

# Groton Daily Independent

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### 30

**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.

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

### 31

**Senior Menu:** Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, orange sherbet.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

**Olive Grove:** Kid's Lessons

## Official Notices

**Brown County (Updated 7-26)**

**Groton City Book (updated 7-26)**

**Groton Area School (updated 7-26)**

**Frederick Area School Book (updated 7-26)**

**Westport Town Book (updated 7-26)**

**Frederick Town (updated 7-18)**

**Other Official Notices Book**

**Claremont Town Official Notices Book**

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

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

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## Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.  
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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He who never  
made a *mistake*,  
never made a  
*discovery.*

*Samuel Smiles*

@ChickenSoupSoul

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The transition to the new electronic store front has been challenging at best. It started about a month ago before it was finally completed this past week.

I know some are asking why I have to make the change. The upgrade was not part of my plan; however, it's like running a car that uses straight gas, and then all of a sudden, 10% ethanol comes into the picture and your car that requires straight gas no longer runs well because they don't make straight gas, but only 10% ethanol. That was the situation we were in. Our old store front was becoming outdated. And as the programmers would have it, you know they can't keep anything the same, so there are changes that we all have to live with, even if we don't like them.

If I would have had my two cents worth, I wouldn't have made the change and I would have an extra \$1,100 in my pocket. But as it is, the changes have to be made.

I thank you all for working with us through the changes and for offering ideas and suggestions. Some of the things I can change. Others I cannot. The one noticeable change was the use of the e-mail address for your username. While not a big deal, it is a deal. I have been trying to make things easier for you all by adding certain menu options. Some like the Flipbook. Others like the older method. As of now, I plan to keep both going.

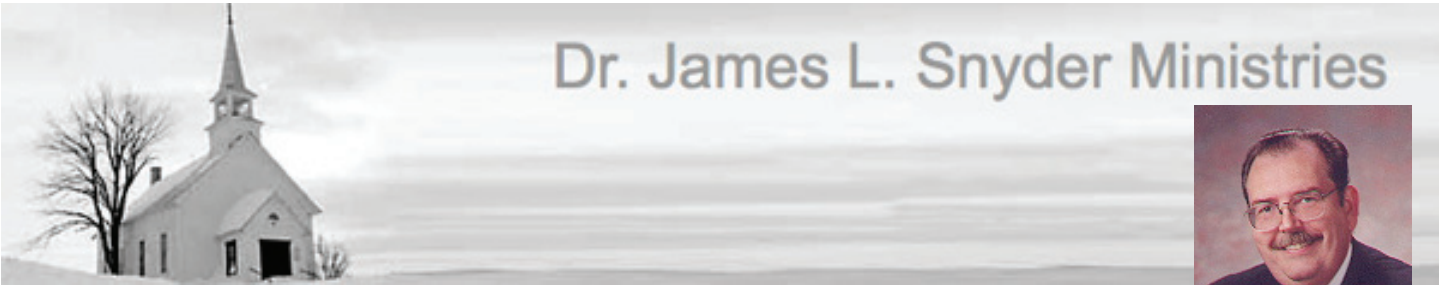
The other thing that we are now doing is trying to consolidate everything. We have stuff all over the universe. Well, I guess all over the planet might be better! We are in the process of moving everything over to one location. This is only the first step.

The next step is the balloon store. We had that in another location, but we are bringing it back to this store. Since we're paying for the services, we might as well use them all. The long process of adding the inventory to the website has begun. And since you all already have accounts with the store, it would make it easier for you to order balloons on-line. We will also be making available the option to mail balloons. Once we have the box that we want to use and figure out the postage, we'll have that option available.

Then we have the business website that will have to be moved as well along with our email accounts. There are so many branches on the tree, but at least we will be down to one tree instead of two.

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## As Summers Go, This One Is Going

During my high school career I was no thespian, however, I could act the fool when called upon. My friend was the thespian and starred in our senior high school play, "Finian's Rainbow." One of the musical numbers was, "When I'm not near the girl I love, I love the girl I'm near."

I have altered this title a little to fit my own needs. My version goes, "When I'm not in the season I love, I love the season I'm in." It is a wonderful motto and has solved quite a few problems down the years. Just don't ask me to sing it for you. I can, but you do not want to hear it... believe me.

At my age I have learned a thing or two. One of the things I have learned is that you might as well be content where you are at because that is where you are. All these people that are jumpy and nervous because they are not exactly where they want to be, waste a lot of precious time and energy.

I am old enough to appreciate where I am at. I could bemoan the fact that I'm not somewhere else, but what good would that do. I know I'm not at my destination yet, so I am determined to enjoy the journey and not miss one thing along the way.

This is the difference between the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly.

Just the other day her Majesty was complaining about the weather. "It's so hot outside, I can hardly stand it."

Of course, I could not resist saying, "Well, why don't you sit down." To which, she treated me to one of her infamous glares. Somehow, in the hot sunshine her glare did not have its normal effect. For one, she was too hot and did not have the energy to follow through on her glare.

But I love the summer. It is a wonderful time of the year and my affection for the season goes all the way back to my days in school.

I enjoy every aspect of summer and when God created summer, he created a masterpiece. Not a summer day goes by that I do not thank him for the summer.

I need to get one thing quite clear. I am not one of those who lay out in the sun to get a suntan. That is not my cup of tea... or rather glass of lemonade. I do not fault those who lay out in the sun to get what they call a suntan. Rather, I feel sorry for those old saps. Why ruin a good day by laying in the sun?

I had one bad sunburn in my life. It happened on our honeymoon. My wife and I were married in August in the year of our Lord 1971. Upon common consent, we chose for our honeymoon location Niagara Falls.

The motel we stayed in had a marvelous swimming pool. At the time, my companion in nuptials and I thought we were living the life of luxury. This was the first time we had been on our own and we were going to enjoy it to the hilt. Too bad we could not afford a Hilton.

Late that morning we walked several blocks down the street and treated ourselves to our first lunch as a "till-death-do-you-part" twosome. I am not sure what we ate, all I remember is the company was terrific. After lunch, we decided to spend some time at the poolside.

Being unaccustomed to the life of luxury I did not know what the rules were. So, in my sheer ignorance I decided to sit by the pool and luxuriate in the beautiful August sun. Obviously, I was more tired than I realized and fell into a wonderfully deep sleep.

Finally, I began to hear a voice I recognized and soon began to understand some of the words. "Do you



know it's almost time for supper?"

I opened my eyes and tried to smile. My face would not smile. In fact, my face felt rather hot. Then the rest of my body joined in the fiery chorus informing me that every bit of my body was ablaze. I had a sunburn to beat all sunburns. I could not move. I could not get up from the lounge chair.

A short journey into panic-land brought me into full consciousness. With great care and with the help of my new wife I was able to get into our room. I laid down in the bed with every corpuscle in my body screaming in protest. The more I lay there the hotter I became. I heard of hot bridegrooms on their wedding night but this was not how I pictured it.

Fortunately, we had planned to stay in the motel for a week and for a week exactly, I lay in my bed unable to move without excruciating pain.

Ever since that time, I have had a great deal of respect for the summer sun. Even though I had that one bad experience, I have never blamed it on the summer season. Rather, I have reveled in what the Bible teaches. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"(Romans 8:28).

It is in the "all things" that I discover God's love for me.

## FISH HUNTING

Outdoor magazines, television and web sites are filled with bow hunting adventures. You read, you watch, you yearn for hunting time. As you practice your 3-D shooting, you think of August antelope, September elk, and October whitetails.

To help relieve the pain of waiting, why not try fish hunting. There are few things more enjoyable than bow fishing on a hot summer day or quiet summer night.

Nearly every lake or river across the country has carp, gar, or some other local rough fish that come into shallow water this time of year. Hunting for them will help keep your eye sharp for the fall seasons plus it's a whole lot of fun.

You can add bowfishing equipment to your regular hunting bow or buy bow fishing outfits complete with everything you need.

Most bowfishing takes place from boats but it's also possible to walk river banks, ponds and lake coves hunting for your quarry.

Watch The Habit on the Sportsman's Channel for exciting fish hunting adventures.

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



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## Today in Weather History

July 30, 1981: Operation Skywarn organized by the National Weather Service in Bismarck four years ago had a perfect opportunity to put the training into operation on this day. A spotter 20 miles west of Bismarck identified a rotating wall cloud 10 minutes before a tornado touchdown. The strong tornado was rated as having F3 strength, leaving behind an 18-mile long path of destruction. The force of the storm drove a stick between a tire and rim. A 6-inch steel beam was twisted and found near the high tension tower which had been toppled.

July 30, 2001: Strong winds of 81 mph blew much of the roof off of the bowling alley in Mobridge. Some flying debris also damaged a trailer home. Many trees were snapped in two or uprooted, and many power lines were downed. High winds brought down tree branches and also knocked the power out for several hours in Pollock.

July 30, 2010: Very heavy rains of 5 to 10 inches caused the Rosehill Dam to break in the early morning hours in southeast Hand County. Flash flooding began around 1 am CDT with two campers being swept up around 130 am CDT. The two campers clung to a tree until they could be rescued around 6 am CDT. They were both injured with one camper being treated for hypothermia and other airlifted to Sioux Falls to be treated for broken ribs and head trauma. The dam broke at 330 am CDT with the spillway breaking at 420 am CDT. There was between a 100 to 150-foot hole left by the dam break. The flash flooding continued downstream on Sand Creek causing damage to area farms, filling basements, and flooding many roads.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)

1970: Hurricane Celia was born in the northwest the Caribbean Sea on this day. The hurricane would be one of the worst ever to hit Texas and would reach Texas late on August 3. The storm reached its peak as it made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, as a strong Category 3 hurricane. Hurricane Celia is currently the last major hurricane to make landfall on the middle Texas Coast.

1979: A forty-minute hailstorm bombed Fort Collins, Colorado with baseball to softball size hail. Two thousand homes and 2500 automobiles were damaged, and about 25 persons were injured, mainly when hit on the head by the huge stones.

1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

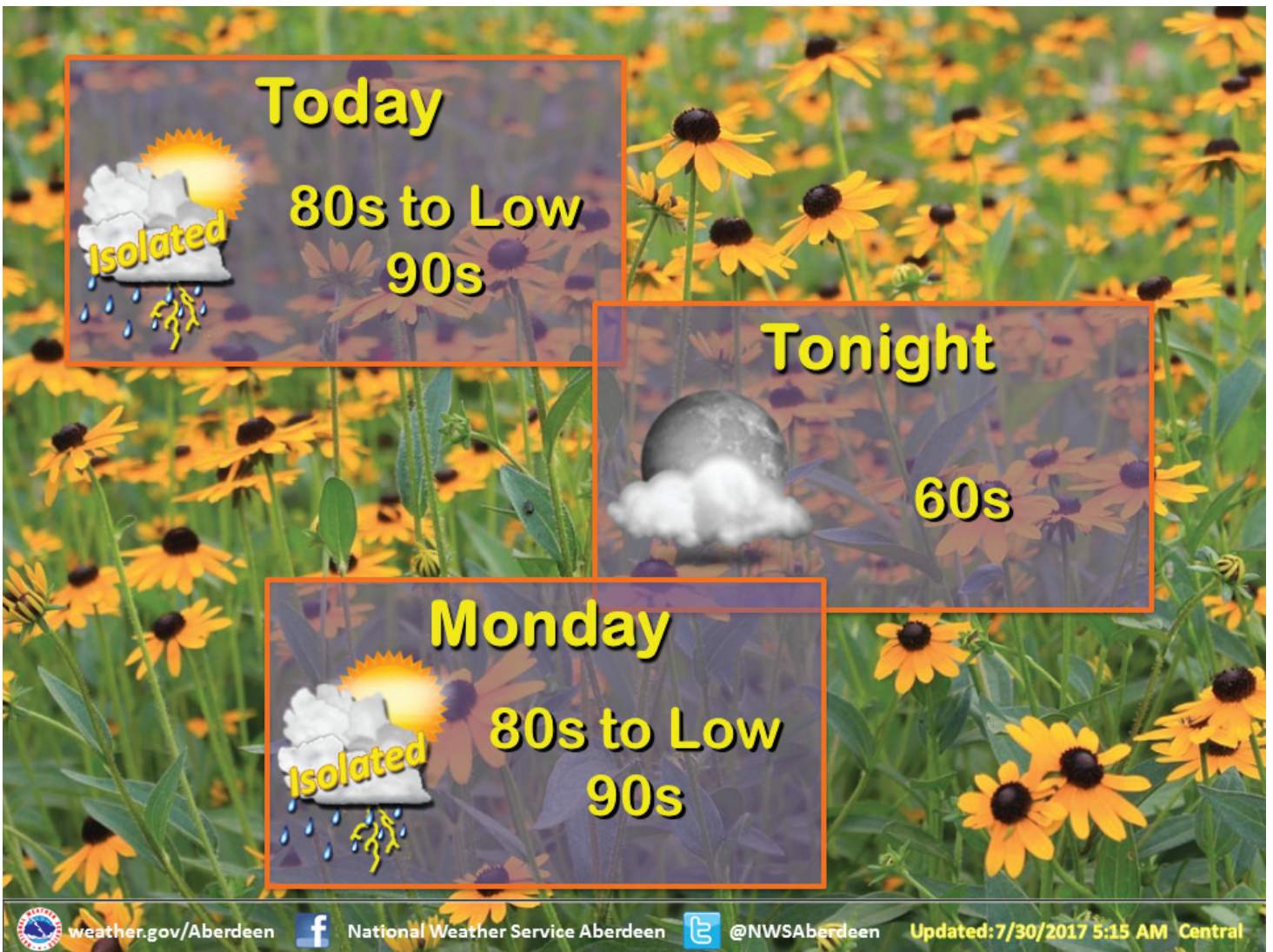
1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
 20%			 30%	 20%	 20%	 30%
Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 88 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 78 °F



**Today**  
80s to Low 90s  
Isolated

**Tonight**  
60s

**Monday**  
80s to Low 90s  
Isolated

weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 7/30/2017 5:15 AM Central

Published on: 07/30/2017 at 5:21AM

A weak system will drift across the area today, supporting scattered weak thunderstorms this morning, becoming more isolated through the day. Another wave will move across the area late Monday into Tuesday providing the chance for more widespread showers and storms.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 86.9 F at 5:04 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 63.5 F at 6:08 AM**

**High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 2:18 PM**

**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 106° in 2006**

**Record Low: 39° in 1971**

**Average High: 84°F**

**Average Low: 59°F**

**Average Precip in July: 2.94**

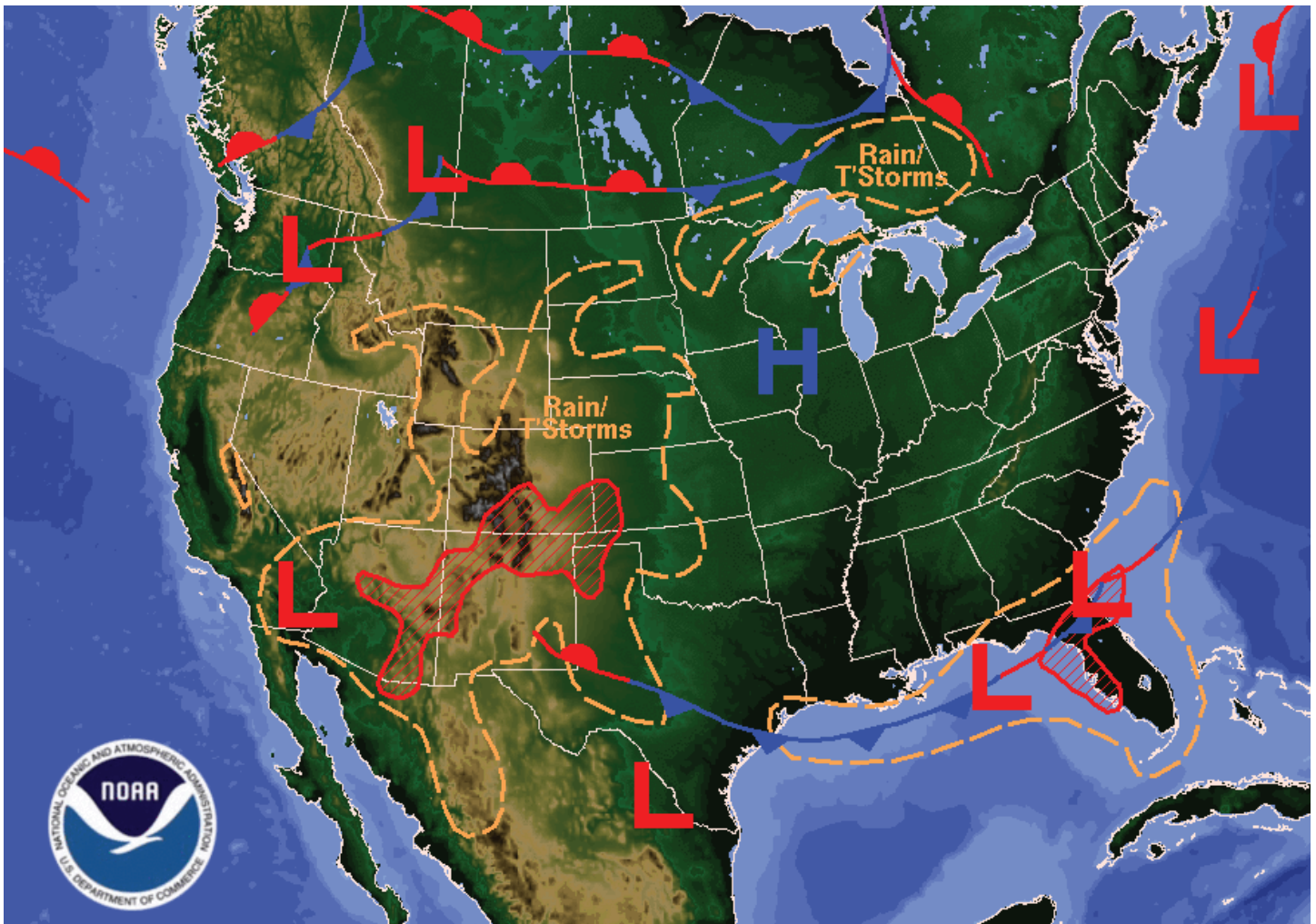
**Precip to date in July: 1.47**

**Average Precip to date: 13.78**

**Precip Year to Date: 7.24**

**Sunset Tonight: 9:03 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:16 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jul 30, 2017, issued 4:31 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Santorelli 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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## WHY TWELVE?

Why did Jesus choose twelve disciples? Was there some significance in that number? Could it have been because there were twelve months in the Jewish calendar, or because they divided their day into twelve hours or because there were twelve tribes of Israel? Not at all.

We find the answer in Mark's gospel: "that they might be with Him!" Jesus wanted His "friends" to be with Him and learn from Him. Psalm 24:14 says, "The Lord is a friend to those who fear Him. He teaches them His covenant" – His plan of salvation.

Someone once said, "A friend is a person who knows you and likes to be with you in spite of your faults." This seems to go beyond "love." Love is "doing" something for someone because as Christians it is our obligation.

It is a gracious thought to know that God wants us to be His "friends." The picture represented in this verse is that of two friends sitting on a couch having a confidential conversation. What a wonderful way to think of our relationship with God: sitting next to Him and quietly talking to Him about eternal life – His covenant with His people – His friends!

How amazing it is to think that we can share every thought with God as a friend. What an opportunity He offers us: to sit with Him as a friend and ask Him to teach us what His covenant is all about: His promises, His presence, His protection, His provisions, His peace – His plan for our salvation.

We can do this – be with Him – by reading His Word and talking with Him in prayer and meditation.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for being our Friend and Teacher and willingly sharing Your salvation with us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 25:14 The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.

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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

13-17-23-27-35

(thirteen, seventeen, twenty-three, twenty-seven, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$393,000

Hot Lotto

05-30-31-36-46, Hot Ball: 4

(five, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-six, forty-six; Hot Ball: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$8.78 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$303 million

Powerball

01-28-40-45-48, Powerball: 12, Power Play: 2

(one, twenty-eight, forty, forty-five, forty-eight; Powerball: twelve; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$239 million

### Man arrested after standoff at Sioux Falls hotel

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a six-hour standoff ended peacefully with a man who barricaded himself inside a hotel with two hostages.

Authorities arrested the 34-year-old Sioux Falls man on Friday night. He is being held on a parole detainer and faces possible charges of intentional damage to property, grand theft and kidnapping.

Police say both hostages were unharmed.

Police say the incident began in the afternoon at the Old Courthouse Museum, where the suspect was damaging displays. The suspect then left, stole a car and drove to the Dakotah Lodge. Police were able to track the man because of a GPS device in the car.

Authorities say the suspect entered a hotel room occupied by a woman and a girl. The man was unarmed when he eventually surrendered to officers.

### Pet food plant proposal for Mitchell rejected due to smell

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — City planners in the southeast region of South Dakota have rejected a proposal by a Minnesota company to build a \$17 million pet food canning operation due to potential odor concerns.

The Daily Republic reports that The Mitchell Planning Commission unanimously rejected a conditional use permit request Monday from Farmers Union Industries to build a 70,000-square-foot pet food canning facility in Mitchell after a company official admitted an odor could be emitted from the proposed Performance Pet Products area near Interstate 90, the Daily Republic reported .

"Well, I personally have no problem with additional industry, it's the location that bothers me," said Commissioner Bernie Schmucker.

Company representatives said the "state-of-the-art" pet food canning would have limited or no odor, as the product is cooked in the can and a modern wastewater treatment approach could limit odors.

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Innovative Systems CEO and Mitchell resident Roger Musick urged the commission to consider what impact the facility could have on the entryway to the city, and hoped the company could find another site in Mitchell for the project.

"I think it's your job to make sure that when my grandchildren look at how Mitchell developed, that it developed in a very good way and things were put in the proper place," Musick said. "And this is just not the proper place."

The Mitchell City Council will have the final say on whether the project moves forward.

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

## Israeli court upholds sentencing of soldier's fatal shooting

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli media are reporting that a military court has upheld the 18-month sentence of a soldier convicted of fatally shooting a Palestinian attacker who lay wounded on the ground.

Media report that the court Sunday found no reason to accept Elor Azaria's appeal and overturn the sentencing handed down after his conviction on a manslaughter charge.

Azaria's trial deeply divided Israel. The verdict marked a victory for military commanders seeking to preserve its vaunted code of ethics, while prominent hard-line politicians called him a hero who was being persecuted.

Azaria, an army medic, was caught on video last year as he fatally shot the wounded Palestinian, just after the man stabbed a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron. The Palestinian was lying wounded on the ground and already unarmed.

## Clinton lost, but Republicans still want to investigate her

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Hillary Clinton lost the 2016 election to President Donald Trump, but some Republicans in Congress are intensifying their calls to investigate her and other Obama administration officials.

As investigations into Russian meddling and possible links to Trump's campaign have escalated on both sides of the Capitol, some Republicans argue that the investigations should have a greater focus on Democrats.

Democrats who have pushed the election probes "have started a war of investigative attrition," said GOP Rep. Steve King of Iowa, a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Several officials from former President Barack Obama's administration and Clinton's campaign have appeared before or been interviewed by the House and Senate Intelligence Committees as part of the Russia investigation, along with Trump campaign officials. The GOP-led committees are investigating whether Trump's campaign had any links to Russian interference in last year's election.

The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., has continued a separate investigation into whether Obama administration officials inappropriately made requests to "unmask" identities of Trump campaign officials in intelligence reports.

The House Judiciary Committee, which has declined to investigate the Russian meddling, approved a resolution this past week to request documents related to the FBI's now-closed investigation of Clinton's emails. In addition, Republican on that committee wrote the Justice Department on Thursday and asked for a second special counsel, in addition to Special Counsel Robert Mueller, to investigate "unaddressed matters, some connected to the 2016 election and others, including many actions taken by Obama administration."

"The American public has a right to know the facts — all of them — surrounding the election and its aftermath," the lawmakers wrote.

Republicans want to investigate the unmasking issue and also Clinton's email scandal that figured prominently in the campaign. They also frequently bring up former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and former



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FBI Director James Comey's testimony that she told him to call the Clinton email investigation a "matter" instead of an investigation during the campaign.

Nunes wrote his own letter to Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats last week, saying that his committee has learned that one Obama administration official had made "hundreds" of the unmasking requests.

Even though he remains committee chairman, Nunes stepped back from the Russia investigation earlier this year after he was criticized for being too close to the White House. Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas, took over the leading role.

The committee has conducted bipartisan interviews of witnesses; Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner appeared on Tuesday, a day after talking to Senate staff. But partisan tensions have been evident.

GOP Rep. Pete King of New York, who's on the House Intelligence Committee, said after the Kushner interview that the committee investigation into Russian meddling is a "sham."

"To me there is nothing to this from the beginning," he said of his committee's own probe. "There is no collusion ... it's the phoniest investigation ever."

Both the Senate and House committees have interviewed or expressed interest in interviewing a series of Democratic witnesses, including Obama's former national security adviser, Susan Rice, and former U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power — both of whom Republicans have said may be linked to the unmasking. Rice met with staff on the Senate Intelligence Committee earlier this month, and Power met with the panel Friday.

"Ambassador Power strongly supports any bipartisan effort to address the serious threat to our national security posed by Russia's interference in our electoral process, and is eager to engage with the Senate and House committees on the timeline they have requested," Power's lawyer, David Pressman, said in a statement.

## **US bombers fly over South Korea after North's 2nd ICBM test**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The United States flew two supersonic bombers over the Korean Peninsula on Sunday in a show of force against North Korea following the country's latest intercontinental ballistic missile test. The U.S. also said it conducted a successful test of a missile defense system located in Alaska.

The B-1 bombers were escorted by South Korean fighter jets as they performed a low-pass over an air base near the South Korean capital of Seoul before returning to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, the U.S. Pacific Air Forces said in a statement.

It said the mission was a response to North Korea's two ICBM tests this month. Analysts say flight data from the North's second test, conducted Friday night, showed that a broader part of the mainland United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

"North Korea remains the most urgent threat to regional stability," said Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander. "Diplomacy remains the lead. However, we have a responsibility to our allies and our nation to showcase our unwavering commitment while planning for the worst-case scenario."

"If called upon, we are ready to respond with rapid, lethal, and overwhelming force at a time and place of our choosing," O'Shaughnessy said.

The United States often sends powerful warplanes in times of heightened tensions with North Korea. B-1 bombers have been sent to South Korea for flyovers several times this year in response to the North's banned missile tests, and also following the death of a U.S. college student last month after he was released by North Korea in a coma.

The Hwasong-14 ICBM, which the North first tested on July 4, is the highlight of several new weapons systems Pyongyang launched this year. They include an intermediate range missile that North Korea says is capable of hitting Alaska and Hawaii, and a solid-fuel midrange missile, which analysts say can be fired faster and more secretly than liquid-fuel missiles.

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency said a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, system located in Kodiak, Alaska, was successfully tested on Saturday night. It said that a medium-range ballistic missile was air-launched over the Pacific, and that the THAAD system detected, tracked and intercepted the target.

## Pakistani parliament to elect new PM on Tuesday

By ZARAR KHAN, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's parliament will meet Tuesday to elect a new prime minister after the disqualification of three-term prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party, which enjoys a comfortable majority in parliament, nominated Sharif's longtime loyalist Shahid Khaqan Abbasi for the top slot on Saturday. Sharif proposed Abbasi as interim prime minister until his brother Shahbaz Sharif, who is the chief minister of Punjab province, can contend in a by-election for the seat left vacant by his brother's disqualification.

The opposition is expected to name a candidate to challenge Abbasi in a vote in parliament, but the six-time lawmaker is expected to win.

Sharif's party holds 188 of 342 seats in parliament's lower house and with additional votes from its allies is expected to obtain 214 votes. To win the top slot, Abbasi needs only 172 votes.

Pakistan's Supreme Court disqualified Sharif from office on Friday for not being honest and concealing assets. The probe against him began after his children were named in the leaked so-called Panama papers for owning off-shore accounts and properties.

Sharif's party has resolved to file a review petition in the Supreme Court to reverse the disqualification.

The probe was triggered by petitions filed by the conservative Jamaat-e-Islami party and cricket player-turned-politician Imran Khan. Khan is celebrating Sharif's ouster Sunday in Islamabad.

The three-term prime minister has a history of rocky relations with Pakistan's powerful military and he has been removed from office three times.

Sharif was first elected as prime minister in 1990 and was hardly half way through his five-year tenure when he was removed from office by the army's hand-picked president in 1993. Sharif made a comeback in the 1997 elections but again his government was toppled by then-army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf in a bloodless coup in October 1999. Sharif was tried for alleged hijacking, convicted and given a life prison sentence but later was exiled to Saudi Arabia. He returned to the country in 2007 after Benazir Bhutto struck a deal with Musharraf and returned from exile. She was assassinated in December 2007 after an election rally in Rawalpindi.

In seven decades, no civilian government has ever completed its term in Pakistan. The country has been ruled by military generals for more than half of its 70-year history and the military unwilling to see its influence challenged.

## Trump threat: End health payments unless there's an overhaul

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday threatened once more to end required payments to insurance companies unless lawmakers repeal and replace the Obama-era health care law.

In apparent frustration over Friday's failure by the Senate Republican majority to pass a bill repealing parts of the Affordable Care Act, Trump tweeted: "If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!"

No Democrats voted for the GOP bill.

Repeal-and-replace has been a guiding star for Republicans ever since President Barack Obama enacted the law in 2010. That goal, which Trump turned into a top campaign promise, remains out of reach even with Republicans controlling both the White House and Congress. The issue has dominated the opening months of Trump's presidency.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said after the bill failed early Friday that he would move to other legislative business in the upcoming week.

Trump also tweeted: "Unless the Republican Senators are total quitters, Repeal & Replace is not dead! Demand another vote before voting on any other bill!"

The subsidies, totaling about \$7 billion a year, help reduce deductibles and copayments for consumers

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with modest incomes.

The Obama administration used its rule-making authority to set direct payments to insurers to help offset these costs. Trump inherited the payment structure, but he also has the power to end them.

The payments are the subject of a lawsuit brought by House Republicans over whether the Affordable Care Act specifically included a congressional appropriation for the money, as required under the Constitution. Trump has only guaranteed the payments through July, which ends Monday.

Trump previously said the law that he and others call "Obamacare" would collapse immediately whenever those payments stop. He has indicated a desire to halt the subsidies but so far has allowed them to continue on a month-to-month basis.

Without the payments, analysts have said, more insurers might drop out of the system, limiting options for consumers and clearing the way for the insurers who stay to charge more for coverage.

The Senate's Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, cautioned such a step, saying it would make health care more expensive.

"If the president refuses to make the cost sharing reduction payments, every expert agrees that premiums will go up and health care will be more expensive for millions of Americans," Schumer said Saturday in a written statement. "The president ought to stop playing politics with people's lives and health care, start leading and finally begin acting presidential."

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

## Venezuela leader: Will use new assembly to go after foes

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Nicolas Maduro pledged Saturday evening to go after his political foes with the virtually unlimited powers of a constitutional assembly being elected Sunday, while Venezuela's opposition made a last-ditch effort to flood streets across the country in defiance of hundreds of thousands of soldiers and police.

In an address on state-run television, Maduro made clear he wants the assembly to strip opposition legislators of their constitutional immunity from prosecution and jail at least one.

"This little Hitler has his cell guaranteed!" Maduro shouted, using his frequent nickname for Freddy Guevara, a hard-line opposition leader and one of the highest-profile organizers of four months of protests against the government.

The opposition is boycotting Sunday's vote, contending the election has been structured to ensure Maduro's ruling socialist party continues to dominate. So all 5,500 candidates for the 545 seats in the constituent assembly are government supporters.

The vote's success will be measured by turnout, with the opposition urging Venezuelans to stay and the government encouraging participation with tactics that include threats to state workers' jobs and social benefits like subsidized food for the poor.

Maduro indicated he is eager to prosecute many more members of the opposition parties that control a handful of state governments along with the National Assembly, providing one of the few remaining checks on the power of the socialist party that has ruled this OPEC nation for nearly two decades.

"The right wing already has its prison cell waiting," the president said. "All the criminals will go to prison for the crimes they've committed."

He added that the constituent assembly's first task in rewriting the constitution will be "a total transformation" of the office of Venezuela's chief prosecutor, a former government loyalist who has become the highest-ranking official to publicly split from the president.

Once one of Latin America's wealthiest and most stable nations, Venezuela has spiraled into a devastating socioeconomic crisis during Maduro's four years in power, thanks to plunging oil prices and widespread corruption and mismanagement. Inflation and homicide rates are among the world's highest and widespread shortages of food and medicine have citizens dying of preventable illnesses and rooting through



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trash to feed themselves.

In April, Maduro's supporters on the Supreme Court tried to strip the National Assembly of its powers, setting off protests and clashes between police and demonstrators that have left at least 113 dead and nearly 2,000 wounded. Although most of the dead have been protesters apparently shot by police and government-linked paramilitaries, Maduro's government blames the opposition for the violence.

The government has arrested opposition mayors and party leaders but until now has refrained from going after higher-profile politicians whose posts grant them immunity from prosecution.

Maduro called on May 1 for the election of an assembly with the powers to rewrite the country's 1999 constitution. That constitution stipulates that other branches of government cannot interfere with a constituent assembly's decisions and Maduro made clear he intends to use the special assembly to govern, describing Sunday's vote as "the election of a power that's above and beyond every other. It's the super power!"

He said the assembly would begin to govern next week.

Washington has imposed successive rounds of sanctions on members of Maduro's administration and Vice President Mike Pence on Friday promised "strong and swift economic actions" after Sunday's vote. He didn't say whether the U.S. would sanction Venezuelan oil imports, a measure with the potential to undermine Maduro but cause an even deeper humanitarian crisis here.

The opposition has organized a series of work stoppages as well as a July 16 protest vote that it said drew more than 7.5 million symbolic votes against the constitutional assembly. It called Saturday for roadblocks to start before dawn Sunday and a mass march on Caracas' main highway.

"A new stage in the democratic struggle starts tomorrow," Julio Borges, the president of the National Assembly, said at a news conference called by Democratic Unity, a coalition of some 20 opposition groups. "This new stage will need more courage ... street protests will get stronger."

Opinion polls say more than 70 percent of the country is opposed to Sunday's vote. But as many as half of all Venezuelans support neither the government nor the opposition — a phenomenon evident in the glum paralysis that has gripped much of the country as protesters and police wage nightly battles.

In the opposition strongholds of relatively wealthy eastern Caracas on Saturday, skinny teenagers manned barricades of tree branches, garbage and barbed wire torn from nearby buildings. In the western state of Tachira, people posted videos online showing residents burning ballots and other voting materials in a large bonfire while chanting the national anthem.

Twitter users who claimed to be eyewitnesses said locals intercepted a truck belonging to "Plan Republica," the military operation in charge of delivering materials to voting centers. In another video, people could be seen dragging plastic boxes, opening them and throwing the contents onto the street.

State authorities said 21 voting centers had been attacked and eight voting machines destroyed. The report could not be independently confirmed Saturday.

Much of the rest of the country was calm, however, and many Venezuelans said that while they wanted Maduro out of power, they didn't want to risk their lives or livelihoods taking on the government.

"People who work for the government will vote because they're forcing them to," said Jasson Chino, a 25-year-old food vendor. He said he wouldn't be protesting because he didn't think it would help, but that he expected bad days ahead regardless.

"I think everything's going to get worse because our problems will keep getting bigger," he said. "Our problems will keep getting worse."

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Associated Press writer Fabiola Sanchez contributed to this report.

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Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

## Tourists evacuate N Carolina island; local businesses hurt

By SEANNA ADCOX, Associated Press

A "steady stream" of tourists left a North Carolina island Saturday under evacuation orders prompted by a widespread power outage, wiping out a significant chunk of the lucrative summer months for local businesses.

It could take days or weeks to repair an underground transmission line damaged early Thursday by construction crews working on a new bridge between islands. The construction company drove a steel casing into an underground transmission line, causing blackouts on Ocracoke and Hatteras islands.

Cars lined up Friday to get on ferries, the only way off Ocracoke Island, after about 10,000 tourists were ordered Thursday evening to evacuate. A second order for visitors to Hatteras Island, south of Oregon Inlet, meant up to 60,000 additional people had to evacuate starting Saturday, primarily north over the inlet bridge.

As of 2 p.m. Saturday, North Carolina ferries had evacuated about 3,800 people and 1,500 cars from both islands, according to Gov. Roy Cooper's office.

Cooper said he called local officials to pledge state help.

"We'll do all we can to get repairs moving," he said in a release.

Excavation at the site revealed Saturday that one of three underground transmission cables that supply the islands' power is missing a 2-foot section. A timetable for repairs won't be known until crews determine whether either of the other cables, still buried as of Saturday afternoon, was damaged, according to Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative.

Dare County spokeswoman Dorothy Hester had no estimate for how many people still needed to leave Hatteras Island.

"We realize people are disappointed. They brought a lot of stuff here. They're packing up and moving out," she said. "While disappointed, they're going to make their way home."

Roughly 80 percent of the islands' tourism stems from vacation rentals, and the order coincides with the customary Saturday turnover for weekly home rentals, so those people would be leaving anyway. The big question is when visitors can get to homes already rented for upcoming weeks in the height of tourism season, said Lee Nettles, director of the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau.

While villages north of the bridge may benefit from some displaced tourists, others "got the message and are staying home," he said.

The order barring inbound tourists did not apply to Hatteras Island's roughly 6,000 year-round residents or to other property owners.

"Residents are fine. We all know how to pull together," said Angela Conner Tawes, manager of Conner's Supermarket, a third-generation grocery store in Buxton, which delivered about 90 barbecue sandwiches to utility workers for lunch. "But financially for us, losing time in August is a big deal. This is when we make our money for the year. We're just holding our breath and waiting."

As of Saturday afternoon, tourists were still shopping at the store, which has kept regular hours thanks to its two large generators. One unknown is whether the store will get its Tuesday scheduled delivery, Tawes said.

"Until we know something, we're trying not to fret too much," she said.

The island's regular summer fish fry went on Saturday evening since organizers ordered the fish before the evacuation call was made Friday. Now they're just hoping to recoup their costs. They had foregone the normal plate fees, feeding whoever showed up with whatever they want to pay, if anything.

"It's better for it to be eaten than go to waste," said Mary Ellon Ballance, president of the Ladies' Auxiliary of Hatteras Village Volunteer Fire Department, one of four groups that hold the weekly fundraiser. "This is like a dry hurricane for us — the aftermath of a hurricane without the destruction."

Balance said Saturday that they had a great turnout for the event.

The utility is supplying temporary power to residents, businesses and emergency services with diesel and portable generators.

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But conservation measures were still mandatory, which include barring the running of air conditioners and hot tubs, Hester said.

Business owners were upset that the disaster was caused by human error, not Mother Nature.

"It's a hard pill to swallow that someone forgot where the power cable was," said Jason Wells, owner of Jason's Restaurant on Ocracoke Island. "How do you forget where the power cable is?"

Wells said his restaurant, closed by the outage, is missing out on at least \$5,000 a day in sales. He said many seasonal businesses close for one-third of the year, making the summer months essential to their bottom lines. His 25 workers typically make between \$75 and \$250 a day.

"So when you take this hit in July and factor in that you're only open eight months out of the year, it's big," he said. "It's a lot more than people even realize."

He estimated that total losses for shops, hotels and restaurants on the island could easily top \$100,000 per day.

## Swimming Triple Crown: Dressel wins record 3 golds at worlds

By PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Caeleb Dressel knows the comparisons are coming.

After pulling off an unprecedented Triple Crown at swimming's world championships, it's time to take on the legacy of Michael Phelps.

The 20-year-old Dressel established himself as America's newest star of the pool Saturday, becoming the first swimmer to win three gold medals on a single night at either the worlds or the Olympics.

Not even Phelps managed such an audacious feat.

"The comparisons are probably inevitable," Dressel said. "But I'm not the same person as Michael."

Yet it was downright Phelps-like the way he pulled off a remarkable night of swimming at Duna Arena. Dressel raced three times over the course of about two hours — and won every time. Not to mention, he had to find time to warm down and get to three medal ceremonies.

"I think I only had to run twice," Dressel said with a smile.

The University of Florida student — yep, he's got an algebra exam coming up Monday that he'll be taking online — has won six golds medals in Budapest.

That gives him a shot at moving into more rarified territory: Phelps is the only swimmer to win seven golds at a world championships, which he did at Melbourne in 2007 as a prelude to his record eight golds the following year at the Beijing Olympics.

Dressel will be a virtual lock to win his seventh when he competes on the 4x100 medley relay Sunday, the final event of the championships.

Again, those comparisons to Phelps.

"It's a tough question," Dressel said. "I don't know if I welcome them. But I know they're going to come. I don't think it puts any pressure on me. I just want to keep doing my thing at this meet and for the future."

Phelps was certainly impressed.

He texted his congratulations shortly after Dressel led off a world-record performance in the 4x100-meter mixed freestyle relay, capping a night that also included victories in the 50 free and the 100 butterfly.

"This kid is on fire!!!" Phelps wrote on Instagram, including a picture of him celebrating with Dressel during a gold medal-winning relay they were both on last summer at the Rio Olympics. "So damn fun to watch buddy!!!!"

Dressel started the night with a furious dash from one end of the pool to the other, adding the 50 free world title to the 100 free he already had. He came back about a half-hour later to nearly break Phelps' world record in the 100 fly, posting a time of 49.86 that was just four-hundredths off the mark set in 2009 at the rubber suit-aided championships in Rome.

The final relay was merely a coronation, the Americans romping to gold in 3 minutes, 19.60 seconds — eclipsing by nearly 3 1/2 seconds the mark they set two years ago at worlds.

"Man, that was a lot of fun," Dressel said.



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He even managed to overshadow Katie Ledecky, who won her fifth gold medal of the meet by cruising to victory in the 800 free. Yet Budapest will be remembered as bit of a disappointment for the star of the 2016 Summer Games, who settled for silver in the 200 free and didn't come close to breaking any of her personal bests.

Ledecky won in 8:12.68, which was nearly 8 seconds off her world record at Rio de Janeiro.

"I've never walked away from a season completely satisfied, even last year," she said. "I can really take what I've learned and use it moving forward. It gets me really excited. If that was my bad year for the next four years, then the next couple years are going to be pretty exciting."

Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom was another standout, bouncing back from a disappointing loss the previous night to win gold in the 50 fly and set a world record in the semifinals of 50 free. Her time of 23.67 broke the mark of 23.73, set in 2009 by Britta Steffen.

In the women's 200 backstroke, Emily Seebohm of Australia shrugged off the roaring Hungarian crowd to take gold over home-country favorite Katinka Hosszu.

Sjostrom set her second world record of the meet, having already established a new standard in the 100 free while swimming the leadoff leg of the 4x100 free relay.

But even the Swedish star took note of Dressel's performance.

"I don't even know if he went to the Olympics last year," she said. "He took a really big step this year as we can see. It's really impressive, really cool to see."

Indeed, Dressel has emerged as the breakout performer of these championships, with a bit of help from the relatively new mixed relays. Two of his golds came in events that feature men and women on the same team, races Phelps never competed in at worlds.

"It's crazy," Dressel said. "But I had mixed relays helping me out, so it's a bit different."

Yet no less impressive.

Dressel led off the mixed free relay with a blistering time of 47.22 for the first 100 — even more remarkable given what he'd already been through — and his three teammates — Nathan Adrian, Mallory Comerford and Simone Manuel — took it from there.

"That last relay was a lot of fun," Dressel said. "I wanted to lead it off even though it meant less to get ready for it. It was such a blast."

The whole night was.

"I haven't had much time to think," Dressel said, pondering the significance of it all. "As physically demanding as it is, mentally it's even more straining. So I have 24 hours until my next swim. I'll give myself 30 minutes tonight to, I guess, let it sink in a bit, then it's time to refocus for that relay tomorrow."

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Follow Paul Newberry on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963](http://www.twitter.com/pnewberry1963) . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/paul%20newberry>

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For more AP swimming coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/Swimming>

## Gold lunar module stolen from Neil Armstrong museum in Ohio

WAPAKONETA, Ohio (AP) — Ohio police say a rare gold replica of the lunar space module has been stolen from the Armstrong Air and Space Museum.

Police in Wapakoneta (wah-puh-kuh-NEHT'-uh) responded to a museum alarm late Friday night and discovered the 5-inch (12.7-centimeter) high, solid-gold replica had been stolen.

Replicas of the lunar excursion module produced by Cartier were presented to Neil Armstrong and his two fellow astronauts, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, in Paris shortly after their historic space mission. Armstrong, a Wapakoneta native, became the first person to step onto the moon's surface in 1969.

Police say the value of the replica cannot be determined.

The FBI and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation are assisting Wapakoneta police in investigating

the theft.

Armstrong died in 2012 at the age of 82.

## **Icebreaker sets mark for earliest Northwest Passage transit**

**By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press**

NUUK, Greenland (AP) — After 24 days at sea and a journey spanning more than 10,000 kilometers (6,214 miles), the Finnish icebreaker MSV Nordica has set a new record for the earliest transit of the fabled Northwest Passage.

The once-forbidding route through the Arctic, linking the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, has been opening up sooner and for a longer period each summer due to climate change. Sea ice that foiled famous explorers and blocked the passage to all but the hardiest ships has slowly been melting away in one of the most visible effects of man-made global warming.

Records kept by Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans show that the previous earliest passage of the season happened in 2008, when the Canadian Coast Guard ship Louis L. St-Laurent left St. John's in Newfoundland on July 5 and arrived in the Beaufort Sea off Point Barrow on July 30.

The Nordica, with a team of researchers and Associated Press journalists on board, completed a longer transit in less time — albeit in the opposite direction — setting off from Vancouver on July 5 and reaching Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, on July 29.

While the icebreaker encountered Chinese cargo vessels, Alaskan fishing boats and a German cruise ship in the Pacific, upon entering the Canadian Archipelago, the Nordica traveled alone. Radar indicated the presence of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Sherman near Point Barrow; along the coast an occasional collection of houses revealed evidence of human settlement in the far north.

For the most part, the ship's only companions were Arctic sea birds, seals and the occasional whale, until two-thirds of the way through the voyage, as Nordica was plowing through sea ice in Victoria Strait, a crew member sighted a polar bear.

These animals have come to symbolize the threat posed to Arctic wildlife by climate change because the sea ice they depend on for hunting is disappearing a bit more each year. Scientists predict the Northwest Passage will be largely ice free in the summer by 2050 if current levels of warming continue.

For now, the passage remains a challenge for conventional ships and efforts are being made to prevent frozen waterways that the local Inuit population depends on for travel from being opened up. Yet tourism and other forms of economic development are already under way.

As Nordica sailed through Baffin Bay, the far corner of the North Atlantic that separates Canada and Greenland, it passed cargo ships lining up in the distance. They were preparing to pick up iron ore from a mine on Baffin Island that's expected to operate for decades to come.

On July 26, 1845, an expedition to find the Northwest Passage led by British explorer John Franklin was last sighted off Baffin Island. The expedition never made it. Trapped by sea ice, Franklin and his men perished from cold, illness and starvation. Their two ships were found in 2014 and 2016, not far from where Nordica sighted its first polar bear.

Follow the team of AP journalists who traveled through the Arctic Circle's fabled Northwest Passage. You can find their posts here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/NewArctic>

## **Iran says US Navy fires warning shots near its vessels**

**BY NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard said Saturday a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier fired a warning shot in an "unprofessional" confrontation with Iranian vessels, the official IRNA news agency reported.

IRNA quoted a statement from the Guard as saying that the USS Nimitz and an accompanying ship came near an Iranian oil offshore platform in the Persian Gulf and a helicopter from the ship hovered near ves-

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sels manned by Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard.

The report said the confrontation took place Friday afternoon and the U.S. navy ships left the area following the encounter.

The U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said the incident happened while one of its helicopters was on a routine patrol in international airspace. The aircraft saw several Guard vessels approaching American ships "at a high rate of speed" and sent out flares after receiving no response when it tried to establish communications, the Navy said. That prompted the Iranian boats to halt their approach.

After communications were established, the U.S. saw the Iranians conduct a "gun exercise." That routine exercise involved them firing weapons into the water away from American ships, said Navy spokesman Lt. Ian M. McConnaughey.

The Navy described the encounter "as safe and professional."

The incident comes after a U.S. Navy patrol boat fired warning shots Tuesday near an Iranian vessel that American sailors said came dangerously close to them during a tense encounter.

Iran and the U.S. frequently have run-ins in the Persian Gulf, nearly all involving the Revolutionary Guard, a separate force from Iran's military that answers only to the country's supreme leader. In January, near the end of then-President Barack Obama's term, the USS Mahan fired shots toward Iranian fast-attack boats as they neared the destroyer in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian forces view the American presence in the Gulf as a provocation. They have accused the U.S. Navy of unprofessional behavior, especially in the Strait of Hormuz, the mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a third of all oil trade passes by sea.

Also Saturday, Iran's parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy held an urgent meeting with deputy foreign minister and senior Iranian negotiator Abbas Araghchi in which they reviewed measures that the country may apply in response to a package of sanctions the U.S. Senate approved Friday against Iran and sent to President Donald Trump for signing.

Araghchi told state TV Saturday that the decision is a "hostile" breach of the deal.

"It is a breach of the deal in articles 26, 28 and 29," said Araghchi. "A strong answer will be given to the action by the U.S."

The articles say the U.S. Administration, acting consistently with the respective roles of the President and Congress, will refrain from re-imposing the sanctions or any policy specifically intended to directly and adversely affect the normalization of trade and economic relations with Iran.

The U.S. legislation imposes mandatory penalties on people involved in Iran's ballistic missile program and anyone who does business with them. The measure would also apply terrorism sanctions to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard and enforce an arms embargo. Democrats said the new sanctions would not conflict with the landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers.

On Friday, the United States, France, Germany and Britain, who brokered the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran along with China, Russia and the European Union, said they're raising concerns with the United Nations over Iran's Thursday launch of a satellite-carrying rocket into space.

In a joint statement, they said that Iran's launch was "inconsistent" with a U.N. Security Council resolution that enshrined the nuclear deal.

On Saturday Iran's foreign ministry said the missile program is part of "domestic policy of the country, deterrent and at service of regional peace and security."

Tehran and Washington have had no diplomatic relations since 1979 when Iranian militant students stormed the U.S. embassy and took 52 American hostages for 444 days.

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Associated Press writer Adam Schreck in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.



## Pakistan names Abbasi interim prime minister

By **MUNIR AHMED** and **ZARAR KHAN**, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's ruling party named senior lawmaker Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as successor to the deposed prime minister on Saturday, a day after the Supreme Court removed Nawaz Sharif from office for concealing assets.

Sharif proposed Abbasi as interim prime minister at the meeting of Pakistan Muslim League party in Islamabad. His request was endorsed by lawmakers from his party.

Because Sharif's party enjoys a comfortable majority in the parliament, his longtime loyalist Abbasi is expected to easily win the required vote when National Assembly meets next week.

In a televised speech Saturday, Sharif said that his younger brother, Shahbaz, who currently is chief minister in Punjab province, would contest election to the National Assembly, in the seat which fell vacant with his removal.

In an emotional appeal, Sharif sought support for Shahbaz as a future full-time premier. Sharif said he tried his best to put Pakistan on the path of progress but was unfairly penalized with his disqualification.

"I was not expecting what happened to me yesterday," he said.

Sharif said he was removed by the Supreme Court on "baseless allegations."

He said the opposition had campaigned against him in recent years, accusing him and his family of indulging in alleged corruption. "My hands are clean and none of my family members misused government funds," he said.

It was his first public response to Friday's court ruling.

Sharif said he felt saddened by his removal as he believed he had worked sincerely for the nation like "a soldier." He said history would now decide whether the court's decision was good for Pakistan.

Sharif defended his record, saying he always paid his taxes.

Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz in a tweet said her father would "return with greater force," and asked her party to "stay strong"

Also Saturday, Abbasi vowed to "continue the mission" of Sharif. He said he was grateful to Sharif for naming him premier, even though it will only be for a brief period.

Saturday's developments came amid a serious political crisis that gripped Pakistan because of Sharif's removal, with lawmakers and legal experts wondering who was running the government.

Earlier, Raja Zafarul Haq, a senior leader from Sharif's party, said Pakistan would continue without a prime minister until the National Assembly elects a new one. "We are without a prime minister even now," he told The Associated Press.

Haq said that although the court in Friday's ruling asked figurehead President Mamnoon Hussain to "ensure continuation of the democratic process," the reality was that the country was still facing a political crisis.

He said there was no provision in the constitution about the appointment of an acting prime minister. He said Sharif might have stayed in power until the appointment of a new prime minister if judges had not sacked him effective immediately.

Sharif resigned Friday, saying he had reservations about the court ruling.

Sharif has been banned from participating in politics for not being "truthful and honest." His party's leaders have noted, however, that their party still enjoys a majority and will stay in power until general elections are held in June 2018.

Earlier, hundreds of supporters of Sharif rallied in Islamabad against his disqualification. The demonstrators marched on a key road, chanting slogans before peacefully dispersing.

Opposition leader Imran Khan asked his supporters to travel to Islamabad Sunday to celebrate Sharif's removal.

The 67-year-old Sharif, who has served three separate stints as prime minister, has a history of rocky relations with Pakistan's powerful military.

He was first dismissed from power by the army's hand-picked president in 1993 about midway through his five-year term. In 1999, military dictator Gen. Pervez Musharraf overthrew Sharif in a bloodless coup

and exiled him to Saudi Arabia.

The military has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70-year history and has been unwilling to see its influence challenged.

## Judge blocks Arkansas from enforcing 4 abortion restrictions

By ANDREW DeMILLO, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A federal judge has blocked Arkansas from enforcing four new abortion restrictions, including a ban on a common second trimester procedure and a fetal remains law that opponents say would effectively require a partner's consent before a woman could get an abortion.

U.S. District Court Judge Kristine Baker issued a preliminary injunction late Friday night against the new restrictions, three of which were set to take effect Tuesday. The American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Reproductive Rights had challenged the measures, suing on behalf of Dr. Frederick Hopkins, a Little Rock abortion provider.

The laws include a ban on a procedure known as dilation and evacuation. Abortion rights supporters say it is the safest and most common procedure used in second-trimester abortions, but the state calls it barbaric and "dismemberment abortion," saying it can have emotional consequences for the women who undergo it. Similar bans are in effect in Mississippi and West Virginia and have been blocked by court rulings in Alabama, Kansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. A ban approved in Texas will take effect in September and is also being challenged in court. The groups said the ban would have a devastating impact.

"The threatened harm to Dr. Hopkins and the fraction of women for whom the mandate is relevant clearly outweighs whatever damage or harm a proposed injunction may cause the State of Arkansas," Baker wrote in her ruling.

The groups praised Baker's ruling, saying the laws would have effectively banned abortion for many women.

"Arkansas women can feel a little relief today, knowing that these laws are blocked from taking effect," Rita Sklar, executive director of the ACLU of Arkansas, said in a statement. "Instead of protecting women's health, Arkansas politicians have passed laws that defy decency and reason just to make it difficult or impossible for a woman to get an abortion."

Judd Deere, a spokesman for Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, said in a text message that Rutledge disagrees with the ruling and plans to appeal.

Baker's ruling also halts a law that would impose new restrictions on the disposal of fetal tissue from abortions. The plaintiffs argued that it could also block access by requiring notification of a third party, such as the woman's sexual partner or her parents, to determine what happens to the fetal remains. The state has said the law doesn't require permission or notice from those third parties before an abortion and includes several provisions that ensure notice or consent isn't required to dispose of the fetal remains.

Baker said there was no evidence contradicting the groups' claims about the impact of complying with the tissue disposal requirements.

"The law mandates disclosure to a woman's partner or spouse, even if that person is no longer in her life or is a perpetrator of sexual assault," Baker wrote. "For minor women, it bypasses the state's constitutionally mandated judicial bypass process, through which a minor can choose not to involve her parent in her abortion decision and instead obtain judicial authorization."

Baker also blocked part of a law set to take effect in January that would ban abortions based solely on the fetus' sex. The groups challenged the law's requirement that a doctor performing the abortion first request records related to the entire pregnancy history of the woman.

"It will cause women to forgo abortion in Arkansas rather than risk disclosure to medical providers who they know oppose abortion or who are family friends or neighbors," Baker wrote.

The judge also blocked a law that would expand a requirement that physicians performing abortions for patients under 14 take certain steps to preserve embryonic or fetal tissue and notify police where the minor resides. The new measure, which was also set to take effect Tuesday, would have raised the age

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requirement to less than 17 years of age.

The ruling came hours after a federal appeals court panel cleared the way for Arkansas to enforce a law that will limit how the abortion pill can be administered. The panel lifted Baker's order blocking the 2015 law requiring doctors who provide such pills to maintain a contract with another physician who has admitting privileges at a hospital and who agrees to handle any complications. The state can't enforce the abortion pill restrictions until the appeals panel's ruling takes effect in about two or three weeks.

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## North Carolina town 'forgotten' as residents, jobs fall away

By CHRISTINA SANDIDGE, Associated Press

LEWISTON-WOODVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Tucked away in northeastern North Carolina is Bertie County — a rural, primarily black community in one of the state's poorest areas with many of its fastest-shrinking towns.

There are plenty of pothole-marked roads, mobile homes, and overgrown lots of weeds and shrubs scattered among fields of tobacco, cotton and sage. But there aren't many stores, banks or other businesses.

"This part of the state is forgotten," said Larry Drew, mayor of Aulander, a town that has seen its population drop by over 9 percent, from 895 people in 2010 to 813 in 2016. And last year, it lost its largest employer — a peanut factory.

Aulander isn't alone. Bertie County is home to seven of North Carolina's top 10 towns with the biggest percentage decline in residents from 2015 to 2016, according to data from the UNC Carolina Population Center.

And further population decrease is expected as more people are dying there than are being born, and more people are moving away, the center said.

The South's large cities, those with at least 50,000 people, grew by 1.3 percent from 2015 to 2016, figures from the U.S. Census Bureau showed. Towns with populations under 5,000 grew only 0.2 percent, and a lot of that growth came in neighborhoods on the edges of bigger metropolitan areas, experts said.

For small, rural towns it's a story repeated throughout the nation: Young adults tend to leave and relocate to areas that offer better employment and educational opportunities.

They tend to raise their families where they move, so there are fewer children in these places. In Bertie County, 19 percent of its population is 65 years or older, compared with 16 percent statewide.

In Bertie County, industries that once thrived — several lumber mills and a herring packing plant in Colerain, for example — are now shuttered. With an economy that relies heavily on agriculture, there are limited good-paying jobs for residents, about a third of who officials estimate live below the poverty line. The county's largest employers include a Perdue chicken processing plant, which has about 2,000 workers, and a nearby state prison.

And as more people leave, tax revenue drops, making it difficult for small towns to provide services, said Rebecca Tippett of the Carolina Population Center.

Lewiston-Woodville, population 494, has seen a 10 percent drop of 55 people in six years, the steepest in North Carolina. The western town has had trouble staffing emergency services positions, officials said. One of its commissioners, James Pugh, serves as a volunteer firefighter, and just recently, the town swore in its only police officer after going without one for some time.

A lack of decent cellphone reception and internet service can deter businesses from moving to these areas, said Ken Johnson, a demographer at the Carsey School of Public Policy and professor at the University of New Hampshire.

"Twenty years ago, the question might have been 'are roads good enough?' Now, the first questions potential employers are asking are 'what's the internet service like?'" Johnson said.

Not all small towns are struggling. Those on the outskirts of metro areas have done reasonably well thanks to their proximity to larger cities that allows people to be closer to their jobs, shopping, hospitals

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and recreation, Johnson said.

Despite its challenges, Bertie County officials said they're committed to revitalization and have purchased a waterfront property, which it plans to use as a beach and recreational area. Its community center, The Hive House — with school programming, a technology and education center with Wi-Fi, and a food pantry — is being renovated. There's a fairly new high school equipped with the latest technology, and plans for a new interstate between Norfolk and Raleigh have officials predicting an economic boost.

Regardless of data projections, experts say there will always be a place for small towns because they offer something most larger areas don't: a sense of community.

"Everyone knows everyone and will come to someone's help if needed," Johnson said.

Leslie Briley, 24, who grew up in Roxobel, a town of 220 people in northwestern Bertie County, returned after graduating college in Wilson to help care for her aging grandfather and now works at a growing family-owned peanut business.

"I've known people in the past who have worked here. And it's just a small, little place, but I saw the potential and the growth — and I was happy to be a part of it," said Briley who is helping her grandfather with the company.

While she's hopeful about the town's future, Briley — who plans to stick around and is considering buying a house nearby — said young people need more things to do if they're going to stay.

"Right now you kind of just pass through Roxobel," Briley said. There's not much, but if we can have events, new stores ... make it an interesting place to be.

"I love small towns," she said of why she'll stay. "I like the small community and helping be part of things."

## Iran says Telegram transfers servers, but CEO denies it

AMIR VAHDAT

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's communications and information technology minister was quoted Sunday as saying the widely used Telegram messenger service has transferred some of its servers into the country, but the encrypted application's founder swiftly denied the claim.

The report from Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency quoted Mahmoud Vaezi as saying: "As a result of meetings with Telegram managers, some of its servers have been moved to the country."

But Telegram CEO Pavel Durov said that's not so, reiterating the company's previous position in a Twitter message to AP on Sunday..

"No Telegram servers will be moved to Iran," he wrote, while providing a link to an earlier post.

Vaezi said Telegram planned to use third-party caching nodes, called CDNs, in Iran in the near future.

But Durov said CDNs, which internet-based services like Telegram use to make data available faster, "have nothing to do with relocating Telegram servers or complying with unreasonable local laws." Those nodes are not able to decipher encrypted messages sent by Telegram, he said.

Telegram allows users to send text messages, pictures and video over the internet. The service touts itself as being highly encrypted and allows users to set their messages to "self-destruct" after a certain period, making it a favorite among activists and others concerned about their privacy.

Iran has informed foreign-based social networks that they must move their servers into the country if they want to continue operations in the country.

Iran blocks social media websites like Facebook and Twitter and censors other websites. While top officials have unfettered access to social media, Iran's youth and tech-savvy citizens use proxy servers or other workarounds to bypass the controls.

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Associated Press writer Adam Schreck in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.



## Companies say Apple removed their privacy apps from China

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — China appears to have succeeded in eliminating software programs that enable its people to view an uncensored internet.

Companies that let people avoid the government filters said Saturday that their programs have been removed from Apple's app store in China.

ExpressVPN, one of the companies, posted on its corporate site a message from Apple saying that its program was illegal in China. The British Virgin Islands-based software company says that all major virtual-private network apps were removed from the Apple app store in China. ExpressVPN claimed Apple was "aiding China's censorship effort."

Star VPN, another company, said it also received notice of being removed.

Apple said in a statement that China began requiring this year that developers of virtual-private networks have a government license. The California-based tech giant said it had removed apps "in China that do not meet the new regulations."

## Russian man wanted by US alleged to be prolific spam master

By RAPHAEL SATTER and HOWARD AMOS, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — From the early days of online stock scams to the increasingly sophisticated world of botnets, pseudonymous hacker Peter Severa spent nearly two decades at the forefront of Russian cybercrime.

Now that a man alleged to be the pioneering spam lord, Pytor Levashov, is in Spanish custody awaiting extradition to the U.S., friends and foes alike are describing the 36-year-old as an ambitious operator who helped make the internet underground what it is today.

"Levashov is a pioneer who started his career when cybercrime as we know it today did not even exist," said Tillmann Werner, the head of technical analysis at U.S. cybersecurity company CrowdStrike.

"He has significantly contributed to the professionalization of cybercrime," said Werner, who has tracked the alleged hacker for years. "There are only very few known criminals that had a similar level of influence and reputation."

Born in 1980, Levashov studied at High School No. 30, one of the first schools in the Soviet Union to specialize in computer programming. Even at a competitive institution whose alumni went on to universities and Silicon Valley firms, Levashov stood out.

"He did have an entrepreneurial streak for sure," former classmate Artem Gavrilov said. "He was a leader in school, tried to prove to everyone that he was the best."

Levashov graduated in 1997, according to an entry published to an alumni website, listing his profession as "websmith" and "programmer." Within a couple of years he had gravitated toward the burgeoning field of email spam, according to an ad attributed to him in U.S. court documents.

With much of the world still just discovering the internet and few restrictions on the mass distribution of email, spammers more or less operated openly, blasting inboxes with pitches for Viagra knock-offs, online gambling and pornography in return for a flat fee or a cut of the proceeds.

Internet registry records preserved by DomainTools suggest Levashov launched a bulk mailing website called e-mailpromo.com in August 2002 under his real name. Early marketing material for the site boasts of "Bullet Proof Web Hosting," a term used to describe providers that shrug off law enforcement requests.

The service would come in handy as the spam business became increasingly criminalized. With laws tightening and digital blacklists getting better, spammers resorted to hacking to get their mail across, using malicious software to turn strangers' personal computers into "proxies" — a euphemism for remote-controlled conduits for junk mail. Hackers herded the proxies into vast botnets, armies of compromised machines that silently churned out spam day and night.

Court documents suggest that Levashov teamed up in 2005 with Alan Ralsky, a legendary bulk email baron once dubbed the "King of Spam." More than a decade later, Ralsky still raved about the hacker's skills.

"No doubt he was the best there ever was," Ralsky said in a telephone interview.

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It was with Ralsky that Levashov is alleged to have plunged into the world of the “pump-and-dump,” a scheme that worked by sending millions of emails talking up the value of thinly traded securities before selling them at a profit and leaving gullible investors to soak up the loss.

Ralsky, Levashov and several associates were indicted for fraud in 2007; Ralsky went to prison while Levashov — safe in Russia — avoided arrest.

By that point, Levashov was cybercrime nobility in his own right. He promoted the idea of teaming hackers up with Russian authorities, spearheading efforts to knock out anti-government websites, according to Andrei Soldatov, an expert on Russia’s intelligence services.

At the same time, he was allegedly running a forum for spammers as well as the massive Storm botnet, whose sophistication drew global attention.

“There were spam botnets, certainly, before Storm, but it took things to a next level,” Joe Stewart, a security researcher with cyberdefense startup Cymmetria who grappled with Storm at its height, said.

Clever use of peer-to-peer technology and a fast-shifting digital infrastructure meant Storm could be regenerated quickly if part of its network was blocked. Respected security expert Bruce Schneier marveled at its engineering, writing in 2007 that Storm was “the future of malware.”

Storm didn’t go on forever, but two successor botnets — Waledec and Kelihos — have since been tied to Levashov. Indictments unsealed this year accuse the Russian of renting out Kelihos at \$500 per million emails to send spam or to seed computers with ransom software or money-draining banking programs.

One of the indictments, which cited a January ad posted to a Russian cybercrime forum, appeared to catch Levashov boasting of his distinguished record.

“I have been serving you since the distant year 1999,” the ad said. “During these years there has not been a single day that I keep still.”

That’s likely to change. Levashov’s Spanish lawyer, Margarita Repina, recently told The Associated Press that her client’s extradition to the United States was all but certain.

Levashov’s wife, Maria, was more hopeful. She has forcefully proclaimed her husband’s innocence, saying he was more of a businessman than a programmer and that whenever she caught him at the computer he was playing video games.

“I believe it will be found that this is all a mistake,” she said.

Then again, in response to a question about Levashov’s links to the Russian government, she said: “I’m not a wife who knows everything about her husband.”

\_\_\_ Satter reported from Paris. Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow and Diego Torres in Madrid contributed to this report.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 30, the 211th day of 2017. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women’s auxiliary agency in the Navy known as “Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service” — WAVES for short.

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1792, the French national anthem “La Marseillaise” (lah mar-seh-YEHZ’), by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, was first sung in Paris by troops arriving from Marseille.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowder-laden mine shaft beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1918, poet Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the 165th U.S. Infantry Regiment, was killed during the Second Battle of the Marne in World War I. (Kilmer is remembered for his poem “Trees.”)

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In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 1997, two men bombed Jerusalem's most crowded outdoor market, killing themselves and 16 others. Eighteen people were killed in a landslide that swept one ski lodge onto another at the Thredbo Alpine Village in southeast Australia.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, meeting at Camp David, forged a unified stand on Iraq, aiming to head off talk of a splintering partnership in the face of an unpopular war. Chief Justice John Roberts was taken to a hospital after a seizure caused him to fall on a dock near his summer home in Maine. A second South Korean hostage was slain by the Taliban in central Afghanistan. Death claimed Swedish movie director Ingmar Bergman at age 89; Italian filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni at age 94; and Hall of Fame football coach Bill Walsh at age 75.

Five years ago: Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney, on a visit to Israel, outraged Palestinians by telling Jewish donors that their culture was part of the reason Israel was more economically successful than the Palestinians. At the London Olympics, American teenager Missy Franklin won the women's 100-meter backstroke before Matt Grevers led a 1-2 finish for the U.S. in the men's race. The Chinese won their second straight Olympic title in men's gymnastics and third in four games after a dismal performance in qualifying.

One year ago: Sixteen people died when a hot air balloon caught fire and exploded after hitting high-tension power lines before crashing into a pasture near Lockhart, about 60 miles northeast of San Antonio. A gunman opened fire at a house party near Seattle, killing three 19-year-olds; a suspect pleaded guilty to aggravated first-degree murder and attempted murder and was sentenced to life without parole. Luke Aikins, a 42-year-old skydiver with more than 18,000 jumps, made history when he became the first person to make a planned leap without a parachute or wingsuit, landing in a net at the Big Sky movie ranch on the outskirts of Simi Valley, California. Actress-singer Gloria DeHaven, 91, died in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Edd (correct) "Kookie" Byrnes is 84. Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 83. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 81. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 78. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 78. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 77. Singer Paul Anka is 76. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 72. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 70. Actor William Atherton is 70. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 69. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 69. Actor Frank Stallone is 67. Actor Ken Olin is 63. Actress Delta Burke is 61. Law professor Anita Hill is 61. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 59. Country singer Neal McCoy is 59. Actor Richard Burgi is 59. Movie director Richard Linklater is 57. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 56. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 54. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 54. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 54. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 53. Actor Terry Crews is 49. Actor Simon Baker is 48. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 48. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 47. Actor Tom Green is 46. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 46. Actress Christine Taylor is 46. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 44. Actress Hilary Swank is 43. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 40. Actress Jaime Pressly is 40. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 37. Actress April Bowlby is 37. Soccer player Hope Solo is 36. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 35. Actor Martin Starr is 35. Actress Gina Rodriguez is 33. Actor Nico Tortorella is 29. Actress Joey King is 18.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is a reward that comes to those that have not looked for it." — Emile Chartier, French philosopher (1868-1951).