

# Groton Daily Independent

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### 12

4 p.m.: **Girls soccer hosts Garretson**

### 13

- st. John's Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m.
- Emmanuel Lutheran:** worship at 9 a.m.
- United Methodist Church:** Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.
- Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.
- First Presbyterian:** Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.
- Heaven Bound Ministries:** No Worship.

## Official Notices

- Groton City (updated 8-8)
- Other Notices (updated 8-8)
- Groton Area School (updated 8-7)
- Brown County (updated 8-7)
- Frederick Area School Book (updated 7-26)
- Westport Town Book (updated 7-26)
- Frederick Town (updated 7-18)
- 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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Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

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“Memory is  
the diary  
that we all  
carry around  
with us.”

Oscar Wilde

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

## Regents Seek Dakota's Promise for College Students in Need

PIERRE, S.D. – To keep the cost of a public higher education affordable, the South Dakota Board of Regents will ask policymakers to create a comprehensive state financial aid program, Dakota's Promise, aimed at closing the gap between existing financial aid and the cost of attendance for South Dakota college students.

"Our state remains at the very bottom when it comes to state-funded scholarship programs," said Regents President Bob Sutton. "After exhausting all existing aid options, many of our students still have unmet need. That gap may prevent a student from attending college or completing their degree.

"This new financial aid model, Dakota's Promise, is a significant step forward to support those students who most need our help," Sutton said.

The \$3.5 million financial aid request, referred to as Dakota's Promise, would have the state fill the funding gap for a student after every other available source—from the student, student's family, institution, and federal government—has been used. In future years, this funding would continue to scale until an estimated 5,928 students receive financial aid support annually at a cost of \$10.3 million.

The regents' budget request overall seeks \$6.5 million in additional ongoing state resources linked to specific priorities of the six public universities and two special schools. The regents have asked Gov. Dennis Daugaard to make the student aid model, along with salary policy for all state employees, his highest priorities in the recommended Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

In addition, the regents will request new state investments to ensure student retention and graduation across the public university system and to maintain and repair campus buildings.

Student retention initiatives include targeted efforts to support engineering students in collegiate-level mathematics courses at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and South Dakota State University. Other initiatives to improve retention at Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, and University of South Dakota will also be pursued. A total of \$1.16 million is being requested for these student success efforts.

Another request seeks to restore last year's budget cut to higher education's maintenance and repair funds, which were used to help balance a state budget shortfall. The \$1.8 million request restores the cut, funds last year's original budget request of \$918,738, and puts the system at about 1.8 percent of building replacement values.

The board also identified \$3 million in a one-time budget request for the state's high-speed data network. The Rural, Education, and Economic Development (REED) Network is a 10-gigabit per second network used by academic researchers, state and federal research agencies, and the state's underground science laboratory at Lead.

Since the South Dakota network was created in 2007, most states have moved their data networks to 100 gigabit speeds to accommodate ever-growing data needs. For example, the EROS Data Center last year sent data across the REED Network that was the equivalent of the entire Library of Congress every six hours, a 36-fold increase over five years.

The one-time request would update the north-south fiber path through the state to improve connections to South Dakota State University and University of South Dakota, as well as to Dakota State University and the Graduate Education & Applied Research Center in Sioux Falls. A Phase 3 project for future years would upgrade the rest of the network, including research sites in western South Dakota, based on demand.

The six public universities in South Dakota are major economic engines, generating \$2.66 billion a year in annual economic impact within the state. The board's budget request of \$6.5 million in additional funding represents a 3 percent increase over the current \$211 million in base state funding.



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## GFP Commission to Review Boat Closure Petition on Swan Lake

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission will take action on a petition proposal to designate Swan lake in Clark County as a “no boating zone” from Oct. 20 to Dec. 31 at their upcoming meeting in September.

M&E Land Company of Watertown filed a formal petition to the GFP Commission on July 20, 2017, to amend its existing rule for public water safety zones in Clark County. The petition was filed primarily to restrict boating access on Swan lake to provide a protected rest area for migrating waterfowl during the low plains duck hunting season.

The petition can be found online at: <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/commission/docs/2017/august/docs.pdf>.

The Commission will take action on this petition proposal at their Sept. 7-8 meeting, at the Ramada in Sioux Falls. Written comments can be sent to [wildinfo@state.sd.us](mailto:wildinfo@state.sd.us). To be part of the public record, comments must be received by 12 p.m. CDT on Sept. 7. Please include a full name along with the city and state of residence. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held Sept. 7, at 2 p.m. CDT at the Ramada in Sioux Falls.

## Home for Sale



**Comfortable, efficient and great location  
2006 home (28X44) with spacious deck and garage.**

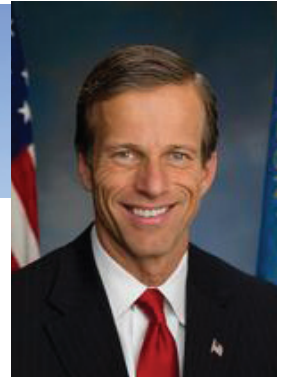
**\$95,000**

**Open House August 12th and 13th, 1:00 to 3:00**

**Contact Bob Walter 605-380-6804.**

**16 E 4th Ave., Groton**

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## The Future is Within Our Reach

The 24-hour cable news cycle is typically dominated by front burner issues of the day – everything from the latest news in Washington to updates about events or instability in other parts of the world. Many of these stories rightfully deserve the American people's attention, but whether it's a national cable network or a small town newspaper, there's never enough time in the day or space on the page to cover every single story.

One story that isn't likely to generate a breaking news alert or land above the fold is the good work happening behind the scenes in our Senate committees. I've always believed that Congress can walk and chew gum at the same time. We can focus on the big picture issues of the day while keeping our nose to the grindstone on other priorities. For the last several years, that's been my goal as chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

This year alone, the committee has sent nearly forty bills, almost all of them bipartisan, to the full Senate. More than a quarter of those bills made it to the House, and we've already had a handful signed into law. In early August, the Senate passed a half dozen committee-approved technology and telecommunications bills that are now one step closer to becoming law. Among them was my MOBILE NOW Act, which would help lay some important groundwork for next-generation gigabit wireless broadband services throughout the country.

If you grew up in the '80s or '90s or are interested in film and television, you're probably familiar with Hollywood's take on the future, which at the time only seemed possible on the big screen. Dick Tracy had a two-way radio wrist watch, Marty McFly had self-tying shoes, a smart jacket, and a hoverboard, and Elroy Jetson had, well, every kind of toy or gadget a young kid could imagine. While some of Hollywood's futuristic portrayals have since become reality, thanks in large part to the explosive growth of wireless broadband technology, America's innovators and entrepreneurs have the capability and desire to do so much more. That's one of the main reasons why I introduced the MOBILE NOW Act.

My bill would help get the government out of innovators' way by cutting red tape and ensuring more spectrum (the airwaves that help make today's wireless technology possible) is made available to folks in the private sector. The government currently controls a large portion of underutilized spectrum, so my bill sets a realistic timeline for transferring a significant amount of it to the commercial sector for innovators and entrepreneurs to use. My bill would also accelerate and streamline the process for the creation of physical infrastructure projects, like antennas and towers, which will be required for next-generation gigabit wireless broadband services, like 5G, for example.

Think about all of the technological advancements that have occurred just in your lifetime. Now imagine what could be accomplished in the next 10 or 20 years if innovators had the tools and opportunities to take the next step, free from unnecessary government obstacles and red tape. I'm excited for what's to come, and I hope I can help South Dakota be a pioneer in this upcoming digital revolution.

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## Graduating College, Career and Life Ready

It's hard to believe my oldest grandchild is starting kindergarten this year. With a week-and-a-half left before his first day, Henry is looking forward to starting school.

Even though it's been a while since I was in the classroom, I've learned a few things as a parent, public servant and now, grandfather. I know how crucial education is to individual achievement and how, particularly during high school, planning and forming good habits can help students succeed.

For high schoolers and their parents, I have three tips to share for the upcoming school year.

First, don't underestimate the importance of showing up. Some absences cannot be avoided, and that is understandable. Sometimes, though, absences add up without students and families noticing. Research tells us that missing just 10 percent of a school year negatively impacts student achievement. That breaks down to missing only two or three days of school a month. So it's easy to see how those absences can accumulate, yet escape families' attention.

This tip applies beyond just high schoolers, as it is important to build good attendance habits from the beginning. In the earliest grades, good attendance is a strong predictor for whether students will be proficient readers. By middle school, chronic absence puts students at risk of not graduating. In fact, by 9th grade, a student's attendance record is an even better predictor of graduation rates than are 8th grade test scores.

Second, high school juniors and seniors should consider dual credit options. Dual credit courses allow students to simultaneously earn high school and college credit. For those with busy schedules or who live in rural areas, dual credit courses can be taken online. At only \$48.33 per credit hour, these courses provide students and their families significant cost savings. These are the cheapest university or technical school credits a student will ever take, and they can save hundreds of dollars by taking just one course. Last year, South Dakota students saved more than \$4.4 million by using this program – averaging more than \$1,000 per student in savings.

And last, enjoy the present but think about the future. High school is the time to start thinking about career paths. High schoolers should explore different fields by taking advantage of internships, job-shadowing opportunities and hands-on learning experiences. They need to begin to weigh their interests, goals, and abilities, and to consider what jobs are available and what paths will lead to employment.

The goal of our education system is to successfully prepare students for college, career and life. Whether they go on to one of our state's public universities, technical institutes or right into the workforce, we want students to graduate with a plan in place for taking their next steps. Consistent attendance, dual credit and job exploration can help lay the foundation for that to happen.

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## Standing Strong Against Foreign Aggression

Today, as threats to the United States continue to grow across the globe, it is important to remind ourselves that we remain the strongest, most powerful country in the world and can face any challenge presented by America's enemies. The U.S. military is the most sophisticated and capable fighting force the world has ever seen, and, with continued support from Congress and the president, can regain the required level of readiness lost during years of underfunding. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I'm extremely proud of our ability to come together to support our troops and their missions each year.

Recently, news broke that North Korea has allegedly developed a nuclear warhead that could be mated to a missile and reach United States soil. Many Americans are rightly concerned about this development. In response to North Korea's nuclear weapons initiatives, the United Nations Security Council unanimously voted to approve new, global sanctions against North Korea. This came shortly after Congress passed and President Trump signed into law an expanded set of sanctions against hostile actors, to include North Korea.

While the United States is capable of taking military action against those wishing to do us harm, sanctions can be a helpful tool we can use to deter and respond to destabilizing, dangerous behavior without the risks associated with a military response. The United States has a long history of using sanctions as a tool of foreign policy, and I support its use as a peaceful attempt to apply pressure to rogue nations. Further, if North Korea takes steps toward becoming a more responsible actor in the international community, the U.S. and international community could reward such behavior by rolling back selected sanctions. A successful implementation of sanctions on North Korea will require international cooperation, especially from China. Specifically, these sanctions would directly affect North Korea's senior leadership and their supporters.

However, we must keep all options on the table as we continue our efforts to stabilize and de-escalate dangerous situations, including that with North Korea. As I've said many times before, the defense of our nation is the primary responsibility of the federal government. The North Korean regime has threatened the United States and our allies countless times, and we must continue to send a strong message that aggression will not be tolerated.

But the Korean peninsula isn't the only area in which we must keep a careful watch on rogue actors. Elsewhere in the world, Iran continues to violate international restrictions prohibiting ballistic missile testing and illicit arms transfers. Russia has invaded Ukraine and, in violation of international law annexed the Crimean peninsula. It also brazenly engages in cyberattacks, as exemplified by their efforts during the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The recent sanctions legislation that President Trump signed into law punishes both of these nations, in addition to North Korea, for their continued aggressive, destabilizing behaviors.

Earlier this summer, I wrote about the importance of rebuilding our armed forces and promoting 'Peace Through Strength,' a philosophy implemented by President Ronald Reagan to successfully end the Cold War in the 1980s. Now more than ever, we must be prepared to use our military strength along with non-military measures to deter aggression and, if deterrence fails, make certain that attacks on our country or our allies are soundly defeated.



## Economic and Workforce Development Go Hand in Hand

It's been a while since we've heard optimism about the economy. The unemployment rate is hovering around 4 percent. The economy is consistently producing more than 200,000 jobs per month. Nearly 7 in ten Americans feel good about where the economy is headed – that's up five percentage points since June alone and comparable to what folks felt in the early 2000's, according to a recent CBS News poll. Even the New York Times posted a headline that read: "Jobs Roar Back."

While momentum must continue on key growth issues like regulatory relief and tax reform, we must also focus on another area: our workforce. Are young people getting the training and qualifications they need to compete and win in this new, modernized, and growing economy? Too often, the answer I hear is "not quite."

In South Dakota, we are incredibly blessed to have a network of tech schools that provide training for the most in-demand jobs. Recently, WalletHub ranked us as having the nation's best system of community colleges. So, this August, I stopped by Lake Area Tech in Watertown to discuss with local businesses and educators what makes South Dakota stand out.

At Lake Area Tech, 99 percent of graduates are employed after graduation, and they're often landing good jobs, earning around 25 percent more than other new hires. What makes the difference? For one, South Dakota tech schools, like Lake Area Tech, are providing quality training and education. But they are also putting in the work necessary to connect those educating our workforce with those hiring our workforce. That connection can be instrumental to a student's success.

This partnership between educators and employers ought to be a model for the nation. Earlier this year, I helped pass the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act through the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation takes many of the ideas that are working at places like Lake Area Tech and creates an infrastructure for them to work nationwide.

More specifically, the legislation would better align education with in-demand jobs. It does so by lifting some of the barriers that discourage strong partnerships between job creators and educators. It also grants states and local community leaders more flexibility in using federal education dollars, opening opportunities for innovative learning experiences. Finally, the bill would increase transparency to ensure career and technical education programs are delivering real results.

These are smart reforms that I'm hopeful the Senate will take up soon, so we can get them to the president's desk.

There's a lot of focus right now on economic development, which is necessary and a good change of pace from the previous administration. I'm going to continue to build on the successes we've had repealing job-killing regulations while also pursuing tax reform that leaves more money in people's pockets and helps businesses create jobs and increase wages.

But alongside economic development, we have a responsibility to pursue workforce development. America's most valuable asset is – and always has been – our people. We are hardworking and smart. We take pride in a "Made in America" label. And we live by a set of values that celebrate freedom, liberty, and personal responsibility. By continuing to innovate new, more effective workforce development programs, we can help Americans from all walks of life not only find good-paying jobs, but meaningful careers they can grow in.



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## Customer Appreciation Days

Aug. 22 through Aug. 24

**Specials All Week! Daily Drawings!**

Tuesday is Coffee, cookies and cheese samples

Wednesday is bring your pet in for a treat

Thursday is beef sandwiches, beans and drink  
served from noon to 7 pm.

Ritchie Waterer rep Curt Weyh available  
to speak with on Thursday

**Come let us show you **OUR**  
appreciation for your business**

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## Today in Weather History

August 12, 1986: Thunderstorms produced 2.53 inches of rain in twenty minutes in downtown Rapid City. The heavy rain caused street and basement flooding. Golf ball size hail fell in Zeona, in Perkins County, which covered the ground.

1752: The following is from the Journals of the Rev. Thomas Smith, and the Rev. Samuel Deane, published in 1849. "In the evening there was dismal thunder and lightning, and abundance of rain, and such a hurricane as was never the like in these parts of the world." This hurricane struck Portland, Maine. Click [HERE](#) to read their Journals.

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)

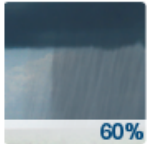

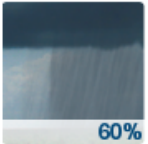


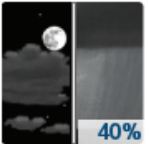
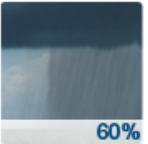
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to New England, with 103 reports of large hail and damaging winds through the day. Thunderstorms in Wisconsin produced hail three inches in diameter near Oshkosh, and wind gusts to 65 mph at Germantown. (The National Weather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

2004: Hurricane Charley was the third named storm and the second hurricane of the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season. Charley lasted from August 9 to August 15, and at its peak intensity, it attained 150 mph winds, making it a strong Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. It made landfall in southwestern Florida at maximum strength, making it the most powerful hurricane to hit the United States since Hurricane Andrew struck Florida in 1992.

2005: A tornado strikes Wright, Wyoming, a coal-mining community, killing two and destroying 91 homes and damaging about 30 more in around the town.

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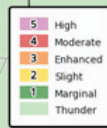
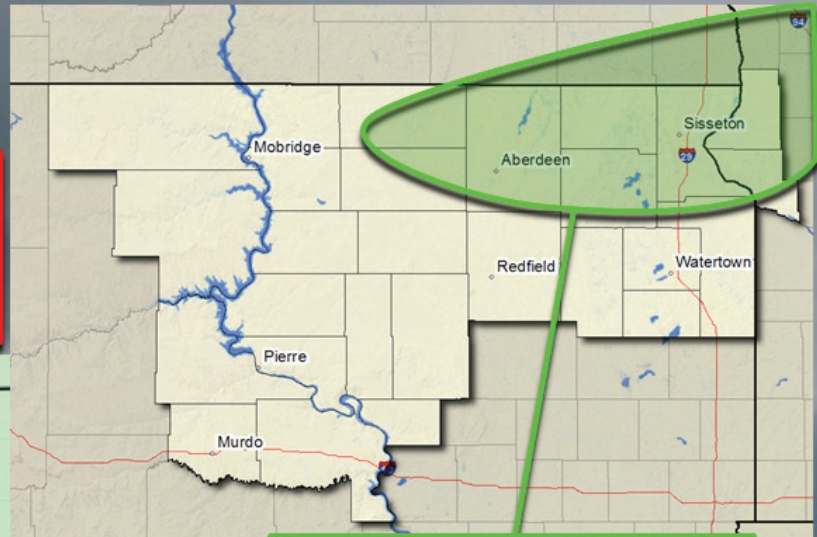
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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
60%	70%	60%			40%	60%
Showers Likely	T-storms Likely	Showers Likely	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Showers Likely
High: 76 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 80 °F

## Active Weather This Weekend

**Afternoon/Evening Severe Weather Threat Hail & Strong Winds**

**Tonight/Sunday Slow Moving Storms w/ Heavy Rain**



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 8/12/2017 5:16 AM Central

Published on: 08/12/2017 at 5:23AM

A slow moving weather system will give us several shots at moisture through the weekend. Today we already have some scattered thundershowers. During the heat of the afternoon, we could also see some stronger storms, mainly along and west of the Missouri valley. As the system continues to drift into the eastern Dakotas, weak winds will support slow moving showers and storms overnight, which could generate rather decent rainfall for parts of the area. The chances for moisture continue into Sunday before the system moves into Minnesota.

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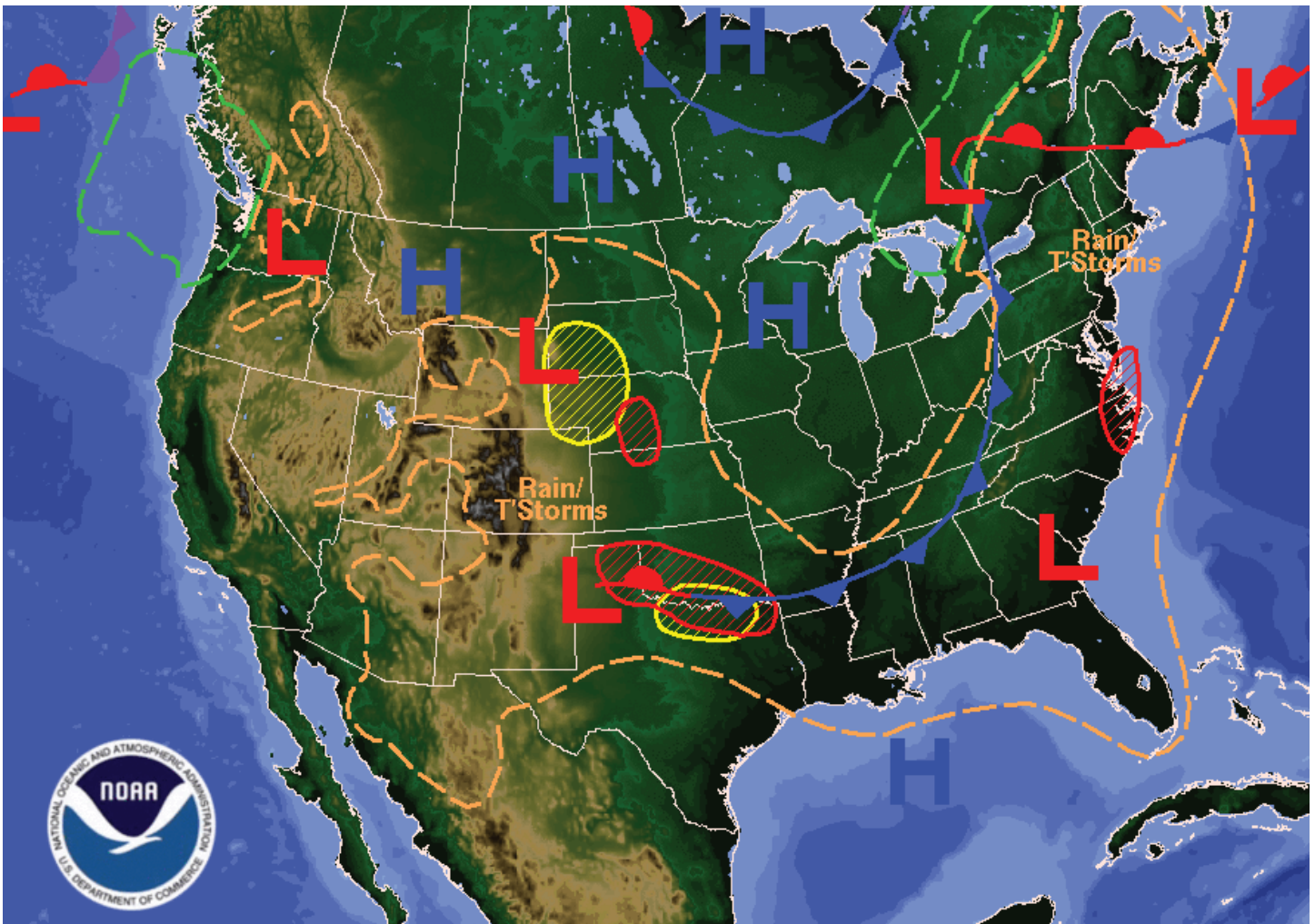
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 79.1**  
**Low Outside Temp: 51.7**  
**High Gust: 9 mph**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 102° in 1933**  
**Record Low: 40° in 1898**  
**Average High: 83°F**  
**Average Low: 57°F**  
**Average Precip in Aug: 0.94**  
**Precip to date in Aug: 0.78**  
**Average Precip to date: 14.80**  
**Precip Year to Date: 8.13**  
**Sunset Tonight: 8:45 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:32 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Aug 12, 2017, issued 4:51 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## **BLESSED IS THE NATION!**

The destiny of a nation is not determined by its armed forces or material resources. Nor is it empowered by its political philosophy or intellectual achievements. God's Word reveals and the records of history prove that it is "not by power, nor by might, but by my spirit" that nations survive over time.

The destiny of any nation is determined by the spiritual life of its people. "Blessed is the nation," David declared, "whose God is the Lord."

Every nation has had an opportunity to accept the Word of God and follow His ways, to worship Him and to do His will. If they accept His offer, that nation will be blest. However, if a nation chooses to reject Him and His teachings and refuses to worship and follow Him and establish their own foundation they will eventually be destroyed. This is an obvious fact of history.

Rome became a great empire but it collapsed. Why? The celebrated Italian historian, Papini, wrote that "the temple, the bank, and the academy were against Jesus of Nazareth."

Germany became great but was reduced to rubble. Wrote a German philosopher, "They pushed God out of the universities and that was the beginning of the death sentence for the empire."

What will be our destiny when we are no longer "one nation under God?" We are the ones responsible to "humble ourselves, pray, call upon the Lord and repent." Otherwise, we will be a memory on the pages of history.

Prayer: Father, we who profess Your name are to call upon Your name and stand against the forces of evil. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance.

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

23-33-53-56-58, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 5

(twenty-three, thirty-three, fifty-three, fifty-six, fifty-eight; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$393 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$356 million

### Centerville to be South Dakota's honorary capital for a day

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Centerville is getting the chance to serve as the honorary South Dakota capital for a day.

The event is scheduled for Tuesday. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office says activities for the day will include a main street walk, business tours and a roundtable meeting.

Community members will be able to speak with Daugaard, who will also give a speech at a community social to be held at the Centerville Senior Center.

First lady Linda Daugaard will be reading at the Centerville Community Library. Children are invited to join her at the library.

### Democrat, GOP candidates diverge on bathroom bills

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The lone South Dakota Democrat running for governor said Friday that measures restricting which facilities transgender students can use at school amount to "a solution in search of a problem."

Sen. Billie Sutton opposed a so-called bathroom bill when it was proposed during the 2016 legislative session. He said in a statement to The Associated Press that local schools have been handling the issue in the best way for their students, a view shared by term-limited Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard but one that diverges from the top two Republicans vying to replace him.

Sutton pointed to the "catastrophic" economic consequences of passing such a measure. A similar law in North Carolina sparked national uproar and costly boycotts before lawmakers rolled much of it back.

"South Dakota prides itself on common sense, and laws like this are a solution in search of a problem," the Burke legislator said in the statement.

A key conservative group, Family Heritage Alliance Action, plans not to pursue a "student privacy act" until 2019, when a new, potentially more favorable governor will be in office, according to Ed Randazzo, the nonprofit's director of political operations.

Such limitations have been proposed at statehouses across the country, including unsuccessful bills on school facilities proposed during the past two legislative sessions in South Dakota. Critics argue that such measures are discriminatory. Randazzo has said supporters aim to protect the privacy of all students.

Daugaard broke with legislative Republicans last year in rejecting a bathroom bill, saying it didn't address "any pressing issue" and that such decisions were best left to local schools. He threatened to veto a proposal this year dealing with locker rooms, shower rooms and changing facilities before it was ultimately scuttled.

The top Republicans competing in the GOP gubernatorial primary — Attorney General Marty Jackley and

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem — offered support for such restrictions earlier this week.

Jackley said in a statement that children shouldn't be in a locker room or bathroom with peers of the opposite birth gender. Jackley said that as governor, he would sign legislation that "protects student privacy and allows local school districts to provide reasonable accommodations."

Noem said she thinks locker rooms and restrooms should be "girls in girls' restrooms, boys in boys' restrooms." But she said would want to review specific language before committing her support.

There's also a proposed ballot measure sponsored by resident Jack Heyd that would require transgender students to use bathrooms corresponding with their sex at birth. The status of that plan is unclear, and Heyd hasn't returned telephone messages requesting comment from the AP. The Secretary of State's Office said supporters haven't yet completed the steps necessary to start gathering signatures.

## Hutterite colony in South Dakota settles in fatal crash

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Hutterite colony in South Dakota accused of fostering behavior that led to the death of a teenage girl in a motor vehicle accident has settled a lawsuit brought by the girl's family.

The settlement by the Deerfield Hutterian Brethren Colony near Ipswich comes right before an Aug. 14 trial. The colony was accused of negligence and recklessness by ignoring unlicensed youths driving on public roadways outside the colony, while allowing access to alcohol.

Those actions were factors in the death of Vannah Decker, 15. She died in February 2014 after riding in a colony-owned vehicle driven by Janos Stahl, 17. Stahl was charged with second-degree manslaughter and served a year in jail, the Argus Leader reported.

Decker was from the Starland Hutterian Brethren Colony in Minnesota. She had been visiting family on the Plainview Colony about four miles from the Deerfield Colony. Court records show Stahl drank alcohol before and after meeting that night with Decker, whom he had been communicating with online for several months.

Stahl rolled into a ditch after accelerating to nearly 100 mph, ejecting Decker from the vehicle. He testified that he looked for her, but walked home without reporting the accident when he couldn't find her.

Colony members testified in the civil suit that it's common for unlicensed boys to teach themselves to drive and to take colony vehicles on public roads.

Hutterites are an community that lives on colonies throughout the prairies of northwestern North America. The agricultural community of German descent is a denomination of Anabaptists who, like the Amish, trace their roots back to the Radical Reformation of the 16th century.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

"Although my client continues to mourn the tragic and senseless loss of his 15-year-old daughter, he is relieved that the defendants have been held accountable through the civil justice system," said Scott Abdallah, an attorney for Vannah's father. "Vannah's death was preventable. The Decker family hopes this case will help bring needed changes so that the public is protected from unlicensed children driving on the public roadways of South Dakota."

A phone message left by the newspaper seeking comment from the colony's attorney was not immediately returned.

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

## FBI raids Des Moines house where pipeline protesters live

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The FBI has raided a Catholic Worker House in Des Moines looking for property of two women accused of damaging an oil pipeline that crosses Iowa and three other states.

The Des Moines Register reports that about 30 armed agents and other officers entered the Catholic Workers' Berrigan House around 6 a.m. Friday and left hours later with about 20 bags and boxes.

Former Catholic priest Frank Cordaro, who lives at the house, says the agents had a search warrant seeking property of Jessica Reznicek and Ruby Montoya, who also live at the house. The warrant said

items sought included financial records, clothing, computers, and tools capable of cutting metal.

The women have a history of arrests for protesting the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline that crosses North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois. Last month, they announced they had burned construction machinery, cut through pipe valves and set fires along the pipeline route.

Information from: The Des Moines Register, <http://www.desmoinesregister.com>

## Fatal crashes at Sturgis Motorcycle Rally rise to 6

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — The number of fatal crashes at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in the Black Hills has risen to six.

The state Department of Public Safety says the crashes have killed people from South Dakota, Texas, Maryland, Utah and Indiana. The state of the sixth victim wasn't immediately released.

There were two fatal accidents in the same time period at last year's rally.

The 10-day rally ends Sunday.

## Aberdeen methamphetamine bust was biggest in city history

ABERDEE, S.D. (AP) — Five people will face charges in a drug bust at an Aberdeen business earlier this year that police say resulted in the largest seizure of methamphetamine in city history.

The bust occurred in February at a recycling service business. Authorities say they seized nearly 5 pounds of meth worth \$415,000 on the street, along with about \$4,000 in cash, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and syringes.

The American News reports that police just recently released details, citing an ongoing investigation.

All of the suspects are from Aberdeen. One has pleaded not guilty and one has pleaded guilty and been sentenced to 12 years in prison. Charges are pending against three others.

Police Capt. Eric Duven says the alleged drug operation was not connected to the business.

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

## Presley's friends feel love, pain, 40 years after his death

By ADRIAN SAINZ, Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — It isn't just the legend of Elvis Presley that has unmatched staying power 40 years after his death. The guilt, pain and regret felt by those who knew and loved him lingers, too.

Prolific session musician and producer Norbert Putnam was on vacation with his family in Hawaii when he heard his friend died of a heart attack. After years of making groundbreaking music and acting in more than two dozen movies, Presley's career had slowed, and historical accounts of his life note he was fighting obesity and substance abuse when he passed away in his Graceland home in Memphis, Tennessee.

Putnam was standing in line to pay for items at a general store when he heard someone say Presley had died.

"I reached into my pocket, threw some money down, ran to the car, threw the food down, turned on the radio," Putnam said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

Putnam switched on the radio. The announcer said: "Elvis Presley died this morning."

"I sat there in my car and bawled like a child who had a toy taken away from him," Putnam said. "I could not believe it. I thought someone should have staged an intervention. I thought he could have been saved."

Since Presley's death, devotees of the swivel-hipped, smooth talking performer who was born into poverty in Tupelo, Mississippi, and became an international star have been flocking to Memphis for Elvis Week, the annual celebration of his life and career.

It coincides with the anniversary of Presley's death in Memphis on Aug. 16, 1977, and it draws visitors from around the world. Most fans will have their first glimpse of a newly built entertainment complex that



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has replaced and updated old exhibits focused on Presley's cars, movies and memorabilia. An estimated 30,000 people are expected to attend a candlelight vigil that begins Tuesday night and continues into Wednesday morning at Graceland, where Presley is buried.

For the first time, Graceland will charge fans for access to Presley's gravesite during the nighttime vigil. Visitors can pay \$28.75 to join the procession leading to the graves. The ticket also provides access to other parts of the property, Graceland said in a statement.

Putnam is scheduled to make a public appearance during Elvis Week to honor the late rock n' roll pioneer. Bill Medley, the deep-voiced singer who comprised half of the Righteous Brothers duo before starting a solo career, will also be there.

Presley and Medley played the same hotel in Las Vegas in 1971. Their schedules kept them busy, but they still would catch each other's shows.

Medley had a strong following, and Presley sang Righteous Brothers hits "Unchained Melody" and "You've Lost That Loving Feeling." They were friends dating back to the early 1960s.

Before Presley would go on stage at the Las Vegas Hilton, he and Medley would spend a few minutes together, talking about their mutual love for motorcycles and musical influences. Medley remembers those chats fondly, as Presley had few moments when he could just be himself, away from fans and handlers and an entourage known as the Memphis Mafia.

"We would sit there, one on one," Medley said. "So Elvis and I just really became Bill and Elvis. We would just talk about normal stuff. ... Nothing too deep."

Putnam, a bass guitarist and member of the renowned Muscle Shoals rhythm section, played on 120 Presley songs. He recalls how much energy Presley displayed during the marathon recording sessions that ran all night at RCA Studio B in Nashville in 1970.

"Elvis could focus better than any artist I ever worked with," Putnam said. "He would learn a new song in five to 10 minutes, and was ready to deliver a killer vocal on the first take. That was very unusual."

Another musician who will appear during Elvis Week is Ginger Holladay. She was only 17 and in high school when she sang backup on Presley hits "Suspicious Minds" and "In the Ghetto." Holladay's sister Mary, a backup singer for Presley, had recommended Ginger when one of his regulars fell ill. So, Ginger Holladay skipped cheerleading practice and flew to Memphis to record at American Sound studio in 1969.

"He was more at home in the studio than he was anywhere else," Holladay said. "He loved being a musician and he loved making connections with other musicians. We got to see another part of him that was more comfortable and not so much of a performer."

Medley says he wanted to visit Presley when he was hospitalized in the mid-1970s, but was discouraged by his handlers.

Such regret probably follows Presley's friends around to this day, Holladay said.

"We all have that guilt with Elvis," she said. "Looking back, how could we have supported him more? I think we all have that feeling that we let him down."

## Xi calls for calm after Trump says US is 'locked and loaded'

By ERIC TALMADGE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping made a plea for cool-headedness over escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea in a phone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday, urging both sides to avoid words or actions that could worsen the situation.

The call came after Trump unleashed a slew of fresh threats against North Korea on Friday, declaring the U.S. military "locked and loaded" and warning North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that he "will regret it fast" if he takes any action against U.S. territories or allies.

Trump has pushed China to pressure North Korea to halt a nuclear weapons program that is nearing the capability of targeting the United States. China is the North's biggest economic partner and source of aid, but says it alone can't compel Pyongyang to end its nuclear and missile programs.

The White House said in a statement that Trump and Xi "agreed North Korea must stop its provocative

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and escalatory behavior." It also said that the two "reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

State-run China Central Television quoted Xi as telling Trump the "relevant parties must maintain restraint and avoid words and deeds that would exacerbate the tension on the Korean Peninsula."

But restraint was not the word of the day on Friday as Trump sent out a cascade of unscripted statements, including what appeared to be another red line — the mere utterance of threats — that would trigger a U.S. attack against North Korea and "big, big trouble" for Kim.

North Korea's Minju Joson newspaper, meanwhile, lashed back at the U.S. in an editorial Saturday.

"The powerful revolutionary Paektusan army of the DPRK, capable of fighting any war the U.S. wants, is now on the standby to launch fire into its mainland, waiting for an order of final attack," it said. DPRK stands for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The tough talk capped a week in which long-standing tensions between the countries risked abruptly boiling over.

New United Nations sanctions condemning the North's rapidly developing nuclear program drew fresh ire and threats from Pyongyang. Trump, responding to a report that U.S. intelligence indicates Pyongyang can now put a nuclear warhead on its long-range missiles, vowed to rain down "fire and fury" if challenged.

The North then came out with a threat to lob four intermediate-range "Hwasong-12" missiles near Guam, a tiny U.S. territory some 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) from Pyongyang.

At the epicenter of the rhetoric, Trump's New Jersey golf course, the president seemed to put Kim on notice, saying, "If he utters one threat in the form of an overt threat — which by the way he has been uttering for years and his family has been uttering for years — or he does anything with respect to Guam or anyplace else that's an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it and he will regret it fast."

Asked if the U.S. was going to war, he said cryptically, "I think you know the answer to that."

But Trump's comments did not appear to be backed by significant military mobilization on either side of the Pacific, and an important, quiet diplomatic channel remained open. As a precaution, Japan deployed missile defense batteries under the path a North Korean missile might take.

Life on the streets of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, also remained calm.

There have been no air raid drills or cars in camouflage netting as has been the case during previous crises. State-run media ensures that the population gets the North Korean side of the story, but doesn't convey any sense of international concern about the situation.

U.S. officials say they will be going ahead with long-scheduled military exercises with South Korea. Pyongyang says it will be ready to send its missile launch plan to Kim for approval just before or as the drills begin.

Called Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, the exercises are expected to run Aug. 21-31 and involve tens of thousands of American and South Korean troops on the ground and in the sea and air. North Korea claims the exercises are a rehearsal for war, but Washington and Seoul say they are necessary to deter North Korean aggression.

Trump began his Friday barrage with an especially fiery tweet: "Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!"

He later retweeted a posting from U.S. Pacific Command that showed B-1B Lancer bomber planes on Guam that "stand ready to fulfill USFK's #FightTonight mission if called upon to do so." "Fight tonight" has long been the motto of U.S. forces in South Korea to show they're always ready for combat on the Korean Peninsula.

Trump also brushed away calls for caution from other world leaders, including Germany's Angela Merkel.

"I don't see a military solution and I don't think it's called for," Merkel said Friday, calling on the U.N. Security Council to continue to address the crisis.

"I think escalating the rhetoric is the wrong answer," Merkel added.

"Let her speak for Germany," Trump said, when asked about the comment. "Perhaps she is referring to Germany. She's certainly not referring to the United States, that I can tell you."

By evening, he seemed to have mellowed a bit.

"Hopefully it'll all work out," Trump said. "Nobody loves a peaceful solution better than President Trump." Speaking to Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, he promised: "You are safe. We are with you a thousand percent."

Lemire reported from Bedminster, New Jersey. Associated Press writers Josh Lederman, Matthew Pennington and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

## Raising the stakes: Why North Korea is talking up Guam

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's announcement that it is finalizing a plan to launch four ballistic missiles over Japan toward the island of Guam has touched off a series of fiery threats from President Donald Trump and upped tensions between Pyongyang and Washington to a whole new level.

So are we all headed toward war?

If past precedent is any guide, the answer is no. Though it has been mostly lost as the current round of tough talk keeps escalating, North Korea just a few months ago conducted a similar rehearsal strike on a U.S. military base in Japan. And that missile test led to nary a tweet from Trump.

For sure, if Pyongyang were to go through with its planned launch of missiles toward Guam, it would be an extremely provocative move. But it is also one that the U.S. military has been watching develop for years, with fairly well-defined steps that have led to an ever more complicated and potentially dangerous situation — but not the outbreak of a nuclear war.

A look at what Pyongyang is up to, and how we got here:

### SETTING THE STAGE

In March, at around the time of the biggest annual maneuvers between the U.S. and South Korea, the North fired four extended-range Scud missiles into waters off the Japanese coast in what was intended to be a mock attack on Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni.

Iwakuni is one of the main U.S. bases in Japan and was the staging point for F-35 stealth fighters believed to be training for precision strikes on North Korea against Kim Jong Un and his top lieutenants.

The March missile launch was not as bold as the plan for Guam — the North didn't tell the world beforehand and deliberately sent the missiles much farther north than the base itself, an easy tweak. But the move sent a strong message that such an attack would be possible.

The public response from Trump then was muted. Nearly two weeks after the launch, he tweeted, without mentioning the missile test: "North Korea is behaving very badly. They have been 'playing' the United States for years. China has done little to help!"

Pyongyang, possibly emboldened by that and its two successful intercontinental ballistic missile tests in July, appears to be hoping to send an even stronger message for Trump to back off with its Guam plan, or maybe consider direct talks rather than military action.

### GIVING NOTICE

The biggest departure from North Korea's established pattern this time around was its decision to announce the details of the Guam plan.

Despite some frightened misinterpretations otherwise, it is not threatening to actually attack Guam. But if it does launch Hwasong-12 missiles to within 30-40 kilometers (18-24 miles) of the U.S. territory's shores, its stated goal, it would by any measure be an exceptionally provocative move.

That helps explain why it would decide to give prior notice. To keep the situation from getting too much out of control, it needed to explain itself on the record to defuse complaints from China and make sure Washington knew it wasn't the opening volley of a Korean War 2.0.

The concern over China's reaction is important.

China is the North's key trading partner and, although neither trusts the other very much, its biggest

political buffer against pressure from Washington and its allies. Beijing, which is concerned about the implications for its own security that a nuclear North Korea poses, is almost certainly letting Pyongyang know of its concerns. Pointing to U.S. threats on Guam serves to rebut Chinese complaints, at least a bit.

But it could also use another familiar rationale.

North Korea sees annual U.S.-South Korea military exercises as a prelude for an invasion. The next big ones are set to start, on schedule, on Aug. 21. North Korean state media reports suggest Kim Jong Un could potentially sign off on the plan at about that same time.

## PULLING THE TRIGGER?

Pyongyang has explicitly and repeatedly stated its anger over U.S. B-1B bombers based in Guam conducting flyovers of the Korean Peninsula.

It could use the next one to justify sending its missiles toward Guam as something of a counter-display.

The B-1B bomber flights, though largely symbolic, are especially sensitive to Pyongyang because they represent a serious threat that North Korea's air defenses can't confidently protect against. Trump played that up on Friday by retweeting a U.S. Pacific Command tweet saying the bombers on Guam are ready to fulfill their "Fight Tonight" mission if called upon.

But there is also a lot of history here. The U.S. devastated most of North Korea's cities and infrastructure with a massive bombing campaign during the 1950-53 Korean War.

Joshua Pollack, a senior research associate at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, in California, noted the link but cautioned that the North might want to conduct the launch with or without a B-1B flight to justify it.

"If we do stop flying bombers at them for a while, they can declare victory and go home, and then decide whether to do it at some later date in response to whatever," he said. "Whether they feel genuinely annoyed and threatened or simply see this as a way to justify more missile tests to the Chinese is a fair question."

"It certainly does make a statement," Pollack added. "Two can play at this game now."

Eric Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter at [EricTalmadge](#) and Instagram at [@erictalmadge](#)

## Media: World's oldest man, a Holocaust survivor, dies at 113

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli media are reporting that the world's oldest man, who lived through both world wars and survived the Holocaust, has died a month short of his 114th birthday.

Ynet on Saturday quoted Israel Kristal's daughter as saying her father died Friday. Shula Kupershtuch says: "He always saw only light and good in everything."

Guinness World Records awarded Kristal a certificate as the world's oldest man last year.

Kristal was born in Poland. During World War II he was sent to Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps. His first wife and two children were killed in the Holocaust.

Kristal survived the war — the only survivor of his large Jewish family.

He remarried and moved to Israel in 1950, where he built a family and a confectionary business.

## Trump says he's open to military intervention in Venezuela

By JILL COLVIN and JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is expressing concern over the growing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and not ruling out military action as a response.

Trump told reporters Friday that all options remain on the table in response to anti-democratic actions in Venezuela, including military intervention.

Venezuela's defense minister called Trump's talk of a military intervention an act of "craziness" and "supreme extremism."

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The Trump administration has already placed sanctions against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and numerous other current and former Venezuelan officials in the wake of a crackdown on opposition leaders.

The White House says it's rejected a request by Maduro to speak to Trump, saying restoring democracy must come first.

Venezuela is home to the world's largest oil reserves and is the third largest petroleum supplier to the U.S.

Fire blocks route for dozens in Glacier National Park chalet

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A wildfire has cut off the return route for dozens of people staying in a Glacier National Park backcountry chalet, leaving them the choice of remaining until rangers tell them it's safe or hiking out along a longer and more difficult trail, park officials said Friday.

Park rangers also planned to lead out 39 other hikers who were staying in backcountry campsites near fires that broke out after a passing lightning storm on Thursday, Glacier spokeswoman Lauren Alley said.

It's peak tourist season at the Montana park, and the stone chalet built more than a century ago is a top attraction in one of the busiest parts of Glacier. There are typically between 40 and 50 guests and 10 staff members at the chalet each night, with most visitors arriving by foot or horse along a steep trail nearly 7 miles (11 kilometers) from Lake McDonald Lodge on the park's main roadway.

A lightning strike ignited a fire in the forest somewhere between the lodge and the chalet. Neither structure is threatened, but park officials determined that it was unsafe for those at the chalet to return by the same trail Friday.

Thirty-nine of the 42 guests staying at the Sperry Chalet decided to hike out and three stayed behind, said Suzie Menke, the office manager of Belton Chalets Inc., which runs the chalet.

They must take a rugged trail more than 13 miles (21 kilometers) long that crosses two mountain passes and can take eight to 10 hours to walk. That trail ends up on the eastern side of the park, on the other side of the Continental Divide from Lake McDonald Lodge.

For those who stay, the chalet has running water, a full-service kitchen and 17 private rooms — but it doesn't have electricity and only spotty cellphone coverage.

"The good news is they got resupplied yesterday," Alley said.

Park officials confirmed three small fires started after Thursday's lightning storm. The one affecting Sperry Chalet is the largest at about 10 acres (40,500 square meters).

Despite the sudden outbreak of fires, most areas of the park are still open to the record number of tourists who are flocking to Glacier this year. More than 1 million people visited the park in July, the first time so many people have been in Glacier over the course of a single month.

Dozens of fires are burning across the West, and federal and state fire managers planned to raise the National Fire Preparedness Level to its highest point on Friday. That Level 5 signals most firefighting resources are being used and that assistance may be needed from military and other nations. The level was last raised to 5 in 2015.

In Oregon, a fire on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation destroyed two houses and threatened dozens of others. The fire had burned more than 30 square miles (78 square kilometers) by late Thursday, and one firefighter suffered a minor injury.

## Trump: If North Korea attacks US, it 'will regret it fast'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

BEDMINSTER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday issued fresh threats of swift and forceful retaliation against nuclear North Korea, declaring the U.S. military "locked and loaded" and warning that the communist country's leader "will regret it fast" if he takes any action against U.S. territories or allies.

The warnings came in a cascade of unscripted statements throughout the day, each ratcheting up a rhetorical standoff between the two nuclear nations. The president appeared to draw another red line that would trigger a U.S. attack against North Korea and "big, big trouble" for its leader, Kim Jong Un. Trump's

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comments, however, did not appear to be backed by significant military mobilization on either side of the Pacific, and an important, quiet diplomatic channel remained open.

"If he utters one threat in the form of an overt threat — which by the way he has been uttering for years and his family has been uttering for years — or he does anything with respect to Guam or anyplace else that's an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it and he will regret it fast," Trump told reporters at his New Jersey golf resort.

Asked if the U.S. was going to war, he said cryptically, "I think you know the answer to that."

The compounding threats came in a week in which longstanding tensions between the countries risked abruptly boiling over. New United Nations sanctions condemning the North's rapidly developing nuclear program drew fresh ire and threats from Pyongyang. Trump responded by vowing to rain down "fire and fury" if challenged. The North then threatened to lob missiles near Guam, a tiny U.S. territory some 2,000 miles from Pyongyang.

Tough talk aside, talks between senior U.S. and North Korean diplomats continue through a back channel previously used to negotiate the return of Americans held in North Korea. The talks have expanded to address the deterioration of the relationship. They haven't quelled tensions, but could be a foundation for a more diplomacy, according to U.S. officials and others briefed on the process. They weren't authorized to discuss the confidential exchanges and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump on Friday sought to project military strength, only dialing back slightly throughout the day.

He began with a morning tweet: "Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!"

He later retweeted a posting from U.S. Pacific Command that showed B-1B Lancer bomber planes on Guam that "stand ready to fulfill USFK's #FightTonight mission if called upon to do so." Such declarations, however, don't indicate a new, more aggressive posture. "Fight tonight" has long been the motto of U.S. forces in South Korea to show they're always ready for combat on the Korean Peninsula.

Trump declined to explain the boast of military readiness when asked by reporters later in the day at an event highlighting workforce development programs. He also brushed away calls for caution from world leaders, including Germany's Angela Merkel.

"I don't see a military solution and I don't think it's called for," Merkel said Friday, declining to say whether Germany would stand with the U.S. in a military conflict with North Korea. She called on the U.N. Security Council to continue to address the crisis.

"I think escalating the rhetoric is the wrong answer," Merkel added.

"Let her speak for Germany," Trump said, when asked about the comment. "Perhaps she is referring to Germany. She's certainly not referring to the United States, that I can tell you."

By evening, after a briefing with top advisers and standing next to his secretary of state and U.N. ambassador, Trump suggested diplomacy could yet prevail.

"Hopefully it'll all work out," Trump said. "Nobody loves a peaceful solution better than President Trump."

The president spoke later Friday with Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, promising: "You are safe. We are with you a thousand percent."

He also had a call with President Xi Jinping of China, North Korea's main economic partner, who said all sides should avoid rhetoric or action that would worsen tensions on the Korean Peninsula, according to state broadcaster China Central Television.

The White House said both leaders agreed that North Korea must stop its "provocative and escalatory behavior."

Trump has pushed China to do more to pressure North Korea to halt its nuclear weapons program.

Faced with perhaps his biggest international crisis as president, Trump has responded with an abundance of swagger and a lot of words. He's held a series of freewheeling press conferences with reporters, answering complex and delicate questions apparently off the cuff. On Friday, he veered from North Korea to comments on politics. He even suggested he would consider military action against Venezuela, puzzling his military planners.

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Trump announced he planned to hold another press conference in Washington Monday.

Behind the threats, U.S. officials insist there has been no new significant movement of troops, ships, aircraft or other assets to the region other than for long scheduled military exercises with South Korea.

American and South Korean officials said the exercises would happen as planned this month. North Korea claims they're a rehearsal for war.

As it is, the U.S. has a robust military presence in the region, including six B-1 bombers in Guam and Air Force fighter jet units in South Korea, plus other assets across the Pacific Ocean and in the skies above. Military options range from nothing to a full-on conventional assault by air, sea and ground forces. Any order by the president could be executed quickly.

The U.S.-South Korea exercises are an annual event, but they come as Pyongyang says it's readying a plan to fire off four medium-range missiles toward Guam, a U.S. territory and major military hub. The plan would be sent to Kim for approval just before or as the U.S.-South Korea drills begin.

Called Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, the exercises are expected to run Aug. 21-31 and involve tens of thousands of American and South Korean troops on the ground and in the sea and air. Washington and Seoul say the exercises are defensive in nature and crucial to deterring North Korean aggression.

Associated Press writer Eric Talmadge contributed from Seoul, South Korea. Associated Press writers Josh Lederman, Matthew Pennington and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

## **AP source: Marlins plan to sell to group that includes Jeter**

**By STEVEN WINE, AP Sports Writer**

MIAMI (AP) — Derek Jeter wins again.

The Miami Marlins told Major League Baseball they intend to sign an agreement to sell the team to a group that includes the former New York Yankees captain, a person familiar with the negotiations said Friday.

Jeter would be a limited partner in the group led by venture capitalist Bruce Sherman, said the person, who confirmed the Marlins' plans to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team had not commented.

The Marlins' months-long sale saga included many twists before owner Jeffrey Loria settled on the popular Jeter, who led the Yankees to five World Series championships before retiring after the 2014 season.

The person speaking on condition of anonymity said MLB was told Loria's sale price will be about \$1.2 billion to the group, which includes more than 10 entities.

Among them is Sherman, who will be the controlling owner, the person said. Sherman has spent much of his financial career in New York and has a home in Naples, Florida.

Jeter will be in charge of baseball operations, said the person, who added the Marlins told MLB they intended to sign the sale agreement Friday night.

"It will be an honor to play for a future Hall of Famer," Marlins outfielder Marcell Ozuna said in Spanish after Friday night's win over the Colorado Rockies. "Hopefully he will bring harmony and winning tradition we have been accustomed of him."

The Jeter-Sherman group beat out two other groups that pursued the team in the final weeks of negotiations. One group was led by South Florida businessman Jorge Mas, and another included former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who recently halted his pursuit of a deal.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said a month ago that all three groups offered about the same amount of money, but there were legal and financing issues that slowed the process. Jeter had trouble raising money as he sought additional investors.

MLB owners meet next week in Chicago. A sale requires approval of at least 75 percent of the major league clubs, and the approval process could take three to six months.

Marlins president David Samson declined to comment.

Loria, 76, bought the Marlins for \$158.5 million in 2002 from John Henry, who was part of a group that

bought the Boston Red Sox.

Sherman is known for his philanthropic work and retired in 2009 as chief executive officer of Naples-based Private Capital Management.

Jeter, 43, retired after 20 seasons as the Yankees' shortstop. A 14-time All-Star, Jeter lives in Tampa and has long talked of his desire to own a franchise. He has no front office experience.

Marlins manager Don Mattingly, who also had a storied playing career with the Yankees, said he knew nothing about Jeter becoming a team owner, but predicted he would do well.

"Derek has been successful at everything he's tried to do," Mattingly said before Friday night's game. "What Derek's been able to do with his career, who he is as a person, there's nothing in there that leads you to believe that he's not going to be successful with really whatever he wants to do."

Rockies manager Bud Black said it would be good to get Jeter back in the sport.

"I think Derek Jeter needs to be in the game — that's the main thing," Black said. "A player like Jeter and what he meant to his generation of players in that era that he played, and now to continue in the game, I think it's wonderful."

Now the question is whether Jeter can help the Marlins win.

The value of the Marlins has climbed dramatically even though they haven't been to the postseason since 2003, the longest current drought in the National League, and are likely to miss the playoffs again this year. They were last in the NL in attendance 11 of the past 12 years despite a 2012 move to Marlins Park.

Loria is perhaps baseball's most unpopular owner. He has long been criticized in South Florida for his frugal ways and for the ballpark deal, which was heavily subsidized with public money.

His decision to sell the team became public in February, and Jeter's interest became public in April.

At the start of spring training, Samson said a "confluence of events" prompted Loria to put the franchise on the market. The owner was close to pitcher Jose Fernandez and badly shaken by the young ace's death in a boat crash last September.

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AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum in New York and AP freelance writers Chris Stock and Santos Perez in Miami contributed to this report.

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## Dallas RB Ezekiel Elliott suspended 6 games in domestic case

By SCHUYLER DIXON, AP Pro Football Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The NFL suspended star Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott for six games Friday, concluding after a yearlong investigation that the league's leading rusher injured his former girlfriend in three separate incidents last summer.

According to the letter Elliott received informing him of the suspension, the NFL believed he used "physical force" three times in a span of five days in a Columbus, Ohio, apartment last July resulting in injuries to Tiffany Thompson's face, neck, shoulders, arms, hands, wrists, hips and knees. She was his girlfriend at the time.

Prosecutors in Columbus decided nearly a year ago not to pursue the case in the city where Elliott starred for Ohio State. In announcing the suspension under the NFL's personal conduct policy, the league said its investigation was based on photographs, text messages and other electronic evidence. Commissioner Roger Goodell made his decision based on the findings and in consultation with four advisers, including Hall of Fame player Ken Houston.

Elliott posted a statement on his verified Twitter account Friday night, saying that he was "both surprised and disappointed" by the NFL's decision and that he strongly disagrees with the league's findings. He said he was "sincerely sorry" for the distraction and disruption that he has caused for the Cowboys and his family.



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Elliott's ban means the Cowboys will have four players suspended when last year's NFC East champions start the season in a month — with the possibility of losing two more.

The 22-year-old Elliott has three days to appeal the ruling. While he made no direct reference to an appeal in his statement did, his legal team did in a separate statement.

"The NFL's findings are replete with factual inaccuracies and erroneous conclusions and it 'cherry picks' so-called evidence to support its conclusion while ignoring other critical evidence," attorneys Frank Salzano and Scott Rosenblum said in a joint statement.

The attorneys said "a slew of additional credible and controverting evidence will come to light" through the appeal.

If Goodell's ruling stands, Elliott will go on the suspended list the first week of the regular season and be eligible to return to the active roster Oct. 23. His first possible game would be Week 8 at Washington.

The ruling requires Elliott to get an evaluation to determine whether he needs counseling or treatment, and to show proof that he is following up on any recommendations.

"I admit that I am far from perfect, but I plan to continue to work very hard, on and off the field, to mature and earn the great opportunity that I have been given," Elliott said in his statement.

Last September, the office of Columbus City Attorney Richard Pfeiffer cited conflicting and inconsistent information in the evidence in deciding against criminal charges. Pfeiffer's office declined comment Friday.

Peter Harvey, one of the advisers to Goodell, said the NFL had access to forensic electronic evidence that prosecutors didn't have, including proof that photographs were taken by Thompson the same day she alleged that she was injured by Elliott.

Harvey also said some of the explanations offered by Elliott's representatives, including that Thompson was injured in a fight with a woman or by falling down stairs, weren't supported by evidence.

Despite some conflicting testimonial evidence, the letter said that "there is no dispute that you and Ms. Thompson were together in the same location on the dates identified, and no evidence to suggest that anyone else could have caused these injuries."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had maintained he hadn't seen anything to indicate Elliott was guilty of domestic violence and he didn't think his star back would be suspended. Jones made the comments several times, including during festivities last weekend when he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The ruling potentially could put Goodell and Jones, a strong supporter of the commissioner, at odds the same way Goodell clashed with New England owner Robert Kraft over last year's four-game suspension for quarterback Tom Brady over the "Deflategate" controversy.

The NFL revised its personal conduct policy in 2014 following sharp criticism of a case involving former Baltimore running back Ray Rice. The policy gave Goodell authority to suspend players for at least six games in domestic cases, with or without a conviction.

Elliott has had a string of off-field issues since the Cowboys made him the fourth overall pick in the 2016 draft. He was seen in a legal marijuana shop during the preseason in Seattle last year and was also involved in a bar fight in Dallas a week before training camp this year.

The NFL's letter to Elliott cited the Ohio case as well as an incident this past spring when Elliott was caught on video pulling down a woman's shirt while watching a St. Patrick's Day parade in Dallas. While not part of the decision on discipline, the league said that "inappropriate and disturbing" behavior reflected poorly on Elliott.

"When viewed together with the July incidents, it suggests a pattern of poor judgment and behavior for which effective intervention is necessary for your personal and professional welfare," NFL special counsel for conduct Todd Jones wrote.

An All-Pro as a rookie, Elliott finished with 1,631 yards rushing in helping the Cowboys to the best record in the NFC at 13-3 before a divisional playoff loss to Green Bay. He set rookie franchise records for yards, rushing touchdowns (15) and total touchdowns (16).

Three Dallas defensive ends will start the season with suspensions. Randy Gregory will miss at least the entire regular season for multiple violations of the NFL's substance-abuse policy. David Irving is out

four games (performance-enhancing drugs) and Damontre Moore will sit two games (substance abuse). Two more defensive players could face suspensions. Linebacker Damien Wilson faces aggravated assault charges in the Dallas suburb of Frisco over a dispute involving a parking space, and cornerback Nolan Carroll was arrested on a drunken-driving charge in Dallas.

More AP NFL: [www.pro32.ap.org](http://www.pro32.ap.org) and [www.twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Matsuyama, Kisner tied for lead at PGA Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Most meaningful of all the text messages Hideki Matsuyama received last week was the one from Jason Day congratulating the Japanese star for his 61 in the final round at Firestone to win his second World Golf Championship.

It read: "Congrats, mate. Unreal playing. See you next week."

Matsuyama looked just as unreal Friday at the PGA Championship, even before the storms arrived and took so much of the bite out of Quail Hollow.

Starting with a 12-foot putt — the longest of his seven birdies in the second round — the 25-year-old Matsuyama ran off five birdies over six holes for a 7-under 64 that gave him a share of the lead with Kevin Kisner going into the weekend.

Kisner faced tougher, faster conditions in the morning and holed a 50-foot eagle putt from short of the green on the par-5 seventh hole. When his round was over, Kisner had a five-shot lead over the players from his side of the draw, and it didn't look like anyone would get near him.

The storms arrived. Play was halted for nearly two hours. Quail Hollow looked vulnerable for the first time week.

Among those who failed to take advantage was Jordan Spieth, who looks like he'll have to wait another year to try to complete the career Grand Slam. Spieth made only one birdie — at No. 12, the fourth-toughest hole on the course — and shot 73 to fall 11 shots behind.

"I kind of accept the fact that I'm essentially out of this tournament pending some form of crazy stuff the next couple of days," Spieth said.

Matsuyama and Kisner were at 8-under 134. Day is starting to look like the No. 1 player in the world he was for most of last year, playing a four-hole stretch around the turn in 5-under par, posting a 66 and finishing two shots out of the lead.

Francesco Molinari also shot 64 and was three shots behind, along with Louis Oosthuizen (67). The second round was halted by darkness, leaving 26 players to finish Saturday morning. That included Chris Stroud, who was 5 under and had five holes remaining.

Neither of the co-leaders has ever been atop the leaderboard in a major, and despite the difference in their pedigree, neither is afraid of the opportunity. Kisner, toughened by his time on the mini-tours, is a wizard around the greens and he is inspired by how he is hitting the ball.

"I haven't hit it this well this whole summer — a lot of average finishes," Kisner said. "When I start hitting it the way I am now, I play well."

A major is all that keeps Matsuyama from being mentioned in the same class as Spieth, Rory McIlroy, Day and the rest of golf's youngest stars. He isn't willing to look that far ahead, and Matsuyama isn't about to feel content about his game.

He took only 23 putts and can't explain why they seem to be going in except that he switched to a new putter last week. He often takes one hand off his club because he's not happy with how he hit it, though the ball seems to find the fairway or settle close to the flag.

He did pose over the 7-iron that covered the flag tucked behind a bunker on the par-3 17th, leaving him a 7-foot putt for his final birdie. Matsuyama called that his best shot of the day. As for the worst?

"There were too many. I can't count them all," said the guy who shot 64. "Somehow, my worst shots were finding the fairway."

The rest of golf knows better.

Matsuyama went on a torrid stretch last year when he won four times and was runner-up twice during a stretch of six tournaments. That included his first World Golf Championship at the HSBC Champions in Shanghai.

He also won the Phoenix Open in a playoff earlier this year. After his victory last week in the Bridgestone Invitational, he might just be getting warmed up.

"He's on the range and he's the last guy to leave. He's always putting. He's always doing something. He's working hard," Day said. "And I feel like he's the hardest worker out here right now, just because he wants to win. And there's no surprise that he's obviously won last week and he's up here again."

He will chase that first major on an entirely different golf course.

McIlroy endured another bad stretch that sent him to a 72, leaving him 10 shots behind. He still thought he was in the game, with only Kisner appearing to run away from the field and the late starter facing a course that McIlroy figured would get only tougher.

"These guys going out this afternoon, they break 70, they've done a hell of a job," McIlroy said after a 73 that put him 10 shots back.

A light rain began falling not long after McIlroy's prediction. Then, the storms rolled in with heavy rain that drenched the course and forced a rain delay of 1 hour, 43 minutes. And when the second round resumed, it felt like an entirely different golf course.

Shots left pitch marks on the green. The fairways became softer, and therefore looked wide, because they lost some of the roll.

"The golf course could have been had," U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka said after a 73 left him seven shots back. "And I didn't take advantage of it."

He wasn't alone. Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player, made only one birdie in a 74 and was 10 shots behind.

## Judge tosses DJ's suit against Taylor Swift in groping trial

By **JAMES ANDERSON** and **TATIANA FLOWERS**, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A judge on Friday threw out a former radio host's case against Taylor Swift in a trial that delved into their dueling lawsuits over whether he groped her during a backstage meet-and-greet and whether she and her team ruined his career.

U.S. District Judge William Martinez determined that the pop star could not be held liable because David Mueller failed to prove that she personally set out to have him fired after the 2013 photo op in Denver. His identical allegations against Swift's mother and her radio liaison will go to jurors for a verdict.

Mueller denies groping Swift and sued the singer, her mother, Andrea Swift, and their radio handler, Frank Bell, seeking up to \$3 million as compensation for his ruined career.

The singer-songwriter said in her countersuit that she wanted a symbolic \$1 and the chance to stand up for other women. The jury will still consider her claim.

Swift teared up as the judge read his decision and said there was no evidence of her actions being insincere. Afterward, her team smiled and embraced. Mueller's side didn't speak.

"I couldn't be more proud to represent somebody like Taylor Swift who's willing to step up in a situation like this," attorney Douglas Baldrige said outside court.

The judge's decision came after days of testimony from the singer and others and just before jurors were set to hear closing arguments.

Swift spent an hour on the witness stand Thursday defiantly recounting what she called a "despicable and horrifying and shocking" encounter before a concert.

"He stayed attached to my bare ass-cheek as I lurched away from him," Swift testified.

"It was a definite grab. A very long grab," she added in her testimony.

Swift's testy exchange with Mueller's attorney occasionally elicited chuckles — even from the six-woman, two-man jury. She got a laugh when she said her security guard saw Mueller "lift my skirt" but someone

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would have had to have been underneath her to see the actual groping — “and we didn’t have anyone positioned there.”

Swift testified that after the photo was taken, she tried to get as far away Mueller as she could. She said she told him and his girlfriend, who was also in the photo, “thank you for coming” in a monotone voice before they left.

She also said she was stunned and did not say anything to Mueller or halt the event after he left because she did not want to disappoint several dozen people waiting in line for photos with her.

In the image, shown to jurors during opening statements but not publicly released, Mueller’s hand is behind Swift, just below her waist. Mueller’s then-girlfriend, Shannon Melcher, is on the other side of Swift. All three are smiling.

Melcher testified Friday that she saw nothing happen during the brief encounter and that she and Mueller were rudely confronted and escorted out of the arena that evening. Melcher said Mueller was devastated by the accusation.

She said she and Mueller started out as co-workers at country station KYGO-FM and became romantically involved in February 2013, a few months before the concert. They drifted apart late in 2013, but Melcher says they remained friends.

## War of Words: North Korea vs. Donald Trump

By The Associated Press

President Donald Trump’s recent invocation of “fire and fury” in response to North Korea’s nuclear weapons program had a familiar ring to it. It’s the kind of dramatic rhetoric that North Korea regularly uses in its public statements.

Thanks in part to Twitter, the American president has also become somewhat infamous for his statements, though in a more casual, off-the-cuff manner than what appears to be North Korea’s carefully crafted script. Has North Korea met its match? Stay tuned. It’s a war of words, and one which analysts fear might lead to actual conflict.

### FIRE

— NORTH KOREA (Rodong Sinmun newspaper commentary in April)

“Our pre-emptive nuclear attacks will bring the provocateurs nothing but tragic consequences: South Korea will be submerged in a sea of fire, Japan will be reduced to ashes and the U.S. will collapse.”

— TRUMP (Speaking to reporters on Aug. 8)

“North Korea had best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen.”

### NONSENSE

— NORTH KOREA (General Kim Rak Gyom statement on Aug. 9)

“The U.S. president at a golf links again let out a load of nonsense about ‘fire and fury,’ failing to grasp the on-going grave situation. This is extremely getting on the nerves of the infuriated Hwasong artillerymen of the KPA (Korean People’s Army). ... Sound dialogue is not possible with such a guy bereft of reason and only absolute force can work on him.”

— TRUMP (Twitter on July 3)

“North Korea has just launched another missile. Does this guy have anything better to do with his life? Hard to believe that South Korea ... and Japan will put up with this much longer. Perhaps China will put a heavy move on North Korea and end this nonsense once and for all!”

### THREATS

NORTH KOREA (Korean People’s Army spokesman on Aug. 9)

“The provocative ‘preventive war’ the U.S. has devised and plans to execute will be countered with a just all-out war of wiping out all the strongholds of the enemies including the U.S. mainland.”

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— TRUMP (Fox Business Network interview on April 11)

"We are sending an armada. Very powerful. We have submarines. Very powerful, far more powerful than the aircraft carrier, that I can tell you."

## FAKE NEWS

— NORTH KOREA (Korean Central News Agency commentary in May)

"The conservative media of South Korea are spreading misinformation about the DPRK (North Korea) over the Ransomware cyber-attack that occurred in various countries ... This is dirty and despicable smear campaign."

— TRUMP (Twitter on Feb. 3)

"Thank you to Prime Minister of Australia for telling the truth about our very civil conversation that FAKE NEWS media lied about. Very nice!"

## INSULTS

— NORTH KOREA (Foreign Ministry spokesman in July 2009)

"We cannot but regard Mrs. Clinton as a funny lady as she likes to utter such rhetoric, unaware of the elementary etiquette in the international community. Sometimes she looks like a primary schoolgirl and sometimes a pensioner going shopping."

— TRUMP (Twitter on June 29)

"I heard poorly rated @Morning\_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore). Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came.....to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!"

## NUKES

— NORTH KOREA (Foreign Ministry spokesman in July)

"Should the U.S. dare to show even the slightest sign of attempt to remove our supreme leadership, we will strike a merciless blow at the heart of the U.S. with our powerful nuclear hammer, honed and hardened over time."

— TRUMP (Twitter on Jan. 2)

"North Korea just stated that it is in the final stages of developing a nuclear weapon capable of reaching parts of the U.S. It won't happen!"

## APNewsBreak: Beyond bluster, US, NKorea in regular contact

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Beyond the bluster, the Trump administration has been quietly engaged in back channel diplomacy with North Korea for several months, addressing Americans imprisoned in the communist country and deteriorating relations between the long-time foes, The Associated Press has learned.

It had been known the two sides had discussions to secure the June release of an American university student. But it wasn't known until now that the contacts have continued, or that they have broached matters other than U.S. detainees.

People familiar with the contacts say the interactions have done nothing thus far to quell tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile advances, which are now fueling fears of military confrontation. But they say the behind-the-scenes discussions could still be a foundation for more serious negotiation, including on North Korea's nuclear weapons, should President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un put aside the bellicose rhetoric of recent days and endorse a dialogue.

"We don't want to talk about progress, we don't want to talk about back channels," Trump told reporters Friday, revealing nothing.

The diplomatic contacts are occurring regularly between Joseph Yun, the U.S. envoy for North Korea policy, and Pak Song Il, a senior North Korean diplomat at the country's U.N. mission, according to U.S.

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officials and others briefed on the process. They weren't authorized to discuss the confidential exchanges and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials call it the "New York channel." Yun is the only U.S. diplomat in contact with any North Korean counterpart. The communications largely serve as a way to exchange messages, allowing Washington and Pyongyang to relay information.

Drowned out by the furor over Trump's warning to North Korea of "fire and fury like the world has never seen," Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has expressed a willingness to entertain negotiations. His condition: Pyongyang stopping tests of missiles that can now potentially reach the U.S. mainland.

Tillerson has even hinted at an ongoing back channel. "We have other means of communication open to them, to certainly hear from them if they have a desire to want to talk," he said at an Asian security meeting in the Philippines this week.

The interactions could point to a level of pragmatism in the Trump administration's approach to the North Korean threat, despite the president's dire warnings.

On Friday, he tweeted, "Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely." But later in the day, he said: "Nobody loves a peaceful solution better than President Trump. That I can tell you."

The contacts suggest Pyongyang, too, may be open to a negotiation even as it talks of launching missiles near the U.S. territory of Guam. The North regularly threatens nuclear strikes on the United States and its allies.

The State Department and the White House declined to comment on Yun's diplomacy. A diplomat at North Korea's U.N. mission only confirmed use of diplomatic channel up to the release of U.S. college student Otto Warmbier two months ago.

Trump, in some ways, has been more flexible in his approach to North Korea than President Barack Obama. While variations of the New York channel have been used on-and-off for years by past administrations, there were no discussions over the last seven months of Obama's presidency after Pyongyang broke them off in anger over U.S. sanctions imposed on its leader, Kim. Obama made little effort to reopen lines of communication.

The contacts quickly restarted after Trump's inauguration, other people familiar with the discussions say. "Contrary to the public vitriol of the moment, the North Koreans were willing to reopen the New York channel following the election of President Trump and his administration signaled an openness to engage and 'talk about talks,'" said Keith Luse, executive director of the National Committee on North Korea, a U.S.-based group that promotes U.S.-North Korean engagement.

"However, the massive trust deficit in Pyongyang and in Washington toward each other has impeded the confidence-building process necessary to have constructive dialogue," he said.

The early U.S. focus was on securing the release of several Americans held in North Korea.

They included Warmbier, who was imprisoned for stealing a propaganda poster and only allowed to return to the U.S. in June — in an unconscious state. He died days later. Yun traveled on the widely publicized mission to Pyongyang to bring Warmbier home.

Despite outrage in the U.S. with Warmbier's treatment and sharp condemnation by Trump, the U.S.-North Korean interactions in New York continued.

Yun and his counterpart have discussed the other Americans still being held. They include Kim Hak Song, a university employee detained in May accused of unspecified "hostile" acts; Tony Kim, a teacher at the same school, accused of trying to overthrow the government; and Kim Dong Chul, sentenced last year to a decade in prison with hard labor for supposed espionage.

But the American and North Korean diplomats also have discussed the overall U.S.-North Korean relationship. The two countries have no diplomatic ties and are still enemies, having only reached an armistice — not a peace treaty — to end the 1950-1953 Korean War. Twenty-eight thousand U.S. troops are still stationed in South Korea.

In its own convoluted way, North Korea has indicated openness to talks in recent weeks, even as it has accelerated the tempo of weapons tests.

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On July 4, after the North test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile that could potentially strike the continental U.S., leader Kim added a new caveat to his refusal to negotiate over its nukes or missiles. Instead of a blanket rejection, he ruled out such concessions “unless the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threat to the DPRK are definitely terminated.”

That message has been repeated by other North Korean officials, without greater specification. Nor have they offered an indication as to whether Pyongyang would accept denuclearization as the goal of talks.

Still, advocates for diplomacy, including some voices in the U.S. government, view the addendum as a potential opening.

“North Korea is assessing its options,” said Suzanne DiMaggio, a senior fellow at the New America think tank who participated in unofficial talks with North Korean officials in Oslo in May, where Yun also met with the North Koreans. “They recognize that at some point they have to return to the table to address what’s becoming a crisis. That’s what they are weighing right now: the timing of engagement.”

Any negotiation would face huge skepticism in Washington given North Korea’s long record of broken promises. The last serious U.S.-North Korea negotiations collapsed in 2012 when Pyongyang launched a long-range rocket that derailed an agreement of a North Korean nuclear freeze in exchange for U.S. food aid.

North Korea’s weapons program has developed significantly since then. As a result, its price in any such negotiation is now likely to be far higher. At a minimum, Pyongyang would renew its long-standing demands for an end to joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises — which are set to resume this month — and an eventual peace treaty with Washington.

To date, the Trump administration has heavily concentrated its diplomatic energy on cranking up international pressure on North Korea’s government, in particular pressing China to lean on its wayward ally. Last weekend, the U.N. adopted its strongest economic sanctions on Pyongyang.

Trump has been widely accused of injecting a new element of unpredictability and even chaos into U.S. policy toward North Korea, especially with his tweets and proclamations this week. It’s unclear what effect they may have on the back channel contacts being maintained by Yun.

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AP writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

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## **Billionaire suggests black senator worse than Ku Klux Klan**

**By DAVID KLEPPER, Associated Press**

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A billionaire hedge fund manager has apologized for an online post saying that a black state senator has “done more damage to people of color than anyone who has ever donned a hood” because of her support for teachers unions.

Daniel Loeb issued a statement saying he regrets the language he used in the Facebook post about Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, a Yonkers Democrat. The post, an apparent reference to the white headgear of the Ku Klux Klan, was deleted late Thursday.

Loeb, the CEO of the investment firm Third Point, is a top donor to Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo and many other politicians. He is a leading supporter of charter schools.

“I regret the language I used in expressing my passion for educational choice,” he said in his statement about the post, emailed to The Associated Press on Friday morning. “I apologize to Sen. Stewart-Cousins and anyone I offended.”

Cuomo and other Democrats quickly denounced Loeb’s comments.

“These comments were deeply hurtful and offensive and there is no place for this type of rhetoric in any discourse — political or otherwise,” Cuomo said in a statement.

Stewart-Cousins’ spokesman Mike Murphy said there was “no place in our discourse, political or otherwise, for these dangerous words.”

“Daniel Loeb should be utterly ashamed of his disgusting statements,” Murphy said. “This whole episode speaks volumes about the state of our politics right here in New York.”

Loeb's Facebook post was in response to a story in The New York Times earlier this week on the ongoing tension among Cuomo, mainline Democrats and a Democratic Senate faction led by Sen. Jeff Klein, of the Bronx, who broke ranks with the party to empower Republicans, who now control the Senate. The story detailed an exchange between Stewart-Cousins and Cuomo in which Cuomo suggested that Klein had a better grasp of suburban issues than mainline Senate Democrats.

"You look at me, Mr. Governor, but you don't see me," Stewart-Cousins told Cuomo in response, according to the article. "You see my black skin and a woman, but you don't realize that I am a suburban legislator. Jeff Klein doesn't represent the suburbs. I do."

While Loeb deleted his remarks, the Times reported the text and the AP obtained a screenshot of the post. "Thank God for Jeff Klein and those who stand for educational choice and support Charter (sic) funding that leads to economic mobility and opportunity for poor knock kids," the post read. "Meanwhile hypocrites like Stewart-Cousins who pay fealty to powerful union thugs and bosses do more damage to people of color than anyone who has ever donned a hood."

Klein, another recipient of Loeb contributions, also distanced himself from the remarks. "The statements are wrong and have to be repudiated," he said in a statement.

## Police: Hair stylist slain in Chicago stabbed over 40 times

By CARYN ROUSSEAU, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A hair stylist suffered more than 40 stab wounds to his upper body in a fatal attack last month in the high-rise Chicago condo of a Northwestern University professor, police said Friday.

The since-fired professor, Wyndham Lathem, and Oxford University financial officer Andrew Warren were arrested in the San Francisco area eight days after 26-year-old Trenton James Cornell-Duranleau was found dead last month.

Cornell-Duranleau suffered "lacerations and mutilations to his body, his upper body, but not to the point of decapitation," Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. He described the attack as "certainly very intense."

Authorities have said the attack on Cornell-Duranleau, a Michigan native who moved to Chicago last year, was so brutal that the blade of the knife investigators believe was used in the stabbing was broken. When police found him, he had already been dead for at least 12 hours.

Guglielmi said police believe there might have been some tension in Lathem and Cornell-Duranleau's relationship.

"We've been looking a great deal, not only at the relationship between Dr. Lathem and the victim, but also the connection between all three," he said.

Guglielmi said Chicago police are investigating the backgrounds of all the men but won't be releasing details until they have questioned Lathem and Warren, who separately surrendered to California authorities last week. The pair had been on the run for eight days.

During a hearing Friday in San Francisco, Warren agreed to return to Illinois to face charges and acknowledged that he was the suspect being sought by authorities in Cook County, Illinois.

Warren, a 56-year-old British national, arrived in the U.S. days before the killing. Warren wore an orange jumpsuit during Friday's hearing, and he appeared unshaven after six days in jail.

"He is presumed innocent," said his public defender, Ariel Boyce-Smith. She said Warren was "agreeable" to being returned to Chicago, but she declined further comment.

Lathem, 42, is being held without bail in California's Alameda County and has waived extradition to Chicago. His attorney has called him a "gentle soul." Northwestern University said Monday that they fired him effective Aug. 4.

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Associated Press writer Paul Elias contributed to this report from San Francisco.



## Kenyatta declared winner of disputed Kenya presidential vote

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA and TOM ODULA, Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — President Uhuru Kenyatta was declared the winner Friday of Kenya's hard-fought presidential election, but opposition candidate Raila Odinga alleged the voting was rigged.

In announcing the results of Tuesday's contest, the election commission said Kenyatta won a second term with 54 percent in balloting it called "credible, fair and peaceful."

Hundreds of riot police were in the streets of the capital, Nairobi, amid fears of further protests by opposition supporters, who called the vote a "charade" and said challenging the outcome in court wasn't an option.

Kenyatta, the 55-year-old son of Kenya's first president after independence from Britain, appealed for calm and unity after the bitter campaign.

"Kenya belongs to all of us," he said. "Let us shun violence and let us refuse to be used for short-term political gain."

He said he was extending a "hand of friendship" to "our older brother," Odinga.

"We need and must continue to work together for the welfare of our people and in order to keep this country united," said Kenyatta, who also defeated Odinga in 2013. "We reach out to you. We reach out to your supporters."

The election was a test of the stability of the East African economic power as many recalled the post-election bloodshed a decade ago that left more than 1,000 dead.

"We have seen the results of political violence and I am certain there is no single Kenyan who would wish to go back to those days," Kenyatta said.

Kenya had been relatively calm since the election but had braced for possible violence Friday night with police in the central business district.

Although celebrations by backers of Kenyatta were reported in several cities across Kenya, gunshots and screams were heard in at least two areas populated by Odinga supporters, according to police and a witness.

The gunfire rang out in the Nairobi slum of Kibera and in the southwestern city of Kisumu, the witnesses said. Youths also were reported to be throwing stones at cars in Kibera.

"There are gunshots all over; we don't know how it will end but we are praying for peace," said Kisumu resident Lucas Odhiambo, adding that people were bellowing through "vuvuzela" noisemakers when the results were announced "and police moved in."

Earlier in the day, opposition supporters burned tires and blocked roads in several areas.

The election commission rejected claims by Odinga, a former prime minister, that its database was hacked and results manipulated against him.

The long wait for election results increased tensions in the nation of 45 million people, though the commission by law had until Aug. 15 to announce them. At least three people were killed in clashes between police and opposition supporters this week.

Odinga alleged that hackers infiltrated the election commission's computer system in favor of his opponent. He claimed the hackers used the identity of Christopher Msando, an election official in charge of managing information technology systems. Officials had announced on July 31 that Msando had been tortured and killed.

In addition, the American CEO of an election data company working for Odinga was deported last weekend.

The election commission said there was a hacking attempt but it failed, and that Odinga's camp had no right to declare him as the winner.

Earlier Friday, the opposition said it had asked for access to the commission's servers to confirm whether the alleged hacking took place. If granted, it said it would accept the results, even if they showed that Kenyatta won.

Kenyatta has not commented on Odinga's allegations.

International election observers have said they saw no signs of interference with the vote. Election officials spent recent days confirming provisional results with checks of documents from polling stations nationwide.

U.S. Ambassador Robert F. Godec said any disputes should be dealt with through legal channels. "No Kenyan should die because of an election," he said.

This may have been the last chance at the presidency for the 72-year-old Odinga after three unsuccessful attempts.

Odinga lost the 2007 election that was followed by the violence that was fueled by ethnic tensions. He also lost the 2013 vote to Kenyatta and took allegations of vote-tampering to the Supreme Court, which rejected his case.

## DeVos say school vouchers part of tax overhaul discussions

By SALLY HO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — More than a third of U.S. states have created school voucher programs that bypass thorny constitutional and political issues by turning them over to nonprofits that rely primarily on businesses to fund them. But the programs are raising questions about transparency and accountability at a time when supporters are urging that they be expanded into a federal program.

Unlike traditional school vouchers, which are directly funded by the states — or in the case of Washington, D.C., the federal government — these programs don't use any public money. Instead, those who contribute to the voucher program get tax credits. Seventeen states now have the so-called tax-credit scholarships.

Both President Donald Trump and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos have promoted the scholarships as a way to give parents greater choice in deciding where their children will go to school. Supporters are pushing the administration to launch a federal program extending the tax credit scholarships nationwide.

Asked whether such a proposal might be included as part of a tax overhaul, DeVos said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press, "It's certainly part of our discussion."

Depending on whom you ask, the programs are either another avenue for school choice drawing on the generosity of taxpayers, or a workaround to existing bans on giving public money to religious organizations — in this case schools — with a set-up that's ripe for abuse. It's hard to know who's right, given that the states purposefully limit their fingerprints on their own programs.

For Mayra Puentes of Las Vegas, it was simply a way to get her children a better education. Her son, she said, was struggling in public school, in a state that is ranked at or near the bottom of national lists on the quality of public education.

Puentes said would not have been able to afford the combined \$22,000 tuition for her three children at Mountain View Christian Schools.

In Nevada, scholarships are capped annually at about \$7,700 per child. They can be used at 86 private schools, not all of them accredited.

How the program works:

Nonprofits solicit contributions from businesses and others. The organizations distribute the funds to families that apply. They keep 5 percent to 10 percent of the donations for administrative costs.

Contributors can deduct the amount they gave, sometimes dollar-for-dollar, from their state tax bill.

Most states designate the vouchers programs for low-income families.

"They are this weird blend of tax policy and education policy, and in a lot of ways, they are treated more like tax policy," said Josh Cunningham of the National Conference of State Legislatures, which tracks the programs.

Nevada lawmakers secured a \$20 million boost for the scholarships this year, after Republicans suffered a crushing blow when they couldn't get money for their embattled Education Savings Accounts, a different type of school choice program.

Assemblyman Paul Anderson, a Republican, said government transparency laws do not and should not apply to the tax-credit scholarships because the tax component is confidential by nature, and the private

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sector is handling the rest. He said it was no different than a church asking its parishioners for donations — even though the state created the voucher program.

Supporters have on their side the U.S. Supreme Court, which has ruled that the contributed money is private funds because the cash is never touched by the state.

But government transparency watchdogs have warned that the set-up can be problematic, with abuses well-documented. In Alabama and Georgia, for example, groups advertised the programs as money-making for contributors. In Arizona, a lawmaker makes six figures annually by running a scholarship group in the same system that he has supported.

Critics say under certain circumstances, wealthy contributors could even make a profit by claiming the “charitable” deduction multiple times over at the state and federal levels.

The AAA Scholarship Foundation Inc. which runs programs in Nevada and five other states, says it doesn’t give tax advice but has, when asked, shared an IRS memo on the matter.

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy say loopholes in the tax code would allow contributors to both eliminate their state tax bill and also get a charitable deduction off their federal taxes, and in some cases, also their state taxes. Carl Davis, the Washington-based think tank’s research director, likened the system to a money-laundering tax scheme because the contributions are officially considered donations — even if the scholarship money goes to for-profit schools.

“That’s not charity. That’s just helping facilitate the movement of funds. These so-called donors are really like middlemen,” Davis said. “They’re not making a financial sacrifice.”

The research firm estimates that states give away \$1 billion annually in tax credits for these voucher programs. Aside from closing the loophole, states could also rein it in by requiring contributors to show their federal tax return to prove that they aren’t “double-dipping,” Davis said.

EdChoice, a leading school choice advocacy group, defends the tax-credit program, saying it’s accountable to parents who can choose to take their kids elsewhere if they don’t like a school — even if there are, like in all government programs, some cases of abuse.

Acknowledging there are things to address, EdChoice’s policy director Jason Bedrick said his team has advised scholarship groups against mischaracterizing the system as profit-making because the conditions vary, depending on the state and the individual taxpayer.

But he’s not apologetic about the tax loophole, saying it’s no different compared to tax credits for other charitable causes that in some states, though very rarely, are also dollar-for-dollar contributions. And if there is tax code reform to address double-dipping, it should apply uniformly to all donor tax credits — not just for a highly political issue like vouchers.

“Some people might not like that, but they’re acting within the letter of the law. I see no problem with that,” Bedrick said. “Nobody’s going to go to jail for this.”

Follow Sally Ho at [http://twitter.com/\\_sallyho](http://twitter.com/_sallyho)

## Senate GOP rallies behind McConnell in feud with Trump

By **JULIE BYKOWICZ** and **ERICA WERNER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans on Friday rallied in support of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, pushing back against the onslaught of criticism from President Donald Trump.

Republicans took to Twitter, their president’s preferred means of communication, to praise McConnell as a gifted leader backed by his 52-member caucus and a Republican intent on delivering for the president and the party on taxes and budget this fall.

A number of GOP lawmakers pointedly reminded Trump and other GOP critics that it was McConnell who ensured the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.

“Passing POTUS’s legislative agenda requires a team effort. No one is more qualified than Mitch McConnell to lead Senate in that effort,” tweeted Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate.

Support came from moderates and conservatives alike.

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"Majority Leader McConnell understands the Senate is a deliberative & diverse body. He enjoys broad support in our Caucus," tweeted Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine.

"Perspective: w/out @SenateMajLdr McConnell's leadership, Republicans don't have Neil Gorsuch on Supreme Court #prolife #progun," tweeted Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.

A sitting president openly turning on a Senate majority leader of his own party in such a fashion is practically unheard of — yet another norm toppled since Trump's emergence onto the political scene. And while the fighting words might elate Trump's core supporters, they can only hurt broader Republican efforts to move major legislation this fall on taxes and spending while preparing for congressional elections next year against energized Democrats who are rallying to retake the House. Republicans control both chambers, but the Trump factor in many races will be hard to predict.

Trump launched a barrage of criticism at McConnell over the collapse of the seven-year GOP campaign to repeal and replace Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act and even suggested on Thursday that the Kentucky Republican might have to rethink his future as leader if he doesn't deliver on the president legislative lineup.

"Well, I tell you what, if he doesn't get repeal-and-replace done and if he doesn't get taxes done, meaning cuts and reform, and if he doesn't get a very easy one to get done, infrastructure, if he doesn't get them done, then you can ask me that question," the president told reporters in Bedminster, New Jersey, where he is in the midst of a 17-day break from Washington.

On Friday, Trump retweeted headlines from "Fox & Friends" about his verbal assault on McConnell and possible fallout for GOP senators who criticize the president.

There was no immediate response from McConnell's office.

Trump's comments came after he spent two days slamming McConnell on Twitter, writing Thursday morning that after "screaming" about repealing and replacing Obamacare for seven years, McConnell "couldn't get it done." Several hours later, the president's tone took a seemingly motivational turn as he exhorted McConnell to "get back to work" and pass bills. "You can do it!"

McConnell clearly had struck a nerve by telling an audience in his home state that Trump had "not been in this line of work before" and had "excessive expectations about how quickly things happen in the democratic process."

What followed was a "tense" phone call between the two men, according to a person familiar with the exchange, and then a presidential Twitter screed. The person was not authorized to speak publicly about a private discussion and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The presidential megaphone amplified the McConnell-bashing that's been snaking through conservative media: Breitbart News, Fox News' Sean Hannity and radio host Rush Limbaugh are among those who have vilified the leader after the Senate's failure on health care. They represent a segment of the Republican electorate, including some major donors, who are out to punish what they see as a "do-nothing Congress" that has hampered the president's work.

McConnell is "a coward who leads from behind," "spineless," and a lifelong "political animal" of the sort Trump wants to eject from Washington, said Doug Deason, a major donor based in Texas. Deason said he decided months ago not to give money to any Republicans up for re-election next year unless they can pass Trump's priorities.

In the past, Republicans have praised McConnell who refused to even allow a hearing for Democratic President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Merrick Garland, and kept the seat vacant for more than a year as he awaited the presidential election results.

Trump and his supporters love such political brawls, and the McConnell tussle potentially shores up the president's base at a time when it is showing signs of weakening support. After all, he is picking on a part of government with lower approval ratings. But other Republicans saw Trump's moves as counterproductive.

Even Newt Gingrich, a Trump backer and informal adviser who formerly served as speaker of the House, criticized the dispute.

"You saw Mitch McConnell say something, you saw Trump say something, when it's obviously better for them to learn not to do that," Gingrich said. "They have to work together. Governing is a team sport."

Associated Press writers Jonathan Lemire in Bedminster, New Jersey, and Bob Christie in Phoenix contributed to this report.

## Widening egg scandal hits 17 countries in Europe

By LORNE COOK, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union said Friday that it plans to hold an extraordinary meeting late next month over a growing tainted egg scandal as it revealed that products contaminated with an insecticide have now spread to 17 countries.

Millions of eggs have been destroyed or pulled from supermarket shelves since July 20, when it was made public that the pesticide Fipronil, which is dangerous to human health, was found mixed with another treatment sprayed on chickens for ticks, fleas and lice, known as Dega 16.

Almost all lab tests show that only very low levels of Fipronil — seven to 10 times lower than the maximum permitted — have been detected in eggs from the treated chickens, although one test in Belgium was above the European limit. Poisoning by small doses has few effects and requires little treatment. Heavy and prolonged exposure can damage the kidneys and liver or cause seizures.

The scandal has caused major political fallout, with neighbors Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany squabbling over who is to blame, and who knew what and when. Poultry farmers have been hardest hit, and are blaming the chemical industry for compromising their business and exposing consumers to danger.

The EU's executive Commission said Friday that contaminated eggs have been found at producers in four countries; Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Eggs or egg products from those producers have reached Austria, Britain, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Sweden, as well as Switzerland and Hong Kong outside the EU.

The Commission announced that it is aiming to hold talks between EU ministers and food safety agencies concerned on Sept. 26.

"The aim is to draw the relevant lessons and discuss the ways to continuously improve the effectiveness of the EU system to deal with food fraud," Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said.

She said the EU's "priority remains to manage the situation, to continue to coordinate and to reassure our citizens."

In France, Agriculture Minister Stephane Travert said that tests on imported eggs contaminated with pesticide show no risk to public health.

Travert said on RMC radio Friday that some 244,000 eggs imported from the Netherlands and Belgium and sold in France were affected.

He said test results received overnight from the French food safety agency on affected eggs and egg products showed "the level of contamination does not present a risk for the consumer."

France has also confirmed one farm in the Nord-Pas de Calais region was found to have used Fipronil, and is now blocked from selling eggs.

The Agriculture Ministry says the French farm reported on July 28, as the scandal was coming to light, that Dega 16 had been used on the farm by a Belgian subcontractor, and the ministry claims no eggs concerned have been sold.

Danish food safety authorities say 20 tons of boiled and peeled eggs linked to the pesticide scandal were sold in recent months to a distributor in Denmark, which in turn sold them to canteens, cafes and catering companies in the country.

The agency said Thursday the Danish distributor, Danaeg Products, has been ordered to recall the eggs because "the content is illegal" but "not dangerous."

German Agriculture Ministry spokeswoman Jennifer Reinhard said Friday "the facts need to be swiftly and fully investigated."

She noted that there are rapid alert systems that should be used if consumers are at risk.

"There must be no compromises when it comes to food safety," Reinhard said. "Information needs to

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be shared between (EU) member states without delay.”

In Poland, Jan Bondar, a spokesman for the Chief Sanitary Inspectorate, said that an estimated 40,000 potentially contaminated eggs have been imported but were not sold to consumers. He said the eggs came from the Netherlands and were delivered by a German company. Contamination hasn't been confirmed but they came from farms where contaminated eggs were found. He said the eggs would either be destroyed or returned to the producer.

Angela Charlton in Paris, Frank Jordans in Berlin and Vanessa Gera in Warsaw contributed to this report.

## Leaked email shows HBO negotiating with hackers

By MATT O'BRIEN and TALI ARBEL, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Hackers this week released an email from HBO in which the company expressed willingness to pay them \$250,000 as part of a negotiation over data swiped from HBO's servers.

The July 27 email was sent by John Beyler, an HBO executive who thanked the hackers for “making us aware” of previously unknown security vulnerabilities. The executive asked for a 1-week delay and said HBO was willing to make a “good faith” payment of \$250,000, calling it a “bug bounty” reward for IT professionals rather than a ransom.

HBO declined to comment. A person close to the investigation confirmed the authenticity of the email, but said it was an attempt to buy time and assess the situation. The same hackers have subsequently released two dumps of HBO material and demanded a multi-million dollar ransom.

### HOW BAD IS THE HACK?

Whether or not HBO ever intended to follow through with its \$250,000 offer, the email raised questions Friday among security professionals about the importance of the data and whether HBO's reaction might encourage future attacks.

“It's interesting that they're spinning it as a bug bounty program,” said Pablo Garcia, CEO of FFRI North America, based in Aliso Viejo, California. “They're being extorted. If it was a bug bounty, it'd be on the up and up.”

Beyler's email to the hackers said the company was working “very hard” to review all the material they provided, and also trying to figure out a way to make a large transaction in bitcoin, the hackers' preferred payment method.

“You have the advantage of having surprised us,” Beyler wrote. “In the spirit of professional cooperation, we are asking you to extend your deadline for one week.”

### A ROUGH CHRONOLOGY

The first HBO hack became publicly known on July 31. Beyler's email, sent several days earlier, might have been an attempt to make the problem go away without too much bad publicity for HBO, said Sanjay Goel, a professor at the University at Albany and chairman of its information technology management department.

“Hackers are not in this game for \$250,000; this probably took them a lot of time and effort,” Goel said. “That's a very, very small amount in these kinds of negotiations.”

Then, on Monday, hackers using the name “Mr. Smith” posted a fresh cache of stolen HBO files online, and demanded that the network pay a ransom of several million dollars to prevent further such releases.

The leaks included scripts from “Game of Thrones” episodes and a month's worth of email from the account of HBO's vice president for film programming. There were also internal documents, including a report of legal claims against the network and job offer letters to top executives.

### HOLLYWOOD IN THE CROSSHAIRS

HBO has said that it is working with law enforcement and cybersecurity firms to investigate the attack, which is the latest to hit a Hollywood business. In April, a hacker claimed to have released episodes of Netflix's “Orange is the New Black” ahead of their official launch date.

The leaks so far have fallen well short of the chaos inflicted on Sony in 2014.

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But paying ransoms to hackers can be dangerous because it shows that being a bad-guy hacker is a good business, said cybersecurity expert Oren Falkowitz, CEO of Redwood City, California-based Area 1 Security. Companies would be better off investing in preventing email spear-fishing attempts and other hacking techniques, he said.

"The reason they got in this scenario is they didn't have the right pre-emption strategy," Falkowitz said. "The next company, whether it's Showtime or Death Row Records or whomever, needs to see that they're going to wake up one day to this reality unless they confront it."

Arbel reported from New York.

## US stocks snap 3-day losing streak in roller coaster week

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Gains among technology companies helped snap a three-day losing streak for U.S. stocks Friday, though the market ended with its worst weekly loss since March.

The modest rebound came at the end of a turbulent week on Wall Street as escalating tensions between the U.S. and North Korea rattled global markets.

In the first four days of the week, the Standard & Poor's 500 index swung from marking its latest record high to posting its biggest single-day drop in nearly three months.

The negative headlines provided many investors with an opportunity to pocket some of their recent gains following a string of record highs fueled by strong corporate earnings.

"It's been a bit of a roller coaster this week, with all the rhetoric between the U.S. and North Korea," said Jeff Kravetz, regional investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "That did temporarily shake investors' complacency, but we think markets are ready to move higher in the back half of the year, and earnings and economic data are going to drive that."

On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 3.11 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,441.32. The index had its biggest drop since mid-May a day earlier. The Dow Jones industrials average gained 14.31 points, or 0.1 percent, to 21,858.32. The Nasdaq added 39.68 points, or 0.6 percent, to 6,256.56. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 1.69 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,374.23.

The recovery fit a recent pattern of investors using dips to put more money in stocks.

Despite the past week's decline, the major indexes are in positive territory so far this year, led by the Nasdaq, which is up 16.2 percent. The S&P 500 is up 9 percent, while the Dow is up 10.6 percent.

"If you strip away what's going on in North Korea, and if you strip away what's going on in Washington, which are things that are tougher to predict, the economy, the global recovery, earnings, it all paints a very positive picture for the rest of the year," Kravetz said.

Tensions between the U.S. and North Korea continued to simmer early Friday. In a tweet, President Donald Trump warned of military action "should North Korea act unwisely," noting that the U.S. is "locked and loaded." Earlier in the week, Trump said the U.S. would unleash "fire and fury" on North Korea if it continued to threaten the U.S.

North Korea had announced a detailed plan to launch a salvo of ballistic missiles toward the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, a major military hub and home to U.S. bombers.

Still, there were fewer signs of anxiousness in the markets Friday. Bond and gold prices, traditional havens for nervous investors, were little changed, and the VIX, a measure of how much volatility investors expect in stocks, fell 3.3 percent following a 44.4 percent jump the day before. It's still the highest it's been since May.

Investors also drew some encouragement from new government data showing U.S. inflation at the consumer level inched higher last month. July's 0.1 percent increase in consumer prices suggests that the Federal Reserve may be less likely to raise interest rates next month.

Inflation has risen 1.7 percent over the past 12 months, suggesting that inflation pressures remain well under control. The Fed, which raised its key interest rate in March and June, has signaled it plans a third

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rate hike before the end of this year. But some economists say the Fed may stand pat for the rest of 2017 unless inflation accelerates in coming months.

"Today's inflation data put the Fed on pause and really diminishes the fact that there's still some noise going around with the North Korea-U.S. situation," said Phil Blancato, CEO of Ladenburg Thalmann Asset Management.

Technology companies, which suffered the brunt of the selling a day earlier, were back in the lead Friday. Lam Research Corp. climbed \$4.82, or 3.2 percent, to \$154.26.

Seagate Technology gained 2.3 percent after investor ValueAct disclosed that it had acquired a 7.2 percent stake in the digital storage company. Seagate shares rose 74 cents to \$32.29.

Traders sold off financial stocks amid speculation that the Fed will decide to hold off on raising interest rates next month. Higher interest rates can help boost banks' revenue from loans. Regions Financial shed 23 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$14.07.

J.C. Penney sank 16.6 percent after the struggling department store chain reported quarterly results that fell short of Wall Street's expectations. The company also said sales at its established stores declined for the fourth straight quarter. The stock lost 78 cents to \$3.93.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note slipped to 2.19 percent from 2.20 percent late Thursday.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 23 cents to settle at \$48.82 a barrel on the on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 20 cents to \$52.10 a barrel in London.

In other energy futures trading, wholesale gasoline rose 1 cent to \$1.61 a gallon, while heating oil was little changed at \$1.63 a gallon. Natural gas was also flat at \$2.98 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold added \$3.90 to settle at \$1,294 an ounce. Silver gained 1 cent to \$17.07 an ounce. Copper rose 1 cent to \$2.91 a pound.

The dollar slipped to 109.04 yen from 109.26 late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1824 from \$1.1774.

Major indexes in Europe closed mostly lower. Germany's DAX was flat, while France's CAC 40 fell 1.1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 was down 1.1 percent.

In Asia, several indexes closed lower overnight. South Korea's Kospi lost 1.7 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng slid 2 percent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dropped 1.2 percent. Japan was closed on a public holiday.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2017. There are 141 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 12, 1867, President Andrew Johnson sparked a move to impeach him as he defied Congress by suspending Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, with whom he had clashed over Reconstruction policies. (Johnson was acquitted by the Senate.)

On this date:

In 1898, fighting in the Spanish-American War came to an end.

In 1915, the novel "Of Human Bondage," by William Somerset Maugham, was first published in the United States, a day before it was released in England.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated Hugo Black to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1960, the first balloon communications satellite — the Echo 1 — was launched by the United States from Cape Canaveral.

In 1962, one day after launching Andrian Nikolayev into orbit, the Soviet Union also sent up cosmonaut



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Pavel Popovich; both men landed safely Aug. 15.

In 1977, the space shuttle Enterprise passed its first solo flight test by taking off atop a Boeing 747, separating, then touching down in California's Mojave (moh-HAH'-vee) Desert.

In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York.

In 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

In 1992, after 14 months of negotiations, the United States, Mexico and Canada announced in Washington that they had concluded the North American Free Trade Agreement. Avant-garde composer John Cage died in New York at age 79.

In 1994, Woodstock '94 opened in Saugerties, New York.

Ten years ago: A gunman opened fire in the sanctuary of a southwest Missouri church, killing a pastor and two worshippers. (A suspect later pleaded guilty to three counts of murder and four counts of assault, and received three life sentences without parole, plus four 30-year sentences for the assaults.) Tiger Woods captured the PGA Championship to win at least one major for the third straight season and run his career total to 13. Crooner, talk show host and game show producer Merv Griffin died in Los Angeles at age 82.

Five years ago: With a little British pomp and a lot of British pop, London brought the curtain down on the Olympic Games with a spectacular pageant. Before the closing ceremony, the U.S. men's basketball team defended its title by fighting off another huge challenge from Spain, pulling away in the final minutes for a 107-100 victory and its second straight Olympic championship. The victory by the men's basketball team gave the United States its 46th gold medal in London; the U.S. initially won 104 medals overall, but was later stripped of a silver medal after a men's relay team member tested positive for steroids. Rory McIlroy won the PGA Championship with a 6-under 66 for an eight-shot victory at Kiawah Island, South Carolina.

One year ago: The Pentagon said that Hafiz Saeed Khan, a top Islamic State group leader in Afghanistan, had been killed in a U.S. drone strike the previous month. A judge in Milwaukee overturned the conviction of Brendan Dassey, who was found guilty of helping his uncle kill a woman in a case profiled in the Netflix series "Making a Murderer," ruling that investigators coerced a confession using deceptive tactics. Katie Ledecky won her fourth gold medal of the Rio Olympics, shattering her own mark in the 800-meter freestyle; fellow American Anthony Ervin won the men's 50-meter freestyle.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Hamilton is 78. Actress Dana Ivey is 76. Actress Jennifer Warren is 76. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 68. Actor Jim Beaver is 67. Singer Kid Creole is 67. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 63. Actor Sam J. Jones is 63. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 61. Country singer Danny Shirley is 61. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 56. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 54. Actor Peter Krause (KROW'-zuh) is 52. Actor Brent Sexton is 50. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pete Sampras is 46. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 46. Actress Yvette Nicole Brown is 46. Actress Rebecca Gayheart is 46. Actor Casey Affleck is 42. Rock musician Bill Uechi is 42. Actress Maggie Lawson is 37. Actress Dominique Swain is 37. Actress Leah Pipes is 29. Actor Lakeith Stanfield is 26. Actress Cara Delevingne (DEHL'-eh-veen) is 25. Actress Imani Hakim is 24.

Thought for Today: "Wisdom is born, stupidity is learned." — Russian proverb.