeding under Article 7 of the EU treaty, which makes possible sanctions in case of a “serious and persistent” breach of the EU’s basic values. In theory, Poland could be deprived of its vote in the EU’s council of governments, but such a move would have to be unanimous.

Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said his government would never support sanctions against Poland.



**Opposition supporters shout slogans as they protest in front of the Senate building where a debate continues before a crucial vote to approve legislation that would give politicians substantial influence over the country’s Supreme Court, in Warsaw, Poland, Friday, July 21, 2017. The bill on the Supreme Court has drawn condemnation from the European Union and has led to street protests across Poland.** (AP Photo/Alik Keplicz)

## Federal grand jury indicts US soldier on terrorism charges

By CALEB JONES

HONOLULU (AP) — A federal grand jury in Hawaii indicted a U.S. soldier Friday for attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State group.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Ikaika Kang was arrested by an FBI SWAT team on July 8. Kang was ordered held without bail.

Kang will be arraigned in federal court on Monday when he had previously been scheduled for a preliminary hearing. Kang’s court-appointed attorney, Birney Bervar, told The Associated Press Friday that the indictment was expected.

“We haven’t had a preliminary in federal court here in probably 25 years,” Bervar said. “They don’t like to let us question their witnesses.”

Bervar said his client will plead not guilty on Monday when a federal judge will set a trial date.

Bervar said he is working on getting Kang a mental health evaluation and that his client may suffer from



service-related mental health issues.

A "turning point" for Kang's mental state seems to be a 2011 deployment, Bervar said. "He's a decorated American soldier for 10 years, goes to Afghanistan and comes back and things start going off the rails."

Elliot Enoki, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii, and Dana Boente, Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security, announced that the indictment in a statement.

Kang is charged with four counts of attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State group based on events that occurred in Hawaii between June 21 and July 8, they said.

Federal officials say Kang met with undercover FBI agents he thought were with the terror group and provided classified military documents to the agents.

The FBI said in their criminal complaint that Kang wanted to commit a mass shooting after pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group.



**In this July 8, 2017 file image taken from FBI video and provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Hawaii on July 13, 2017, Army Sgt. 1st Class Ikaika Kang holds an Islamic State group flag after allegedly pledging allegiance to the terror group at a house in Honolulu. A federal grand jury in Hawaii has indicted Kang for attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State group. Kang was indicted Friday, July 21 after he was arrested by an FBI SWAT team on July 8. Kang was ordered held without bail. Because of the indictment, Kang will no longer have a preliminary hearing that was scheduled for Monday, July 24.** (FBI/U.S.

Attorney's Office, District of Hawaii via AP, File)

## Spicer out, Sanders and Scaramucci rise in Trump shake-up

By KEN THOMAS and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House press secretary Sean Spicer abruptly resigned Friday over President Donald Trump's decision to tap a camera-ready financier to lead the beleaguered White House communications team. The departing spokesman said the president "could benefit from a clean slate" as he seeks to steady operations amid the Russia investigations and ahead of a health care showdown.

Spicer, whose daily briefings once dominated cable television and delighted late-night comics, quit in protest over the hiring of Anthony Scaramucci as the new White House communications director. Spicer denounced what he considered Scaramucci's lack of qualifications, according to people familiar with the situation.

As his first act on the job, Scaramucci, a polished television commentator and Harvard Law graduate, announced from the White House briefing room that Sarah Huckabee Sanders would take Spicer's job. She had been Spicer's deputy.

The shake-up among the president spokespeople comes as Trump is suffering from dismal approval ratings and struggling to advance his legislative proposals. As his effort to replace Barack Obama's health care law crumbled this week, the president continued to vent frustration about the attention devoted to investigations of allegations of his election campaign's connections to Russia. Trump has blamed his own messengers — as well as the "fake news" media — for his woes.

Trump, who watches the press briefings closely and believes he is his own best spokesman, saluted Spicer's "great ratings" on TV and said he was "grateful for Sean's work on behalf of my administration

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and the American people.”

Scaramucci, who said Spicer had been gracious in showing him around on Friday, quickly took center stage, parrying questions from reporters and praising Trump in a 37-minute charm offensive. He flashed the television skills that Trump has long valued: He commended Trump’s political instincts and competitiveness, cracked a few self-deprecating jokes and battled with reporters who categorized the West Wing as dysfunctional, saying “there is a disconnect” between the media and the way the public sees the president.

“The president has really good karma and the world turns back to him,” Scaramucci said.

Spicer said during a brief phone conversation with The Associated Press that he felt it would be best for Scaramucci to build his own operation “and chart a new way forward.” He tweeted that it had been an “honor” and “privilege” to serve Trump and that he would remain in his post through August.

His decision to quit took advisers inside and outside the White House by surprise, according to people with knowledge of the decision. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the personnel matter publicly.

Spicer’s daily press briefings had become must-see TV until recent weeks when he took a more behind-the-scenes role. Sanders has largely taken over the briefings, turning them into off-camera events.

Friday night, Trump tweeted, “Sean Spicer is a wonderful person who took tremendous abuse from the Fake News Media - but his future is bright!”

The White House had been looking for a new communications director for several weeks, but struggled to attract an experienced Republican hand. Scaramucci, a former Democrat — like Trump — who once called his new boss a “hack politician,” began seriously talking to the White House about the position this week, and the president offered him the job Friday morning.

A person with knowledge of the decision said Trump has been impressed by Scaramucci’s defense of the White House on television and by his handling of a recent incident with CNN. The cable channel retracted a story about Scaramucci and fired three journalists.

A shift in briefing-room tone and style was immediate. Scaramucci’s delivery was smooth and polished. Spicer, who displayed a sometimes-fiery and occasionally flustered demeanor in on-camera exchanges with reporters, became widely known, particularly through an impersonation by Melissa McCarthy on NBC’s “Saturday Night Live.” McCarthy’s signature move was to plow down reporters with the podium when exasperated by questioning.

Spicer had long sought the strategic communications job for himself and had been managing that role along with his press secretary duties for nearly two months.

He had spent several years leading communications at the Republican National Committee before helping Trump’s campaign in the general election. He is close to White House chief of staff Reince Priebus, the former RNC chair.



**Incoming White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, right, blowing a kiss after answering questions during the press briefing in the Brady Press Briefing room of the White House in Washington, Friday, July 21, 2017.**

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



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Priebus told The Associated Press he supports Scaramucci "100 percent," despite reportedly trying to prevent the financier from getting multiple administration positions. Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter, and her husband, powerful senior aide Jared Kushner, had known Scaramucci for years from New York and pushed for his hire.

Scaramucci, a frequent visitor to Trump Tower during the transition, is expected to play a visible role as one of Trump's defenders on television. But Spicer and other officials questioned his hiring as communications director ahead of the president's push to overhaul the tax system and other policy issues.

As a Wall Street titan-turned-TV talking head, Scaramucci has no government experience and no experience crafting communication strategy around policy. The White House said he will officially take over the role on Aug. 15.

It's unclear whether the new leadership will lead to a more open White House.

Scaramucci did not commit to putting briefings back on camera full-time. He also offered a level of support for some of Trump's more outlandish statements, including his unsupported claim that millions of illegal votes were cast in the 2016 election.

"If the president says it ... there's probably some level of truth to that," he said.

He also made clear that he would continue Trump's efforts to push back against media reports he doesn't like — and would do a better job of selling his victories.

"The president is a winner. And we're going to do a lot of winning," said Scaramucci, who blew a kiss to the press corps before departing.

Scaramucci notably said he reports directly to the president, not to the chief of staff — a highly unusual arrangement for a communications director and a possible reflection that Priebus' standing with Trump is often uncertain.

Back in January, Spicer's tenure got off to a rocky start. On Trump's first full day in office, he lambasted journalists over coverage of the crowd size at the inauguration and stormed out of the briefing room without answering questions.

Spicer remained loyal to Trump but frequently battled perceptions that he was not plugged in to what the president was thinking.

The resignation comes a day after Mark Corallo, the spokesman for the president's outside legal team, left his post. And in a separate move, former White House aide Katie Walsh is returning to the RNC, spokesman Ryan Mahoney said. Walsh will serve as an adviser on data and digital issues, and the appointment is unrelated to the White House personnel changes, he said.

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire, Julie Pace, Darlene Superville, Vivian Salama in Washington and David Bauder in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Ken Thomas at <http://twitter.com/kthomasDC> and Jill Colvin at <http://twitter.com/@colvinj>

## Mexico murders up with deadliest month in at least 20 years

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's spiraling violence reached new heights with 2,234 murders in June, the country's deadliest month in at least 20 years, according to government data.

Killings rose in states ranging from the tourist haven of Baja California Sur to the Gulf coast state of Veracruz and even in Mexico City, long considered a relative oasis from drug gang violence. For the first six months of 2017, authorities nationwide recorded 12,155 homicide investigations, or 31 percent more than the 9,300 during the same period last year.

Just Friday, the same day the report was released, a marine and four other people were killed when armed forces moved against the leader of the principal fuel-theft ring in the central state of Puebla.

Four of the dead were alleged members of "Los Bukanas," a violent gang that sells gasoline stolen through illegal taps in the government oil company's pipelines. It's a business that has been estimated to

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cost the government \$1 billion annually and which has grown increasingly violent as authorities try to control it.

Also Friday, the top prosecutor in the western state of Jalisco, Eduardo Almaguer, said authorities discovered two drug cartel training camps where they believe about 40 people had been trapped and trained after being tricked by online job advertisements. An unknown number of human remains were also found.

The victims were apparently lured by job offers for private security guards or municipal police and were then forced to build their own shelters from wood and branches and train in tactics and shooting — using paintball guns — while under guard by gang members, Almaguer said. The investigation that led to the camps started with six similar reports of missing people in June.

“They are recruiting good people who look for employment,” Almaguer said.

On Thursday, a neighborhood on the south side of Mexico City exploded in gunfire and eight people were killed as marines tried to capture the leader of a drug gang that controlled street-level drug sales in part of the city. The gang’s semi-automatic rifles and burning vehicle barriers set up to block authorities were reminiscent of perennial hotspots like the border city of Reynosa, but almost unheard of in the capital.

Those events underscore the growing struggles between or against organized crime groups from one end of the country to the other.

Murders remain high in states that have traditionally struggled with violence like Guerrero and Mexico state. But they have also shot up in states unaccustomed to such bloodshed, like Baja California Sur — home to the Los Cabos tourist resorts — and the Pacific coast state of Colima.

The border state of Chihuahua, which had found some relief from violence that peaked in 2010, has found its murders in 2017 running about 55 percent ahead of where they were last year.



**In this early Thursday, June 29, 2017 file photo, investigators mark the spot where spent bullet casings fell next to a body lying on a road in the town of Navolato, Sinaloa state, Mexico. Fifty-nine AK type and AR-15 casings were found in the area.** (AP Photo/Enric Marti, File)

## Mexico City sees drug-war-style violence come to the capital

By MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Burnt-out vehicles. Road blockades. A raging gun battle between armored marines and gang members that left eight dead.

Such scenes have been common in border cities like Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo, and figures released Friday show the death toll from Mexico’s drug war has reached new heights this year. But residents of the capital were stunned this week to see that kind of mayhem in their own city.

Thursday’s shootout, along with the recent emergence in a working class neighborhood of an apparent group of “vigilantes” — styled after self-defense militias that rose up against a drug cartel in the western state of Michoacan — have left authorities scrambling to maintain their long-held claims that drug cartels don’t operate in Mexico City.

Thursday’s shootout saw some 1,300 police and marines deployed on the streets of Tlahuac, a poor

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borough on the southeastern outskirts that was a rural area until a few years ago. Photos from the scene showed the slain suspects were carrying assault rifles instead of the pistols usually used in most armed crimes in Mexico City.

Perhaps most shocking was the appearance of organized roadblocks put up by gang members or sympathizers to impede the movements of police. City officials said gang members hijacked about five buses or trucks, and video images showed teams of motorcyclists parking their vehicles to shut down an expressway and then setting fire to a bus after the passengers fled.

"The narco-blockades come to Mexico City," the newspaper *El Universal* wrote in a front-page headline Friday.

The nation's capital once looked on the drug war as a battle fought in outlying states. Not anymore. The capital's violence is still far from the worst, though its murder rate went up by 21 percent in the first six months of this year, according to the newly released government security statistics.

Those show homicides over the first half of the year increased 31 percent over the same period last year, in the worst bout of such violence in at least 20 years — even worse than the previous peak year of 2011.

But unlike 2011, when the violence was largely concentrated in border states like Chihuahua and Tamaulipas — where Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo are located — homicides are now on the rise throughout the entire country, making much of the country look like a hotspot.

In Thursday's clash, swarms of motorcycle rickshaws, a form of taxi with a canopied metal seating unit towed behind the vehicle, were used for the blockades. Police hauled off 47 of them and arrested 16 suspects, many of them carrying their helmets.

Operators of the unregulated rickshaws "apparently maintained links with drug dealing, involving distribution," Mexico City police said in a statement.

Officials estimate there are about 5,000 of the unofficial cabs in the borough and have tried to eliminate them in the past. But in outlying areas where roads are rough, the rickshaws remain the transportation of choice for many residents who can't afford to own a car or pay a regular taxi fare.

Raul Benitez, a security expert at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, said the gang, led by man nicknamed "The Eyes," employed a network of those drivers to distribute drugs and act as lookouts.

"They were using high-powered rifles, not pistols, which justified the government's decision to use the marines," Benitez said.

The marines, considered Mexico's most elite troops, have been deployed in other urban settings before, using helicopter-mounted machine guns against drug suspects. But outside of occasional patrols or other operations, they are seldom seen in the capital such numbers.

Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera denied that the eight men killed in the shootout were members of a cartel,



**Residents and motorcycle taxi drivers stop to look at marines blocking the area where a suspected drug gang leader and seven others were killed in a shootout in the Tlahuac district of Mexico City, Thursday, July 20, 2017. Mexico City residents were stunned by the sight of drug-war-style violence, including burnt-out vehicles and road blockades by gang-sympathizing motorcycle taxi drivers, in the nation's capital, sights that had previously been seen only in violence-wracked cities like Reynosa and Nuevo Laredo.** (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)



instead claiming that “a big gang of street-level drug dealers” was involved.

However he acknowledged “they had control” of the area and used some cartel-style tactics such as moving in armed convoys and putting up signs similar to those seen in cartel strongholds.

“We will neither tolerate vigilantes nor criminal groups in Mexico City,” Mancera said at a news conference Friday.

Traditionally authorities have said the city’s traffic is too congested, and there are too many police officers — over 80,000 — for drug traffickers to move in convoys as they do other states.

The official line has been that while the gangs may have laundered money and sold drugs in the capital, they avoided the kind of unchecked violence seen elsewhere so as to not disrupt urban life and attract attention to themselves.

But the gang run by “The Eyes” evidently took on some trappings of the cartels, such as territorial control of drug dealing, wide-spread extortion of businesses, the use of assault rifles and the elimination of rival traffickers.

“This type of gang ... generally doesn’t operate in Mexico City’s main districts. They operate in poorer outlying areas,” Benitez noted, saying that by contrast, gangs in the city center are more sophisticated and keep a lid on the violence.

Thursday’s shootout “doesn’t cause panic in the whole city because it occurred in an outlying area,” Benitez said. “But it should be a wake-up call, because if it isn’t stopped quickly, drug cartels could enter the city.”

In Puebla, a state near the capital which had also previously been relatively quiet, authorities said Friday that a Navy operation to capture the leader of the state’s principal fuel theft ring resulted in the death of four suspects and one marine.

Two other marines were wounded and authorities were working to identify the dead.

## Sean Spicer unlikely to disappear from television

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — He won’t be behind a podium at the White House, but it’s unlikely Sean Spicer will disappear from television.

Spicer quit as White House press secretary Friday, ushered out with the wish that “I hope he goes on to make a tremendous amount of money” from Anthony Scaramucci, President Donald Trump’s new communications director.

That’s often the case in the communications business, where service in the high-pressure crucible of the White House is prized. Jay Carney, a press secretary in former President Barack Obama’s administration, now works for Amazon.

Spicer’s voice would be valued at a television network, although the polarizing nature of the Trump White House may limit his options.

Fox News Channel is the most obvi-



**White House press secretary Sean Spicer walks down the hallway during President Donald Trump’s visit to the Pentagon, Thursday, July 20, 2017. White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer has resigned over hiring of new communications aide.** (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

ous choice, as the network most friendly to Trump's message. Spicer was interviewed for Sean Hannity's Fox show Friday night.

Fox said of Spicer, "We talk to all major players." The network recently hired Ari Fleischer, former press secretary to President George W. Bush, as a contributor, along with former U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, a Utah Republican.

Other conservative-leaning media organizations have hired former Trump associates. Boris Epshteyn is a commentator for Sinclair Broadcasting, and Corey Lewandowski, who had a controversial run at CNN, works at One America News Network.

But it's difficult to see Fox being outbid by anyone on the right.

CNN has Trump-friendly commentators on staff, most notably Jeffrey Lord. Spicer would seem an upgrade with his insider's knowledge of the Trump administration, but the network put out word Friday that it wasn't interested. CNN is Trump's leading target in his crusade against "fake news," and the wounds are likely too fresh.

MSNBC is the third of the cable news networks with a heavy emphasis on political talk, but Spicer would be a poor fit on a prime-time lineup that appeals primarily to opponents of the administration.

ABC, CBS and NBC have less of an appetite for political talk, and there were no immediate signals of interest. It remains to be seen what impact Trump's fights with the media and, in particular, Spicer's statements at odds with the facts would have on a news organization's willingness to employ him.

## Trump Jr., Manafort in talks with Senate panel

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's eldest son and his former campaign chairman are discussing being privately interviewed by a Senate committee investigating Russia's meddling in the 2016 election, the panel confirmed Friday.

The committee initially called for Donald Trump Jr. and Paul Manafort to appear publicly next week. But the top Republican and Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee now say the men are negotiating the terms of their appearances, and lawmakers don't currently plan to issue subpoenas to force them to publicly testify.

In a joint statement, Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., also said they are negotiating with Trump Jr. and Manafort about possibly turning over documents.

Both men face questions about attending a Trump Tower meeting with a Russian lawyer in June 2016 that was described to Trump Jr. in emails as part of a Russian government effort to help his father's campaign. Trump Jr. was told the lawyer had damaging information that could be used against Democrat Hillary Clinton.



**In this July 17, 2016 file photo, Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort talks to reporters on the floor of the Republican National Convention at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland as Rick Gates listens at back left. President Donald Trump's eldest son and his former campaign chairman are agreeing to discuss being privately interviewed by a Senate committee investigating Russia's meddling in the 2016 election.** (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

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Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and top White House aide, also attended the meeting. He is scheduled to speak behind closed doors with the Senate intelligence committee Monday and with the House intelligence committee Tuesday.

The revelation of the Trump Tower meeting renewed questions about the Trump's campaign's possible connections with Russia and put some of Trump's inner circle at the forefront of ongoing federal and congressional probes.

Manafort spokesman Jason Maloni declined to comment on the committee's announcement. Trump Jr. attorney Alan Futerfas did not respond to several attempts by The Associated Press to contact him this week, including calls and emails Friday.

Also Friday, The Washington Post reported that the Russian ambassador to the U.S. has said he discussed election-related issues with Sen. Jeff Sessions when the two men met during the 2016 presidential race.

The Post cited anonymous U.S. officials who described U.S. intelligence intercepts of Ambassador Sergey Kislyak's descriptions of his meetings with Sessions, who was then a foreign policy adviser to Trump and now serves as attorney general.

Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said Sessions stands by his previous assertion that he never had conversations with Russian officials about any type of interference with the election.

Word of the negotiations with Trump Jr. and Manafort comes as the president's legal team evaluates potential conflicts of interest among members of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigative team, according to three people with knowledge of the matter. Mueller's probe into Russia's election meddling also appears likely to include some of the Trump family's business ties.

Attorney Jay Sekulow, a member of the president's external legal team, told The Associated Press on Thursday that the lawyers "will consistently evaluate the issue of conflicts and raise them in the appropriate venue."

Two of the people with knowledge of that process say those efforts include probing the political affiliations of Mueller's investigators and their past work history. The people insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Trump himself has publicly challenged Mueller, declaring this week that the former FBI director would be crossing a line if he investigated the president's personal business ties.

The White House push against the special counsel's probe and the attempts to put the focus on potential conflicts with Mueller's team may well be an effort to distract from snowballing federal and congressional investigations into possible election-year coordination between Trump's campaign and Russia. While Trump has assailed the probes as a partisan "witch hunt," the investigations have increasingly ensnared his family and close advisers.

Since the 2016 Trump Tower meeting became public, Trump Jr. has faced tough questions from lawmakers about why he agreed to participate. He and his father have downplayed it as politics as usual, saying they believe most people would have taken the meeting to learn about damaging information on an opponent.

Manafort had attracted scrutiny for months from congressional committees and Mueller. The Associated Press reported in June that Mueller's probe has incorporated a long-standing federal investigation into Manafort's financial dealings. That investigation is scrutinizing political consulting work he did for a pro-Russian political party in Ukraine and the country's former president, Viktor Yanukovich.

Manafort has denied any wrongdoing related to his Ukrainian work, saying through a spokesman that it "was totally open and appropriate."

Manafort also recently registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent for parts of Ukrainian work that occurred in Washington. The filing under the Foreign Agents Registration Act came retroactively, a tacit acknowledgement that he operated in Washington in violation of the federal transparency law.

That law was scheduled to be the topic of the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing in which he was called to appear.

The committee also is looking at the work of Glenn Simpson, a political operative who was involved in the compilation of a dossier of unsubstantiated and sometimes salacious information about Trump and



his associates and their interactions with Russians.

Grassley and Feinstein said Friday that they have issued a subpoena for Simpson to appear before the committee next week.

AP writers Julie Pace, Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

## In Senate, ailing lawmakers given plenty of time to recover

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John McCain's treatment for brain cancer could keep him out of Washington for weeks, perhaps months, and yet it's unlikely anyone will challenge his extended leave.

Congress has a long tradition in which no one questions ailing lawmakers taking time to recover. For starters, it's just poor form. And, frankly, it's up to the stricken member of Congress and their doctors to decide when — or even if — they return to work. Some have recuperated away from the Capitol for a year or more.

It's an unwritten courtesy that often doesn't extend to the real working world where employees are forced to file for medical disability or take unpaid leave.

Julie Tarallo, McCain's spokeswoman, said Friday that "further consultations with Sen. McCain's Mayo Clinic care team will indicate when he will return to the United States Senate."

McCain had taken to Twitter on Thursday promising a quick return.

"Unfortunately for my sparring partners in Congress, I'll be back soon, so stand-by!" said the six-term Arizona Republican and 2008 GOP presidential nominee.

The 80-year-old McCain was diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive type of brain cancer, according to doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, who had removed a blood clot above his left eye last Friday. He and his family are weighing his treatment, including radiation and chemotherapy.

In the immediate aftermath of McCain's diagnosis, Republicans wouldn't speculate about what the temporary loss of McCain's vote would mean. But McCain's absence complicates Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's plans for a Senate vote on a GOP health care bill to erase much of the Affordable Care Act. A vote is possible on Tuesday, but GOP defections plus McCain's likely absence could sink any chance even to get started.

News of his diagnosis prompted an outpouring of support and prayers from Democrats and Republicans. No one suggested he step down — except former GOP rival Kelli Ward.

In a statement, Ward said, "When the time comes that Senator McCain can no longer perform his duties in the Senate at full capacity, he owes it to the people of Arizona to step aside."

McCain easily defeated Ward in last year's primary.



**The Capitol Hill office of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is seen in Washington, Thursday, July 20, 2017, after news that he has been diagnosed with brain cancer. A member of Congress for more than three decades, McCain was the 2008 Republican presidential nominee and a Vietnam prisoner of war.** (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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McCain wouldn't be the first lawmaker this year to miss votes, hearings and other legislative action. Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson remained in Georgia for several weeks earlier this year as he underwent two back surgeries and recuperated. Isakson missed the vote on confirming Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.

In January 2012, then-Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Ill. suffered a major stroke and didn't return for almost a full year, making a dramatic entrance by climbing the steps of the Capitol on the opening day of the following Congress.

In a lawmaker's absence, congressional staff keep the office operating, send out news releases — one from McCain on Thursday blasted the Trump administration's Syria policy — and respond to constituents.

Absences can leave the margin of control on a razor's edge.

The month after Democrats won back the Senate in 2006, South Dakota Democrat Tim Johnson had a near-fatal episode of bleeding in his brain that, at the time, threatened to shift the Senate's margin from 51-49 Democratic to 50-50 GOP control with Republican Vice President Dick Cheney the deciding vote. Johnson recovered but was away from the Senate for almost nine months.

McCain is battling the same form of cancer that claimed the life of Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., in August 2009. Kennedy was away from the Senate for extended stretches but returned on occasion to vote.

"There were times when Senator Reid had to juggle things because he had two senators absent, Senator Kennedy and Senator Byrd," said longtime former Senate aide Jim Manley, who worked for both Kennedy and then-Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Having said that, it really never, with a handful of exceptions, proved to be that big of a problem."

Kennedy also delegated some of his responsibilities as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee by farming out responsibility for bills before the panel to colleagues such as then-Sens. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., and Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. McCain has had Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., handle his duties as Armed Services Committee chairman.

Unclear is whether Inhofe will steer the sweeping defense policy bill if the Senate begins debate in August.

And, if legislative necessity should dictate that McCain return for a crucial, dramatic vote, there's precedent. Kennedy, who mostly stayed away from the chamber for fear of infection, returned to the Senate in July 2008 for a key vote. During McCain's first term, Sen. Pete Wilson, R-Calif., recovering from an emergency appendectomy, was wheeled in on a stretcher to cast the deciding vote on a GOP budget plan.

And in 1964, California Democrat Clair Engle, whose own bout with brain cancer rendered him unable to speak, was wheeled into the Senate to vote for the landmark Civil Rights Act. Engle pointed to his eye and tried to mouth "aye," according to newspaper accounts at the time.

Some senators were away from the chamber for years. Karl Mundt, R-S.D., suffered a stroke in late 1969 and refused to resign and allow a GOP replacement to be named. He held the seat until January 1973 and was replaced by Democrat Jim Abourezk.

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Associated Press writer Michael Blood in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## **O.J. Simpson will get his freedom, but then what?**

**By KEN RITTER and SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press**

LOVELOCK, Nev. (AP) — When O.J. Simpson gets out of prison in October for his first taste of freedom in nine years, he will have the mementos he was convicted of stealing in a Las Vegas heist, his guaranteed NFL pension and, with any luck, certain life skills he says he acquired behind bars.

Beyond that, the 70-year-old sports legend faces an uncertain future.

"The legitimate mainstream business opportunities for Juice in the megabuck world of professional sports are slim and none," said John Vrooman, an economics professor and sports industry expert at Vanderbilt University.

"If Americans love anyone more than a superhero, it is a fallen hero making a comeback against the odds," he said a day after Simpson was granted parole. But Vrooman said the odds against the one-time murder

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defendant and convicted armed robber "now seem insurmountable."

Others think he will find a way to make ends meet, perhaps by signing autographs and making personal appearances.

"The primary asset this guy has is name and brand recognition. ... I believe Mr. Simpson believes he can make a bunch of money by returning to the memorabilia circuit," said David Cook, collections attorney for the parents of Ronald Goldman.

Goldman was stabbed to death along with Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson in Los Angeles in 1994, a crime O.J. Simpson was acquitted of the following year.

He was found liable in civil court in 1997 for the killings and was ordered to pay \$33.5 million to the victims' families. The verdict is still hanging over him, and the Goldmans' lawyer has been trying for years to seize some of Simpson's assets.

After getting released, Simpson plans to move to Florida, a state with a strong law that would shield his home and everything in it from seizure to satisfy the verdict. But Tom Scotto, one of Simpson's closest friends, said Simpson has no plans to buy a house.

Simpson played 11 seasons for the Buffalo Bills and San Francisco 49ers, and his league pension could be as much as \$10,565 a month, depending on when he began collecting it, according to ESPN.

Cook said he believes Simpson does not have much more than that, noting that the Hall of Famer lost his Miami-area home to foreclosure in 2014.

One thing Simpson will have is some of the sports memorabilia and family photos he and his armed accomplices stole from a Las Vegas hotel room in 2007, the crime for which he was locked up.

He told the parole board on Thursday that California authorities investigated the ownership of the items shortly after he went to prison, concluded they were his and returned them to him, a turn of events he called "kind of mind-boggling."

Simpson also told the board he is a better man and a "better Christian" and has a new appreciation for those less advantaged. He said he intends to make use of what he considered the most valuable part of his stint in prison — an "Alternative to Violence" class.

Others wondered if he had really changed, given how defensive much of his testimony was and how lacking in self-awareness he seemed to many of those watching. He tried to explain away the crime and deflect blame, and he set social media afire when he said, "I've basically spent a conflict-free life, you know."

If he gets in trouble again in the next five years, he could be sent back to prison to serve out the remainder of his 33-year sentence.

Scotto, for one, said Simpson is not going to go on the personal appearance circuit and instead plans to spend his time golfing and being with family and friends.

Andrew Zimbalist, an economics professor at Smith College who has written books on sports, warned



**Former NFL football star O.J. Simpson reacts after learning he was granted parole at the Lovelock Correctional Center in Lovelock, Nev., on Thursday, July 20, 2017. Simpson was granted parole Thursday after more than eight years in prison for a Las Vegas hotel heist, successfully making his case in a nationally televised hearing that reflected America's enduring fascination with the former football star.** (Jason Bean/The Reno Gazette-Journal via AP, Pool)



that if Simpson tries to profit from his notoriety through signings and appearances, "he'll be subject to a very difficult life. There are a lot of people out there who are convinced he is a very nasty man."

Instead, Zimbalist said, "he could live a wholesome and productive life by working with children, giving motivational talks that talked about this struggle in life and how he has reformed himself."

Eds: This story corrects an earlier version that indicated Simpson's monthly NFL pension could be worth as much as \$25,000 a month. Based on an ESPN report, it is worth between \$4,034 a month and \$10,565, depending on whether he started collecting it when he was 55 or 65 years old.

Regina Garcia Cano contributed to this report from Las Vegas. Sonner reported from Carson City and Reno.

## NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By The Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular, but completely untrue, headlines of the week. None of these stories are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked these out; here are the real facts:

**NOT REAL: Trump Is Furious After Discovering Gov't Waste**

**THE FACTS:** A story posted by [borntobebright.com](http://borntobebright.com) falsely claims that Trump initiated an internal audit of the Social Security Administration. While the piece correctly states that the audit found the agency spent nearly \$32 million on conferences from fiscal years 2013 to 2016, the inquiry ended in January, before Trump was inaugurated.

**NOT REAL: SEVERAL BLACK MEN FOUND DEAD IN MASS GRAVE AT DEAD KKK LEADER'S ESTATE**

**THE FACTS:** The story shared by the Jackson Telegraph and other hoax

sites claims the FBI announced the discovery a mass grave of black men at the former Mississippi home of KKK leader Eldon Lee Edwards. Brett Carr, a spokesman for the FBI's Jackson, Mississippi, tells the AP the story is "fabricated" and has "no validity." The announcement was attributed to an FBI spokesman named Adrian Cartwright, but Carr says the bureau has no spokesmen by that name.

**NOT REAL: Gretchen Carlson: "The 2nd Amendment Was Written Before Guns Were Invented"**

**THE FACTS:** The former Fox News anchor did come out in support of an assault weapons ban last year and defended her stance on Twitter. But she never claimed the Second Amendment was written before guns were invented. In fact, Carlson said on Fox News that she wanted to "hold true the sanctity of the Second Amendment while still having common sense." The story shared by [redherald.com](http://redherald.com), [therightists.com](http://therightists.com)



**In this April 6, 2017, file photo, former Fox News person Gretchen Carlson speaks during the Women in the World Summit at Lincoln Center in New York. The AP reported July 21, 2017, that a story claiming Carlson said the Second Amendment was written before guns were invented is a hoax.** (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)

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com and other sites also claims Carlson doubted that Elvis Presley is dead and man landed on the Moon.

**NOT REAL:** Trey Gowdy Ends The Russia Investigation ONCE AND FOR ALL

**THE FACTS:** Gowdy said the House Oversight Committee he leads would end its investigation into ties between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russia, but he has no power to halt other inquiries. Investigations by other Congressional committees and special counsel Robert Mueller are ongoing. Gowdy, a Republican from South Carolina, is a frequent target of false news sites focusing on politics.

**NOT REAL:** Urban Meyer resigns as head football coach for Ohio State

**THE FACTS:** The Buckeyes coach hasn't stepped down despite this story from hoax site channel23news.com. The item is clearly marked as a prank and takes a shot at Ohio State's archrival, Michigan. The fake article quotes Meyer as saying that his resignation is the only way Michigan can beat the Buckeyes. Ohio State has beaten Michigan five straight times since Meyer took over at Ohio State in 2012.

This weekly fixture is part of The Associated Press' ongoing efforts to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/APFactCheck>

## Experts: No duty for laughing teens to rescue drowning man

By **CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer**

MIAMI (AP) — It may be reprehensible and morally outrageous, but legal experts say a group of Florida teens had no obligation to rescue a drowning disabled man they instead mocked, laughed at and recorded on a video that was later posted online. Still, authorities are pursuing possible misdemeanor charges against them for failing to report a death.

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, in a 2012 legal argument, summarized that across the U.S. there's no general duty to render aid to someone in distress. "You don't have the duty to rescue someone if that person is in danger. The blind man is walking in front of a car and you do not have a duty to stop him absent some relation between you," Kennedy said in arguments on the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare."

Kennedy added that there are "some severe moral criticisms of that rule, but that's generally the rule."

The case in central Florida's Brevard County involves the July 9 drowning of Jamel Dunn, 31, in a retention pond. Police in the city of Cocoa discovered later that five teenagers, ages 14 to 16, had made a video of the drowning, which was published Friday by Florida Today . The teens can be heard laughing at Dunn, telling him he's going die and that they weren't going to help him as he struggled and screamed.

Police identified and interviewed the five teens involved. The office of State Attorney Phil Archer initially determined there was no immediate indication that a crime was committed because state law does not require people to give or call for help when someone is in distress. But later, after the story drew widespread attention online, officials said they were pursuing misdemeanor charges of failure to report a death against the teenagers.

"While this in no way will bring justice for what occurred, it is a start," Cocoa Mayor Henry Parrish III said. "I know that everyone working on this investigation has been tireless in their efforts to find answers. Everyone has been affected by what we have seen."

Many countries, including Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Italy and Russia, do have laws requiring people to render aid, even if it means only summoning authorities. And violations in some countries can result in prison time.

But Florida's law is hardly unique across the U.S., legal experts said.

"Generally, throughout the U.S., there is no duty to rescue," said David Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor now in private practice. Still, he added: "It seems like common sense that those kids should

have tried to help the guy instead of filming it.”

There are some differences in various states, but Weinstein said exceptions typically include required assistance in car crashes; for people in special relationships with others such as police officers, firefighters, teachers, married couples, common carriers such as bus drivers and employers; and if you yourself put the other person in danger in the first place.

Some states, such as Nebraska, require most people — especially professionals — to report suspected child abuse or face possible misdemeanor charges, said attorney Jeffrey Lapin in Lincoln, Nebraska. He agreed the Florida teenagers committed no crime.

“While it is morally and ethically wrong, it is not illegal to not render aid or make extremely despicable comments,” Lapin said in an email Friday.

The Cocoa mayor, Parrish, was even more blunt: “Never in my life would I have ever thought we would need a law to make this happen,” he said.

Lapin noted that in the final episode of the sitcom “Seinfeld,” the four main characters are convicted of violating a purported city ordinance by failing to assist an overweight man who is getting carjacked — instead joking about the man’s large size and doing nothing. The judge character said the four had “callous indifference and utter disregard” for a positive society.

Most U.S. states have no such laws.

There are situations in which U.S. law does require assistance to be rendered. One of those is on the high seas, where federal law requires the “master” of any vessel under U.S. jurisdiction to help anyone “found at sea in danger of being lost,” according to the statute. A 1989 international treaty extends that obligation to mariners around the world.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia also have “Good Samaritan” laws aimed at protecting people from being sued for anything they did while rendering aid or attempting to rescue someone in danger. There are exceptions to those laws as well.

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Associated Press writer Mike Schneider in Orlando contributed to this story.

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This story has been updated to correct the date of Dunn’s drowning to July 9 from July 12. Dunn was reported missing on July 12.

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Follow Curt Anderson on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/miamicurt>

## **US bans travel for Americans to NKorea after Warmbier death**

**By MATTHEW LEE and JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — American citizens will be barred by the U.S. from traveling to North Korea beginning next month following a prohibition on using U.S. passports to enter the country, the State Department said Friday.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson decided to impose a “geographical travel restriction” on North Korea following the death last month of American university student Otto Warmbier, who fell into a coma while in North Korean custody. The ban also comes amid heightened U.S. concern about Pyongyang’s recent advancements in its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

Figures on how many Americans visit North Korea are difficult for even the U.S. government to obtain. But Simon Cockerell of the Koryo Group, one of the leading organizers of guided tours to the country, said 800 to 1,000 Americans go annually and will be affected.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement, “Due to mounting concerns over the serious risk of arrest and long-term detention under North Korea’s system of law enforcement, the secretary has authorized a Geographical Travel Restriction on all U.S. citizen nationals’ use of a passport to travel in, through or to North Korea.”

The restriction will take effect in late August, 30 days after it is published as a legal notice in the Federal



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Register.

Once it takes effect, Americans wanting to travel to North Korea may do so legally only with a "special validation passport," which will be granted by the State Department on a case-by-case basis for "certain limited humanitarian or other purposes," the statement said.

It did not elaborate on what "other purposes" the department would consider. Americans who violate the restriction could face a fine and up to 10 years in prison for a first offense.

The U.S. strongly warns Americans against traveling to North Korea but has not until now prohibited trips, despite other sanctions targeting the country. Americans who venture there typically travel from China, where several tour groups market trips to adventure-seekers.

Nearly all Americans who have gone to North Korea have left without incident. But some have been seized and given draconian sentences for seemingly minor offenses. Over the past decade, at least 16 U.S. citizens have been detained, officials say.

The travel ban comes as the Trump administration searches for more effective ways to ramp up pressure on North Korea over its nuclear weapons program. Pyongyang's recent successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile — the first by the North — has created even more urgency as the U.S. seeks to stop North Korea before it can master the complex process of mounting a nuclear warhead capable of hitting the United States.

President Donald Trump has expressed frustration that his initial strategy — enlisting China's influence to squeeze the North economically and diplomatically — has not yielded major results. Trump's administration is considering other economic steps including "secondary sanctions" that could target companies and banks — mostly in China — that do even legitimate business with North Korea, officials say.

Under U.S. law, the secretary of state has the authority to designate passports as restricted for travel to countries with which the United States is at war, when armed hostilities are in progress, or when there is imminent danger to the public health or physical security of U.S. travelers.

Since 1967, such bans have been imposed intermittently on countries including Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Cuba and North Vietnam. The U.S. doesn't currently prohibit its passports from being used to travel to any countries, even though financial restrictions limit U.S. travel to Cuba and elsewhere.

Warmbier, who died after being medically evacuated in a coma from North Korea last month, suffered a severe neurological injury from an unknown cause while in custody. Relatives said they were told the 22-year-old University of Virginia student had been in a coma since shortly after he was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor in North Korea in March 2016. He had been accused of stealing a propaganda poster while on a tour of the country.

The United States, South Korea and others often accuse North Korea of using foreign detainees to wrest diplomatic concessions. At least three other Americans remain in custody in the North.

Tillerson had been weighing a North Korea travel ban since late April, when American teacher Tony Kim



**In this Feb. 29, 2016 file photo, American student Otto Warmbier speaks as Warmbier is presented to reporters in Pyongyang, North Korea. U.S. officials say the Trump administration will ban American citizens from traveling to North Korea following the death of university student Otto Warmbier, who passed away after falling into a coma into a North Korean prison.** (AP Photo/Kim Kwang Hyon)

was detained in Pyongyang, according to a senior State Department official. Those deliberations gained even more urgency after Warmbier's death. Lawmakers in Congress have also pushed their own, legislative solutions to try to ban travel to the North.

Two tour operators that organize group trips to North Korea said they had already been informed of the decision by officials from Sweden, which represents U.S. interests in North Korea because the two countries lack diplomatic relations.

Although Pyongyang does not publish exact figures, Americans are thought to account for a mere 1 percent of all foreign visitors. Westerners make up 5 percent of total visitors.

Cockerell, the tour organizer, said the ban would turn back the clock on engagement with the North.

"It's unfortunate because we criticize North Korea for being isolationist and now we're helping isolate them," Cockerell said. "That's not what soft power is about."

Associated Press writer Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Abortion fight rages in Kentucky, which has just 1 clinic

By BRUCE SCHREINER, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Both sides in the abortion fight raging in Kentucky agree on one thing: The stakes are as high as ever in a state that could become the first in the nation without an abortion clinic.

Political pressure has intensified since the Kentucky GOP took control of state government and moved quickly to pass new restrictions on abortions. And Republican Gov. Matt Bevin makes no apologies for waging a licensing fight against a Louisville clinic that is the last remaining facility performing abortions in the state.

Another battle-tested participant joins the fight this weekend. Operation Save America, a Christian fundamentalist group, plans to mobilize hundreds of activists to protest against EMW Women's Surgical Center.

The group's leaders state their purpose unequivocally: to rid Kentucky of its last abortion clinic. Some of the group's followers were arrested during a protest outside EMW in the spring. The group has said it won't use those same tactics in the coming days, but a federal judge on Friday ordered the creation of a "buffer zone" to keep protesters out of an area in front of the clinic. The pre-emptive move was



**In this Wednesday, July 19, 2017, abortion opponents with a group called Operation Save America gather during a rally in downtown Louisville, Ky. A federal judge issued an order Friday, July 21, 2017, to keep protesters away from a "buffer zone" outside Kentucky's only abortion clinic, which is targeted by a national anti-abortion group. U.S. District Judge David J. Hale issued a temporary restraining order sought by federal prosecutors in a pre-emptive move ahead of vigils by Operation Save America. The order is aimed at preventing abortion foes from impeding access to EMW Women's Surgical Center in Louisville. . (AP Photo/Dylan Lovan)**

requested by federal prosecutors to prevent protesters from blocking access to the surgical center.

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"We have never been under siege like this," Dr. Ernest Marshall, a co-founder of the clinic open since the early 1980s, recently told The Associated Press. "We have never had any question as to whether we would exist."

For years, protesters have been a fixture outside Marshall's clinic, a plain brick building in Louisville's bustling downtown. Blinds are drawn to keep people from peeking inside.

Volunteers in bright orange vests stand watch near the clinic, walking patients past sign-waving activists. On a recent morning, as a demonstrator held a sign that said: "Abortion an American Holocaust," a child walking nearby asked a woman what holocaust means.

As a volunteer whisked another woman past a handful of protesters, a demonstrator clutching a rosary told the patient's male companion: "Men don't kill their babies. Man up." The man turned and glared but said nothing.

The demonstrator, Chuck Jones, defended his harsh words.

"This is the last chance we'll get to talk to them before they go in," the retired sheet-metal worker from Indiana said. "I just wanted him to think about what he's doing. If anybody believes in God, they can't be for abortion, in my opinion."

The 66-year-old Marshall — the father of three grown children and grandfather of eight — said he attends church every Sunday and is a former Sunday school teacher. He said abortion protesters don't have a "monopoly on morals." He condemned their tactics as "very harassing, very judgmental," taking a toll on patients and staff.

"Some of the things I see out in front of our clinic, to me, by the pro-life people, don't represent good Christianity," Marshall said. "I just don't think Jesus would harass people or name-call people or call doctors murderers."

The number of protesters is expected to surge this weekend when Texas-based Operation Save America converges on Louisville for a weeklong vigil, with the long-term goal of making Kentucky a national model in its push to end abortion. The group urges state officials to ignore the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 that legalized abortion.

Its activists plan to demonstrate outside the clinic, elsewhere downtown and in the neighborhoods where the clinic's doctors live, organizers said.

The buffer zone in front of the clinic won't deter those vigils, said Rusty Thomas, the group's national director.

Brigitte Amiri, an attorney for the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, said the buffer zone gives patients a "small measure of relief," ensuring they can enter.

The clinic has been on the defensive since Bevin's election in 2015 put a social conservative and ardent abortion foe in the governor's office. Early this year, abortion opponents pushed through two bills signed by Bevin. One measure banned abortions in Kentucky after 20 weeks of pregnancy unless the mother's life is in danger. The other requires the abortion doctor or a "qualified technician" to perform an ultrasound and then try to show fetal images to the pregnant woman before she consents to an abortion.

The law is being challenged in federal court, along with another case in which abortion rights supporters say Bevin's administration tried to shut down EMW earlier this year. State officials said the clinic was out of compliance with its hospital and ambulance service agreements. EMW sued, and Bevin's administration agreed to renew the clinic's license until after the lawsuit is resolved. A September trial is scheduled.

EMW's legal team believes the case "falls squarely" within a 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down Texas regulations that required doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and forced clinics to meet hospital-like standards for outpatient surgery, said Heather Gatnarek, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky.

The Supreme Court has found that access to an abortion must be guaranteed, but it remains to be seen whether eliminating every clinic in a single state would pass that test.



## Lawsuit: Effects of 'bathroom bill' linger in North Carolina

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The law that replaced North Carolina's notorious "bathroom bill" sports a new look but maintains LGBT discrimination and prevents transgender people from using restrooms matching their gender identity, according to a lawsuit Friday.

The lawsuit renews a high-profile legal battle that has thrust North Carolina into the center of the national debate over LGBT rights. The state took the "bathroom bill" off the books in late March after a yearlong backlash that hurt North Carolina's reputation and caused businesses and sports leagues to back out of lucrative events and projects.

But lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal said the replacement law, known as H.B. 142, continues the harms of its predecessor.

"Legislators were forced to rewrite the law," ACLU lawyer Chris Brook told reporters Friday. "But make no mistake ... H.B. 142 is a wolf in sheep's clothing crafted to keep discrimination intact but sporting a new look."

The compromise earlier this year between Republican legislative leaders and Democrats led by Gov. Roy Cooper eliminated the "bathroom bill" requirement that transgender people use restrooms in many public buildings corresponding to the sex on their birth certificates.

But the new law makes clear that only the General Assembly — not local government or school officials — can make rules for public restrooms from now on. Local governments are also prohibited from enacting new nondiscrimination ordinances for workplaces, hotels and restaurants until December 2020.

"The vacuum purposefully created by H.B. 142 in effect maintains the ban of (the previous law) and encourages discrimination by both government and private entities and individuals," the lawsuit said. "The law offers no guidance to anyone except by implication and makes it impossible for a reasonable person who is transgender to know which restroom they can legally use."

The ambiguity is compounded by statements from Republican lawmakers that the new law would meet the same goals as the "bathroom bill," according to the lawsuit. It cites a statement from House Speaker Tim Moore that the replacement law ensures that "persons of the opposite sex cannot go into designated multi-occupancy restrooms" and could face criminal trespassing charges.

A spokesman for Moore declined comment Friday.

The lawsuit argues that the law violates constitutional due process and equal protection rights, as well as federal laws against discrimination in workplaces and schools. The filing is a revamped version of an existing lawsuit that challenged the original "bathroom bill" in federal court. Most of the same parties remain



**Madeline Goss is seen in Raleigh, NC., Friday, July 21, 2017, shortly after announcing a new lawsuit over LGBT rights. The lawsuit renews a high-profile legal battle that has thrust North Carolina into the center of the national debate over LGBT rights. The state took the "bathroom bill" off the books in late March after a yearlong backlash that hurt North Carolina's reputation and caused businesses and sports leagues to back out of lucrative events and projects. Madeline Goss is a plaintiffs in the lawsuit.**

(AP Photo/Jonathan Drew)

from the previous complaint, with the addition of two new plaintiffs. Cooper is also named as a defendant. A spokesman for Cooper, Ford Porter, said in an email Friday: "The governor's ultimate goal is statewide LGBT protections, and he is going to continue working toward that."

Since H.B. 142 went into effect earlier this year, sports leagues including the NBA, ACC and NCAA have said they would hold championship events in North Carolina again. The announcements of large business projects such as a 1,200-job expansion by Credit Suisse are a further indication that the state is repairing its image.

But the pain continues for transgender residents across the state, the plaintiffs said. For example, 28-year-old Joaquín Carcaño said he's been unable to get an answer from his employer, the University of North Carolina, on which restrooms he's permitted to use.

"We the trans community were used as bargaining chips in order to fix a damaged reputation," Carcano said Friday, adding that the fight for LGBT rights didn't end with the replacement law.

Madeline Goss, a 41-year-old transgender woman from Raleigh, said she fears for her safety under the current law: "There's so much gray area that it creates this confusion."

Follow Drew at [www.twitter.com/jonldrew](http://www.twitter.com/jonldrew)

## No dye: Cancer patients' gray hair darkened on immune drugs

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Cancer patients' gray hair unexpectedly turned youthfully dark while taking novel drugs, and it has doctors scratching their heads.

Chemotherapy is notorious for making hair fall out, but the 14 patients involved were all being treated with new immunotherapy drugs that work differently and have different side effects. A Spanish study suggests that may include restoring hair pigment, at least in patients with lung cancer.

With the first patient, "we thought it could be an isolated case," said Dr. Noelia Rivera, a dermatologist at Autonomous University of Barcelona.

But she said the research team found the same thing when they asked other patients for photos from before treatment.

The 14 cases were among 52 lung cancer patients being followed to see whether they developed bad side effects from the drugs — Keytruda, Opdivo and Tecentriq.

While most patients did not have a color change, the 14 cases suggest it's not an isolated finding. In 13 patients, hair turned darkish brown or black. In one patient, it turned black in patches.

In another odd twist, the same drugs have been linked previously with hair losing color in patients with another cancer, melanoma.



**This undated combination of photos provided by the Journal of the American Medical Association in July 2017 shows a cancer patient with gray hair that unexpectedly turned dark while taking new immunotherapy drugs. Fourteen such cases were among 52 lung cancer patients being followed to see whether they developed bad side effects from the drugs - Keytruda, Opdivo and Tecentriq. (JAMA via AP)**

All but one of the 14 patients in the Spanish study had at least stable disease and responded better to treatment than other patients, suggesting that hair darkening might be an indication that the drugs are working, the researchers said.

Rivera said they are continuing the study to search for an explanation and to see if the cases are just a fluke.

"It's a fascinating report — one of those things that comes out of the blue," said Dr. June Robinson, a Northwestern University research professor in dermatology. Robinson is also editor of the medical journal JAMA Dermatology, which published the study online this month.

She said the results deserve a deeper look but cautioned that it's way too soon to suggest that they might lead to new treatments for gray hair.

Rivera noted that the study drugs have serious side effects that make them unsafe for healthy people. But if it's confirmed that they do change hair color, a different drug could be developed to treat gray hair, she said.

The pharmaceutical industry has previously capitalized on unexpected drug side effects; examples include the male pattern baldness drug Propecia, the eyelash growing drug Latisse, and Botox anti-wrinkle injections. Active ingredients in these drugs were initially approved to treat enlarged prostates, eye pressure problems, and eye muscle spasms.

Follow Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner on Twitter at @LindseyTanner . Her work can be found here .

## Is that really a beached whale beneath Paris' Notre Dame?

PARIS (AP) — A sperm whale appears to have beached on an embankment in the shadow of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Or maybe not.

A Belgian artists' collective installed a very real-looking, life-size whale sculpture Friday alongside the Seine River, eliciting surprise and concern from tourists and Parisians alike.

Bart Van Peel, a member of the collective, said the installation is about raising environmental awareness and awakening "the child in everyone who still is puzzled about what is real and what is not."

Kim Landman from New York was among those taken aback, especially after Van Peel spun a tale describing how the whale got stuck under a city bridge.

Parisian Charles Jean was immediately skeptical, asking whether the whale had climbed onto the quay with a ladder.



**Tim Van Noten a member of a Belgian artists' collective pours water on a real-looking, life-size whale sculpture is displayed along the Seine River in Paris, France, Friday, July 21, 2017. A Belgian artists' collective installed a very real-looking, life-size whale sculpture alongside the Seine River on Friday, eliciting surprise and concern from tourists and Parisians alike.** (AP Photo/Michel Euler)



## Exhumation of Dali's remains finds his mustache still intact

By HERNAN MUNOZ and ARITZ PARRA, The Associated Press

FIGUERES, Spain (AP) — Forensic experts in Spain have removed hair, nails and two long bones from Salvador Dali's embalmed remains to aid a court-ordered paternity test that may enable a woman who says she is the surrealist artist's daughter to claim part of Dali's vast estate.

Officials said Friday that the artist's mummified remains were so well preserved that even his famous mustache had survived the passing of time and remained in "its classic shape of ten past ten," referring to the hands on a clock.

Dali, who once said "surrealism is me," is considered one of the founding fathers of the artistic movement. His works in paint, sculpture and cinema, among other disciplines, are shown in museums all over the world and sought by private collectors.

The artistic genius was buried in the Dali Museum Theater in the north-eastern Spanish town of Figueres, his birthplace, when he died at 84 in 1989.

The exhumation that began Thursday night followed a longstanding claim by Pilar Abel, a 61-year-old tarot card reader, who says her mother had an affair with Dali in his hometown.

In June, a Madrid judge finally ruled that a DNA test should be performed to find out whether her allegations were true.

Forensic experts opened the artist's coffin in a sensitive operation that involved using pulleys to lift a 1.5-ton stone slab.

Lluís Penuelas Reixach, the secretary general of the Gala-Salvador Dali Foundation, said Dali's remains — including his mustache — are well preserved and mummified after an embalming process was applied 27 years ago. He spoke Friday during a press conference in Figueres.

According to judicial authorities, only five people — a judge, three coroners and an assistant — were allowed to oversee the removal of the samples out of respect for the remains and in order to avoid any contamination.

Representatives of the foundation, which manages Dali's estate on behalf of the Spanish state, said Friday the evidence backing Abel's claims weren't enough to justify the intrusive exhumation. They vowed to continue a legal battle to nullify the paternity test.

Dali and his Russian wife Gala had no children of their own, although Gala had a daughter from an earlier marriage to French poet Paul Eluard.

Abel, who for a while made her living by reading tarot cards on local television, was born in Girona, a city close to Figueres. She said she pressed for the exhumation because legal proof of Dali's paternity would honor the memory of her mother.



**Visitors stand near the tomb of Salvador Dali inside Dali Museum Theatre in Figueres, Spain, Friday, July 21, 2017. The samples of hair, nails and two long bones removed overnight from Salvador Dali's embalmed remains could open a judicial battle for the artist's estate if genetic tests prove that he had fathered a girl decades ago. Forensic experts removed on Thursday night the biological samples from a crypt in Figueres, in a sensitive operation that involved pulleys lifting a 1.5-ton stone slab. (AP Photo/Hernan Munoz)**

If proved right, Abel could claim one-fourth of the painter's estate, according to her lawyer, Enrique Blanquez. There are no current estimates of the exact value of that — but it's certainly a fortune.

If she is proved wrong, the Dali foundation will seek financial compensation for the costs of the exhumation. Either way, minimizing the disruption to the museum's operations and to the rest of Dali's remains is a priority for the foundation, according to its secretary.

"It's important for Salvador Dali to be returned to rest in the interior of his museum's dome," Penuelas said. During a press conference this week, Abel explained how her grandmother told the family secret when Abel was still young. Years later, she said her mother confirmed the story.

The foundation and the museum in Figueres took steps to make sure no images of the exhumation were made public. Before work in the crypt began on Thursday, mobile phones were put in a deposit and a marquee was installed under the museum's glass dome to prevent any photography or video being taken from drones.

The biological samples will travel to a forensic laboratory in Madrid for analysis, a process that could take weeks.

Parra reported from Madrid.

## Syrian army and Hezbollah launch attack near Lebanese border

By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Syrian army and members of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group launched a major ground offensive on Friday aimed at ending the yearslong presence of hundreds of militants in a border area between the two countries.

The offensive was widely expected after negotiations with militants to leave the area failed over the past days. The battle will be fought by Syrian troops and Hezbollah gunmen on the Syrian side of the border while the Lebanese army will likely fight against the militants on the Lebanese side.

On Tuesday, Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said the country's military is preparing a military operation to secure a lawless section of the border with Syria while Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah hinted in a speech last week that a joint operation was in the works with the Lebanese and Syrian militaries to expel insurgents from the border area.

Government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media reported that military operations began early Friday from two fronts on the outskirts of the Lebanese town of Arsal and the Syrian village of Fleeta. Arsal is about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of the Syrian city of Homs.

It said Syrian troops and Hezbollah fighters captured some areas from the militants and killed and wounded a number of extremists.



**This Friday, July 21, 2017 photo, released by the government-controlled Syrian Central Military Media, shows Hezbollah cannons pounding militants' positions on the Lebanon-Syria border. The Syrian army and members of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group launched a major ground offensive on Friday aiming to end years long presence of hundreds of militants in a border area between the two countries.** (Syrian Central Military Media, via AP)

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The opposition's Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Syrian warplanes struck the area. It added that Syrian troops and Hezbollah fighters captured some areas from insurgents.

The rugged mountainous region is a stronghold of Syria's al-Qaida's branch, known as Jabhat Fatah al-Sham or Fatah al-Sham Front, as well as the Islamic State group and the Levant People's Brigades. Friday's fighting concentrated in areas controlled by JFS.

Video released by SCMM shows Hezbollah's artillery pounding militant positions while drone footage showed smoke billowing from areas controlled by the militants.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said the Lebanese army shelled an area on the border to prevent a group of militants from entering the Arsal area. It added that the Lebanese army has asked air organizations to accompany Syrian refugees who want to flee the fighting to safer areas.

There will be concerns about civilian casualties if the militants infiltrate Arsal, which is home to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who fled civil war in their country.

The militant-held areas are surrounded from all sides leaving them with no place to withdraw to.

Hezbollah says the border area has been used in the past to launch attacks deep inside Lebanon, including a wave of bombings since 2013 that have killed scores of people.

In 2014, militants briefly stormed Arsal and captured more than two dozen Lebanese soldiers and policemen. Al-Qaida exchanged the troops it was holding while nine soldiers taken by IS fighters are still missing.

The attack in the Lebanon-Syria border area came as fighting between two of Syria's strongest military groups spread in the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib with al-Qaida-linked fighters trying to capture a main border crossing point with Turkey.

Friday's fighting between the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham and al-Qaida-linked Hay'at Tahrir al Sham — Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee — that is also known as HTS, focused on the Bab al-Hawa crossing.

HTS, a coalition of several insurgent groups, suffered a blow a day earlier after the powerful Nour el-Din el-Zinki faction withdrew in protest against the fighting with Ahrar al-Sham.

The Observatory said that HTS was not able to capture the border crossing. It added that a convoy of fighters from Nour el-Din el-Zinki and Failq al-Sham headed to the fight with the objective of dividing the two groups.

The group said three days of fighting between the two rival groups left 85 people dead, including 68 fighters from both sides.

The HTC-linked Ibaa news agency said al-Qaida-linked fighters captured a hill known as 106 that overlooks the Bab al-Hawa border crossing, one of the main sources of income for Ahrar al-Sham.

Ahrar al-Sham's top commander, Ali al-Omar, said in a video released Friday that attacks by HTS are "an aggression against the Syrian revolution," warning that the hand that will try to harm the anti-government revolution "will be amputated."

## Bennington's death mirrors that of close friend Cornell

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The death of Linkin Park frontman Chester Bennington came as a surprise to the world when it was announced, but it also struck similarities to the death of fellow rocker and close friend Chris Cornell, who killed himself in May.

Authorities are investigating Bennington's death as an apparent suicide, Los Angeles County coroner spokesman Brian Elias said Thursday. Bennington, who was 41, was found dead in his home near Los Angeles. He had a strong bond with Cornell and died on what would have been the Soundgarden singer's 53rd birthday.

Bennington was also the godfather to Cornell's 11-year-old son, Chris. And Bennington sang Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" at Cornell's memorial.

The Cornells called Bennington a member of their family in a statement released Thursday.

"The Cornell family is overwhelmed by the heartbreaking news about Chester Bennington which tragically comes so soon after their family's own loss," said a Cornell family spokesperson. "They open up their loving arms to Chester's family and share in the sorrow with all those who loved him."



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Cornell died by hanging after a concert in Detroit. Linkin Park was set to go on tour next week.

Bennington helped Linkin Park, whose sound mixed rap and rock, become one of the most commercially successful acts in the 2000s. The Grammy-winning group sold more than 10 million copies of their 2000 debut, "Hybrid Theory," which featured the megahit and anthem, "In the End." They sold another 6 million with 2003's multiplatinum "Metemora." Both albums explored feelings of frustration and fury.

The success helped Linkin Park become Billboard's No. 1 act of the decade for rock songs and alternative songs.

Band co-founder and producer Mike Shinoda said on Twitter he was "shocked and saddened."

"Chester Bennington was an artist of extraordinary talent and charisma, and a human being with a huge heart and a caring soul. Our thoughts and prayers are with his beautiful family, his bandmates and his many friends," Warner Bros. Records CEO and Chairman Cameron Stang said in a statement.

Bennington's voice could soar with piercing strength or descend to a whisper. Rolling Stone once called it a "shrapnel-laced howl that sounds like it comes from someone twice his size."

The band also sold millions with its remix album, "Reanimation," and its mash-up record with Jay-Z, "Collision Course." They won Grammys for best hard rock performance in 2001 for "Crawling" and best rap/sung collaboration for "Numb/Encore" in 2005. Linkin Park was next scheduled to perform next week in Massachusetts and New York.

Bennington struggled with drug and alcohol addictions at various times during his life. He said he had been sexually abused as a child and was homeless for months before the band found fame.

Linkin Park released their most recent album, "One More Light," in May. It was an album that divided critics and fans alike for its embrace of moody pop. One song on the album, "Heavy," opens with the words: "I don't like my mind right now."

Although the band had always experimented with different sounds, some claimed Linkin Park had sold out, which Bennington denied. "One More Light" became the band's fifth No. 1 album debut on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

"If you like the music, fantastic. If you don't like it, that's your opinion too. Fantastic. If you're saying we're doing what we're doing for a commercial or monetary reason, trying to make success out of some formula. then stab yourself in the face!" Bennington told NME magazine.

When he got his big break in 1999, Bennington was an assistant at a digital-services firm in Phoenix. A music executive sent him a demo from the band Xero, which needed a lead singer. (He had been recommended by his attorney.) Bennington wrote and recorded new vocals over the band's playing and sent the



**In this Dec. 13, 2014 file photo, Chester Bennington poses in the press room at the 25th annual KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas in Inglewood, Calif. The Los Angeles County coroner says Bennington, who sold millions of albums with a unique mix of rock, hip-hop and rap, has died in his home near Los Angeles. He was 41. Coroner spokesman Brian Elias says they are investigating Bennington's death as an apparent suicide but no additional details are available.** (Photo by John Shearer/Invision/AP, File)

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results back. He soon got the gig and the band then changed its name to Hybrid Theory, then Linkin Park. Bennington told The Associated Press in 2010 that because of the sound the band is known for — fusing sounds from nu-metal, punk, rock, pop and hip-hop — it was virtually impossible to satisfy their many kinds of fans.

“We’re making music for us, that we like. We’re not making music for other people,” he said. “We’re not thinking, ‘Let’s make a pie-graph of all our fans and find out how many people fit in whatever category and then make the perfect album for them.’ Like, that would be absolutely ridiculous.”

Bennington was married to his second wife, Talinda, and is survived by six children.

AP Entertainment Writers Mark Kennedy in New York and Anthony McCartney contributed to this report.

## Who benefits most from state and local tax deduction?

By The Associated Press

Republicans are trying to eliminate the federal deduction for state and local taxes as part of a package to overhaul America’s tax system. Almost 44 million people claimed the deduction in 2014.

The average deduction for taxpayers who claimed it in each state and the District of Columbia:

United States: \$11,846  
1New York: \$21,038  
2Connecticut: \$18,940  
3New Jersey: \$17,183  
4California: \$17,148  
5District of Columbia: \$15,452  
6Massachusetts: \$14,761  
7Illinois: \$12,878  
8Maryland: \$12,443  
9Minnesota: \$12,236  
10Rhode Island: \$12,139  
11Vermont: \$11,844  
12Oregon: \$11,824  
13Wisconsin: \$11,272  
14Maine: \$10,885  
15Nebraska: \$10,791  
16Virginia: \$10,778  
17Pennsylvania: \$10,743  
18Ohio: \$10,026  
19New Hampshire: \$9,672  
20Iowa: \$9,636  
21Kentucky: \$9,389  
22Missouri: \$9,374  
23Michigan: \$9,198  
24Kansas: \$9,110  
25North Carolina: \$9,071  
26Hawaii: \$9,016  
27West Virginia: \$9,011  
28Montana: \$8,897  
29Arkansas: \$8,816  
30Delaware: \$8,801  
31Georgia: \$8,696

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32Colorado: \$8,599  
33Indiana: \$8,306  
34Idaho: \$8,301  
35South Carolina: \$8,255  
36Oklahoma: \$7,877  
37Utah: \$7,807  
38Texas: \$7,594  
39Washington: \$7,077  
40Arizona: \$7,021  
41Florida: \$6,984  
42New Mexico: \$6,885  
43North Dakota: \$6,880  
44Louisiana: \$6,693  
45Mississippi: \$6,207  
46Nevada: \$5,877  
47Wyoming: \$5,754  
48South Dakota: \$5,751  
49Alabama: \$5,631  
50Tennessee: \$5,316  
51Alaska: \$4,789

Sources: IRS, Associated Press calculations.

## 'Darknet' suspect's flashy cars raised eyebrows in Thailand

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The neighbors had their suspicions.

The young Canadian accused of masterminding the world's leading "darknet" internet marketplace lived a seemingly quiet life for more than a year with his Thai girlfriend in a middle-class neighborhood on the outskirts of Bangkok.

But the flashy cars he drove stood out.

There was the nearly \$1 million, metallic gray Lamborghini. There was the Porsche, and then the Mini Cooper for his girlfriend. All in an area where people drive pickup trucks and children tool around on plastic tricycles.

The neighbors thought 25-year-old Alexandre Cazes worked in the hotel business. But according to the U.S. Justice Department, he was the mastermind of AlphaBay, an internet marketplace that traded in illegal drugs, firearms and counterfeit goods.

By the time authorities closed in on July 5, Cazes had amassed a \$23 million fortune as the site's creator and administrator, court documents show.

On Thursday, U.S. Justice Department officials gave details of the global police operation that brought down Cazes, who authorities say hanged himself in his Thai jail cell a week after his arrest, and dealt a serious blow to illicit internet commerce.

Cazes' stepmother Kathy Gauthier expressed surprise at the allegations, saying "we do not understand how he could have been the person described by the FBI, that's just not his personality!"

In a private Facebook message to The Associated Press, Gauthier wrote: "Alexandre was always a good boy without any kind of trouble in his past. He was peaceful and anti-drugs. We always thought his wealth came from investments in cryptocurrency, not from a 'Darkmarket (sic).'"

She was apparently referring to "darknet."

She continued: "He was raised in a good home by good parents, but now we are exhausted and simply want to accept the situation. Last week my spouse spoke to the media about who Alexandre really was,



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and our opinion hasn't changed. Now we just want to move forward. And if what the FBI says is completely true, well, that's not the Alexandre Cazes that we knew. but we would love him still, and forgive him."

Interviews with Cazes' neighbors paint a picture of a young man who displayed flashes of ostentation but otherwise seemed unassuming.

"He was with his girlfriend," said a neighbor, Hassanupong Pootrakulchote. "Around New Year's or Christmas I saw some of his friends come over and they would have a little party. There were Thai people, some of them were his girlfriend's relatives ... Other than that it's mostly quiet, nothing flashy or anything."

Nothing except those expensive cars, which were completely out of place in the neighborhood where homes cost less than \$120,000.

"Why does he have a Lamborghini? Why does he have a Porsche or Mini Cooper?" Hassanupong said. "There are recent news reports about people laundering money and that sort of thing. But like I said, I thought he was in the hotel business."

Soon enough, talk in the neighborhood was that Cazes was ready to improve his standard of living.

At the time of his arrest, he was building a palatial home about 20 minutes away in a far more upscale area. The price tag? More than \$1.1 million.

According to court documents, he also owned a luxury villa on the edge of a cliff in the holiday destination of Phuket and a \$400,000 villa in Antigua.

Much of Cazes' fortune was in digital currencies, the court documents show. He bought real estate and luxury cars, including the \$900,000 Lamborghini, and pursued "economic citizenship" in Liechtenstein, Cyprus and Thailand.

He used what he claimed was a web design company, EBX Technologies, as a front, the indictment said. But his life in the Bangkok suburbs appeared stable, neighbors said.

One neighbor, who asked not to be named because the case involves crime, said Cazes rarely left the house before noon. She said she got her first good look at him one day when he was outside, trying to photograph a monitor lizard that had crawled out of a deserted field nearby.

"We smiled at each other, that's it," she said.

Darknet websites have thrived since the 2011 appearance of the Silk Road bazaar, which was taken down two years later. Merchants and buyers keep their identities secret by using encrypted communications and anonymity-providing tools such as the Tor browser. The darknet itself is only accessible through such specialized apps.

Cazes' own carelessness apparently tripped him up — not the underlying security technology AlphaBay used.

According to the indictment, he accidentally broadcast his personal Hotmail address in welcome messages sent to new users. And when he was tracked down and arrested in Thailand, Cazes was logged into the



**One of properties of AlphaBay founder Alexandre Cazes is seen in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, July 21, 2017. The young Canadian Cazes accused of masterminding AlphaBay, the world's leading "darknet" internet marketplace, lived an apparently quiet life for nearly two years with his Thai girlfriend in a middle-class neighborhood on the outskirts of Bangkok.** (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

AlphaBay website as its administrator, allowing investigators access to passwords and other information, it says.

Cazes also used the same personal email address — "pimp\_alex-91@hotmail.com" — on a PayPal account.

Associated Press writer Patrick Lejtenyi in Montreal, Canada, contributed to this report.

## Review: Amazon meal kits offer easy dinners \_ for a price

By MARTHA BELLISLE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Amazon's new ready-to-eat meal package is the perfect recipe for someone who doesn't have enough time to shop and cook, yet has a healthy appetite and a need for balanced meals.

These meal kits come with just about everything you need to prepare dinner for two. You can choose from a variety of vegetarian and meat options. For now, Amazon's meal kits are available only in limited markets, including Seattle.

There's no major commitment, the way rivals require you to order an entire week of meals at a time. But you pay dearly for the convenience and flexibility, and you must plan ahead, at least for now.



**This Wednesday, July 19, 2017, photo shows the ingredients in a togarashi-spiced salmon dish that is one of the choices available as part of Amazon's new ready-to-cook meal packages. The meal kits come with everything you need to prepare dinner for two.** (AP Photo/Martha Bellisle)

### ORDERING THE MEAL

As a competitive athlete who trains a lot, I find generous portions are almost as important as lots of protein. I usually don't eat red meat, and the chicken dish got a few bad reviews, so I went for Togarashi-spiced salmon with soba noodles. It was \$20 for two servings, plus \$10 for delivery.

When I tried to place my order Tuesday, Amazon said the only delivery times left that day were for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Before confirming the order, though, those slots were gone.

It was only 11 a.m.

I could have gone to Amazon's pickup location in another part of town, but who has time for that, especially in Seattle traffic? Instead, I chose delivery before 7 a.m. on Wednesday. It arrived before 5:30 a.m., as I headed out for a long morning run.

### FROM DOOR TO KITCHEN

The meal kit was the size of a loaf of bread, but it came in a heavy bag that resembled a large paper grocery bag. Inside was a silver insulated bag, nestled inside a cardboard frame, and six ice packs. That's a lot of packaging. I chose the delivery option that allowed the driver to leave it at my door, which may explain the extra layers.

Each item was individually wrapped and marked. All I needed were a few pots and pans, a knife and some vegetable oil. The recipe also called for a pinch of salt from my kitchen, but I didn't feel the need.

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The ingredients you had to supply on your own were reasonable, given that most kitchens would have these. Everything else was provided, including some sesame oil in a tiny container to saute my veggies.

## A MEAL IN A HALF-HOUR

I sauteed the asparagus and oyster mushrooms and cooked the salmon. I cooked the soba noodles and edamame together in boiling water, while I warmed the soup base in a separate pot. Once done, I arranged the noodles, edamame and salmon on plates and sprinkled each with asparagus, mushrooms, scallions and sesame seeds. The meal includes a side of pickled ginger.

The recipe was easy to follow. I am an OK cook and have a few special dishes, but I find recipes often take a convoluted path from stove to table. This one had seven easy steps, such as boil the water.

All this took less than 30 minutes, as promised. After about 10 minutes of washing veggies, chopping and opening packets, the cook time was minimal, just 13 minutes. Setting the table and opening the wine were the only other tasks.

The servings were surprisingly large and visually appealing. Add a few glasses of white wine, and the meal was the perfect end to a very full day.

## THE VALUE

I've been curious about meal kits for some time, but rivals such as Blue Apron and HelloFresh require you to subscribe to ongoing deliveries and pick your meals a week in advance. I wasn't willing to commit to \$60-plus per week for a multi-meal plan without first trying out the concept.

Amazon lets you buy as you go, even spontaneously, notwithstanding the limited delivery windows. And the per-serving price is comparable with rivals — with a catch .

Meal kits require membership in both Amazon Prime (\$99 per year) and AmazonFresh (\$15 per month). Those fees along with the \$10 delivery fee should be factored into the overall price of each meal, which range from \$16 to \$20 for two servings.

Amazon offers free delivery for orders over \$40, but you lose freshness if you buy multiple meals at once. Instead, you could buy other groceries to qualify. AmazonFresh also has light bulbs and laundry soap.

Of course, it's ultimately cheaper just to buy these ingredients separately and assemble the meal yourself. But if you buy a whole tray of mushrooms and throw away all but the two you eat, then it's no longer cheaper. Nor is ordering takeout all the time, not to mention also being less healthy.

As someone who's often too busy to cook elaborate meals, I'm hooked.

In fact, knowing I needed a few groceries and dinner, I went on AmazonFresh early Friday and was able to secure an evening delivery. I added milk, juice and bananas to get free delivery.

I'm looking forward to roasted cod with cannellini bean ragout and pesto.

## US stocks dip with energy prices; European stocks sink

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks finished barely lower Friday as energy companies fell with oil prices and a 10-day rally for technology companies came to an end. But Wall Street mostly avoided the sharp losses that hit European stocks.

The price of U.S. crude oil fell 2.5 percent and pulled energy stocks lower. Technology companies slipped, ending their longest winning streak in more than two years.

Investors bought government bonds in the U.S. and Europe, which sent prices higher and yields lower. With yields down, investors who wanted income bought shares in companies that pay big dividends, such as utilities and household goods makers.

European stocks took sharp losses after Reuters reported that the European Central Bank will consider paring back its stimulus programs in late October. Indexes in France, Germany and Italy all fell, and so did the blue chip Euro Stoxx 50 index.

"Europe is the economy that makes people the most nervous," said JJ Kinahan, chief market strategist



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at TD Ameritrade. "It's one that is still being treated with caution."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index shipped 0.91 of a point to 2,472.54. The Dow Jones industrial average dipped 31.71 points, or 0.1 percent, to 21,580.07. Earlier it shed as many as 108 points. The Nasdaq composite lost 2.25 points to 6,387.75. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks sank 6.52 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,435.84. Still, all four indexes remain near record highs.

General Electric skidded after it disappointed investors by saying it expects to reach only the low end of its annual profit forecast range. GE said its power unit struggled in the second quarter and low oil prices are also hurting its business.

The stock fell 78 cents, or 2.9 percent, to \$25.91. It's down 18 percent this year. Also falling was oilfield services company Baker Hughes, which is combined with GE's oil and gas unit this month and is now mostly owned by GE. It shed 85 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$34.12.

Baker Hughes was one of a horde of energy companies that fell with oil prices. Benchmark U.S. crude lost \$1.15 to \$45.77 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, shed \$1.24, or 2.5 percent, to \$48.06 a barrel in London.

Over the last few weeks investors have focused what the European Central Bank will do as the European economy continues to improve. Kinahan, of TD Ameritrade, added that the central bank also hasn't done much to address the way the euro has risen over that time.

"The ECB didn't take an aggressive stand on the currency move that's already happened," he said. He added that has left some investors thinking the euro will get even stronger, which would make European goods more expensive in other markets and affect the earnings and sales of companies based in the EU.

On Friday the euro rose to \$1.1677 from \$1.1626. It hasn't been this strong compared to the dollar since the beginning of 2015. The German DAX lost 1.7 percent and France's CAC 40 shed 1.6 percent. The FTSE 100 in Britain shed 0.5 percent.

European bond prices jumped and yields tumbled. Investors also bought U.S. government bonds, which sent prices higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.24 percent from 2.26 percent.

Software giant Microsoft's fourth-quarter profit and sales surpassed Wall Street estimates as the company posted another round of strong results from its cloud computing business. However, its stock dipped 43 cents to \$73.79.

Also falling was chipmaker Texas Instruments, which lost 99 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$81.70. E-commerce company eBay fell 57 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$36.61. Payment processor Visa added \$1.49, or 1.5 percent, to \$99.60 after its latest report showed its purchase of Visa Europe a year ago is strengthening its business.

Still, a 10-day run for the Nasdaq and technology companies came to an end. The S&P 500 technology index climbed more than 6 percent over that time and reached record highs. The rally was assisted by the weakening dollar, which helps sales and earnings overseas. Investors also bet that technology companies



**This July 16, 2013, file photo, shows a Wall Street street sign outside the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks are falling, Friday, July 21, 2017, as General Electric stock drops after the company's second-quarter report. Most other industries are also lower, including technology companies, which have soared during a 10-day winning streak. (AP Photo/**

Mark Lennihan, File)

would have another round of strong quarterly earnings.

Elsewhere, financial companies did relatively well after some solid quarterly reports. Credit card issuer Capital One Financial leaped \$6.93, or 8.6 percent, to \$87.94 after it beat Wall Street estimates in the second quarter. E-Trade Financial gained \$2.03, or 5.1 percent, to \$41.63 and Moody's added \$5.40, or 4.2 percent, to \$132.57.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline fell 4 cents to \$1.56 a gallon. Heating oil lost 3 cents to \$1.52 a gallon. Natural gas slid 7 cents to \$2.97 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold added \$9.40 to \$1,254.90 an ounce. Silver rose 11 cents to \$16.46 an ounce. Copper picked up 1 cent to \$2.72 a pound.

The dollar slid to 111.04 yen from 111.99 yen.

In Asia, the Nikkei 225 of Japan slipped 0.2 percent and South Korea's Kospi rose 0.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng inched down less than 0.1 percent.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

## Ford says it will fight latest Takata recall

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford is fighting the latest expansion of the Takata air bag inflator recall.

Earlier this month, Takata filed documents with the U.S. government adding 2.7 million vehicles to the recall from Ford, Nissan and Mazda. All have inflators with a drying agent that previously were thought to be safe.

But the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has said that Takata tests showed the inflator propellant can degrade and will pose a safety risk if the inflators aren't replaced.

Nissan agreed to recall about 515,000 Versa cars, but Ford and Mazda filed petitions to avoid a recall.

Takata inflators can explode with too much force and spew shrapnel into drivers and passengers. As many as 18 people have died and more than 180 injured due to the problem. The inflators have caused the largest automotive recall in U.S. history with 42 million vehicles and up to 69 million inflators being called back for repairs.

Takata uses the chemical ammonium nitrate to inflate air bags. But it can deteriorate when exposed to high airborne humidity and high temperatures. Previously the company believed that a drying agent called a desiccant stopped the chemical from degrading.

Ford, which has more than 2 million vehicles involved in the latest recall, says the propellant has not deteriorated in any of its inflators taken from vehicles in the field. The company says it will file a petition with NHTSA to further study its inflators. "At this point there is no data to suggest a recall is needed," the company said in a statement.

Takata also identified about 6,000 Mazda B-Series pickup trucks from 2007 through 2009 that also have the potentially faulty inflators. Mazda, which used to be owned by Ford, said its trucks are based on Ford's Ranger, so it decided to follow Ford in seeking a recall exemption.

The inflators in question were produced by Takata from 2005 to 2012. NHTSA says there have been no ruptures in the real world or in testing, and that other Takata inflators with the drying agent have not been recalled.

The agency said Friday that Ford and Mazda filed recall notices with the agency but also said they will turn in petitions seeking to avoid additional recalls. Such paperwork has to be filed within 30 days, and NHTSA will make the final decision.

Ford vehicles in question include the 2006 through 2012 Ford Fusion, Mercury Milan and Lincoln MKZ sedans, the 2007 to 2011 Ford Ranger pickup and the 2007 through 2010 Ford Edge and Lincoln MKX SUVs.

Nissan's recall covers just over 515,000 Versa subcompact hatchback and sedans from the 2007 through 2012 model years. .

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2017. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 22, 1942, the Nazis began transporting Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp. Gasoline rationing involving the use of coupons began along the Atlantic seaboard.

On this date:

In 1587, an English colony fated to vanish under mysterious circumstances was established on Roanoke Island off North Carolina.

In 1796, Cleveland, Ohio, was founded by General Moses Cleaveland (correct).

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln presented to his Cabinet a preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

In 1916, 10 people were killed when a suitcase bomb went off during San Francisco's Preparedness Day parade; two anti-war labor radicals, Thomas Mooney and Warren K. Billings, were jailed but eventually released amid doubts about their guilt.

In 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melodrama."

In 1937, the U.S. Senate rejected President Franklin D. Roosevelt's proposal to add more justices to the Supreme Court.

In 1946, the militant Zionist group Irgun blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 91 people.

In 1967, American author, historian and poet Carl Sandburg died at his North Carolina home at age 89.

In 1977, Elvis Costello's debut album, "My Aim Is True," was released by Stiff Records.

In 1983, Samantha Smith and her parents returned home to Manchester, Maine, after completing a whirlwind tour of the Soviet Union.

In 1992, Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar escaped from his luxury prison near Medellin (meh-deh-YEEN'). (He was slain by security forces in December 1993.)

In 2011, Anders Breivik (AHN'-durs BRAY'-vihk), a self-described "militant nationalist," massacred 69 people at a Norwegian island youth retreat after detonating a bomb in nearby Oslo that killed eight others in the nation's worst violence since World War II.

Ten years ago: A bus carrying Polish Catholic pilgrims from a holy site in the French Alps plunged off a steep mountain road, killing 26 people. Pdraig Harrington survived a calamitous finish in regulation and a tense putt for bogey on the final hole of a playoff to win the British Open. Cinematographer Laszlo Kovacs ("Easy Rider") died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 74.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama made a quick trip to Colorado to meet with families of those gunned down in an Aurora movie theater and to hear from state and local officials about the shooting that left 12 people dead and dozens more injured. The International AIDS Conference opened in Washington, D.C. with the goal of "turning the tide" on HIV. Fifteen people were killed in South Texas when a pickup truck ran off the road and hit trees about 90 miles southeast of San Antonio. Bradley Wiggins became the first British cyclist to win the Tour de France. Ernie Els won his fourth major championship in an astonishing finish, rallying to beat Adam Scott in the British Open when the Australian bogeyed the last four holes. Oscar-winning screenwriter Frank Pierson ("Dog Day Afternoon"; "Cool Hand Luke") died in Los Angeles at age 87.

One year ago: Democrat Hillary Clinton told supporters in a text message that she had chosen Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine as her vice-presidential running mate. A gunman opened fire at a mall in Munich, Germany, killing nine people before taking his own life. Thomas Sutherland, a teacher who was held captive in Lebanon for more than six years until he was freed in 1991, died in Fort Collins, Colorado, at age 85.

Today's Birthdays: Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., is 94. Actor-comedian Orson Bean



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is 89. Author Tom Robbins is 85. Actress Louise Fletcher is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chuck Jackson is 80. Actor Terence Stamp is 79. Game show host Alex Trebek is 77. Singer George Clinton is 76. Actor-singer Bobby Sherman is 74. Former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is 74. Movie writer-director Paul Schrader is 71. Actor Danny Glover is 71. Singer Mireille Mathieu is 71. Actor-comedian-director Albert Brooks is 70. Rock singer Don Henley is 70. Movie composer Alan Menken is 68. Singer-actress Lonette McKee is 64. Jazz musician Al Di Meola is 63. Actor Willem Dafoe is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keith Sweat is 56. Actress Joanna Going is 54. Actor Rob Estes is 54. Folk singer Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) is 54. Actor John Leguizamo is 53. Actor-comedian David Spade is 53. Actor Patrick Labyorteaux is 52. Rock musician Pat Badger is 50. Actress Irene Bedard is 50. Actor Rhys Ifans (rees EYE'-fanz) is 50. Actress Diana Maria Riva is 48. Actor Colin Ferguson is 45. Actor/singer Jaime Camil is 44. Retired NFL player Keyshawn Johnson is 45. Rock musician Daniel Jones is 44. Singer Rufus Wainwright is 44. Actress Franka Potente (poh-TEN'-tay) is 43. Actress A.J. Cook is 39. Actor Keegan Allen is 30. Actress Camila Banus is 27. Actress Selena Gomez is 25. Britain's Prince George of Cambridge is four.

Thought for Today: "If America forgets where she came from, if the people lose sight of what brought them along, if she listens to the deniers and mockers, then will begin the rot and dissolution."— Carl Sandburg (1878-1967).