

# Groton Daily Independent

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### State Jr. Legion Tournament Locke-Karst Field, Groton

**State B American Junior Legion Tournament**  
Locke-Karst Field, Groton  
**Lennox 11, Claremont-Britton 1**  
**Redfield 9, Wessington Springs 8**  
**Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern 14, Winner 6**  
**Groton 19, Mission 3**

### Saturday's Games

#### Consolation Round

**10 a.m.: Claremont/Britton vs. Wessington Springs**

**30 minutes later: Winner vs. Mission Championship Round**

**5 p.m.: Lennox vs. Redfield**

**30 minutes later: Groton vs. Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern**

## 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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## JOHNSON AGENCY

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Anonymous

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

## Groton advances in State Jr. Legion Tournament

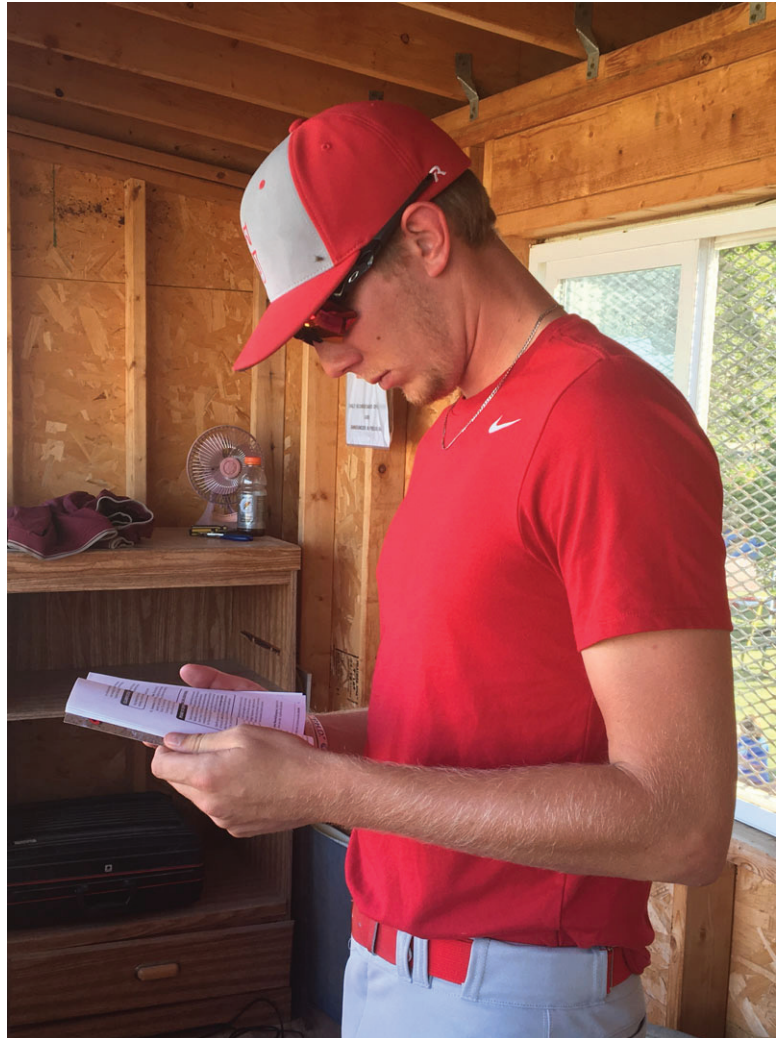
Peyton Johnson pitched for four innings with 11 strike-outs, three walks and three hits as Groton defeated Mission, 19-3, in five innings. This was part of the first round of games of the State B Junior Legion Baseball Tournament being played at Locke-Karst Field in Groton. The Groton game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Blocker Construction, Doug Abeln Seed Company, Groton Legion Post #39, Bahr Spray Foam & Construction, Groton Ford, Erickson Insurance, Harr Motors, McGannon Plumbing, Heating and Cooling and the John Sieh Agency.

Mission jumped out to a 1-0 lead, but then Groton scored four runs in the bottom of the first and kept on going from there, adding seven runs in the second, two in the third and six in the fourth.

Korbin Blackmun had two walks; Jonathan Doeden had one walk and an RBI triple; Austin Jones had a double, a single, a walk and two RBI; Alex Morris (Kaden Kurtz was his runner) had three singles and walk with two RBI; Darien Shabazz had two singles, two RBI and was walked once; Caleb Furney had a walk and an RBI single; Anthony Schinkel was walked once; Peyton Johnson had a two RBI double and a single; Grady O'Neill had a walk; Wyatt Locke had an RBI single; and Chandler Larson had two singles and two RBI.

Chandler Larson pitched the last inning with three strike-outs and one hit by pitch.

Groton will play Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern at around 7:30 p.m. today and that game will be carried live on GDILIVE.COM.



**Groton Jr. Legion Coach Mason Madsen reviews a couple of rules in the rule handbook before the start of the game on Friday.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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**Brenda Madsen uses the Wishy-washy to disinfect the diving board as the pool managers did a through cleaning Friday morning.**

(Photo by Paul Kosel)



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The Groton Fire Department was called to the Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center Saturday morning. No other information was available.

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## Today in Weather History

August 5, 1987: Six tornadoes touched down in central South Dakota. Five of these tornadoes touched down in Lyman County, including three which did damage near Kennebec within 25 minutes of each other. One of the tornadoes destroyed three farms, downing outbuildings, power lines, granaries, and killing cattle.

August 5, 2000: A wet microburst with winds estimated at 120 mph caused heavy damage in and around Mitchell. Apartments and several mobile homes were destroyed, vehicles were overturned, and other damage occurred to buildings and vehicles. Widespread tree and power line damage also occurred. Ten people were injured, although the majority of the injuries were minor. The damage path was approximately a mile and a half long and a mile wide, extending over the southwest part of Mitchell.

1875: Several tornadoes moved across northern and central Illinois. One of the stronger tornadoes touched down in Warren and Knox County where it destroyed 25 homes and killed two people. Another in a series of tornadoes touched down near Knoxville and moved east into northern Peoria County. This estimated F4 tornado injured 40 people and was described by eyewitnesses as looking like a "monstrous haystack."

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)

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	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
30%	20%	20%				30%
Chance Showers	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms
High: 74 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 79 °F



## Cool, Unsettled Weather



### Saturday

Highs 70 to 80°, cloudy with 20-30% chance of showers/storms

### Sunday

Highs 74 to 78°, partly sunny with isolated showers/storms

### Monday

Highs 75 to 80°, partly cloudy with dry conditions



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 8/5/2017 5:27 AM Central

Published on: 08/05/2017 at 5:40AM

Showers and storms could develop across the area over the course of the day, though coverage should be limited (unlike the cloud cover). Relatively cool air continues to dominate as well. This general pattern of below ave temps and hit or miss precip chances should continue through the weekend and beyond.

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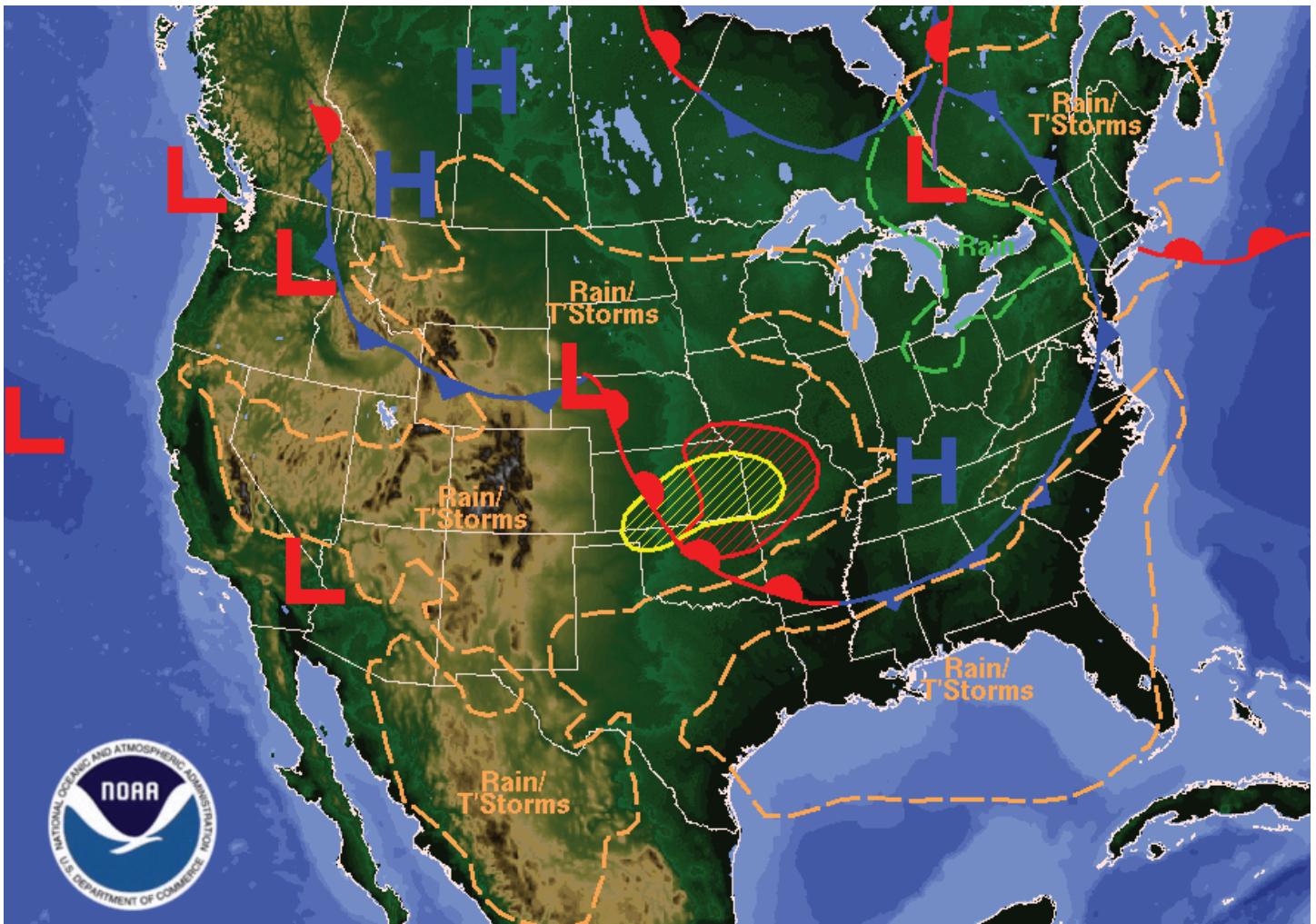
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 77.5 F at 3:48 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 44.8 F at 6:17 AM**  
**High Gust: 11.0 Mph at 2:22 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 107° in 1941**  
**Record Low: 41° in 1994**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug: 0.39**  
**Precip to date in Aug: 0.78**  
**Average Precip to date: 14.25**  
**Precip Year to Date: 8.13**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:55 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:23 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Aug 05, 2017, issued 4:38 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Kong 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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## WHEN FAITH FACES FEAR

"Life is Good" are the words beneath a happy face on a T-shirt. The moon-shaped circle with two slashes and a curvy mouth always seem to remind us of the importance of having fun and locking up moments of pleasure. We want to believe that "Life is Good!"

But is it? And when it isn't, what are we to do?

Imagine a day that begins with a beautiful sunrise and soon after breakfast dark clouds filled with dreadful news bring some of life's realities into sharp focus. Imagine a conversation with God that goes something like this: "You know, God, I do trust You and believe that You are concerned about me but that phone call informed me that I lost my job." Or "My daughter has just confessed to being addicted to crack cocaine." Or "My son got his girlfriend pregnant and they are juniors in high school." Or "God my spouse left me for someone else!" Life happens. It did to David. It does to us.

God was David's "rock," his "strong fortress" and his "refuge." Suddenly, life changed. He was "afflicted," in "anguish" and about to be "ensnared by a trap that was set" for him by his friends. His "eyes and bones were weak," he was a "dread to his friends" and his "name was being slandered." Where's your God, David?

Give up? No. He challenged the goodness of God and reminded Him that "I trust in You, O Lord. You are my God. Deliver me!" And God did. David challenges us to "Love the Lord because the Lord preserves the faithful. Be strong, take heart, and hope in the Lord!"

Prayer: Lord, give us a faith to exceed the obstacles of life that challenge Your goodness, greatness and grace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 31:14 But I trust in you, LORD; I say, "You are my God."

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

#### Mega Millions

09-17-25-63-71, Mega Ball: 4, Megaplier: 5

(nine, seventeen, twenty-five, sixty-three, seventy-one; Mega Ball: four; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$323 million

#### Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$286 million

### Caution on the road urged as Sturgis Motorcycle Rally begins

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of bikers have come to attend an annual motorcycle rally underway in western South Dakota.

The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally began its 10-day run Friday in the Black Hills, the Rapid City Journal reported. State transportation officials expect up to 600,000 bikers, and public safety officials are reminding bikers and other motorists to stay alert and wear seat belts.

"We always prepare for a big year," said Tony Mangan, public safety spokesman. "We know there's going to be a lot of people there, and we always tell them to be careful."

On Thursday, the Highway Patrol reported a crash in the region, where a 24-year-old Iowa man was killed.

Public safety officials said bikers should travel at lower speeds since many rally attendees aren't used to some of the Black Hills' narrow and winding roads. They said bikers should be especially careful of speed limits on curves, ride single file and avoid crowding the center line.

"It is still about common sense and following the rules of the road," said Highway Safety Director Lee Axdahl.

The most deadly rally in recent years was the 75th anniversary event in 2015, which drew a record 739,000 bikers and had 14 fatalities. In addition to the deaths, 235 people were injured in the wrecks that year.

Last year, the Highway Patrol reported a record-low of three deaths. But city data show that rally attracted 40 percent fewer people than 2015.

This story has been corrected to show that the fatal motorcycle crash happened Thursday, not on Friday afternoon.

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

### South Dakota soybean crop damage being investigated

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Some farmers in the northeast region of South Dakota have been complaining about a drifting herbicide that they say is damaging their soybean crops.

Tom Gere, agronomy services manager with the department, told the Aberdeen American News the herbicide is called dicamba. Gere said three approved products are used to keep weeds at bay for dicamba-tolerant soybeans, which make up about 25 percent of the beans planted in the state this year.

South Dakota State University Extension specialist Gared Shaffer said the herbicide selectively kills broad-leaved weeds but also can damage or kill legumes.

"We're getting a lot of phone calls," Gere said. "I don't know what the count is, but yesterday I fielded

quite a few phone calls from growers in regard to dicamba.”

Gere said the department is investigating the crop damage, and whether chemicals have been applied incorrectly. The probe could take several more weeks.

Shaffer said there have been cases of dicamba-related crop damage this year confirmed by tissue sampling, but he said that doesn't mean a producer should immediately conclude that their neighbor's drifting dicamba is the reason.

Even if there is evidence that dicamba drift has damaged someone's crop, the state can't do much to help the producer.

“As far as recouping any costs, the Department of Agriculture doesn't play a role in that. We just investigate if any of the pesticide applications have been violated,” Gere said. “We encourage the person issuing the complaint to talk to the local retailer before we start doing an investigation. The lab has been getting all kinds of samples in from not only south Dakota, but Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.”

Crop insurance also wouldn't cover the damage, according to information from Insurance Plus in Aberdeen. Farmer liability insurance might if the cause of the damage can be pinpointed.

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

### **3 US Marines missing after aircraft crashes off Australia**

SYDNEY (AP) — Search and rescue operations were underway for three U.S. Marines who were missing after their Osprey aircraft crashed into the sea off the east coast of Australia on Saturday while trying to land.

Twenty-three of 26 personnel aboard the aircraft have been rescued, the Marine base Camp Butler in Japan said in a statement.

The MV-22 Osprey involved in the mishap had launched from the USS Bonhomme Richard and was conducting regularly scheduled operations when it crashed into the water, the statement said. The ship's small boats and aircraft immediately responded in the search and rescue efforts.

The Osprey is a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but flies like an airplane. They have been involved in a series of high-profile crashes in recent years.

The aircraft was in Australia for a joint military training exercise held by the U.S. and Australia last month in Shoalwater Bay. The Talisman Sabre exercise, a biennial event between the two nations, involved more than 30,000 troops and 200 aircraft.

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne said Saturday's incident occurred off the coast of Shoalwater Bay in Queensland state.

“I can confirm no Australian Defence Force personnel were on board the aircraft,” Payne said in a statement. “The United States are leading the search and recovery effort.”

Payne said she had spoken with U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis “to offer Australia's support in any way that can be of assistance.”

The White House said that President Donald Trump was briefed on the matter by his chief of staff, John Kelly.

In 2015, a U.S. Osprey crashed during a training exercise in Hawaii, killing two Marines. Last December, a U.S. military Osprey crash-landed off Japan's southern island of Okinawa. Its five crew members were rescued safely. And in January, three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the “hard landing” of an Osprey in Yemen.

### **Chicago stabbing death suspects surrender in California**

**By DON BABWIN, Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — A Northwestern University professor and a University of Oxford staffer accused of stabbing a man to death in Chicago surrendered peacefully to authorities in California, eight days after the brutal attack.

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Wyndham Lathem, 42, surrendered Friday night at the Oakland federal building at around the same time that Andrew Warren, 56, was turning himself in to police in San Francisco, according to Michael McCloud, a fugitive taskforce commander with the U.S. Marshals Service.

McCloud said the surrender of the men was "negotiated," though he declined to say how that happened, noting that his agency wasn't directly in contact with them.

Lathem, an associate microbiology professor at Northwestern, was booked into the Alameda County jail. Warren, a Somerville College resident at Oxford University in England, was taken to the San Francisco County Jail. They will appear separately in court before being extradited to Illinois, where they face charges of first-degree murder in the killing of 26-year-old Trenton James Cornell-Duranleau. It was not immediately clear when that would happen.

Cornell-Duranleau's mother, Charlotte Cornell, didn't immediately reply to an email requesting comment on the arrests.

A manhunt had been underway since shortly after Cornell-Duranleau was found dead in Lathem's Chicago apartment on the night of July 27. He had been stabbed several times in an attack so brutal that police said the knife broke.

"Both individuals will be held accountable for their actions and we hope today's arrest brings some comfort for the victim's family," a Chicago police statement said.

Police said Lathem had sent a video to friends and relatives apologizing for his involvement in the crime, which he called the "biggest mistake of my life." The video raised concern among investigators that Lathem might kill himself.

"We are also thankful both men are safely in custody and this did not end in further tragedy," the police statement said.

Warren arrived in the United States three days before Cornell-Duranleau's death and was seen in surveillance video leaving the building with Lathem the day of the stabbing.

McCloud said the U.S. Marshals Service learned on Wednesday that the two men might be in the San Francisco Bay area. At around noon on Friday, he said they received further information that the two were still in the area. The suspects both surrendered at about 7:30 p.m. local time, he said.

Police said Lathem had a personal relationship with Cornell-Duranleau, who moved to Chicago from the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area after receiving his cosmetology license. They are not sure how Cornell-Duranleau or Lathem knew Warren, or if Warren knew them before he arrived in the United States.

In a bizarre twist, police said that on the day of the slaying, but before the body had been discovered, Lathem and Warren drove about 80 miles (128 kilometers) northwest to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where one of them made a \$1,000 cash donation to the public library there in Cornell-Duranleau's name. Lake Geneva police said the man making the donation did not give his name.

"I've never seen where suspects in a homicide would make a donation in the victim's name," said Lake Geneva police Lt. Edward Gritzner.

On the night of the slaying, police said the front desk of the high-rise building where Lathem lived in Chicago's trendy River North neighborhood received an anonymous call from a person who said that a crime had been committed in Lathem's 10th floor apartment. When police opened the door they found Cornell-Duranleau's body.

Police also said that by the time they found the body on the night of July 27, Cornell-Duranleau had been dead for 12-15 hours.

## Experts: Lack of remorse could bite 'Pharma Bro'

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Less than an hour after a U.S. jury convicted Martin Shkreli of securities fraud, the so-called "Pharma Bro" was back at his New York City apartment doing what comes naturally: trash talking in a live-stream on YouTube.

The brash former pharmaceutical CEO, who's still out on bail, joked he won't be going to a hard-core

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prison — “No shanks” — and predicted his acquittal on some charges Friday will help him recover tens of millions of dollars he claims he’s owed from a drug company he started.

“It doesn’t seem like life will change much for Martin Shkreli,” he said while drinking a beer and playing with his cat. “I’m one of the richest New Yorkers there is, and after today’s outcome, it’s going to stay that way.”

Shkreli’s trolling of his own trial has amused some onlookers. But legal experts say it could have serious consequences when it comes time for sentencing.

“No real good can come from going on YouTube after a guilty verdict,” said Robert Mintz, a former federal prosecutor now in private practice. “This is exactly the kind of behavior that got him in trouble in the first place.”

U.S. District Judge Kiyo Matsumoto likely will factor in any lack of remorse and contrition at sentencing in federal court in Brooklyn, said Matthew Schwartz, a defense lawyer and former federal prosecutor who once worked for a Securities and Exchange Commission task force.

“Going into the trial, he had an audience of 12. Now he’s got an audience of one,” Schwartz said, referring to the jury and judge. “He’s putting himself at great risk for a higher sentence.”

The 34-year-old defendant faces up to 20 years in prison for his conviction on the most serious counts, though the term could be much lower under sentencing guidelines. Shkreli’s lawyer, Ben Brafman, said he would argue for no jail time. No sentencing date was set.

Shkreli was arrested in 2015 on charges he looted a drug company he founded, Retrophin, of \$11 million in stock and cash to pay back investors in two failed hedge funds he ran. Investors took the witness stand to accuse him of keeping them in the dark as his scheme unfolded, while the defense argued there wasn’t any harm done because all of them got rich off of Retrophin stock.

Before his arrest, Shkreli was best known for buying the rights to a life-saving drug at another company in 2014 and promptly raising the price from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill. He also had a reputation for attacking critics on social media and was barred from Twitter for posts about a female journalist.

Even during his trial, when most criminal defendants would lay low, Shkreli stayed online commenting about his own case.

After the verdict, Brafman once again raised hopes he could rein in his client.

“There is an image issue that Martin and I are going to be discussing in the next several days. Martin is a brilliant young man, but sometimes people skills don’t translate well,” he said.

Not much later, Shkreli was on YouTube, answering questions about the case and cracking jokes. During his lengthy livestream, he invited one reporter up to his apartment to ask her questions on camera.

“Ben probably wants me to act and look like your average CEO, but I’m a very individualistic person and I don’t sort of conform to what folks want me to do and not want me to do, and that’s what being an individual is all about,” he said. “As long as it doesn’t interfere with the legal case, it’s my life to live.”

Without more conformity, Shkreli’s lawyer will have his work cut out for him trying convince the court that he should be cut some slack as “someone who is not entirely normal,” said Schwartz, the former prosecutor. “Whether the judge will buy it or not is another question.”

The judge’s last words to the defendant as she left the bench offered no clues.

“I wish you well, Mr. Shkreli,” she said. “See you soon.”

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Associated Press Writer Karen Matthews contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show wording of Shkreli’s quote in 3rd paragraph should be outcome, not verdict.

## Big rise in number of Justice Department active leak probes

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions has pledged to clamp down in government leaks that he said undermine American security, taking an aggressive public stand after being called weak on the matter by President Donald Trump.

The nation's top law enforcement official is citing no current investigations in which disclosures of information had jeopardized the country, but says the number of criminal leak probes had more than tripled in the early months of the Trump administration.

Justice Department officials are reviewing guidelines put in place to make it difficult for the government to subpoena journalists about their sources, and aren't ruling out the possibility that a reporter could be prosecuted.

"No one is entitled to surreptitiously fight to advance their battles in the media by revealing sensitive government information," Sessions said Friday in an announcement that followed a series of news reports this year on the Trump campaign and White House that have relied on classified information. "No government can be effective when its leaders cannot discuss sensitive matters in confidence or talk freely in confidence with foreign leaders."

Media advocacy organizations condemned the announcement, with Bruce Brown, the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, saying the decision to review existing guidelines was "deeply troubling."

Meanwhile, a White House adviser raised the possibility of lie detector tests for the small number of people in the West Wing and elsewhere with access to transcripts of Trump's phone calls. The Washington Post on Thursday published transcripts of his conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia.

Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway told "Fox & Friends" that "it's easier to figure out who's leaking than the leakers may realize." And might lie detectors be used? She said: "Well, they may, they may not."

Trump's outbursts against media organizations he derides as "fake news" have led to predictions that his administration will more aggressively try to root out leakers, and the timing of the Justice Department's announcement — one week after the president complained on Twitter that Sessions had been weak on "intel leakers" — raised questions about whether the attorney general's action was aimed at quelling the anger of the man who appointed him.

Sessions said in his remarks that his department has more than tripled the number of active leaks investigations compared with the number pending when President Barack Obama left office, and the number of referrals to the Justice Department for potential investigation of unauthorized disclosures had "exploded." The Justice Department under Sessions is prosecuting a contractor in Georgia accused of leaking a classified government report to a media organization.

"This nation must end this culture of leaks. We will investigate and seek to bring criminals to justice. We will not allow rogue anonymous sources with security clearances to sell out our country," Sessions said in his remarks.

Media organizations also had an often-tense relationship with the Obama administration, whose Justice Department brought more leaks cases than during all previous administrations combined and was criticized for maneuvers seen as needlessly aggressive and intrusive.

That included a secret subpoena of phone records of Associated Press reporters and editors following a 2012 story about a foiled bomb plot, and the labeling of a Fox News journalist as a "co-conspirator" after a report on North Korea. The Justice Department also abandoned a yearslong effort to force a New York Times journalist to reveal his source in the trial of a former CIA officer who was later found guilty of disclosing classified information.

Following consultation with media lawyers, the Justice Department in 2015 revised its guidelines for leak investigations to require additional levels of approval before a reporter could be subpoenaed, including from the attorney general.

But Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said Friday that they were reviewing how

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the department conducts leak investigations and whether current regulations impose too many hurdles on their work. Rosenstein declined to comment when asked whether the department would rule out prosecuting journalists.

Rosenstein said the department expected to consult with media representatives about possible changes to the regulations, though any efforts to undo protections for journalists or to make it easier to target sources will encounter deep opposition from news organizations.

"The current guidelines reflect a great deal of good-faith discussion between the news media and a wide range of interests from within the Department of Justice, including career prosecutors and key nonpolitical personnel," said Brown, of the press freedom group. "They carefully balance the need to enforce the law and protect national security with the value of a free press that can hold the government accountable to the people."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## 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: NPR: 25 Million Votes For Clinton 'Completely Fake' - She Lost Popular Vote

THE FACTS: The headline falsely describes the gist of a National Public Radio story published four years before the 2016 presidential election. It cited a Pew study, which was released in 2012 and based in part on 2008 results, that found 24 million registrations were invalid or inaccurate. The study found no evidence of fraud and suggested the inaccurate records were the result of antiquated voter registration systems that left dead people on voter rolls or didn't drop people when they moved. Hillary Clinton lost to Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election, but she won the popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes, according to an Associated Press count. The headline and story first circulated in January and was shared widely on sites like theteaparty.net and topsecretleaks.com in recent weeks.

NOT REAL: GET READY! THE BRIGHTEST METEOR SHOWER IN THE RECORDED HUMAN HISTORY IS HAPPENING

THE FACTS: The Perseid meteor shower, peaking the nights of Aug. 11-12, won't come close to setting any records. The head of NASA's meteoroid environment office, Bill Cooke, tells the AP that astronomers are projecting a slightly higher than normal shower rate with 150 meteors per hour across the Northern Hemisphere. But the brightness of the moon will wash out the finer Perseids, meaning 30 to 40 meteors an hour will be visible. The shower won't even break last year's rate of 200 meteors per hour. The brightest outburst — an estimated 100,000 meteors an hour — occurred during the Leonids of 1833.

NOT REAL: BREAKING: Seven ships are preparing for Muslims' massive deportation next week

THE FACTS: Several hoax sites flashed this headline and another talking about 10 airplanes preparing for a massive deportation, with pictures. Clicking on the headline leads to no information. The ships pictured were identified as part of a British cruise line.

NOT REAL: BREAKING: Trump Removes Muslim Federal Judge For Allowing Sharia In America

A story on conservativefighter.com and similar stories on other sites claim a judge named Hansam al Alallawalahi-Smith made rulings allowing "tenets of Sharia Law" to be practiced in Dearborn, Michigan, and that Trump removed him from office. The story says the judge works on the 22nd Circuit Court of Appeals, which does not exist at the federal level. It is accompanied by a photo of a real judge, but he's from Florida and has a different name. Finally, the Constitution stipulates impeachment — not presidential

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executive orders — as the method for removing federal judges.

NOT REAL: Oprah Winfrey is pregnant with first child at 62

THE FACTS: Sites have falsely claimed the entertainer and lifestyle guru is pregnant going back two years. A spokeswoman confirmed that the widely shared story was once again not true. The false report claimed Winfrey planned to name the child after her best friend Gayle King if she gave birth to a girl and Harpo, the name of her production company, if it was a boy. The headline also has Winfrey's age wrong: She is 63.

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>

## Southeast Asia issues strong rebuke, warning to North Korea

By TERESA CEROJANO and JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Southeast Asia's top diplomats slammed North Korea with a sharp rebuke Saturday over its intercontinental ballistic missile tests and admonished Pyongyang to comply with its duty of helping avert conflicts as a member of Asia's biggest security forum.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations foreign ministers, however, were split on an American proposal to suspend Pyongyang from the ASEAN Regional Forum, a 27-nation bloc that includes North Korea and its bitter adversaries the U.S., South Korea and Japan.

The ASEAN ministers reiterated in a joint statement their grave concerns over the escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula due to the North's two ICBM tests last month, saying the launches threaten world stability. The ministers traditionally issue a communique containing their diverse concerns, and their issuance of a separate statement on North Korea's missile tests and nuclear weapons program reflects their deep worries about the issue.

"These developments seriously threaten peace, security and stability in the region and the world," the ministers said in their statement. They urged the North to immediately and fully comply with its obligations under U.N. Security Council resolutions.

They also backed efforts to improve relations between the two Koreas and said their 10-nation bloc was ready "to play a constructive role in contributing to peace and stability" on the Korean Peninsula.

All the countries involved in the so-called six-party talks aimed at taming the North's nuclear ambitions belong to the ASEAN Regional Forum, but Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Robespierre Bolivar said at a news conference Saturday that there was no plan for those nations to meet on the sidelines of the Manila meetings. North Korea pulled out of the talks — which also include South Korea, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia — in 2009 to protest international condemnation of a long-range rocket launch.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said the ministers were divided over a U.S. proposal to suspend the North from the ASEAN Regional Forum, which will hold its annual meeting on Monday.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho will attend Monday's meeting. With the U.S., Japan and South Korea expected to push for stronger actions against the North, a verbal showdown looms.

"There were views that, 'How can we hear them out or confront them if they're not there?' But there's also a view that we should give them an ultimatum," Cayetano said late Friday after discussing the issue with other foreign ministers.

The ministers "strongly call upon" North Korea, as a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum, to help "maintain the Asia Pacific as a region of lasting peace, stability, friendship and prosperity," the ministers said in their statement.

On the territorial disputes in the South China Sea that embroil ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam, the 10 foreign ministers on Saturday approved a framework of a long-proposed



code of conduct aimed at preventing clashes in the disputed waters, Bolivar said.

The Philippines, which serves as ASEAN chairman this year, called the conclusion of talks between China and ASEAN to finalize the framework "a very big step." Critics, however, say the framework serves only as a brief outline of previously agreed principles and fails to mention concerns over China's newly built islands or an arbitration ruling last year that invalidated Beijing's claims to virtually all of the South China Sea. China has refused to recognize the ruling, based on a 1982 maritime treaty.

A final copy of the framework seen by The Associated Press also did not mention whether the code should be legally binding, which most ASEAN states demand but China opposes, or the extent of disputed areas to be covered by such a code. The code will not serve as a tool to settle territorial disputes, according to the framework.

## Nissan workers reject United Auto Workers in Mississippi

By JEFF AMY, Associated Press

CANTON, Miss. (AP) — Workers at a Nissan assembly plant in Mississippi have voted against forming a union, adding to decades of futility by United Auto Workers organizers at foreign-owned auto plants in the American South.

Representatives of Nissan Motor Co. and the UAW said late Friday that 2,244 workers, or 62 percent, voted against the UAW, while 1,307, or 38 percent, favored the union.

Company spokeswoman Parul Bajaj said employees' voice has been heard.

"They have rejected the UAW and chosen to self-represent, continuing the direct relationship they enjoy with the company," she said in a statement. "Our expectation is that the UAW will respect and abide by their decision and cease their efforts to divide our Nissan family."

The UAW has never fully organized an international automaker in the traditionally anti-union South, although it did persuade some maintenance workers to join at a Volkswagen AG plant in Tennessee. The UAW's lack of influence among southern auto workers has reduced its bargaining power when Detroit automakers lose market share and close plants. After pouring resources into the organizing drive at Nissan, this loss could leave UAW leaders with tough decisions.

"The result of the election was a setback for these workers, the UAW and working Americans everywhere, but in no way should it be considered a defeat," UAW President Dennis Williams said in a statement.

Pro-union workers were defiant amid tears at a UAW office, with some calling for another election as soon possible.

"It hurts," said union supporter Phillip White. "We ran against a machine."

But some outspoken anti-union workers were celebrating, saying they had turned back an unwanted interloper.

"They know we didn't need it," said Kim Barber. "They know we didn't need outside interference coming in our plant."

The union filed seven new charges with the National Labor Relations Board just before polls closed Friday alleging that Nissan had broken federal labor laws during the campaign. If the labor board rules in favor of the charges, the board could order a fresh election. Among the claims: Nissan provided a faulty contact list to the union, it caused a contract worker to be fired because of his union support, and a manager told workers July 28 that they would lose benefits if they voted for a union.

UAW Secretary-Treasurer Gary Casteel had telegraphed the move Monday, when he alleged illegal activity by the company.

"Despite claiming for years to be neutral on the question of a union, Nissan waged one of the most illegal and unethical anti-union campaigns that I've seen in my lifetime," Casteel said in a statement Friday.

Nissan spokeswoman Parul Bajaj said the company lived up to its obligations in providing the list. She generally denied the other charges.

"The UAW is again launching baseless and unsubstantiated allegations against Nissan Canton in a desperate, last-minute attempt to undermine the integrity of the secret ballot voting process," Bajaj said in

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a statement.

The labor board has already issued a complaint against Nissan alleging other labor law violations that predate the election, but a judge has yet to rule on those. A decision on the new charges could be months or years away.

The union also could try to encourage a backlash against Nissan outside the United States, where it has tried to build pressure on the company through unions at other plants and supporters in the French government, which owns nearly 20 percent of the Renault Group, Nissan's business partner. The union said it would "educate" the French government about Nissan's anti-union campaign.

Nissan has sought to finesse its position against unions in the U.S. while defending its work with organized labor in the rest of the world. Carlos Ghosn, chairman of the Renault-Nissan Alliance, told French lawmakers last year that the alliance "has no tradition of not cooperating with unions."

Rodney Francis, the plant's human resources director, said the company has a right to make its case to workers that unionization would hurt management flexibility and make the plant less competitive economically. Republican Gov. Phil Bryant and anti-union workers blamed the UAW for layoffs and plant closings by Detroit's major automakers.

"With the UAW, all you've got to do is look at their history," said Tony Hobson, a Nissan forklift driver and outspoken union opponent.

For years, union organizers reached out to the majority African-American workforce at the Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant, arguing that workers' rights are civil rights. They pointed to reduced retirement and health benefits for longtime workers, and lower pay scales for 1,500 Nissan workers who began as contract laborers in recent years. White and other union supporters said after the vote they felt those newer employees, in particular, had been intimidated.

A 2015 study by the Center for Automotive Research found that Nissan paid an average of \$44 an hour in pay and benefits, toward the low end of all automakers. Nissan has given pay raises since then.

Workers at Nissan's plant in Smyrna, Tennessee, voted against UAW representation in 1989 and 2001, but this was the first election at the Mississippi plant. The UAW also lost a 2014 vote among all workers at Volkswagen in 2014 before winning a second vote among 160 maintenance workers.

Both sides shifted into a frenetic and highly visible campaign mode after pro-UAW workers filed petitions seeking a vote in early July.

Kristen Dzcik of the Center for Automotive Research said that although the UAW was the underdog, odds were unlikely to improve soon, as President Donald Trump's appointees take over the National Labor Relations Board. A corruption scandal involving union employees allegedly taking bribes from a former Fiat Chrysler executive also threatened to spread.

The UAW's failed campaign could leave scars. Pro-UAW worker Earnestine Meeks said a co-worker flashed a gun at her, demanding she leave his property during a home visit by union backers recently.

"Nissan will focus on bringing all employees back together as one team, building great vehicles and writing our next chapter in Mississippi," Bajaj said.

Follow Jeff Amy at: <http://twitter.com/jeffamy> . Read his work at [https://www.apnews.com/search/Jeff\\_Amy](https://www.apnews.com/search/Jeff_Amy) .

## Judge sets \$30K bail for UK researcher in malware case

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, MATT O'BRIEN and FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Las Vegas federal judge set bail of \$30,000 on Friday for a celebrated young British cybersecurity researcher accused by U.S. prosecutors of creating and distributing malicious software designed to steal banking passwords.

The attorney for Marcus Hutchins, who has broad support in the information-security community, said the 23-year-old hacker would contest the charges. She said he would not be released until Monday because

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there wasn't enough time to post bail after Friday's afternoon ruling.

Hutchins is due in federal court in Milwaukee on Tuesday.

The U.K. resident gained overnight fame with quick thinking in May when he helped curb the spread of the WannaCry ransomware attack that had crippled thousands of computers worldwide.

Much of the cybersecurity community rallied around Hutchins after his arrest Wednesday, calling him a principled, ethical hacker.

The conditions of his release came as a relief for his supporters.

"This is excellent news," said Nicholas Weaver, a computer scientist at the University of California at Berkeley. "The indictment is remarkably shallow even by indictment standards, which is disappointing because it adds considerable uncertainty and fosters distrust with the general security community."

Las Vegas-based attorney Adrian Lobo said money for Hutchins' bond would come from a variety of supporters and family in the U.S. and abroad. The Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital leading civil liberties non-profit, said it helped arrange Hutchins counsel and was working to find him an attorney to provide "the best possible defense."

"Security researchers are vital to protecting the computers we rely upon every day," EFF general counsel Kurt Opsahl said via email. "Mr. Hutchins' arrest has unfortunately deepened the divide between the research community and the government."

Weaver said federal prosecutors and the FBI were making a mistake by not providing more details about the crimes it alleges Hutchins committed. "Having more information would act to reassure the larger security community," he said.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Dan Cowhig said Hutchins admitted to authorities in an interview following his arrest that he was the author of the malware code and sold it. He said the government has evidence of chat logs in which Hutchins discussed with an associate the sale of the Kronos banking Trojan.

Magistrate Judge Nancy Koppe said Hutchins is not a danger to the community and has sufficient community support to not be a flight risk.

She ordered him to surrender his passport and said he could fly to Wisconsin, where he was indicted last month, without identification.

"The most recent charge in the indictment is in July of 2015. That's two years ago that the defendant has been free to roam the world during that period of time," she said.

Hutchins did not enter a plea at Friday's hearing. He was arrested while preparing to return home from the Def Con convention for computer security professionals.

He stands accused of creating and distributing malware known as the Kronos banking Trojan. Such malware infects web browsers, then captures usernames and passwords when an unsuspecting user visits a bank or other trusted location, enabling cybertheft.

Computer law expert Tor Ekeland described the evidence so in the case far as flimsy.

"This is a very, very problematic prosecution to my mind, and I think it's bizarre that the United States government has chosen to prosecute somebody who's arguably their hero in the WannaCry malware attack and potentially saved lives and thousands, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars over the sale of alleged malware," Ekeland said.

The indictment alleges that Hutchins and another defendant — whose name was redacted — conspired between July 2014 and July 2015 to advertise the availability of the Kronos malware on internet forums, sell the malware and profit from it. The indictment also accuses Hutchins of creating the malware.

Programs, however, can often include code written by multiple programmers. Prosecutors might need to prove that Hutchins wrote code that targeted specific institutions.

U.S. Justice Department officials on Friday declined to answer questions about the case. The FBI's Milwaukee field office, which led the 2-year investigation, didn't return requests for comment.

Ekeland said that what is notable to him from the indictment is that it doesn't allege any financial loss to any victims — or in any way identify them. Besides that, laws covering aspects of computer crime are unclear, often giving prosecutors broad discretion.

"The only money mentioned in this indictment is ... for the sale of the software," he said.

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Jake Williams, a respected cybersecurity researcher, said he found it difficult to believe Hutchins is guilty. The two men have worked together on various projects, including training material for higher education for which the Briton declined payment.

Hutchins lives with his family in the town of Ilfracombe, England, and worked out of his bedroom.

His mother, Janet, who has been frantically trying to reach her son, said she was "outraged" by the arrest and that it was "hugely unlikely" her son was involved because he spends much of his time combatting such attacks.

Back in May, the curly-haired computer whiz and surfing enthusiast discovered a so-called "kill switch" that slowed the unprecedented WannaCry outbreak.

He then spent the next three days fighting the worm that crippled Britain's hospital network as well as factories, government agencies, banks and other businesses around the world.

Though he had always worked under the moniker of MalwareTech, cracking WannaCry led to the loss of his anonymity and propelled him to cyber stardom. There were appearances and a \$10,000 prize for cracking WannaCry. He planned to donate the money to charity.

"I don't think I'm ever going back to the MalwareTech that everyone knew," he told The Associated Press at the time.

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An earlier version of this story incorrectly reported Marcus Hutchins' age. He is 23.

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Bajak reported from Houston and O'Brien from Providence, Rhode Island. AP writer Danica Kirka in London contributed to this report.

## Sessions vows crackdown on leaks of classified information

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions pledged on Friday to rein in government leaks that he said undermine American security, taking an aggressive public stand after being called weak on the matter by President Donald Trump.

The nation's top law enforcement official cited no current investigations in which disclosures of information had jeopardized the country, but said the number of criminal leak probes had more than tripled in the early months of the Trump administration. Justice Department officials also said they were reviewing guidelines put in place to make it difficult for the government to subpoena journalists about their sources, and would not rule out the possibility that a reporter could be prosecuted.

"No one is entitled to surreptitiously fight to advance their battles in the media by revealing sensitive government information," Sessions said in an announcement that followed a series of news reports this year on the Trump campaign and White House that have relied on classified information. "No government can be effective when its leaders cannot discuss sensitive matters in confidence or talk freely in confidence with foreign leaders."

Media advocacy organizations condemned the announcement, with Bruce Brown, the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, saying the decision to review existing guidelines was "deeply troubling."

Meanwhile, a White House adviser raised the possibility of lie detector tests for the small number of people in the West Wing and elsewhere with access to transcripts of Trump's phone calls. The Washington Post on Thursday published transcripts of his conversations with the leaders of Mexico and Australia.

Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway told "Fox & Friends" that "it's easier to figure out who's leaking than the leakers may realize." And might lie detectors be used? She said: "Well, they may, they may not."

Trump's outbursts against media organizations he derides as "fake news" have led to predictions that his administration will more aggressively try to root out leakers, and the timing of the Justice Department's announcement — one week after the president complained on Twitter that Sessions had been weak on "intel leakers" — raised questions about whether the attorney general's action was aimed at quelling the

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anger of the man who appointed him.

Sessions said in his remarks that his department has more than tripled the number of active leaks investigations compared with the number pending when President Barack Obama left office, and the number of referrals to the Justice Department for potential investigation of unauthorized disclosures had "exploded." The Justice Department under Sessions is prosecuting a contractor in Georgia accused of leaking a classified government report to a media organization.

"This nation must end this culture of leaks. We will investigate and seek to bring criminals to justice. We will not allow rogue anonymous sources with security clearances to sell out our country," Sessions said in his remarks.

Media organizations also had an often-tense relationship with the Obama administration, whose Justice Department brought more leaks cases than during all previous administrations combined and was criticized for maneuvers seen as needlessly aggressive and intrusive.

That included a secret subpoena of phone records of Associated Press reporters and editors following a 2012 story about a foiled bomb plot, and the labeling of a Fox News journalist as a "co-conspirator" after a report on North Korea. The Justice Department also abandoned a yearslong effort to force a New York Times journalist to reveal his source in the trial of a former CIA officer who was later found guilty of disclosing classified information.

Following consultation with media lawyers, the Justice Department in 2015 revised its guidelines for leak investigations to require additional levels of approval before a reporter could be subpoenaed, including from the attorney general.

But Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said Friday that they were reviewing how the department conducts leak investigations and whether current regulations impose too many hurdles on their work. Rosenstein declined to comment when asked whether the department would rule out prosecuting journalists.

Rosenstein said the department expected to consult with media representatives about possible changes to the regulations, though any efforts to undo protections for journalists or to make it easier to target sources will encounter deep opposition from news organizations.

"The current guidelines reflect a great deal of good-faith discussion between the news media and a wide range of interests from within the Department of Justice, including career prosecutors and key nonpolitical personnel," said Brown, of the press freedom group. "They carefully balance the need to enforce the law and protect national security with the value of a free press that can hold the government accountable to the people."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## US court upends murder conviction of Blackwater contractor

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court on Friday overturned the first-degree murder conviction of a former Blackwater security contractor, ordering a new trial for the man prosecutors say fired the first shots in the 2007 slayings of 14 Iraqi civilians at a crowded traffic circle in Baghdad.

In a split opinion, the three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia Circuit ruled a lower court erred by not allowing Nicholas Slatten to be tried separately from his three co-defendants in 2014. The 33-year-old contractor from Tennessee is serving a life sentence for his role in the killings, which strained international relations and drew intense scrutiny of the role of American contractors in the Iraq War.

The court also ordered new sentences for the three other contractors, Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard. They were each found guilty of manslaughter and firearms charges carrying mandatory 30-year terms.

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The judges determined those sentences violated the constitutional prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment because prosecutors charged them with using military firearms while committing another felony. That statute, typically employed against gang members or bank robbers, had never before been used against overseas security contractors working for the U.S. government.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Washington said prosecutors were still reviewing the decision and had no immediate comment.

Bill Coffield, a lawyer for Liberty, said he planned to meet with Liberty to review their options. "Obviously we're pleased with the court's decision in terms of the unconstitutionality of the sentence," he said.

David Schertler, a lawyer for Heard, said in a statement that though he believed his client was entitled to a new trial, "we are gratified that the court recognized the gross injustice of the 30 year mandatory minimum sentences imposed in the unique war zone circumstances of this case."

It's not clear that any new sentences for the defendants will be significantly different than the ones originally imposed. At the April 2015 sentencing hearing, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth said he was "very satisfied with a 30-year sentence."

At the weekslong trial held in 2014, federal prosecutors and defense lawyer presented very different versions of what triggered the September 2007 massacre in Nisour Square.

The government described the killings as a one-sided ambush of unarmed civilians, while the defense said the guards opened fire only after a white Kia sedan seen as a potential suicide car bomb began moving quickly toward their convoy. After the shooting stopped, no evidence of a bomb found.

In issuing their ruling benefiting the defendants, the judges said they were in no way excusing the horror of events they said "defies civilized description."

"In reaching this conclusion, we by no means intend to minimize the carnage attributable to Slough, Heard and Liberty's actions," said U.S. Circuit Judge Karen L. Henderson, writing for the court. "Their poor judgments resulted in the deaths of many innocent people."

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Follow Associated Press environmental writer Michael Biesecker at <http://Twitter.com/mbieseck>  
Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

## Huff, puff, pass? AG's pot fury not echoed by task force

By SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The betting was that law-and-order Attorney General Jeff Sessions would come out against the legalized marijuana industry with guns blazing. But the task force Sessions assembled to find the best legal strategy is giving him no ammunition, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety, a group of prosecutors and federal law enforcement officials, has come up with no new policy recommendations to advance the attorney general's aggressively anti-marijuana views. The group's report largely reiterates the current Justice Department policy on marijuana.

It encourages officials to keep studying whether to change or rescind the Obama administration's more hands-off approach to enforcement — a stance that has allowed the nation's experiment with legal pot to flourish. The report was not slated to be released publicly, but portions were obtained by the AP.

Sessions, who has assailed marijuana as comparable to heroin and blamed it for spikes in violence, has been promising to reconsider existing pot policy since he took office six months ago. His statements have sparked both support and worry across the political spectrum as a growing number of states have worked to legalize the drug.

Threats of a federal crackdown have united liberals, who object to the human costs of a war on pot, and some conservatives, who see it as a states' rights issue. Some advocates and members of Congress had feared the task force's recommendations would give Sessions the green light to begin dismantling what has become a sophisticated, multimillion-dollar pot industry that helps fund schools, educational

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programs and law enforcement.

But the tepid nature of the recommendations signals just how difficult it would be to change course on pot.

Some in law enforcement support a tougher approach, but a bipartisan group of senators in March urged Sessions to uphold existing marijuana policy. Others in Congress are seeking ways to protect and promote pot businesses.

The vague recommendations may be intentional, reflecting an understanding that shutting down the entire industry is neither palatable nor possible, said John Hudak, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution who studies marijuana law and was interviewed by members of the task force.

"If they come out with a more progressive, liberal policy, the attorney general is just going to reject it. They need to convince the attorney general that the recommendations are the best they can do without embarrassing the entire department by implementing a policy that fails," he said.

The task force suggestions are not final, and Sessions is in no way bound by them. The government still has plenty of ways it can punish weed-tolerant states, including raiding pot businesses and suing states where the drug is legal, a rare but quick path to compliance. The only one who could override a drastic move by Sessions is President Donald Trump, whose personal views on marijuana remain mostly unknown.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

Rather than urging federal agents to shut down dispensaries and make mass arrests, the task force puts forth a more familiar approach.

Its report says officials should continue to oppose rules that block the Justice Department from interfering with medical marijuana programs in states where it is allowed. Sessions wrote to members of Congress in May asking them — unsuccessfully so far — to undo those protections. The Obama administration also unsuccessfully opposed those rules.

The report suggests teaming the Justice Department with Treasury officials to offer guidance to financial institutions, telling them to implement robust anti-money laundering programs and report suspicious transactions involving businesses in states where pot is legal. That is already required by federal law.

And it tells officials to develop "centralized guidance, tools and data related to marijuana enforcement," two years after the Government Accountability Office told the Justice Department it needs to better document how it's tracking the effect of marijuana legalization in the states.

Most critically, and without offering direction, it says officials "should evaluate whether to maintain, revise or rescind" a set of Obama-era memos that allowed states to legalize marijuana on the condition that officials act to keep it from migrating to places where it is still outlawed and out of the hands of criminal cartels and children. Any changes to the policy could impact the way pot-legal states operate.

The recommendations are not surprising because "there's as much evidence that Sessions intends to maintain the system and help improve upon it as there is that he intends to roll it back," said Mason Tvert, who ran Colorado's legalization campaign. He pointed to Sessions' comment during his Senate confirmation hearing that while he opposed legalization, he understood the scarcity of federal resources and "echoed" the position of his Democratic predecessors.

But in July, he sent letters to Colorado and Washington that stirred concern, asking how they would address reports they were not adequately regulating the drug.

It remains unclear how much weight Sessions might give the recommendations. He said he has been relying on them to enact policy in other areas. Apart from pot, the task force is studying a list of criminal justice issues. The overall report's executive summary says its work continues and its recommendations "do not comprehensively address every effort that the Department is planning or currently undertaking to reduce violent crime."

## Flynn files new financial form reporting ties to data firm

By CHAD DAY and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, disclosed a brief advisory role with a firm related to a controversial data analysis company that aided the Trump campaign, according to a filing Flynn submitted to the White House.

The disclosure of Flynn's link to Cambridge Analytica came in an amended public financial filing in which the retired U.S. Army lieutenant general also discloses income that includes payments from the Trump transition team. The filing was made public by the White House on Friday in response to an Associated Press reporter's request.

Meanwhile, The New York Times reported Friday night that Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating possible coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign, has asked the White House for documents related to Flynn.

The newspaper says investigators on Mueller's team have asked witnesses whether the Turkish government made secret payments to Flynn during the 2016 presidential campaign. The Times cited anonymous sources close to Mueller's investigation.

Flynn's now-defunct consulting firm, Flynn Intel Group, is under scrutiny by federal authorities and congressional investigators for its role in research and lobbying work for a Turkish businessman tied to the government of Turkey. The AP reported in May about inconsistencies in Flynn's disclosures about payments from the Turkish client, Ekim Alptekin.

The amended disclosure filed Friday by Flynn lists him as an adviser to SCL Group, a Virginia-based company related to Cambridge Analytica, the data mining and analysis firm that worked with Trump's campaign.

A person close to Flynn told the AP that just before the end of the campaign, Flynn agreed to do consulting for the firm, but he never performed any work or accepted any payment as part of the agreement with SCL Group. The person spoke to AP on condition of anonymity Thursday to describe details of the filing made to the White House.

The details of Flynn's role with SCL weren't fully laid out, the person said, noting that Flynn terminated his involvement shortly after Trump won the presidency.

Cambridge Analytica is backed by the family of Robert Mercer, a hedge fund manager who also supported the campaign and other conservative candidates and causes. Trump administration chief strategist Steve Bannon was a vice president of Cambridge Analytica before he joined the Trump campaign.

Media reports in Britain and some statements by leaders involved in the pro-Brexit campaign had linked Cambridge Analytica to the successful effort in 2016 to pull Britain out of the European Union. But the company said in a statement Friday that it did not work on the referendum campaign.

Democratic lawmakers and Trump critics have seized on Cambridge Analytica's role as they've pushed congressional investigators to scrutinize the Trump campaign's data operation as part of probes into Russia's interference in the 2016 election. But the Trump campaign has played down the firm's involvement. Campaign officials have said they used the company only for a short time for television advertising and paid some of the firm's talented data employees, as the AP previously reported.

Flynn's previous filing, submitted to the White House and Office of Government Ethics in March, listed at least \$1.3 million in earnings, including between \$50,000 and \$100,000 from his consulting company, Flynn Intel Group Inc. The latest filing lists at least \$1.8 million in income.

Flynn's amended filing comes some six months after he was ousted from the White House for misleading the vice president about conversations he had with the then-Russian ambassador to the U.S. It also comes as Special Counsel Robert Mueller and congressional committees are scrutinizing Flynn's business deals and foreign connections.

The person close to Flynn said he disclosed the information in an amended filing to make sure the "public record is accurate and transparent." The person noted that Flynn and his legal team have spent months piecing together the information necessary for the filing without the assistance of the White House counsel's office or the Office of Government Ethics.



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In the filing, Flynn reports earning about \$28,000 from the Trump presidential transition and more than \$5,000 as a consultant to an aborted plan to build nuclear power plants across the Middle East. The consulting connection with a group of companies involved in the power plant proposal had been disclosed in Flynn's previous filing, but it had not indicated that he had received payment.

Flynn's new filing also provided more details about his consulting work for NJK Holding Corporation, a firm headed by Iranian-American multi-millionaire Nasser Kazeminy. The filing shows that Flynn was paid more than \$140,000 for his roles as adviser and consultant to Minneapolis-based NJK.

Flynn also served as vice chairman at GreenZone Systems, a tech firm funded by NJK and headed by Bijan Kian, who was Flynn's business partner in Flynn Intel.

In a statement to the AP, NJK said Flynn "played an advisory role to NJK Holding relative to its investment interests in security." The firm added that in his roles with NJK and GreenZone, Flynn "provided his counsel and guidance on public sector business opportunities for secure communications technology within the U.S. Department of Defense" and with other agencies.

NJK said Kian has no current involvement with NJK or GreenZone.

Earlier Thursday, Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., the ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, asked Kian for documents detailing Flynn's foreign business contacts and travel. Flynn listed Kian as a personal reference in 2016 during his effort to renew his military security clearance. Kian told military investigators that Flynn had several foreign business contacts, but Flynn did not provide any of those contacts to investigators, Cummings said.

Follow Chad Day on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

## Chicago to sue US Justice Department over funding threat

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Friday said the city will sue the federal government in defense of its status as a so-called sanctuary city and against threats to withhold U.S. grant funds.

Emanuel told "Connected to Chicago" on WLS-AM the city will be in federal court Monday arguing grants can't be withheld from cities the administration says aren't cooperating enough with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. The interview will air Sunday.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced last month local governments would lose the money if they do not give advance notice when immigrants in the country illegally are about to be released from custody. He also wants immigration agents to have access to local jails.

Officials say Chicago this year expects to receive \$3.2 million in Byrne Justice Assistance Grants. The money would mostly be used to buy police vehicles.

"We're not going to actually auction off our values as a city, so Monday morning the City of Chicago is going to court; we're going to take the Justice Department to court based on this," he said. "We find it unlawful and unconstitutional to be, as a city, coerced on a policy."

Sessions this week announced letters were sent to four cities struggling with gun violence, telling them they would not be eligible for a program that provides money to combat drug trafficking and gang crime unless they follow through on his suggestions. The cities were Baltimore, Albuquerque, and Stockton and San Bernardino in California.

None of the four has declared itself a "sanctuary city," a term associated with ordinances aimed at shielding illegal immigrants.

In a letter to Sessions, Republican Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry denied his city is a sanctuary for immigrants living in the country illegally and said he has been trying to work with immigration authorities since taking office in 2009. Berry said, Immigration and Customs Enforcement staffing at the prison transport center fell in recent years.

Chicago law prohibits police from providing Immigration and Customs officials access to people in police custody, unless they are wanted on a criminal warrant or have serious criminal convictions.

Local police are also barred from allowing ICE agents to use their facilities for interviews or investiga-

tions and from responding to ICE inquiries or talking to ICE officials about a person's custody status or release date.

Authorities contend the policy helps encourage residents of the immigrant community to inform police when they are victims of crimes.

## All-powerful Venezuelan assembly opens amid protests

By JORGE RUEDA and JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Defying criticism from Washington to the Vatican, Venezuela's ruling party on Friday installed a new super assembly that supporters promise will pacify the country and critics fear will be a tool for imposing dictatorship.

The constitutional assembly's first order of business was selecting its head — former Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez, a loyal follower of President Nicolas Maduro.

The nomination was approved unanimously by the 545 delegates, who marched to the neo-classical legislative palace accompanied by hundreds of red-shirted government supporters carrying roses and giant portraits of the late Hugo Chavez, Maduro's predecessor and mentor.

Some shouted, "He's returned!" as a jab at the opposition, which had ordered images of Chavez removed from an adjacent building when it won control of congress in 2015.

The assembly was scheduled to meet again Saturday, and Rodriguez pledged it would be taking action against Maduro's political opponents.

"Don't think we're going to wait weeks, months or years," she said. "Tomorrow we start to act. The violent fascists, those who wage economic war on the people, those who wage psychological war, justice is coming for you."

The installation of the all-powerful constitutional assembly is virtually certain to intensify a political crisis that has brought four months of protests that left at least 120 people dead and hundreds jailed. Maduro vows the assembly will strip opposition lawmakers of their constitutional immunity from prosecution, while members of congress say they will only be removed by force.

But the opposition is struggling to regain its footing in the face of the government's strong-armed tactics and the re-emergence of old, internal divisions. Several opposition activists have been jailed in recent days, others are rumored to be seeking exile and one leader has broken ranks from the opposition alliance to say his party will field candidates in regional elections despite widespread mistrust in Venezuela's electoral system.

In a sign of its apparent demoralized state only a few hundred demonstrators showed up for Friday's protest against the constitutional assembly, one of the smallest turnouts in months. They were halted by security forces firing tear gas and rubber bullets.

"This is what the constitutional assembly will bring: more repression," said opposition lawmaker Miguel Pizarro.

However, Maduro accuses his opponents of using violence and argues that the constitutional assembly is the best way to restore peace. On Friday he heralded members of the security forces who've been on the front lines of the daily street battles, claiming that 580 of them had suffered serious injuries from brutal attacks by "terrorist" protesters.

"I feel deeply the wounds of each one of you," Maduro said addressing a small group of injured national guardsmen scarred with burns, on crutches and wearing neck braces. "With your bodies as your shield, you have defended the right to peace."

Amid the rising tensions, an increasing number of foreign governments have sided with the opposition, refusing to recognize the constitutional assembly and further isolating Maduro's government.

On Friday, the Vatican urged Maduro to suspend the new body, expressing "deep worry for the radicalization and worsening" of the turmoil in Venezuela. President Donald Trump and his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, agreed that Maduro must restore the rights of the Venezuelan people in a phone call Friday to discuss several ongoing international crises, according to a readout of the conversation by the White House.

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Foreign ministers from several South American nations said they will gather Saturday in Brazil for an emergency meeting to decide whether to evict Venezuela from the Mercosur trade bloc for violating its democratic norms. Venezuela was suspended from the group in December.

The opposition boycotted the July 30 election of the constitutional assembly, saying the rules were rigged to further entrench Maduro's "dictatorship."

The results have come under mounting scrutiny after the international company that provided the electronic voting machines said that "without any doubt" the official turnout had been tampered with — a charge dismissed by Maduro and the National Electoral Council.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday the assembly was illegitimate, reiterating a call by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson for Maduro to leave office or face unspecified actions to "return the government processes back to the constitution."

The constitutional assembly is made up of an array of pro-government trade unionists, students and even representatives of Venezuelans with physical disabilities. But the agenda is expected to be set by bigger-name loyalists, including Maduro's wife, son and several ministers who resigned their posts to join the body.

It will have sweeping powers to upend institutions and in theory could even remove Maduro, a fact held up by government supporters as proof that it's not a partisan power grab. One of its first tasks, which may come as early as Saturday, could be the closure of the opposition-controlled congress and the removal of chief prosecutor, Luisa Ortega Diaz, a longtime supporter of Chavez who recently broke with Maduro.

Ortega Diaz filed a complaint Thursday seeking a court order to block installation of the new assembly. The request, filed to a lower court in an apparent attempt to circumvent the government-stacked Supreme Court, was dismissed Friday on procedural grounds.

She also ordered prosecutors to investigate the allegations of election tampering. Smartmatic CEO Antonio Mugica said Wednesday in London that results recorded by his company's systems and those reported by the National Electoral Council show the official turnout count of 8 million was off by at least 1 million votes. An independent poll suggested that fewer than 4 million people voted.

Opposition lawmakers have pledged to remain in power no matter what action is taken by the constitutional assembly, raising the possibility of two governing bodies operating side by side, with neither recognizing the other.

Goodman reported from Bogota, Colombia. Associated Press writer Mike Weissenstein from Havana, Cuba contributed to this report.

## Convicted 'Pharma Bro' has an image problem, lawyer concedes

By TOM HAYS and LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Martin Shkreli, the eccentric former pharmaceutical CEO notorious for a price-gouging scandal and for his snide "Pharma Bro" persona on social media, was convicted Friday on federal charges he deceived investors in a pair of failed hedge funds.

A Brooklyn jury deliberated five days before finding Shkreli guilty on three of eight counts. He had been charged with securities fraud, conspiracy to commit securities fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Shkreli, upbeat and defiant outside the Brooklyn courthouse afterward, called his prosecution "a witch hunt of epic proportions" but conceded that maybe the government had found "one or two broomsticks."

Asked about his client's social-media antics, attorney Ben Brafman said it was something they would be working on.

"There is an image issue that Martin and I are going to be discussing in the next few days," he said, adding that while Shkreli was a brilliant mind, sometimes his "people skills" need work. As he spoke, Shkreli smiled and cocked his head quizzically in mock confusion.

Brafman predicted that Shkreli would someday go on to develop cures to terrible diseases that afflict children.

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Within an hour of leaving the court, Shkreli was at home live-streaming on YouTube and calling the split verdict a victory, despite his conviction on two of the most serious counts. Prosecutors had a different take.

"There's one statement that's most important and that's the jury's statement: guilty on those counts," said Acting U.S. Attorney Bridget Rohde.

Prosecutors had accused Shkreli of repeatedly misleading investors about what he was doing with their money. Mostly, he was blowing it with horrible stock picks, forcing him to cook up a scheme to recover millions in losses, they said.

Shkreli, 34, told "lies upon lies," including claiming he had \$40 million in one of his funds at a time when it only had about \$300 in the bank, Assistant U.S. Attorney Alixandra Smith said in closing arguments. The trial "has exposed Martin Shkreli for who he really is — a con man who stole millions," added another prosecutor, Jacquelyn Kasulis.

But the case was tricky for the government because investors who testified said Shkreli's scheme actually succeeded in making them richer, in some cases doubling or even tripling their money on his company's stock when it went public.

"Who lost anything? Nobody," Brafman said in his closing argument. Some investors had to admit on the witness stand that partnering with Shkreli was "the greatest investment I've ever made," he added.

While the convictions carry maximum penalties of years in prison, Brafman said that the lack of financial harm meant that Shkreli could get no jail time when he is sentenced. A sentencing date has yet to be set.

For the boyish-looking Shkreli, one of the biggest problems was not part of the case — his purchase in 2014 of rights to a life-saving drug that he promptly raised the price from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill. Several potential jurors were kept off the panel after expressing disdain for the defendant, with one calling him a "snake" and another "the face of corporate greed."

The defendant also came into the trial with a reputation for trolling his critics on social media to a degree that got him kicked off Twitter and for live-streaming himself giving math lessons or doing nothing more than petting his cat, named Trashy. Among his other antics: boasting about buying a one-of-a-kind Wu-Tang Clan album for \$2 million.

Shkreli, who comes from an Albanian family in Brooklyn, was arrested in 2015 on charges he looted another drug company he founded, Retrophin, of \$11 million in stock and cash to pay back the hedge fund investors. Investors took the witness stand to accuse Shkreli of keeping them in the dark as his scheme unfolded.

"I don't think it mattered to him — it was just what he thought he could get away with," said Richard Kocher, a New Jersey construction company owner who invested \$200,000 with Shkreli in 2012.

Shkreli's lawyer agreed his client could be annoying but said his hedge fund investors knew what they were getting.

"They found him strange. They found him weird. And they gave him money. Why? Because they recognized genius," Brafman said, adding that they had signed agreements that his client wasn't liable if they lost their money.

Jurors also heard odd vignettes befitting the quirky defendant: how Shkreli slept on the floor of his office in a sleeping bag for two years; how a drug company board member and former American Express executive wrote an email saying he'd meet with Shkreli "only if I can touch your soft skin"; how Shkreli wrote a letter to the wife of an employee threatening to make the family homeless if the man didn't settle a debt.

Shkreli didn't testify. But rather than lay low like his lawyers wanted, he got into the act by using Facebook to bash prosecutors and news organizations covering his case. In one recent post, he wrote, "My case is a silly witch hunt perpetrated by self-serving prosecutors. ... Drain the swamp. Drain the sewer that is the (Department of Justice.)"

The judge ordered Shkreli to keep his mouth shut in and around the courtroom after another rant to new reporters covering the trial.

Prosecutors "blame me for everything," he said. "They blame me for capitalism."

After agreeing to continue Shkreli's \$5 million bail, the judge told him: "I wish you well, Mr. Shkreli. See you soon."

Associated Press Writer Karen Matthews contributed to this report.

## Jobless rate raises question: How much better can it get?

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A drop in the unemployment rate to a 16-year low raises a tantalizing question about the job market: How much better can it get?

Earlier this year, economists worried that the low unemployment rate meant businesses would struggle to find workers and that would drag down the pace of hiring. Those fears were heightened by a tiny job gain in March and modest hiring in May.

Yet Friday's jobs report suggests such concerns are premature. Employers added 209,000 jobs, after a solid gain of 231,000 in June, the Labor Department said. The unemployment rate ticked down to 4.3 percent, from 4.4 percent, matching the low reached in May.

The U.S. economy is benefiting from steady growth around the world, with Europe and Japan perking up and China's economy stabilizing. Corporate revenue and profits are growing too, and the stock market has hit record highs.

Economists were particularly encouraged by the fact that more Americans are coming off the sidelines and finding jobs. For the first few years after the recession, many of the unemployed stopped looking for work.

Some were discouraged by the lack of available jobs. Others returned to school or stayed home to take care of family. The government doesn't count those out of work as unemployed unless they are actively searching for jobs.

That trend began to reverse last year and has continued into 2017. To many economists, that means robust hiring could continue for many more months, or even years.

"There's more people willing to work than the unemployment rate would have you believe," said Nick Bunker, a senior policy analyst at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, a liberal think tank.

President Donald Trump celebrated the data in a tweet shortly after the numbers were released. "Excellent Jobs Numbers," he wrote, "and I have only just begun."

Trump technically tweeted too early: His comment was posted at 8:45 a.m., just 15 minutes after the report was released. Federal rules specify that White House officials should wait for an hour before publicly commenting. The rule is intended to allow the data to be released without political spin.

President Barack Obama's former top economic adviser, Jason Furman, noted the slip-up, calling it a "minor transgression."

The pace of hiring so far this year, while solid, is pretty much the same as it was last year under Obama. Employers have added an average of 184,000 jobs a month through July, compared with 187,000 in 2016. Monthly job gains topped 200,000 on average in 2014 and 2015.

The steady hiring is adding up. In July, the proportion of Americans aged 25 through 54 who had a job or were looking for one rose to 81.8 percent, up a half-percentage point from a year earlier and the highest since December 2010.

Economists focus on that age group because it filters out the impact of retirements by the huge baby boomer generation and excludes younger workers who are more likely to be in school.

That means more Americans are optimistic about the job market and launching job searches. But that proportion is still substantially lower than the all-time peak of 84.6 percent, reached in January 1999.

The unemployment rate fell to a three-decade low of 3.9 percent the following year, in April 2000. That represented the best of all worlds: A low unemployment rate with a lot of people working or looking for work.

Economists doubt the jobless rate can fall that low again without touching off inflation, as employers are forced to offer higher pay to attract workers from a dwindling supply of unemployed. That, in fact, is

why the Federal Reserve has raised short-term interest rates three times in the past seven months, which they hope will forestall future price increases.

But many economists worried that the ultra-low unemployment rate in 2000 would touch off inflation, and it did not. The economy at that time benefited from much higher rates of productivity growth, which allowed employers to raise pay and hire more without having to lift prices.

There's also no way to know whether the proportion of people working or looking for work could return to its 1999 peak. Many economists are doubtful, in part because it rose sharply in the 1980s and 1990s as women flooded the workforce. The proportion of women working or looking for work has slipped since 2000.

Based on historical trends, the share of working-age Americans who either have jobs or are looking for one could rise another 0.7 percentage points. That would create 1.8 million more jobs, according to Andrew Sojourner, an economist at the University of Minnesota.

Robert Maynard, CEO of Famous Toastery, a 22-restaurant chain based in Charlotte, North Carolina, is still looking to hire. He plans to add 10 more restaurants later this year, which should create about 250 full-time jobs.

At the same time, he said, other restaurants are also expanding and some are even peeling away his employees by offering higher pay. He's responded by boosting wages 10 to 15 percent.

"We're fighting to get the best workers," he said.

Restaurants and bars added a massive 53,100 jobs in July, roughly a quarter of all the job gains that month. And restaurant employees are seeing their pay rise faster than other workers. Average hourly pay in the industry jumped 4.7 percent in June from the previous year, the latest data available.

That compares to just 2.5 percent for all workers. Sluggish wage growth has been a persistent weak spot in the recovery. Wage gains are typically closer to 4 percent a year with the unemployment rate this low.

Some economists think it may be harder to pull many more workers off the sidelines.

A large proportion of those who aren't looking for work say they are disabled or ill. Some research indicates many are addicted to painkillers, noted Jed Kolko, chief economist for Indeed, a job listings website.

"They're the kinds of reasons that might not be overcome with slightly higher wages," Kolko said. "It's really hard to know what it would take to get people who have left the labor force to come back."

And many economists argue that demographics will eventually limit how much more hiring can happen. The U.S. population is aging and population growth has slowed in the past two decades.

Hiring needs to stay healthy for people like Johnny Palmer, of Stone Mountain, Georgia. After a long stint out of work, he found a job in June at Northside Hospital in the Atlanta region, preparing meals for patients.

"It's a lot of people still trying to find jobs," he said. "But the bottom line is trying to find a job where you can make enough money to live above the poverty line. It's hard," he said.

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Associated Press writers Josh Boak and Jesse Holland contributed to this report.

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Follow Christopher Rugaber on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/ChrisRugaber> .

## Taylor Swift, ex-radio host head to court over groping claim

By P. SOLOMON BANDA, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Taylor Swift and her support team didn't call police after she said she had been groped by a Denver radio host during a photo session before a concert.

Instead, they called his boss, and David Mueller lost his job. The disc jockey later sued the singer-songwriter, saying he had been falsely accused and wanted \$3 million in damages.

Swift countersued, claiming sexual assault, setting up a civil trial set to begin Monday in federal court in Denver that will largely turn on who the eight-member jury believes.

Swift is scheduled to testify. Both sides say no settlement is in the works.

The lawsuits provide differing accounts of backstage events before Swift performed at a 2013 concert

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at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

Swift tried to keep the situation "discreet and quiet and confidential" and was upset by Mueller's claim that "for some reason she might have some incentive to actually fabricate this story," her attorney, Douglas Baldrige, has argued in court.

Swift is seeking a verdict that awards her \$1, while holding Mueller responsible and "serving as an example to other women who may resist publicly reliving similar outrageous and humiliating acts," her lawsuit states.

Some entertainment attorneys say celebrities often want to address such situations outside court.

"Once celebrities decide to take legal action, it's going to hit the press, they're going to be called as a witness and they have to spend time with that," said Tre Lovell, a California-based attorney who represents production and entertainment management companies.

"They don't necessarily want that. They want to focus on their career, their brands, their sponsorships. They have a whole revenue stream that's at stake," Lovell said.

With a lot at stake, Michael Niborski, an attorney whose firm represents Bruno Mars and Kanye West, said Swift "is particularly well-suited to represent women's rights, female empowerment and not taking this kind of behavior."

Mueller, then 51, was a morning host at a Denver country-music station when he was assigned to attend Swift's June 2, 2013, concert.

Swift, then 23, was touring in support of her "Red" album, with hits such as "I Knew You Were Trouble" and "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together."

Mueller and his girlfriend lined up backstage with other fans for a meet-and-greet with Swift and entered a curtained enclosure where they spoke briefly with the singer-songwriter.

A security guard and at least two other Swift team members were present when it came time for a photo. Mueller said he jumped into the picture at the last second.

Mueller said Swift was cordial as he and his girlfriend left. He went to his car to drop off an autographed photo then returned to the arena, where he was confronted by Swift's security guard.

In court documents, Swift said, "He took his hand and put it up my dress and grabbed onto my ass cheek, and no matter how much I scooted over, it was still there."

She said she met and greeted other fans, then reported the incident to the guard and a photographer. Mueller denied inappropriately touching Swift and said he told the guard: "Please call the police. I didn't do anything."

Under local law, such an act would merit a misdemeanor charge of unlawful sexual conduct, which carries a maximum possible sentence of two years in jail. No criminal charges are pending.

After escorting Mueller out of the arena, a member of Swift's team called Mueller's boss and asked that appropriate action be taken.

The radio station interviewed Mueller and fired him, citing a morality clause in his contract that allows his employer to fire him for conduct that could reflect unfavorably on the station or its sponsors, court documents say.

The documents also say a representative of the station said Mueller had changed his story from not having touched Swift to possibly touching her incidentally or accidentally.

Mueller's attorney, Gabriel McFarland, argues that Mueller may have been misidentified after someone else touched Swift.

He also says the security guard did not react to anything during the backstage meeting and that as many as 20 other people took photographs with Swift after Mueller left.

The trial is being held in U.S. District Court because the Mueller and Swift live in separate states and the matter involves a claim for damages higher than \$75,000.

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This story has been corrected to show that attorney Michael Niborski's last name was misspelled.

## 2 huge Trump murals appear on West Bank barrier

By IYAD MOGHRABI, Associated Press

BETHELEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Two murals showing an oversized President Donald Trump have appeared on Israel's West Bank separation barrier, just yards from where the elusive artist Banksy decorated a hotel earlier this year.

The new drawings popped up on the edge of Bethlehem, the Palestinian city where the barrier largely consists of a wall of towering slabs of concrete.

In one scene, Trump is shown hugging and kissing a real Israeli army watchtower built into the wall, as his left arm reaches around the tower. Little pink hearts flutter from Trump's mouth.

In another drawing, Trump is depicted wearing a Jewish skullcap and placing a hand a wall — a scene taken from the U.S. president's May visit to Jerusalem's Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray. A cartoon "thought bubble" next to him says, "I'm going to build you a brother," a possible reference to Trump's plans to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

The murals were signed "lushsux" — a signature that according to a 2016 report by the Australian newspaper "The Age" has been used in the past by a Melbourne street artist. The artist was among those who participated in a Banksy show in Britain in 2015, the report said.

A Twitter account in the name "lushsux" published the mural of Trump with his hand on a wall on Monday. The second mural was seen by an Associated Press cameraman for the first time Friday.

The new graffiti is just a few meters (yards) from "The Walled Off Hotel," a Palestinian-run guest house that opened earlier this year and sarcastically bills itself as having the "worst view in the world."

The nine-room hotel was decorated with Banksy's trademark political murals, including one in "Banksy's Room" that shows a masked Palestinian and a helmeted Israeli soldier in a pillow fight.

Israel began building the barrier a decade ago, at the height of an armed Palestinian uprising, saying the divider is needed to keep suicide bombers and gunmen from entering Israel. Palestinians say the barrier, which slices off about 10 percent of the West Bank, amounts to a land grab.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in 1967. Several U.S.-led Israeli-Palestinian attempts to negotiate the terms of a Palestinian state on these lands have failed.

Trump said early on in his term that he would try to broker a deal, but has not offered a way forward.

## Sea dispute, N. Korea, Muslim militants top ASEAN meetings

By JIM GOMEZ and TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Alarm over North Korea's missile tests, a tentative step to temper South China Sea disputes, and unease over a disastrous siege by pro-Islamic State group militants will grab the spotlight at annual meetings of Southeast Asia's top diplomats and their Asian and Western counterparts.

The 27 nations participating in three days of talks and photo-ops in Manila starting Saturday include the United States, Russia, China, Japan, and South and North Korea.

The Philippines is host as this year's chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. It's an unwieldy 10-nation collective of democracies, monarchies and authoritarian regimes founded half a century ago in the Cold War era which prides itself on being a bulwark of diplomacy in a region scarred by its history of wars and interminable conflicts.

A look at the main issues expected to dominate the meetings:

### SOUTH CHINA SEA

Chinese and ASEAN foreign ministers are to endorse a two-page framework for a long-sought code of conduct in the disputed South China Sea when they meet Saturday. The Philippines calls the framework a major step in efforts to ease potential flashpoints.

Critics say the outline of key principles is lopsidedly in China's favor and suspect that Beijing may have consented to it to divert protests as it tries to complete and fortify man-made islands in the South China Sea with a missile defense system.



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While the framework carries hope for a diplomatic approach to the territorial disputes, it notably fails to mention China's land reclamation or an arbitration ruling last year that invalidated the historic basis of Beijing's claim to virtually the entire sea, a strategic waterway for commerce and defense. China has dismissed the arbitration ruling, which was sought by the Philippines, as a sham.

Backed by the United States, the Philippines was the most vocal critic of China's assertive actions in the contested region until President Rodrigo Duterte took power last year. He moved swiftly to rekindle ties with Beijing in hopes of boosting trade and securing infrastructure funding and sidelined efforts to secure Chinese compliance with the ruling.

Beijing's cozier ties with Manila under Duterte have calmed tensions and prompted China to allow Filipino fishermen to return to a disputed shoal, but arbitration proponents worry that Duterte squandered an opportunity to restrain aggressive acts in the disputed region.

A draft of a joint communique to be issued by the ASEAN ministers welcomes the conclusion of talks on the framework, but drops any mention of regional concerns about land reclamation and moves to militarize the South China Sea, which ASEAN members included in previous statements.

## NORTH KOREA

Following North Korea's recent tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles, the U.S. and its allies quickly signaled their intention to impose additional sanctions on it with a U.N. resolution. Along with South Korea and Japan, the U.S. is expected to lead condemnations of the launches at the ASEAN Regional Forum, annual security talks to be held Monday. North Korea has confirmed that its top diplomat, Ri Yong Ho, will attend, raising the specter of a verbal showdown in the 27-nation forum, which also includes North Korea's main ally, China.

Ahead of the meeting, a senior State Department official told reporters in Washington that the U.S. is moving to have North Korea suspended from ARF for violating its conflict-prevention objectives. It's part of a broader American effort to isolate North Korea diplomatically and force it to abandon its missile tests and nuclear weapons program.

Removing North Korea from the grouping, however, would be tough. There is no exclusion procedure and ARF decides by consensus, so any U.S. move against North Korea could be defeated by any country, including China.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano said he would consult fellow ASEAN ministers after dinner Friday about the call for North Korea's removal and suggested there may not be a consensus. "It would be more prudent to consult the other members and I predict there will be two sides to it," he told reporters.

The ARF ministers are expected to express grave concern over North Korea's ICBM tests, along with previous missile launches and two nuclear tests in 2016. They will repeat calls for North Korea to immediately comply with its obligations under U.N. resolutions and ask that it exercise self-restraint "in the interest of maintaining peace, security and stability in the region and the world," according to a draft statement to be issued by the Philippines as ARF chairman.

"I think what we would expect to see this year at the meeting would be a general chorus of condemnation of North Korea's provocative behavior and pretty serious diplomatic isolation directed at the North Korean foreign minister," said U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton.

North Korea will respond by saying that "its nuclear weapons program is an act of self-defense against a hostile policy towards it," the draft statement says.

## MARAWI SIEGE

The ASEAN meetings are being held under heavy security in Manila as thousands of Philippine troops attempt to quell a siege by Islamic State group-linked militants that has dragged on for more than two months in southern Marawi city. The fighting has left nearly 700 people dead, including more than 520 gunmen, and displaced the entire population of the mosque-studded city.

The Marawi crisis has triggered concerns that the Islamic State group may be gaining a foothold in

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Southeast Asia through allied local militants as it faces major setbacks in Syria and Iraq.

The ministers at ARF will strongly condemn "recent acts of terrorism" without mentioning Marawi by name and reiterate their commitment to counterterrorism, according to the draft ARF communique. Those steps include promoting moderation and using social media "to counter the spread of terrorists' narratives online."

Duterte made an unannounced trip to Marawi on Friday to rally the troops. "I hope you will be able to clean up Marawi city and get rid of the terrorists," he told them in a speech.

## The US may not be the trade wimp Trump makes it out to be

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is the United States the 98-pound weakling of global trade?

President Donald Trump and his economic advisers think so. They point to 41 straight years of U.S. trade deficits as evidence that America has been out-competed, out-negotiated and flat out cheated by trading partners like China, Mexico and Germany — countries that consistently sell more to the United States than they buy.

Friday, the Commerce Department reported that the United States once again registered a trade deficit — \$43.6 billion in June. So far this year, the trade gap is \$276.6 billion, up nearly 11 percent from January-June 2016.

Trump and his team view trade deficits as an economic evil that strangles growth and kills American jobs. They've promised to bring the deficits down — by imposing tariffs and other barriers to imports if they have to.

Many economists don't see things quite that way. They reject the idea that trade is a zero-sum game in which the prize goes to countries that export more than they import. They argue that Americans benefit from the wider choices and lower prices that imports offer.

"I don't see it as a question of economic weakness," says Dean Baker, co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research think tank. "You could say consumers gain. We get cheaper prices. Importers gain."

But there are losers, too, when cheap imports enter the country, Baker says, especially among factory workers facing foreign competition. "In the Midwest, Ohio, Pennsylvania, we lost millions of jobs," he says. "It hurt whole communities."

Sometimes, though, a big trade deficit can be a sign of prosperity: When times are good, Americans can afford to buy more imports.

The United States, for instance, recorded a record trade deficit — \$762 billion — in 2006 when economic growth was a healthy 2.7 percent. Three years later, in the depths of the Great Recession, the deficit shrank to \$384 billion because worried American consumers were cutting back on imports — and everything else.

Likewise, says economist Timothy Taylor, editor of the Journal of Economic Perspectives, "Japan has had big surpluses for most of the past 25 years, and they've been a pathetic basket case."

Trade deficits do reduce gross domestic product, the broadest measure of a country's economic output. But that's mainly a matter of mathematics. GDP is supposed to count what's produced domestically. So imports — which can show up in the GDP as consumer spending when you buy, say, a Chilean wine — have to be subtracted to keep them from artificially inflating domestic production.

Team Trump says China, Mexico and other countries take advantage of unfair trade deals to drive up their exports to the United States and block imports. Many Democrats agree.

Mainstream economists say bigger economic factors are at work. The United States spends more than it saves — choices that show up as large budget deficits in Washington and big credit-card balances in American households. And "the only way you can consume more than you produce," Taylor notes, "is to import."

Economists say foreigners shouldn't be blamed for Americans not living within their means.

The U.S. dollar is also a problem when it comes to lopsided trade — and here, economists say, Trump

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has a stronger case against duplicitous foreigners: Other countries have manipulated the currency markets to gain an unfair advantage, although that's not the whole story.

The dollar is the world's currency, used in international business deals and for buying global commodities such as oil. That means there's usually high demand for dollars around the world.

In some ways, this is a good thing for America. A strong and stable dollar gives foreigners confidence to lend and invest in America. Confidence in the greenback allows Americans to borrow at lower interest rates than they'd otherwise have to pay.

But economists also call the dollar's premium status an exorbitant privilege. Being the world's currency means the dollar is often overvalued, making American-made products more expensive in foreign markets and pushing down exports. A muscular dollar also makes foreign goods cheaper in the United States and encourages Americans to buy more imports.

And it's not just neutral market forces that have kept the dollar strong. In years past, other countries have deliberately bought dollars and sold their own currencies to drive up the American currency and give their exporters a cost advantage.

Trump has blasted China, in particular, for currency manipulation. Most economists say that for years Beijing was guilty — though it has reversed policy in recent years and has lately been intervening in financial markets to strengthen, not weaken, the Chinese yuan.

C. Fred Bergsten and Joseph Gagnon of the Peterson Institute for International Economics have calculated that currency manipulation accounted for 35 percent of the U.S. trade deficit when it was near its peak in 2007.

Still, mainstream economists don't advocate punishing currency manipulators by imposing tariffs or other sanctions on their imports. That wouldn't do much good — likely causing Americans to buy imports from different foreign countries rather than domestic sources — and would risk provoking retaliation on American exports.

Bergsten, Peterson's director emeritus, says America could respond to, say, Chinese meddling in currency markets with some meddling of its own. If China bought \$1 billion worth of dollars to push down the yuan, the U.S. could offset the impact by buying \$1 billion worth of yuan.

Or Washington could borrow a page from President Ronald Reagan's playbook: In 1985 — when the dollar had surged against the Japanese yen and other currencies — the United States summoned representatives from Germany, Japan, France and Britain to New York's Plaza Hotel to hammer out a deal. After some arm-twisting, those countries agreed to intervene in financial markets and buy their currencies to give the dollar some relief.

The Plaza deal was partly meant to keep an angry Congress from resorting to baldly protectionist measures such as tariffs.

## Another strong month of hiring sends stock indexes higher

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Banks and other stocks climbed Friday after the government reported more gains in hiring last month, the latest signal that the economy is continuing to hum along. The modest gains wrapped up another quiet week for the stock market.

The Department of Labor said U.S. employers added 209,000 jobs last month. Investors sold government bonds and bet that interest rates are going to rise, which lets banks make more money on loans. Technology companies also rose. Weight Watchers soared after reporting a strong quarter while Viacom, the media company that owns Comedy Central and MTV, sank.

July was the second consecutive month of strong hiring, suggesting that the U.S. economy is still growing steadily as countries in Europe and less developed countries come out of long slumps.

"The economy is in pretty good shape," said Paul Zemsky, chief investment officer for the multi-asset business of Voya Investment Strategies. "We're seeing for the first time more of a globally synchronized growth."

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He said that will lead to a stronger global economy and will help American companies and stocks if growth in the U.S. falters.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 4.67 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,476.83. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 66.71 points, or 0.3 percent, to 22,092.81. That was its ninth gain in a row. The Nasdaq composite climbed 11.22 points, or 0.2 percent, to 6,351.56. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies gained 7.09 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,412.32.

European stock indexes made even larger gains. France's CAC 40 index climbed 1.4 percent and the DAX in Germany jumped 1.2 percent. The British FTSE 100 gained 0.5 percent.

Bond prices dropped, sending yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed to 2.26 percent from 2.22 percent as investors concluded it is more likely the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates again later in the year.

Bank of America climbed 60 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$24.98 and KeyCorp picked up 37 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$18.40.

Despite the gains Friday and the Dow's long winning streak, most stocks have hardly moved over the last two weeks. The market barely reacted to news Thursday that Special Counsel Robert Mueller impaneled a grand jury as he continues to investigate Russia's meddling in the presidential election.

Investors have consistently ignored surprising or unusual news out of Washington, and President Donald Trump's tweets don't affect stocks the way they did six months ago either.

Zemsky, of Voya, said that with the economy and corporate earnings doing well, investors will stay the course unless something much more dramatic happens.

"Selling stocks on a tweet or a news headline when the fundamentals are good is going to ultimately lead to losses," he said.

Food delivery company Grubhub and Yelp both jumped after Grubhub moved to expand its business by buying Yelp's Eat24 unit. Along with the \$287.5 million sale, the companies announced a deal that will let people reading Yelp reviews order food from restaurants that use Grubhub. Yelp climbed \$8.68, or 27.7 percent, to \$40.05 while Grubhub added \$4.37, or 9.1 percent, to \$52.62.

Weight Watchers International raised its forecasts for the year after it blew past analysts' expectations. The company said it had 20 percent more subscribers at the end of June than it did a year earlier. Its stock gained \$8.31, or 25.1 percent, to \$41.39.

Weight Watchers was worth under \$7 a share when Oprah Winfrey bought a 10-percent stake in it in 2015 and appeared in an ad for the company. It traded above \$80 in early 2012.

Viacom tumbled after the company reported trouble with a financing deal with a Chinese company. The company said it didn't receive a payment in June from Huahua Media, which agreed to help finance Paramount Pictures films as part of a deal that was struck in January. The stock sank \$4.85, or 13.8 percent, to \$30.22.

Viacom also said its subscribers to its cable networks dipped in the third quarter, and in the current quarter it expects a decline in the fees it receives from cable companies who carry its networks.

Among other cable network companies, Twenty-First Century Fox fell 36 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$28.46. Discovery Communications lost \$1.01, or 4.1 percent, to \$23.73.

Consumers are streaming more shows and movies and look for ways to cut their bills, pressures that helped push Discovery to agree to buy rival Scripps Networks on Monday. Cable company stocks have slumped since Time Warner reported a drop in ad revenue in May.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 55 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$49.58 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, added 41 cents to \$52.42 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline rose 1 cent to \$1.65 a gallon. Heating oil gained 1 cent to \$1.65 a gallon. Natural gas lost 3 cents to \$2.77 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar rose to 110.67 yen from 110.06 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1769 from \$1.1866.

Gold fell \$9.80 to \$1,264.60 an ounce. Silver dropped 38 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$16.25 an ounce. Copper rose 1 cent to \$2.89 a pound.

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In Asia, the Nikkei 225 index in Japan fell 0.4 percent while South Korea's Kospi added 0.4 percent. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong edged up 0.1 percent.

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## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 5, the 217th day of 2017. There are 148 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On August 5, 1957, the teenage dance show "American Bandstand," hosted by Dick Clark, made its network debut on ABC-TV. The British cartoon character Andy Capp, created by Reginald Smythe, first appeared in the Daily Mirror.

On this date:

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama.

In 1884, the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

In 1924, the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie" by Harold Gray made its debut.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the National Labor Board, which was later replaced with the National Labor Relations Board.

In 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the 200-meter dash at the Berlin Olympics, collecting the third of his four gold medals.

In 1953, Operation Big Switch began as remaining prisoners taken during the Korean War were exchanged at Panmunjom.

In 1962, actress Marilyn Monroe, 36, was found dead in her Los Angeles home; her death was ruled a probable suicide from "acute barbiturate poisoning." South African anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela was arrested; it was the beginning of 27 years of imprisonment.

In 1967, "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn," the first Pink Floyd album, was released in the United Kingdom on the Columbia label.

In 1969, the U.S. space probe Mariner 7 flew by Mars, sending back photographs and scientific data.

In 1974, the White House released transcripts of subpoenaed tape recordings showing that President Richard Nixon and his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, had discussed a plan in June 1972 to use the CIA to thwart the FBI's Watergate investigation; revelation of the tape sparked Nixon's resignation.

In 1986, it was revealed by Arts & Antiques magazine that artist Andrew Wyeth had, over a 15-year period, secretly created some 240 drawings and paintings of a woman named Helga Testorf, a neighbor in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

In 1991, Democratic congressional leaders formally launched an investigation into whether the 1980 Reagan-Bush campaign had secretly conspired with Iran to delay release of American hostages until after the presidential election, thereby preventing an "October surprise" that supposedly would have benefited President Jimmy Carter. (A task force later concluded there was "no credible evidence" of such a deal.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and Afghan President Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAH'R'-zeye) began meeting at Camp David to discuss security issues in Afghanistan. Lorena Ochoa (loh-AY'-nah oh-CHOH'-uh) won the Women's British Open — the first women's professional tournament played at venerable St. Andrews — for her first major title. Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger (zhahn mah-REE' loos-tih-ZHAY'), one of the most influential Roman Catholic figures in France, died in Paris at age 80. Comedian Stanley Myron Handelman died in Panorama City, California, at age 77.

Five years ago: A gunman opened fire, killing six people at a Sikh temple near Milwaukee before shoot-

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ing himself dead during an exchange of fire with one of the first officers to respond. The robotic explorer Curiosity blazed through the pink skies of Mars, steering itself to a gentle landing inside a giant crater. Jamaica's Usain Bolt pulled away from the pack and crossed the finish line to claim consecutive gold medals in the marquee track and field event at the Summer Games in London. Britain's Andy Murray cruised past Roger Federer 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 in the men's tennis singles final. Serena and Venus Williams won the women's doubles title, beating Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-4. A visibly disappointed McKayla Maroney took silver in the women's vault; Sandra Izbasa of Romania won the gold.

One year ago: The opening ceremony for the Summer Olympics took place in Rio de Janeiro as Brazil laced its high-energy party with a sobering message of the dangers of global warming.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Saxon is 81. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Roman Gabriel is 77. Country songwriter Bobby Braddock is 77. Actress Loni Anderson is 72. Actress Erika Slezak is 71. Rock singer Rick Derringer is 70. Actress Holly Palance is 67. Singer Samantha Sang is 64. Rock musician Eddie Ojeda (Twisted Sister) is 62. Actress-singer Maureen McCormick is 61. Rock musician Pat Smear is 58. Author David Baldacci is 57. Actress Tawney Kitaen is 56. Actress Janet McTeer is 56. Country musician Mark O'Connor is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing is 55. Actor Mark Strong is 54. Director-screenwriter James Gunn is 51. Actor Jonathan Silverman is 51. Country singer Terri Clark is 49. Retired MLB All-Star John Olerud is 49. Rock musician Eicca Toppinen (EYE'-kah TAH'-pihn-nehn) (Apocalyptic) is 42. Country musician Will Sellers (Old Dominion) is 39. Actor Jesse Williams is 37. Actor Brendon Ryan Barrett is 31. Actress Meegan Warner (TV: "TURN: Washington's Spies") is 26. Actor Albert Tsai is 13.

Thought for Today: "What worries you, masters you." — John Locke, English philosopher (1632-1704).