

Groton Daily Independent

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Thurs., Aug. 17, 2017

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Thurs., Aug. 17

Senior Menu: Chicken tetrazzine, green peas, fresh fruit, cookie, whole wheat bread.

10 a.m.: Boys golf at Milbank

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA "Do Day" potluck lunch at 1:30 p.m. Election of officers.

Pool Hours: Open Swim, 1-4:50; Lap Swim, 5-5:45; Aerobics, 5:45-6:30.

Fri., Aug. 18

Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

3 p.m.: Boys soccer hosts Belle Fourche

5 p.m.: Girls soccer hosts Belle Fourche

7 p.m. Football hosts Roncalli

Pool Hours: Open Swim, 1-4:50; Lap Swim, 5-6:30.

Official Notices

Brown County (updated 8-15)

Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)

Groton City (updated 8-8)

Other Notices (updated 8-8)

Groton Area School (updated 8-7)

Frederick Area School Book (updated 7-26)

Westport Town Book (updated 7-26)

Claremont Town Official Notices Book

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

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

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Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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

The background of the page features a silhouette of two people on a mountain peak. One person is standing on the higher part of the peak, leaning forward and reaching out to help another person who is climbing up from a lower point. The background is a blue sky with light clouds and a hazy mountain range in the distance.

"Here is a simple
but powerful rule:
always give
people more
than what
they expect
to get."

- Nelson Boswell

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Service Notice: Dallas Sombke

Services for Dallas Sombke, 79, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 22nd at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Burial will follow in St. John's Cemetery, Columbia under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church on Monday from 5-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. Dallas passed away August 16, 2017 in Groton.

Service Notice: Kervin Wolter

Memorial services for Kervin Wolter, 42, of Groton will be 1:00 p.m., Saturday, August 19th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Marcia Sylvester will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday from 11-1 p.m. Kervin passed away August 15, 2017 at his home.



All auto owners!

Save \$2-\$4 /tank

& grow your local economy
by choosing low carbon

Super Premium E30's

94 octane, more power,
same mileage, fewer
carbon deposits, lower
maintenance costs,
slashed benzene & related
genotoxic, carcinogenic
tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for
info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's**

**PSA: Courtesy Merle
Anderson (Merle is 94
year old founder of Ace
and legendary ethanol
supporter... "because it is
the right thing to do")**

Help Wanted

Full- or part-time for the following positions:
Healthcare workers for Nurse's-RN or LPN, and
Nursing Assistants, Dietary Cook and assistant,
and Housekeeper. (12 hour shifts/rotating
weekends for nurses and C.N.A.s)

Contact Jessica Lindskov or Nellie Peterson
at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

**1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton
605-397-2365**

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Poles go up!

The four poles that will hold the new signal lights and new LED street lights were erected Wednesday by the crew from Muth Electric. Their main priority is to get the signal lights going as soon as possible.

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Friday, Aug. 18, at Doney Field, Groton SD



2017 GHS Tiger Football

Front Row: Cheerleaders Jessica Bjerke, Jasmine Schinkel, Madilyn Wright, Hannah Lewandowski, Jenifer Fjelstad, Madison Sippel, Maddy Schuelke, Ashley Fliehs

2nd Row: Kale Pharis, Adrian Knutson, Doug Heminger, Colby Merkel, Lee Iverson, Kadye Stange, Hunter Schaller, Garret Schroeder, Paxton Bonn, Chandler Larson, Caleb Furney

3rd Row: Assistant Coach Travis Kurth, Assistant Coach Seth Erickson, Alex Morris, Jamesen Stange, Grady O'Neill, Darien Shabazz, Austin Jones, Peyton Johnson, Lucas Hinman, Jonathan Doeden, Thomas Cranford, Wyatt Locke, Trey Gengerke, Assistant Coach Scott Thorson, Head Coach Shaun Wanner

4th Row: Jackson Oliver, Marshall Lane, Brandon Keith, Luke Thorson, Andy Rintala, Anthony Sippel, Seric Shabazz, Korbin Blackmun, Brandyn Anderson

Watch the game live or
later at



Football

Fri., Aug. 18	Roncalli	7:00
Fri., Aug. 25	vs. EEK at Kulm	7:00
Fri., Sept. 1	Sisseton	7:00
Fri., Sept. 8	at Beresford	7:00
Fri., Sept. 15	Chamberlain	7:00
Fri., Sept. 22	Mobridge/Pollock (HC)	7:00
Fri., Sept. 29	at Milbank	7:00
Fri., Oct. 13	at Redfield	7:00
Thurs., Oct. 19	1st Rnd. Playoffs	
Thurs. Oct. 26	2nd Rnd. Playoffs	
Fri., Nov. 3	Semifinals	
Fri., Nov. 10	11B at Vermillion	

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Groton Area Tigers

2	Doug Heminger	RB/DB	5'3	125	9
3	Thomas Cranford	WR/DB	5'10	175	10
5	Anthony Sippel	WR/DB	5'10	180	12
6	Jonathan Doeden	TE/LB	6'0	175	10
7	Kayde Stange	WR/DB	5'10	165	10
8	Paxton Bonn	TE/DE	6'0	165	9
9	Jamesen Stange	WR/DE	5'10	170	11
10	Marshall Lane	QB/FS	5'9	175	12
11	Andy Rintala	WR/DB	6'1	170	12
13	Lee Iverson	WR/DB	5'6	150	9
15	Korbin Blackmun	TE/FS	5'9	170	11
17	Lucas Hinman	RB/DB	6'0	175	11
20	Garret Schroeder	WR/LB	6'0	175	10
21	Chandler Larson	QB/FS	5'10	160	9
22	Jackson Oliver	WR/DE	5'9	185	12
24	Seric Shabazz	RB/LB	5'10	190	12
26	Hunter Schaller	K/DB	5'9	165	10
32/52	Brandon Keith	RB/LB	5'10	185	12
33	Darien Shabazz	RB/LB	5'10	180	10
44	Adrian Knutson	FB/DL	5'10	200	9
48	Colby Merkel	WR/DB	5'8	150	10
50	Austin Jones	OL/DE	6'0	185	10
51	Kaden Carda	OL/DL	5'10	170	9
54	Grady O'Neill	OL/DL	6'0	185	10
55	Wyatt Locke	OL/DL	6'1	220	11
58	Peyton Johnson	OL/DE	6'2	195	10
59	Alex Morris	OL/DL	5'10	205	9
60	Brandyn Anderson	OL/DL	5'8	230	12
62	Trey Gengerke	OL/DL	5'10	200	9
64	Luke Thorson	OL/DL	6'1	230	12
65	Cody Richards	OL/DL	5'10	220	12
67	Caleb Furney	OL/DL	5'10	185	9
68	Kale Pharis	OL/DL	5'10	190	9

Head Coach

Shaun Wanner

Asst. Coaches

Travis Kurth

Scott Thorson

Seth Erickson

Lance Hawkins

Ryan Scepaniak

Managers

Brooke Gengerke

Alex Stange

Statistician

Tom Woods

Cheerleaders

Jasmine Schinkel

Madison Sippel

Madilyn Wright

Hannah Lewandowski

Jessica Bjerke

Jenifer Fjelstad

Ashley Flihs

Maddy Schuelke

Cheer Coaches

Sandi Sippel

Aubrey Harry

Joellen Miller

Superintendent

Joe Schwan

Principal

Kiersten Sombke

Ath. Director

Brian Schuring

School Colors

Black/Gold

School Song

Fight On

This week's team
breakfast sponsors
are:

Marc and Franne Sippel
Subway of Groton

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Aberdeen Roncalli

1	Brady Morgan	QB / FS	5'10	170	11
2	Gabe Torbert	RB/SS	5'9	185	12
3	Jade Karst	FB / LB	5'9	200	11
7	Peni Mouna Jr.	TB / LB	5'11	185	11
10	Andrew Buechler	WR / CB	6'1	170	12
11	Jacob O'Keefe	WR / FS	5'10	160	10
12	Riley Weinmeister	TE / OLB	5'11	180	10
13	Hunter Hilton	TE / OLB	5'11	185	12
14	Antony Martinez	WR / CB / K	5'8	150	10
21	Nehemiah Becker	RB / OLB	6'2	210	11
24	Grant Gunderson	WR / CB	6'3	175	12
25	Maxwell Bent	WR / DB / K	5'8	160	12
30	Will Schaeftbauer	IIITE / OLB / P	5'9	170	12
32	Chris Swallow	WR / CB	5'11	155	10
33	Spencer Titus	WR / OLB	5'10	160	11
34	Ben Kretchman	FB / LB	5'9	160	12
36	William Goscicki	WR / CB	5'7	150	9
44	Josh Maunu	TE / OLB	6'0	150	10
50	Gavin Heier	OL / DL / K	5'10	230	11
53	Mike Featherhuff	OL / LB / P	5'10	190	12
54	Ben Livermont	OL / DL	5'7	225	9
60	Garrett Mitzel	OL / DL	5'10	160	10
62	Conner Chamberlain	OL / DL	6'0	190	12
64	Sam Sather	OL / DL	6'2	260	9
71	Ezekiel Becker	OL / DL	6'1	315	9
72	Caleb Kost	OL / DL	6'0	220	12
75	Connor Hansen	OL / DL	6'4	250	11
76	Sam Griffin	OL / DL	6'2	265	9
84	Harrison Kieffer	TE / OLB	6'3	170	10



Head Coach

Billy Young

Asst. Coaches

Kendall Hoellein

Peni Mouna

Danny Gallagher

Managers

Meredith Friedrichsen

Vishnu Pfeiffer

Athletic Trainer

Theresa Backous

Cheerleaders

Leah Norton

Sarah Zens

Megan Titus

Chloe Bent

Jemini Cantalope

Capri Hellwig

Cheer Coach

Brenda Artz

Superintendent

Jeff Simmons, Eric Kline

Principal

Amy Beaner/Jeff Simmons

Ath. Director

David Rohrbach

Brian Dolan

School Song

Original



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

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda August 21, 2017 – 7:00pm Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. City council dates for September
4. Surplus rubber tire packer
5. Surplus lockers at the ball field
6. Approve city liability insurance for Pumpkin Fest in the park (Oct. 7, 2018)
7. EAS Users Training & Technical Showcase – Paul Kosel to attend (Oct. 9-12)
8. 83rd Annual SD Water & Wastewater Association Conference – 2 employees (Sept. 13-15)
9. SD Peace Officer's Seminar – Dave Hunter (Sept. 17-19)
10. Introduce Police Department Body Camera Policy
11. First reading of ordinance #712 – Utility revisions
12. First reading of ordinance #713 – 2018 Budget
13. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)

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SDSU Extension WEED Project at the South Dakota State Fair

BROOKINGS, S.D. - The SDSU Extension WEED (Weed Evaluation Extension Demonstration) Project will be at the 2017 South Dakota State Fair held in Huron Aug. 31-Sept. 4.

"This project is designed to answer South Dakota grower's questions," explained Paul O. Johnson, SDSU Extension Weed Science Coordinator.

The SDSU Extension WEED Project is South Dakota's source for unbiased information for weed control practices, controls and concern's. During the State Fair the SDSU Extension WEED Project will focus on weed control in soybeans.

"There is a lot of concern on control of weeds in soybeans. Farmers want to know what worked and what did not," Johnson said. "Waterhemp, related pigweed species and kochia are of major concern to a lot of our farmers around the state we will be there to talk about them and help to look at control options."

The research-based information shared with growers and gardeners through SDSU Extension WEED Project comes from data gleaned from the WEED Project's 100-plus test plots as well as data from other Upper Midwest Agricultural Universities like South Dakota State University.

"This is your one stop location to get your questions answered by the experts," Johnson said.

The SDSU Extension WEED Project display at the State Fair will answer questions on crop and pasture weeds along with lawn and garden weeds.

The display will again have several publications that fairgoers can take home to learn more. The new iGrow South Dakota Weeds 2017 publication will also be available at no cost. Most of the information included in this guide can be at iGrow.org.

Exciting Things Are Happening at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds

By Mike Jaspers, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture

Every year, it seems like summer flies by faster than the one before. For me, though, summer is never over until after the South Dakota State Fair. It's one last chance to catch up with family and friends, take in a concert and watch a youth livestock show before my kids get busy with school and fall activities and harvest starts for me.

This year, the South Dakota State Fair runs from Thursday, Aug. 31, through Monday, Sept. 4, with a preview night on the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 30. As you spend some time exploring the fairgrounds, I hope you'll notice and appreciate many of the repair and renovation projects we have worked on over the past year.

With an attendance of more than 211,000 people, the 2016 State Fair was one of the largest in recent history. With the increase in the number of fairgoers, renovations for the restrooms and food court area were especially needed. For the 2017 Fair, you'll notice several updated restrooms and bath houses, as well as new counters in the food court. You will probably also notice some ongoing construction in and around the grandstand. The grandstand will celebrate its 100th birthday next year. Construction will continue over the next couple months as we work to make sure it is looking it's best for that celebration.

Camping at the State Fair is also becoming more and more popular. To accommodate this growing demand, camping is now available at Gate 13, which is located west of the grandstand. Upgrades were made this spring to add 30 new electrical pedestals to allow for direct electrical hookups for campers at Gate 13.

We've made these upgrades not only for everyone that comes to enjoy the annual State Fair, but for hundreds of thousands of people that come to the fairgrounds to enjoy the more than 100 other events the fairgrounds hosts. On any given day, you can come to the fairgrounds to see tractor shows, races or rodeos. We are especially excited to host the National Junior High Finals Rodeo, the second largest rodeo in the world, in 2018 and 2019. This rodeo draws contestants from 42 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia.

I hope to see you at the 2017 South Dakota State Fair at the end of the month and that you enjoy everything the fair has to offer. I also hope you'll take advantage of the many other events taking place year round. Exciting things are happening at the fairgrounds. Come check it out!

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Today in Weather History

August 17, 1961: Intensive rainfall occurred during the overnight hours on the 17th through the early morning hours on the 18th. Some rainfall amounts include 4.13 inches in Clark, 2.52 inches 1 W of Summit, 2.50 in Andover, 2.20 in Waubay, 2.15 in Wilmot, 2.12 in Wheaton, and 2.10 in Clear Lake.

August 17, 2007: An estimated four to six inches of rain and hail to the size of baseballs caused localized flooding between Piedmont and Tilford in Meade County, especially near poor drainage areas and at a barricade along a frontage road. The water washed over several roads and was several inches deep on Interstate 90, forcing law enforcement officials to close it for a couple of hours. Torrential rains estimated at four to six inches fell west of Hermosa in Custer County between 6 pm and 8 pm MST. Battle and Grace Coolidge Creeks overflowed their banks and several dry canyons filled with water and drained into the creeks. State highways 40 and 36 were flooded in numerous spots. A river gauge on Battle Creek just east of Hermosa crested at 14.91 feet at 9 pm, rising from 2.63 ft at 7:30 pm and above the flood stage of 8.0 feet. About six inches of water covered Highway 79 at the Battle Creek bridge. A railroad bridge about 3/4 mile downstream became clogged with debris and water rose behind the embankment and flooded six homes. At about 8:30 pm MST, a section of the embankment failed, flooding a new subdivision on the other side. All of the approximately 20 houses were damaged; three homes were washed off their foundations, and one of those houses was carried a half a mile east of the subdivision by the flowing water. There were no injuries.

1899: Hurricane San Ciriaco set many records on its path. Killing nearly 3,500 people in Puerto Rico, it was the deadliest hurricane to hit the island and the strongest at the time, until 30 years later when the island was affected by the Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, a Category 5 hurricane, in 1928. It was also the tenth deadliest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded. San Ciriaco is also the longest lasting Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, lasting for 28 days. On August 17, the hurricane turned back to the northwest and made landfall near Hatteras, North Carolina on the following day. San Ciriaco remains the strongest hurricane to make landfall on the Outer Banks since 1899.

1915 - A hurricane hit Galveston, TX, with wind gusts to 120 mph and a twelve foot storm surge. The storm claimed 275 lives, including forty-two on Galveston Island, with most deaths due to drowning. Of 250 homes built outside the seawall (which was constructed after the catastrophic hurricane of 1900), just ten percent were left standing. (The Weather Channel)

1946: An estimated F-4 tornado killed 11 people and injured 100 others in the Mankato, Minnesota area around 6:52 PM. The deaths and most of the injuries occurred in the complete destruction of the 26 cabins at the Green Gables tourist camp, 3 miles southwest of Mankato. A 27-ton road grader was reportedly hurled about 100 feet. Another tornado an hour later destroys downtown Wells, Minnesota.

1969: The music festival, known as Woodstock, should have ended on this day. Jimi Hendrix, the last act to perform, was delayed due to rain on Sunday evening. Jimi Hendrix took the stage at 8:30 am Monday morning.








1987 - Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Northern and Central Plains Region. One thunderstorm spawned a tornado near Fairbury NE, along with baseball size hail and wind gusts to 100 mph, causing severe crop damage west of town. Ten cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Syracuse NY hit 97 degrees for the first time in twenty-two years. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

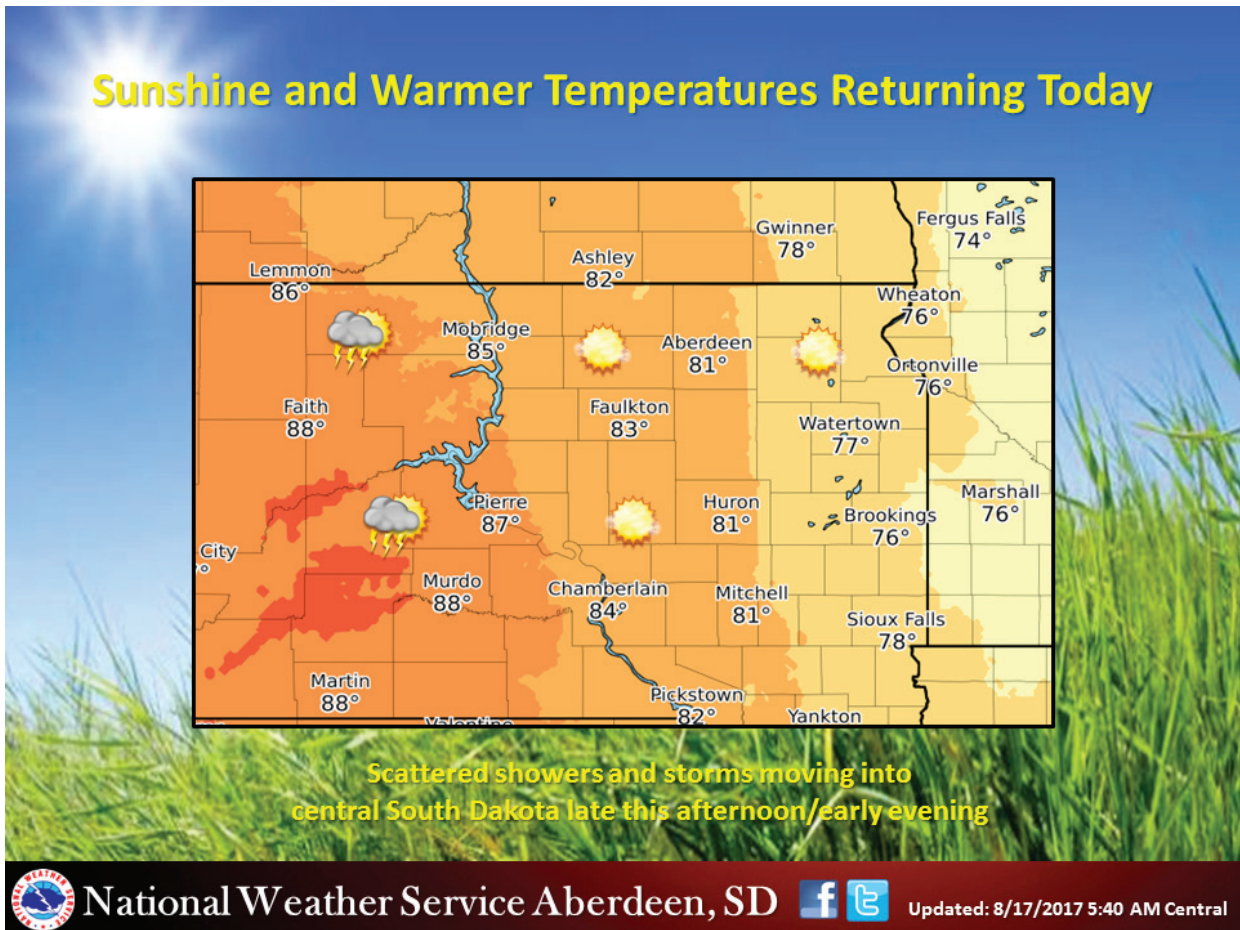
1988 - Fifty-five cities, from the Middle Mississippi Valley to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region, reported record high temperatures for the date. Beckley WV reported an all-time record high of 96 degrees, and Baltimore MD hit 104 degrees, marking their thirteenth day of the year with 100 degree heat. Chicago IL equalled a record with 46 days of 90 degree weather for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Wisconsin to New Jersey. Thunderstorms in New Jersey produced high winds which gusted to 92 mph at Wrightstown, and blew down a circus tent at Lavallette injuring fourteen persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms produced three to six inch rains in Oklahoma, and the Arkalates area of Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana. Tom OK was soaked with 5.98 inches of rain, and Foreman AR received 5.55 inches. Evening thunderstorms produced high winds in the Wasatch Front of northern Utah. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 66 mph at Salt Lake City, and flash flooding caused up to two million dollars damage to a marina on Lake Powell. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Sunny	Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 82 °F



Published on: 08/17/2017 at 5:45AM

The storm system that brought eastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota rain on Wednesday will continue moving away from the region today. This will mean we will see more sunshine today as warmer temperatures also move in. Highs will range from the upper 70s to the upper 80s. An area of low pressure will move into the western Dakotas this afternoon and bring scattered showers and storms into central South Dakota by late afternoon and early evening. This activity will remain scattered as it pushes eastward through the state during the overnight hours.

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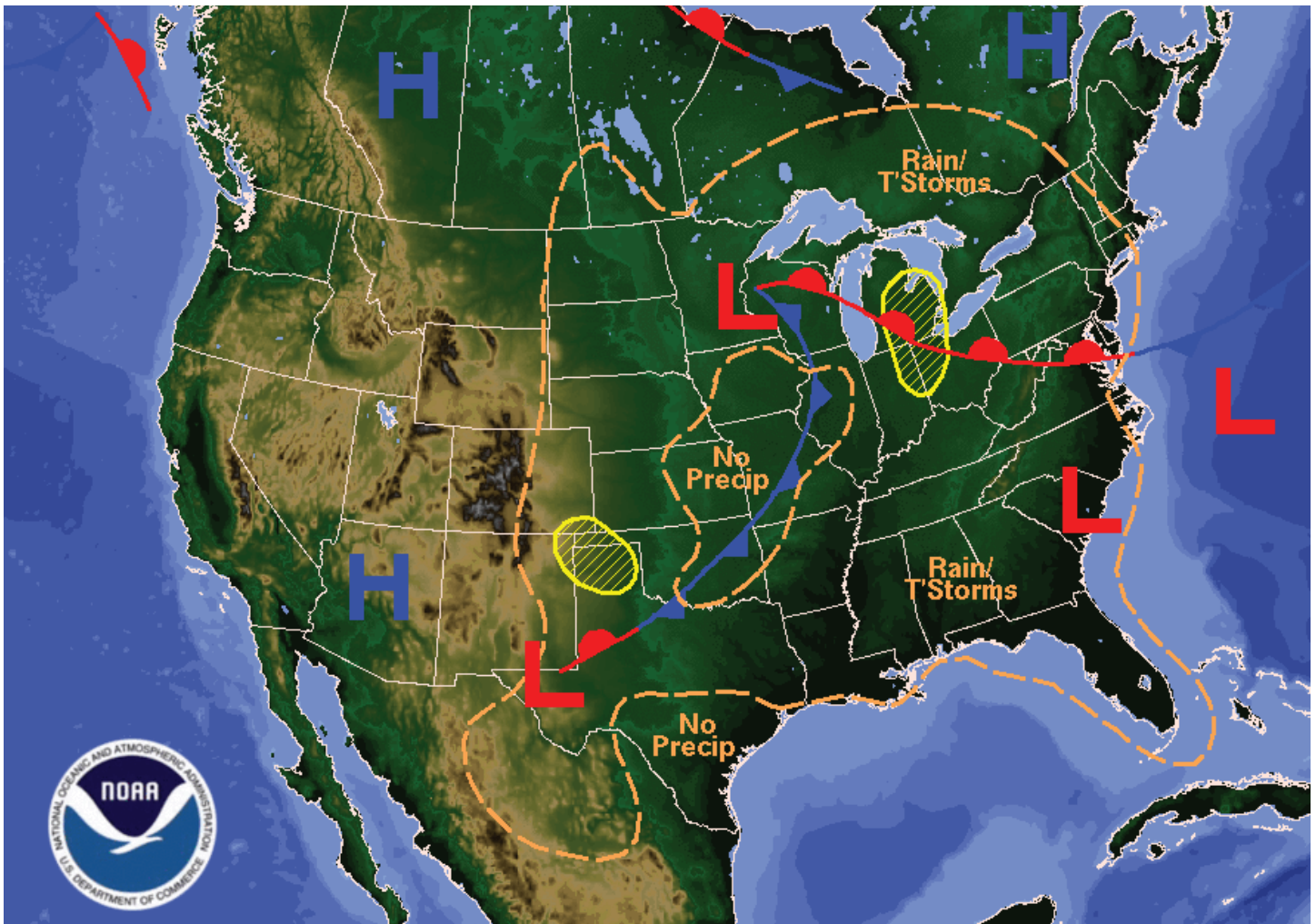
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 69.1 at 4:30 PM
Low Outside Temp: 64.6 at 2:26 AM
High Gust: 18 mph at 7:50 PM
Precip: 0.57

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1976
Record Low: 39° in 2012
Average High: 82°F
Average Low: 56°F
Average Precip in Aug: 1.33
Precip to date in Aug: 1.80
Average Precip to date: 15.19
Precip Year to Date: 9.15
Sunset Tonight: 8:37 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Aug 17, 2017, issued 4:37 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds 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)



RECIPE FOR A GOOD DAY

Have you ever met anyone who awakened in the morning and said, "Today is going to be horrible! I know it. I feel it. It's in the air!" How discouraging. Yet there are some who say, "Today's going to be the best day I've ever lived. I know God will be with me and bless me in all that I do." Is there a formula for having good, God blest days? Apparently so.

David said, "If you want to have good days," do three things:

1. Keep your tongue from evil! That may be more difficult than it sounds. James said, "No human being can tame the tongue." Perhaps the best way to start a "good day" would be to ask God to control our tongue and use it to encourage others and praise Him.

2. Turn from evil and do good! Another way to have a good day is to ask God to make us sensitive to the temptations we are sure to face as the day unfolds. It was Jesus who encouraged us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation." He knew that we would have to face temptation every day of our lives so he advised us to ask for God's help before we faced them. And don't forget the words of Paul, "It is possible," he said, "to escape temptation and avoid sin" if we call on God for help.

3. Seek peace and pursue it. This does not mean we are to surrender and avoid conflict. It means that we can enjoy peace in the midst of conflict if the conflict comes from being obedient to His Word, doing His will and following the path He has set before us.

Prayer: We all want good days, Lord, so we ask that You give us courage and wisdom to obey Your Word. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 34:13-14 – Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
13-15-18-26-35
(thirteen, fifteen, eighteen, twenty-six, thirty-five)
Estimated jackpot: \$471,000

Hot Lotto
03-08-23-25-39, Hot Ball: 3
(three, eight, twenty-three, twenty-five, thirty-nine; Hot Ball: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$9.4 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball
09-15-43-60-64, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 3
(nine, fifteen, forty-three, sixty, sixty-four; Powerball: four; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$430 million

Little League World Series-Preview

Like baseball with some offensive firepower? The Little League World Series will likely showcase that starting Thursday. The 16 teams competing at the 71st annual tournament have some gaudy statistics. The Mid-Atlantic team from Jackson, New Jersey, averaged nearly 11 runs across four regional games. South Korea outscored opponents 45-2 in its regional games and Japan averaged 13 runs a game.

By **MATT MARTELL**

Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Joey Randazzo's teammates marveled as the Grosse Pointe, Michigan, shortstop lifted pitch after pitch over the left field fence during Little League World Series batting practice on Wednesday.

They were in awe again a batter later as Joseph Wisniewski used his left-handed uppercut swing to shoot line-drive home runs to right-center field.

Fans will likely see much more of that power over the next 11 days as 16 teams battle for the Little League title. The 71st edition of the tournament begins Thursday in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

"It's the evolution of the game as kids are getting bigger and stronger," said Jason Hill, coach of the team from just outside Detroit that's representing the Great Lakes Region. "The game has really progressed. Coaches are getting more informed with teaching mechanics and selection and hitting philosophy."

Grosse Pointe's 6.6 runs per game during regional play was actually among the lowest offensive output among the teams taking the field this week. The Mid-Atlantic team from Jackson, New Jersey, averaged 10.8 runs across four regional games, the best mark of any U.S. team.

The international teams averaged more runs during regionals than the United States teams did, though the competition levels of the different regions vary. The Asia-Pacific Region's representative from Seoul, South Korea, outscored its regional opponents 45-2 in the four-game span. Canada scored more than 20

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runs in back-to-back regional games, averaging nearly 14.3 runs across seven contests. Japan won its final regional matchup 17-0 and averaged more than 13 runs per game.

"We've got some power in our lineup," said coach Chris Swan of Hills Little League from Sydney, Australia, which will face Japan on Friday. "If you look back at our (regional) tournament, we didn't rely on the home run. We just relied on batting for average, looking to hit the ball in the gaps."

"We look to hit the ball hard. If the ball goes out, it's an extra bonus," Swan said. Australia averaged 12.3 runs per game across seven regional games, third best among international teams behind Canada and Japan.

Hills is one of two teams returning to the series for a second straight year, along with Emilia Little League from Italy. That could be an advantage because they've already experienced the hype.

"They're so excited to be here," Swan said. "They're one team that just likes to relax, and they want to have fun. I think they should be having enough fun so the nerves won't really take over."

LOOKING AHEAD

Two key matchups are coming up in the opening days of the tournament.

— Fairfield, Connecticut (New England) vs. Jackson, New Jersey (Mid-Atlantic) on Thursday: The highest-scoring offense among United States teams, New Jersey will try to hand Connecticut its first loss this summer as Fairfield won each of its 18 games. New Jersey has a connection with New York Yankees third baseman and 1998 Little League World Series Champion Todd Frazier, who played for Toms River, New Jersey. Both Jackson and Toms River are in the Ocean County and this team's players have honed their skills in practice with Frazier and his two brothers.

— Australia vs. Japan on Friday: This game is expected to showcase the offensive firepower on the international side of regional play. Japan outscored its opponents 53-6 in regionals, showing it can dominate both at the plate and on the mound.

Matt Martell is a journalism student at Penn State. Penn State is partnering with The Associated Press to supplement coverage of the 2017 Little League World Series.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the name of the Australia coach is Chris Swan, not Chris Shaw.



The Asia-Pacific champion team from Seoul, South Korea, rides in the Little League Grand Slam Parade in downtown Williamsport, Pa., Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017. The Little League World Series tournament gets underway, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017 in South Williamsport, Pa. (AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

South Dakota insurers urge Trump to make health law payments

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota residents who buy individual health coverage are facing potential premium hikes next year that could grow if President Donald Trump stops payments that reimburse insurers for subsidizing out-of-pocket costs, health plan officials said this week.

Avera Health Plans has requested an average 20 percent rate hike and Sanford Health Plan has asked for an average 7.5 percent rate increase for 2018, according to HealthCare.gov. Top officials from both companies encouraged the federal government to keep making the payments, saying that premiums could jump even more without them.

Avera and Sanford are the only two companies currently filed to offer individual plans in South Dakota through the Affordable Care Act marketplace, according to the state Department of Labor and Regulation. A spokeswoman said South Dakota hasn't yet approved rates for 2018.

Sanford Health Plan President Kirk Zimmer said the company would likely have to recalculate its rates and refile them if the payments are to stop. The 2018 open enrollment period starts Nov. 1.

"Our rates are filed as long as the federal government agrees to continue payment of the cost-sharing reductions," Zimmer said. "We're firmly committed to being on the exchange for 2018."

At issue are the Affordable Care Act's cost-sharing payments, totaling about \$7 billion this year, which reimburse insurers for subsidizing out-of-pocket costs such as copays and deductibles for people with modest incomes. For months, Trump has been raising the prospect of terminating payments as a way to trigger a crisis and get Democrats to negotiate on a health care bill.

South Dakota GOP Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds both support continuing the payments while pursuing a health care overhaul.

Avera Health Plans CEO Debra Muller said she believes the state would provide insurance carriers with an opportunity to adjust their rates if the payments are cut off, but she said they need to be funded for "market stabilization."

"I think that's what everybody's directionally trying to do right now is to figure out how we maintain stability in the individual market going into 2018 without knowing what the federal government is going to decide to do, whether it be President Trump or Congress," she said.

Muller said factors including uncertainty, the price and use of drugs and medical procedures and the health of the carrier's insured population contributed to the average 20 percent requested rate hike for 2018. The average hike could change when rates are finalized, and the rate of increase would vary based on the location and plan of individual residents.

Mike Rifen, a Sioux Falls resident who has an Avera plan through the Affordable Care Act, said that even as his premiums have increased, his out-of-pocket costs have generally gone down because he receives subsidies.

The retiree, who turns 64 on Saturday, said he's hoping to make it one more year until he qualifies for Medicare, though he said lung cancer could claim him sooner. Rifen praised his coverage, saying he would be dead without it after the cancer diagnosis and a stroke several years ago.

"I've used a lot more of it than most people," he said.

South Dakota to re-decorate Corn Palace despite drought

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A corn-themed tourist destination in South Dakota will have enough corn to decorate murals despite a dry summer.

Scott Schmidt, director of the Corn Palace in Mitchell, told the Daily Republic that the city has enough corn to create the nine corn murals surrounding the facility thanks to recent rain.

"After we got that inch-and-a-quarter of rain two or three weeks ago, our corn really took to that rain," he said last week.

About 275,000 ears of corn are needed for the building, which is currently adorned with 2-year-old dilapidated murals. The city in southeast South Dakota skipped revamping the murals last year as part

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of a cost-cutting directive. It hasn't been affected by a drought scare since 2012.

Schmidt said the city hadn't seriously considered a backup plan for the corn if the drought continued. Officials floated the idea of making the murals with fewer colors, which is what the city did when the drought affected crops in 2012.

"There was a small enough scare as to wondering what we were going to have to do if we had to go a third year," he said. "To me, it definitely put a value on the importance of making sure you go through the right process of having to decorate every single year, because you can't plan on a drought."

City Councilwoman Susan Tjarks said Mitchell will replace the music-themed murals with weather-themed murals. Schmidt said the estimated cost of redecorating is just over \$115,000.

Tjarks said the building is a "community icon" and that the city learned an "important lesson" after skipping decorating the murals last year.

"It is unfortunate that the council and Scott (Schmidt) did not have input into the decision that was made to not decorate a year ago," she said. "I'm certain the council would have voted against skipping a year."



This Sept. 1, 2015, file photo shows the Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D. The corn-themed tourist destination will have enough corn to decorate murals despite a dry summer. The director of the Corn Palace said that the city has enough corn to create the nine corn murals surrounding the facility thanks to recent rain. About 275,000 ears of corn are needed for the building, which is currently adorned with 2-year-old dilapidated murals. One city councilwoman says the building is a "community icon." (AP Photo/Dirk Lammers, File)

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

Sturgis Rally undercover sex stings nab 9 suspects

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Nine men were arrested in undercover sex trafficking stings during the recent Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says the suspects are from South Dakota, Missouri, Connecticut, Minnesota and Texas. They range in age from 22 to 45.

The Rapid City Journal reports it's the fifth straight year that state and federal law enforcement agents have conducted operations targeting people seeking sex with minors. Undercover agents use online ads and social media applications to snare suspects.

The undercover sex stings from 2013 through last year nabbed 27 men. Seventeen of them have either pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial of various federal charges, including commercial sex trafficking.

One case was dismissed because the defendant died, and the rest are still going through court proceedings.

Trump increasingly isolated as business panels dismantled

By JULIE BYKOWICZ and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With corporate chieftains fleeing, President Donald Trump abruptly abolished two of his White House business councils, an attempt to manage his increasing isolation and the continued fallout from his combative comments on racially charged violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

“Rather than putting pressure on the businesspeople of the Manufacturing Council & Strategy & Policy Forum, I am ending both. Thank you all!” Trump tweeted from New York.

Trump’s comments came after one of the panels had already agreed to disband earlier in the day. A growing number of business leaders on the councils had openly criticized his remarks laying blame for the violence at a white supremacist rally on “both sides.”

The White House is trying to deal with the repercussions from Trump’s defiant remarks on the Virginia tragedy. Presidential advisers hunkered down Wednesday, offering no public defense while privately expressing frustration with his comments.

Some Republicans and scores of Democrats denounced Trump’s statements as putting white supremacists on equal moral footing with counter-protesters in Charlottesville and called for an apology. Most of those Republicans, including congressional leaders, did not specifically criticize the president.

Trump himself stayed out of sight, tweeting occasionally about a primary in Alabama, the stock market and, once, his campaign slogan. Midday, he traveled from New York to his golf club in New Jersey for the night.

But he returned to Twitter early Thursday to chastise Sen. Lindsey Graham for remarks the South Carolinian made about Trump’s take on Charlottesville, and also had harsh words for Sen. Jeff Flake, an Arizona Republican. He posted one tweet saying that “publicity-seeking Lindsey Graham falsely stated that I said there is moral equivalency” between the white supremacists and the counter-demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia, at Saturday’s violent protest.

Earlier, the president told associates he was pleased with how his press conference went Tuesday, saying he believed he had effectively stood up to the media, according to three people familiar with the conversations who demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about them.

Business leaders felt differently.

Denise Morrison, chief executive of Campbell Soup, declared she was leaving Trump’s manufacturing council, saying, “The president should have been — and still needs to be — unambiguous” in denouncing white supremacists.

CEOs had begun tendering their resignations from White House panels after Trump’s initial comments following the Saturday violence. The first to step down, Kenneth Frazier of Merck, drew a Twitter tongue-lashing from the president. Later, Trump called those who were leaving “grandstanders” and insisted many



In this Aug. 15, 2017, photo, President Donald Trump points to members of the media as he answers questions in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York. Republican leaders on Wednesday tiptoed around Trump’s extraordinary comments on white supremacists. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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others were eager to take their places.

Members of the Strategy and Policy group, led by Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman, concluded after a 45-minute conference call in the morning that they would end the council and announce their decision in a statement, according to two people familiar with the discussions. They insisted on anonymity to discuss private conversations.

In a subsequent call with Trump, the president agreed it was the right course of action. He tweeted before they could announce the decision they'd reached — making it appear it was his choice.

Publicly criticizing the president and resigning from his councils is a significant step for big-name corporate leaders. Though the policy influence of such advisory groups is sometimes questionable, simply meeting with Trump with TV cameras going is valuable face-time for the executives — and for the president.

Though not as outspoken as the business leaders, some fellow Republican leaders are going after Trump forcefully, too.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham said Wednesday the president "took a step backward by again suggesting there is moral equivalency" between the marching white supremacists and the people who had been demonstrating against them.

Former GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney tweeted a similar slap shortly after the president's explosive press conference on Tuesday: "No, not the same. One side is racist, bigoted, Nazi. The other opposes racism and bigotry. Morally different universes."

Other leaders, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, made forceful anti-racism statements — but steered clear of mentioning Trump and his comments.

Meanwhile on a trip through South America, Vice President Mike Pence skirted questions about whether he agreed with Trump's assessment that some "fine people" participated in the Charlottesville rally. However, he said he stands by the president.

Under pressure, Trump made his condemnation of the Charlottesville violence more specific Monday, naming white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis. But he returned to his defiant self Tuesday, effectively erasing the statement he'd read a day earlier.

In an impromptu press conference in the lobby of his skyscraper, he said there were "some very bad people" among those who gathered to protest Saturday. But he added: "You also had people that were very fine people, on both sides."

Several White House aides told colleagues they were dismayed with Trump's return to the Charlottesville episode Tuesday. But no one moved to leave the administration.

Chief strategist Steve Bannon told associates he thought Trump's performance would electrify his conservative base, according to a person who spoke to Bannon and insisted on anonymity. Bannon's job has been in question, with Trump refusing Tuesday to say he had confidence in him.

In an interview posted online Wednesday by The American Prospect, a liberal magazine, Bannon dismissed white nationalists, calling them "losers," "a fringe element" and "a collection of clowns."

As Trump navigates this latest controversy, the White House on Wednesday said his longtime aide Hope Hicks would temporarily step into the role of communications director. Hicks is White House director of strategic communications, and a near-constant presence at the president's side.

She served as spokeswoman for Trump's presidential campaign and worked for years in public relations for the Trump Organization and his daughter's fashion and lifestyle brand.

Trump had no public appearances Wednesday, yet made his presence felt online.

In addition to announcing the dissolution of the business councils via tweet, he congratulated Sen. Luther Strange for advancing to a runoff in the Alabama special election to fill Attorney General Jeff Sessions' seat.

He also wrote that Heather Heyer, the woman mowed down by a car during the Charlottesville violence, was "beautiful and incredible."

Trump said Tuesday that he had planned to call her family to offer condolences. The White House did not answer questions Wednesday about whether he'd yet done so.

Bykowicz reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Darlene Superville in Bridgewater, new Jersey, and Josh Boak in Washington contributed to this report.

US: War would be 'horrific' but NKorea nukes 'unimaginable'

By **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — A military solution to the North Korean missile threat would be "horrific" but allowing Pyongyang to develop the capability to launch a nuclear attack on the United States is "unimaginable," the top U.S. military officer said Thursday in Beijing.

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, told reporters that President Donald Trump directly has "told us to develop credible viable military options and that's exactly what we're doing."

Dunford was responding to questions about Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon saying in a new interview that the threat posed by North Korea cannot be handled by force.

"There's no military solution, forget it," Bannon told The American Prospect. "Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that 10 million people in Seoul don't die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don't know what you're talking about, there's no military solution here, they got us."

In Beijing, Dunford said it's "absolutely horrific if there would be a military solution to this problem, there's no question about it."

But, he added, "what's unimaginable is allowing KJU (North Korean leader Kim Jong Un) to develop ballistic missiles with a nuclear warhead that can threaten the United States and continue to threaten the region."

Dunford met later Thursday with Chinese President Xi Jinping, during which both men reinforced the importance of exchanges between their militaries in stabilizing a relationship frequently roiled by disputes over security, diplomacy and trade.

"We both know that you and President Trump are committed to our improvement in military-to-military relations and we have approached it with great commitment, candor and we certainly want to deliver results," Dunford told Xi in opening remarks.

Earlier, Dunford met with his Chinese counterpart Fang Fenghui, chief of the People's Liberation Army's joint staff department, another top general, Fan Changlong and top foreign policy adviser, Yang Jiechi.

Fan, the Chinese general, told Dunford that Beijing insists military action should be ruled out and "negotiations are the only effective option" in addressing the situation on the Korean Peninsula, according to a statement from China's defense ministry.

Dunford visited South Korea earlier in the week and flies to Japan Thursday night.

In Seoul, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he would consider sending a special envoy to North Korea for talks if the North stops its missile and nuclear tests, in an effort to jumpstart diplomacy.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, and Gen. Fang Fenghui, chief of the general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army wait to meet with U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. (AP Photo/Andy Wong, Pool)

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He also declared, amid fears in South Korea that threats from Trump to unleash "fire and fury" on Pyongyang could lead to real fighting, that there would be no second war on the Korean Peninsula.

"The people worked together to rebuild the country from the Korean War, and we cannot lose everything again because of a war," Moon said in a nationally televised news conference. "I can confidently say there will not be a war again on the Korean Peninsula."

Dunford also told reporters in Beijing that "there's no question" any potential military action in the Korean Peninsula would be taken only in consultation with South Korea.

"South Korea is an ally and everything we do in the region is in the context of our alliance," Dunford said.

Moon's comments follow a spike in animosity generated by North Korea's warning that it might send missiles into waters near the U.S. territory of Guam, and by Trump's warlike language. Both of the rival Koreas and the United States have signaled in recent days, however, a willingness to avert a deepening crisis, with each suggesting a path toward negotiations.

Trump tweeted that Kim had "made a very wise and well reasoned decision," referring to North Korean official media saying the leader would not give an immediate order to launch multiple missiles toward Guam.

"The alternative would have been both catastrophic and unacceptable!" Trump wrote.

Next week's start of annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises that enrage the North each year could make diplomacy even more difficult.

Dunford told reporters that he has advised the U.S. leadership not to dial back on the exercises with South Korea.

"As long as the threat in North Korea exists we need to maintain a high state of readiness to respond to that threat," he said.

Moon was elected in May after a near-decade of conservative rule that saw animosity deepen between the rival Koreas. Moon wants to engage the North. But his efforts have so far been met with a string of threats and missile tests as the North works to build nuclear-armed missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland.

"A dialogue between South and North Korea must resume. But we don't need to be impatient," Moon said.

Moon said he thinks Trump's belligerent words are intended to show a strong resolve for pressuring the North and don't necessarily display the willingness for military strikes.

"The United States and President Trump have already promised to sufficiently consult with South Korea and get our approval for whatever option they will take against North Korea," Moon said.

North Korea's threats against Guam and its advancing missile capabilities, highlighted by a pair of inter-continental ballistic missile flight tests in July, have raised security jitters among many South Koreans who worry that a fully functional ICBM in Pyongyang would force the United States to rethink whether to trade New York or Washington for Seoul in the event of a war on the peninsula.

"I think the North perfecting an ICBM, loading an atomic warhead on it and weaponizing it is a red line. North Korea is nearing a threshold for the red line," Moon said. Moon didn't elaborate, but many foreign experts have viewed the North's possessing a reliable ICBM as a tripwire for potential U.S. strikes.

Kim and Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea. Associated Press writers Gillian Wong in Beijing, Foster Klug in Seoul, South Korea, Matthew Lee and Robert Burns in Washington, contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. 'THIS IS NOT THE END OF HEATHER'S LEGACY'

Days after her daughter was killed during a white supremacist march, Susan Bro tells mourners to honor the Heather Heyer's legacy by continuing to fight against injustice.

2. WHO SAYS THERE'S NO MILITARY SOLUTION TO NKOREA THREAT

President Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon points out that millions of South Koreans are within range of North Korean conventional weapons, which effectively prohibits a U.S. pre-emptive strike on

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Pyongyang's nuclear program.

3. TRUMP SCRAPS BUSINESS PANELS

The move follows resignations of several company CEOs in the fallout from the president's remarks about the Charlottesville, Va. white supremacist violence.

4. WHERE DEMONSTRATORS GET JAIL SENTENCES

A court sends young Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong to prison, along with two other student leaders of huge pro-democracy protests that were held in 2014.

5. WIS. ASSEMBLY PLANS \$3 BILLION TAX BREAK FOR FOXCONN PLANT

If built, the massive factory would be the first outside of Asia for liquid crystal display panels used in television, computers, medicine and other fields.

6. CAR WRECKS CAUSED BY OVERDOSING DRIVERS ARE ON RISE

Nationally, fatalities in crashes where drugs were involved soared from 2,003 in 1993 to 7,438 in 2015, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

7. S. SUDAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA REACH 1 MILLION

Ugandan officials say they are overwhelmed by the flow of people fleeing South Sudan's civil war

8. 5 MISSING AS ARMY HELICOPTER GOES DOWN OFF HAWAII

Rescuers search the waters off Oahu for the two pilots and three crew members aboard The UH-60 Black Hawk when it crashed during nighttime training.

9. DNA TEST RESULTS MAY NOT CHANGE HEALTH HABITS

Research shows that getting DNA information about possible health risks produces no significant effect on diet, physical activity, drinking or smoking.

10. WHY LL BEAN IS BOOSTING PRODUCTION OF ITS 'DUCK BOOT'

Demand for the iconic leather-and-rubber boots is climbing: 750,000 pairs are expected to be sold this year — up from fewer than 100,000 a decade ago.



University of Virginia students, faculty and residents attend a candle light march across grounds in Charlottesville, Va., Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017. Hundreds gathered on the campus for a candlelight vigil against hate and violence days after Charlottesville erupted in chaos during a white nationalist rally. (Andrew Shurtleff/The Daily Progress via AP)

Trump aide: No military solution in North Korea

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon says there's no military solution to the threat posed by North Korea and its nuclear ambitions, despite the president's recent pledge to answer further aggression with "fire and fury."

In an interview with The American Prospect posted online Wednesday, Bannon tells the liberal publication that the U.S. is losing the economic race against China. He also talks about purging his rivals from the Defense and State departments.

Bannon is also asked about the white supremacist movement, whose march on Charlottesville, Virginia,

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last weekend led to deadly violence. He dismisses them as "losers," "a fringe element" and "a collection of clowns."

The White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"There's no military solution (to North Korea's nuclear threats), forget it," Bannon says. "Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that 10 million people in Seoul don't die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don't know what you're talking about, there's no military solution here, they got us."

Trump tweeted earlier Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "made a very wise and well-reasoned decision" by backing down after heightening fears of nuclear conflict in a series of combative threats, including against the U.S. territory of Guam.

Bannon also outlined his push for the U.S. to adopt a tougher stance on China trade, without waiting to see whether Beijing will help restrain Kim, as Trump has pressed China's leader to do.

"The economic war with China is everything," Bannon says. "And we have to be maniacally focused on that. If we continue to lose it, we're five years away, I think, 10 years at the most, of hitting an inflection point from which we'll never be able to recover."

A Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, said Thursday both sides have benefited from trade.

Asked about Bannon's comments, Hua said at a regular new briefing, "There is no winner in a trade war. We hope the relevant people can refrain from dealing with a problem in the 21st century with a zero-sum mentality from the 19th or the 20th century."

Hua appealed for dialogue to "preserve the sound and steady growth of China-U.S. relations."

Bannon was a key general election campaign adviser and has been a forceful but contentious presence in a divided White House. The former leader of conservative Breitbart News, Bannon has drawn fire from some of Trump's closest advisers, including son-in-law Jared Kushner.

The president is under renewed pressure to fire Bannon, who has survived earlier rounds of having fallen out of favor with Trump.

Earlier this week, the president passed up an opportunity to offer a public vote of confidence in Bannon. Trump said he's a "good person" and not a racist, adding that "we'll see what happens with Mr. Bannon."

The latest anti-Bannon campaign comes as Trump faces mounting criticism for insisting that white supremacist groups and those who opposed them were both at fault for deadly violence last weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In the interview, Bannon muses about getting rid of administration officials who disagree with his strategy toward China and North Korea and replacing them with "hawks."

"We gotta do this. The president's default position is to do it, but the apparatus is going crazy," Bannon says. "Don't get me wrong. It's like, every day."

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In this April 29, 2017, file photo, Steve Bannon, chief White House strategist to President Donald Trump is seen in Harrisburg, Pa. Bannon says there's no military solution to North Korea's threats and says the U.S. is losing the economic race against China. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

Court overturns earlier ruling, sends HK activists to prison

By **KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press**

HONG KONG (AP) — A court on Thursday overturned sentences that the prosecution said were too light and sent young Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong and two other student leaders of huge pro-democracy protests in 2014 to prison.

The three were immediately taken to serve their sentences of up to eight months. Wong pumped his fist in air as he walked out of the dock into custody.

The three were found guilty of leading or encouraging an illegal rally in September 2014 that kicked off the demonstrations known as the "Umbrella Movement." Youthful activists brought major thoroughfares to a standstill for 11 weeks to protest Beijing's plan to restrict elections in the Chinese-ruled former British colony.

Last year, a lower court sentenced Wong and Nathan Law, a student leader who was later elected to the legislature, to community service and gave a third activist, Alex Chow, a suspended three-week prison sentence.

A three-judge panel on Thursday decided to stiffen those sentences following a prosecution request and send all three to prison. Law was sentenced to eight months, Chow to seven and Wong to six.

Before their hearing, Wong, who became famous for his role in the protests because he was just 17 and still in high school at the time, was defiant in a speech to the media.

"People united will never be defeated," Wong said outside the courthouse flanked by his co-convicted. He vowed they would continue "this long battle" for freedom and democracy.

"Time is on our side and one day Hong Kong will be a place we can determine our own future. We love Hong Kong," he said into a microphone as a rival, pro-Beijing protester chanted, also on a microphone, nearby.

The appeal judges at the High Court had been expected to send them to prison, following their decision in a similar case this week involving 13 activists given eight to 13 months' jail time after their original community service sentences were overturned.

Wong had been girding for such a possibility and tweeted to his followers that they shouldn't abandon the movement.

"When those of us who face jail time have yet to give up, how can the rest of you give up?" he wrote, and also tweeted that he promised to keep up with his studies.

The case is the latest to raise fears that Hong Kong's independent judiciary is under threat as the city's Beijing-backed government uses the courts to clamp down on the opposition. Since legislative elections in September, the courts have disqualified from office half a dozen pro-democracy lawmakers, including Law, for having turned their oath-taking into apparent protests against Beijing.

Associated Press writer Louise Watt in Beijing contributed to this report.

Veterans get expanded college assistance under Trump

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — Military veterans are getting unlimited access to college assistance under legislation President Donald Trump has signed into law.

The Forever GI Act removed a 15-year limit on using the benefits, effective immediately. The measure increases financial assistance for National Guard and Reserve members, building on a 2008 law that guaranteed veterans a full-ride scholarship to any in-state, public university, or a similar cash amount to attend private colleges.

Purple Heart recipients forced to leave the service due to injury are eligible for benefits, as are dependents of service members who are killed in the line of duty.

Veterans would get additional payments for completing science, technology and engineering courses, part

of a broad effort to better prepare them for life after active-duty service amid a fast-changing job market. The law also restores benefits if a college closes mid-semester, a protection that was added after thousands of veterans were hurt by the collapse of for-profit college giant ITT Technical Institute and Corinthian Colleges.

"This is expanding our ability to support our veterans in getting education," Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin told reporters at a briefing after Trump signed the measure at his New Jersey golf club following two nights at his home at New York's Trump Tower.

Trump is staying at the New Jersey club on a working vacation. Journalists were not permitted to see the president sign the bill, as the White House has done for other veterans' legislation he has turned into law.

That includes a measure Trump signed at the club Saturday to provide nearly \$4 billion in emergency funding for a temporary veterans health care program.

Wednesday's signing came the day after Trump was rebuked for continuing to insist that "both sides" were culpable for an outbreak of violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, over the weekend between white supremacists and counter-demonstrators. One woman was killed.

Also, two Virginia state troopers died in the crash of their helicopter. They were monitoring the rally.

A wide range of veterans groups supported the education measure. The Veterans of Foreign Wars says hundreds of thousands stand to benefit.

Student Veterans of America says that only about half of the 200,000 service members who leave the military each year go on to enroll in college, while surveys indicate that veterans often outperform peers in the classroom.

The expanded educational benefits would be paid for by bringing living stipend payments under the GI Bill down to a similar level as that received by an active-duty member, whose payments were reduced in 2014 by 1 percent a year for five years. Total government spending on the GI Bill is expected to be more than \$100 billion over 10 years.



Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin speaks during a press briefing in Bridgewater, N.J., Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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Charlottesville woman's family: Fight injustice like she did

By BRIAN WITTE and SARAH RANKIN, Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Family members of the young woman mowed down while protesting a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville used her funeral as a rallying cry, telling mourners the best way to honor Heather Heyer is to continue her fight against injustice.

"Let's find that spark of conviction," Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, told the hundreds who packed a downtown theater to remember Heyer on Wednesday. "Find what's wrong and say to yourselves, 'What can I

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do to make a difference?"

Heyer's death on Saturday — and President Donald Trump's insistence that "both sides" bear responsibility for the violence — continued to reverberate across the country, triggering fury among many Americans and soul-searching about the state of race relations in the U.S. The uproar has accelerated efforts in many cities to remove symbols of the Confederacy.

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"They tried to kill my child to shut her up. Well, guess what? You just magnified her," said Bro, receiving a standing ovation from mourners inside the Paramount Theater.

State troopers were stationed on the surrounding streets, but the white nationalists who had vowed to show up were nowhere to be seen among the residents, clergy and tourists outside the theater, just blocks from where Heyer died.

Heyer, a white legal assistant from Charlottesville, was killed and 19 others were injured Saturday when a car plowed into counter-protesters who had taken to the streets to decry what was believed to be the country's biggest gathering of white nationalists in at least a decade. Hundreds of neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members had descended on Charlottesville after the city decided to remove a monument to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

The driver of the car, James Alex Fields Jr., a 20-year-old Ohio man described as an admirer of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, was arrested and charged with murder and other offenses.

In other developments:

— Trump tweeted for the first time about Heyer, calling her "beautiful and incredible" and a "truly special young woman." The White House did not respond to questions about whether the president had contacted Heyer's family.

— Baltimore dismantled four Confederacy-related monuments under cover of darkness, including statues of Lee and Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, while the mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, had the city's 52-foot (15-meter) Confederate memorial obelisk covered over with wooden panels.

—The number of protesters arrested in connection with the toppling of a Confederate statue Monday night in Durham, North Carolina, climbed to four.

—Citing security concerns, the University of Florida denied a request by a group headed by white nationalist Richard Spencer to rent space on campus for a September event.

Jody and Brent Dahlseng, of Rockford, Illinois, said they were traveling to Virginia Beach for vacation and made a special stop in Charlottesville to honor Heyer. They stood outside the theater with purple ties around their shoulders.

"This country can do better than this," Brent Dahlseng said.

Charlottesville resident Danielle Notari, who was also outside the theater, spoke through tears.

"We wanted to come say goodbye and pay our respects," she said, her arms wrapped around her young daughter.

Heyer's family members and friends said her death would only inspire them to fight harder for justice.

"This is not the end of Heather's legacy," her mother said.

Speaking firmly, Bro urged those who wanted to honor her daughter to "find in your heart that small spark of accountability."

"You poke that finger at yourself like Heather would have done, and you make it happen," she said. "You take that extra step and you find a way to make a difference in the world!"

Heyer's grandfather, Elwood Shrader, said she always wanted fairness, even from a young age, and was quick to call out something that wasn't right. He said she wanted respect for everyone and believed "all lives matter."

Mark Heyer, her father, said his daughter wanted to "put down hate."

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firm where she worked. "She wants to make sure that things are right. She cares about the people that we take care of."

Two Virginia state troopers also died Saturday in the crash of their helicopter, which was used to provide video of the rally before it was diverted to lend support for Gov. Terry McAuliffe's motorcade.

The funerals for Berke M.M. Bates and H. Jay Cullen are set for Friday and Saturday.

Republican leaders dance around Trump remarks

By STEVE PEOPLES and THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — One after another, the nation's most powerful Republicans responded to President Donald Trump's extraordinary remarks about white supremacists. Yet few mentioned the president.

The Senate's top Republican, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, condemned "hate and bigotry." House Speaker Paul Ryan charged that, "White supremacy is repulsive." Neither criticized the president's insistence that there were "very fine people on both sides" of a violent weekend clash between white supremacists and counterdemonstrators.

The nuanced statements reflect the party establishment's delicate dance. Few top Republican officeholders defended the president in the midst of an escalating political crisis. Yet they are unwilling to declare all-out war against Trump and risk alienating his loyalists. And as the 2018 elections begin to take shape, the debate over Trump's words appears to be taking hold in GOP primaries.

Trump's overall approval rating may be dismal, but a small group of die-hard supporters is expected to play an outsized role in next year's midterm elections when the Republican control of Congress is at stake. Those supporters are praising the president's response to the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, which left one dead and many more wounded.

"You got racism in both factions, on both sides," former New Hampshire GOP chair Jack Kimball said. "Trump has zero fault here. None."

Republican leaders also need the president: They hope to work with him to enact meaningful legislation on infrastructure, taxes and health care to prove to voters their party can govern.

The delicate relationship helps explain Wednesday's cautious comments from powerful Republicans like McConnell.

"We all have a responsibility to stand against hate and violence, wherever it raises its evil head," McConnell said in a statement, noting that white supremacists are planning a rally in his home state of Kentucky.

"Their messages of hate and bigotry are not welcome in Kentucky and should not be welcome anywhere in America," he said.



In this May 4, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump talks with House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis. in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. Republican leaders on Wednesday, Aug. 16, tiptoed around Trump's extraordinary comments on white supremacists. Ryan said on Aug. 15 "white supremacy is repulsive," but ignored the presidents comments. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

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Former Republican Presidents George H.W. and George W. Bush, usually silent on current political developments, released a joint statement that stopped short of criticizing Trump as well.

"America must always reject racial bigotry, anti-Semitism and hatred in all forms," the Bushes said.

The political tap dance frustrated at least one member of Trump's diversity council, CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Javier Palomarez, who called Trump's response "a monumental failure in leadership."

He challenged those who denounced racism in general terms without calling out the president by name.

"That's a sign of weakness, and I don't think the American people and the Republican Party is going to forget," said Palomarez, who noted he would remain on Trump's diversity council "for now."

But Trump loyalists on the ground in key states are ready to fight for their leader. And there were signs that the divide between the loyalists and establishment Republicans is already shaping the mid-term political landscape.

"We've always had these weak skittish so-called Republicans in the D.C. crowd. They're always peeing their pants," said Corey Stewart, a former Trump aide who has already launched a 2018 Senate bid in Virginia.

Many were quick to blame the media for Trump's struggles.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the liberal media is not a fan of President Trump," said Trump's Alabama campaign chairman, Perry Hooper, arguing the Russia investigation is driven by media obsession. He added, "Now they're trying to make him some kind of racist. It's ridiculous. He doesn't have a racist bone in his body."

Nevada Republican Danny Tarkanian, who is challenging Republican Sen. Dean Heller, said those criticizing Trump's response to the white supremacist rally were "splitting hairs."

"It was clear the media went out of their way to find fault with his statement," Tarkanian said.

Heller, who is considered one of the most endangered Republicans in the nation heading into the 2018 election, posted a simple statement on Twitter late Tuesday that stopped short of criticizing the president: "There is no defense or justification for evil in the form of white supremacists and Nazis. None," he wrote.

The Republicans who lashed out at Trump most aggressively were, in many cases, those with the least to lose politically.

South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, who doesn't face re-election until 2020, said the president "took a step backward by again suggesting there is moral equivalency between the white supremacist neo-Nazis and KKK members who attended the Charlottesville rally" and the people demonstrating against them.

"Many Republicans do not agree with and will fight back against the idea that the party of Lincoln has a welcome mat out for the David Dukes of the world," Graham added, referring to the former Ku Klux Klan leader.

AP writer Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

SKorea looks to jumpstart diplomacy in NKorea standoff

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — In an effort to jumpstart diplomacy, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday he would consider sending a special envoy to North Korea for talks if the North stops its missile and nuclear tests.

He also declared, amid fears in South Korea that threats from President Donald Trump to unleash "fire and fury" on Pyongyang could lead to real fighting, that there would be no second war on the Korean Peninsula.

"The people worked together to rebuild the country from the Korean War, and we cannot lose everything again because of a war," Moon said in a nationally televised news conference. "I can confidently say there will not be a war again on the Korean Peninsula."

Moon's comments follow a spike in animosity generated by North Korea's warning that it might send

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missiles into waters near the U.S. territory of Guam, and Trump's warlike language. Both Korea and the United States have signaled in recent days, however, a willingness to avert a deepening crisis, with each suggesting a path toward negotiations.

Trump tweeted early Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had "made a very wise and well reasoned decision," amid indications North Korea doesn't immediately plan to fire multiple missiles toward Guam.

"The alternative would have been both catastrophic and unacceptable!" Trump wrote.

Next week's start of annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises that enrage the North each year could make diplomacy even more difficult.

Moon said he believes dialogue with North Korea can happen when North Korea halts missile and nuclear tests.

Moon was elected in May after a near-decade of conservative rule that saw animosity deepen between the

rival Koreas. Moon wants to engage the North. But his efforts have so far been met with a string of threats and missile tests as the North works to build nuclear-armed missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland.

"A dialogue between South and North Korea must resume. But we don't need to be impatient," Moon said. "I think lots of effort and time could be necessary to overcome a decade of severed ties and to reopen a dialogue."

Moon said Washington and Seoul are closely communicating over the North Korean nuclear problem and share the view that strong sanctions and pressure are needed against Pyongyang to stop its provocations and force it into negotiations to give up its nukes. Moon said he thinks Trump's belligerent words are intended to show a strong resolve for pressuring the North and don't necessarily display the willingness for military strikes.

"The United States and President Trump have already promised to sufficiently consult with South Korea and get our approval for whatever option they will take against North Korea. It's a firm agreement between South Korea and the United States," Moon said.

North Korea's threats against Guam and its advancing missile capabilities, highlighted by a pair of intercontinental ballistic missile flight tests in July, have raised security jitters among many South Korean who worry that a fully functional ICBM in Pyongyang would force the United States to rethink whether to trade New York or Washington for Seoul in the event of a war on the peninsula.

Lobbing missiles toward Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific, would be deeply provocative from the U.S. perspective. A miscalculation on either side could lead to military confrontation.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, earlier this week that the two countries should work together to contain tensions and permit no one to "stir up an incident on their doorstep," according to a statement posted on the Chinese foreign ministry's website.

"The most important task at hand is for the U.S. and North Korea to 'hit the brakes' on their mutual



South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks during a press conference marking his first 100 days in office at the presidential house in Seoul Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. In an effort to jumpstart diplomacy, President Moon said Thursday he would consider sending a special envoy to North Korea for talks if the North stops its missile and nuclear tests. (Jung Yeon-Je/Pool Photo via AP)

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needling of each other with words and actions, to lower the temperature of the tense situation and prevent the emergence of an 'August crisis,'" Wang was quoted as saying in the Tuesday conversation.

"A resolution of the North Korea nuclear issue by military force is completely unacceptable and the peninsula's nuclear issue must be peacefully resolved by political and diplomatic methods," Lavrov was quoted as saying.

China is North Korea's main economic partner and political backer, although relations between the two countries have deteriorated amid the North's continuing defiance of China's calls for restraint. In recent months, China has joined with Russia in calling for the U.S. to suspend annual military drills with South Korea in exchange for Pyongyang placing a moratorium on new missile and nuclear tests as a first step toward direct talks.

During an inspection of the North Korean strategic rocket forces earlier this week, Kim praised the military for drawing up a "close and careful plan" but said he would watch how Washington acts before deciding whether to go ahead with his Guam missile test plans, according to state media.

In an interview, Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon said there's no military solution to the threat posed by North Korea and its nuclear ambitions. The White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"There's no military solution (to North Korea's nuclear threats), forget it," Bannon said in an interview with The American Prospect. "Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that 10 million people in Seoul don't die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don't know what you're talking about, there's no military solution here, they got us."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said tensions on the Korean peninsula are at their highest level in decades and it's important "to dial down the rhetoric and to dial up diplomacy."

Associated Press writers Foster Klug in Seoul, South Korea, Matthew Lee and Robert Burns in Washington, Chris Bodeen in Beijing and Andrew Harnik in Shenyang, China, contributed to this report.

5 missing after Army helicopter goes down, items found

By AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A multi-agency team scoured the ocean off Hawaii on Wednesday for five soldiers aboard an Army helicopter that went down during a nighttime training exercise.

The UH-60 Black Hawk went missing when another Army helicopter training with it lost visual and radio contact about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, said Lt. Col. Curtis Kellogg, a spokesman for the 25th Infantry Division.

Two pilots and three crew members were on board, he said. The Army has notified the soldiers' families, Kellogg said.

"As we do this work, the soldiers and their families are in the forefront of our minds. That's what we're doing this for," Kellogg said.

Honolulu Fire Department search and rescue crews found and collected pieces of helicopter fuselage and a helmet in a debris field about 2 miles (3 kilometers) off Kaena Point on Oahu. Photos showed Army soldiers unloading suspected debris from the firefighters' boat and personal watercraft at the harbor in the nearby town of Haleiwa.

The search later moved to an area about 5 miles (8 kilometers) offshore where currents moving in different directions converge.

Officials closed the state park at Kaena Point while the search was underway. Kaena is a remote spot northwest of Honolulu where Oahu's northern and western coasts meet to form a small peninsula. The park's sandy coastline is home to a seabird colony and endangered Hawaiian monk seals.

A Coast Guard plane, two helicopters and several boats were being used in the search. The Army and Marine Corps joined the effort, as did Honolulu firefighters and lifeguards.

Two Black Hawk crews were conducting training between Kaena Point and Dillingham Airfield when communications were lost, officials said. Clouds and a few showers were in the area at the time.

The soldiers were training at night to maintain the skills they need to do their jobs, Kellogg said.

"Our aviation assets, as well as all of our soldiers, train at night. It's what we do," he said. They need these skills to accomplish their wartime mission, Kellogg said.

The two helicopters are elements of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade based in Hawaii.

The UH-60 Black Hawk is a four-bladed, twin-engine utility helicopter manufactured for the Army by Sikorsky Aircraft starting in the 1970s.

More than 3,000 Black Hawk aircraft are in service around the world, according to Sikorsky's parent company Lockheed Martin. The U.S. Army owns 2,300 of them.

In April, one crew member was killed and two others were injured when an Army Black Hawk helicopter crashed onto a golf course in Maryland during a routine training flight.

In 2015, 11 crew members were killed when an Army Black Hawk helicopter crashed into the water off Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.



Investigators examine materials at a command center Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017, in Haleiwa, Hawaii. An Army helicopter with five on board crashed several miles off Oahu's North Shore late Tuesday. (AP Photo/Marco

Garcia)

Charlottesville victim's mother urges 'righteous action'

By **BRIAN WITTE** and **SARAH RANKIN**, Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — The mother of the young woman mowed down while protesting a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville urged mourners at a memorial service Wednesday to "make my child's death worthwhile" by confronting injustice the way she did.

"They tried to kill my child to shut her up. Well, guess what? You just magnified her," said Susan Bro, receiving a standing ovation from the hundreds who packed a downtown theater to remember 32-year-old Heather Heyer.

Heyer's death Saturday — and President Donald Trump's insistence that "both sides" bear responsibility for the violence — continued to reverberate across the country, triggering fury among many Americans and soul-searching about the state of race relations in the U.S. The uproar has accelerated efforts in many cities to remove symbols of the Confederacy.

Heyer was eulogized as a woman with a powerful sense of fairness. The mourners, many of them wearing purple, her favorite color, applauded as her mother urged them to channel their anger not into violence but into "righteous action."

State troopers were stationed on the surrounding streets, but the white nationalists who had vowed to show up were nowhere to be seen among the residents, clergy and tourists outside the Paramount Theater, just blocks from where Heyer died.

Heyer, a white legal assistant from Charlottesville, was killed and 19 others were injured Saturday when a car plowed into counterprotesters who had taken to the streets to decry what was believed to be the country's biggest gathering of white nationalists in at least a decade.

The hundreds of white nationalists — including neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members — had descended on Charlottesville after the city decided to remove a monument to Confederate Gen. Robert

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E. Lee.

The driver of the car, James Alex Fields Jr., a 20-year-old Ohio man described as an admirer of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, was arrested and charged with murder and other offenses.

On Wednesday night, hundreds of people gathered on the University of Virginia campus for a candlelight vigil against hate and violence. They sang several spirituals and observed a moment of silence for the three lives lost during Saturday's violence.

In other developments:

— Trump tweeted for the first time about Heyer, calling her "beautiful and incredible" and a "truly special young woman." The White House did not respond to questions about whether the president had contacted Heyer's family.

— Baltimore dismantled four Confederacy-related monuments under cover of darkness, including statues of Lee and Gen. Thomas "Stonewall"

Jackson, while the mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, had the city's 52-foot (15-meter) Confederate memorial obelisk covered over with wooden panels.

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—Citing security concerns, the University of Florida denied a request by a group headed by white nationalist Richard Spencer to rent space on campus for a September event.

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"This country can do better than this," Brent Dahlseng said.

Charlottesville resident Danielle Notari, who was also outside the theater, spoke through tears.

"We wanted to come say goodbye and pay our respects," she said, her arms wrapped around her young daughter.

Heyer's family members and friends said her death would only inspire them to fight harder for justice.

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Speaking firmly, Bro urged those who wanted to honor her daughter to "find in your heart that small spark of accountability."

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Heyer's grandfather, Elwood Shrader, said she always wanted fairness, even from a young age, and was quick to call out something that wasn't right. He said she wanted respect for everyone and believed "all lives matter."

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"She's very compassionate, she's very precise, got a big heart," said Larry Miller, her boss at the law firm where she worked. "She wants to make sure that things are right. She cares about the people that



Susan Bro, mother to Heather Heyer, becomes emotional during a memorial for her daughter, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017, at the Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, Va. Heyer was killed Saturday, when a car rammed into a crowd of people protesting a white nationalist rally. (Andrew Shurtleff/The Daily Progress via AP, Pool)

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we take care of.”

Two Virginia state troopers also died Saturday in the crash of their helicopter, which was used to provide video of the rally before it was diverted to lend support for the governor’s motorcade.

The funerals for Berke M.M. Bates and H. Jay Cullen are set for Friday and Saturday.

— This story has corrected the wording of the quote in lead to “child’s death,” instead of “daughter’s death.”

Scientists potentially narrow MH370 search area to 3 spots

By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Scientists have potentially narrowed the search area for the missing Malaysian airliner to three specific locations in the southern Indian Ocean through new satellite and drift analysis of the 2014 crash released Wednesday.

But the Australian Transport Safety Bureau cautioned that the drift analysis by Australian science agency CSIRO is based on French satellite images of “probably man-made” floating objects without evidence that they were from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

Still, the locations could provide potential starting points to search within a 25,000-square-kilometer (9,700-square-mile) expanse identified by a panel of experts in November as the most likely resting place of the Boeing 777 and the 239 passengers and crew on board.

That expanse adjoins the original search zone far southwest of Australia that was identified through satellite analysis of the final hours of the flight, which apparently ended when the plane ran out of fuel.

Malaysia, China and Australia agreed to suspend the deep-sea sonar search in January after 120,000 square kilometers (46,000 square miles) of seabed were combed without finding any trace of Flight 370.

The new analysis is based on French military satellite images gathered on March 23, 2014 — two weeks after Flight 370 mysteriously veered far off course during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing — that were taken near the original underwater search zone.

The Australian bureau took over the search for Flight 370 from Malaysia a week later. Satellite experts at Geoscience Australia were not asked to analyze the images until March this year. The experts concluded that a dozen objects appeared to be man-made.

CSIRO then investigated where the objects might have originated before drifting for two weeks. CSIRO identified three potential crash sites — 35.6 degrees S, 92.8 degrees E; 34.7 degrees S, 92.6 degrees E and 35.3 degrees S, 91.8 degrees E.



In this March 31, 2014 file photo, HMAS Success scans the southern Indian Ocean, near the coast of Western Australia, as a Royal New Zealand Air Force P3 Orion flies over, while searching for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Scientists have potentially narrowed the search area for the missing Malaysian airliner to three specific locations in the southern Indian Ocean, through new satellite and drift analysis of the 2014 crash released Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017. (AP Photo/Rob Griffith, File)

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"So that is a way of potentially narrowing down the search area with the very important caveat that, of course, we can't be totally sure that those objects seen in the images are actual pieces of plane," CSIRO oceanographer David Griffin said.

"This might be a really good clue. It might be a red herring. But if you are going to search, then you'd be silly to ignore this potential clue," he added.

The Australian bureau's chief commissioner, Greg Hood, said in a statement, "Clearly we must be cautious" of the lack a definite link to Flight 370.

Malaysian Deputy Transport Minister Aziz Kaprawi said the civil aviation department would need to evaluate the data since it's based on satellite images from a few years ago. "We will need to verify the data to see if it's credible before we make any decision," Aziz told The Associated Press.

Malaysia, China and Australia have decided that the search will remain suspended unless new evidence pinpoints the wreckage's whereabouts.

But seabed exploration company Ocean Infinity, based in Houston, Texas, said last week it has offered to launch a private search for the Malaysian-registered airliner.

Voice370, a support group for victim's families, said under the terms of the offer made to Malaysia in April, Ocean Infinity "would like to be paid a reward if and only if it finds the main debris field." They urged Malaysia to accept the offer.

Aziz said Wednesday that the offer was still being negotiated. He said there were some other "monetary terms" set by the firm that were unacceptable to the government.

"There are three categories of findings in the offer. The terms are a bit ambiguous," Aziz said. "The government wants the terms to be transparent and clear." He declined to give details.

Associated Press writer Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, contributed to this report.

Ousted chief justice makes runoff in Alabama Senate race

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Ousted Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore is trying to play usurper to deep-pocketed Republican forces after making a runoff with incumbent Sen. Luther Strange in the state's Senate primary.

Getting to the runoff is a sweet win for Moore, who was twice stripped of his chief justice duties — for refusing to remove a biblical monument he installed in a state judiciary building and for resisting federal gay marriage rulings.

And Moore is relishing his opportunity to repudiate what he calls "silk-stocking Washington elitists" as he heads into another clash between the GOP establishment and the party's conservative populist wing.

"They've got a clear choice in this coming election, somebody who represents Alabama values or somebody who represents Washington values. If they want to move this country forward and stop the stagnation in the U.S. Senate, they'll vote for me," Moore told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Strange's campaign got the endorsement of President Donald Trump and benefited from millions of dollars in advertising by a super political action committee tied to McConnell. But he trailed Moore, who rode his horse to his local polling station on Tuesday, by about 6 percentage points, or about 25,000 votes in the low-turnout special election for the seat vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

The winner of the Sept. 26 runoff will advance to a December contest against Democratic nominee Doug Jones, a former federal prosecutor best known for winning convictions of two Klansmen in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four little girls.

Trump tweeted his support for Strange, who was appointed to the Senate seat in February, and recorded a Monday night robo-call to Alabama voters. But Moore claimed he better represents Trump's outsider appeal in a state where the president remains deeply popular among GOP voters.

And after the results were in, Trump tweeted congratulations to both top finishers. "Exciting race!" Trump wrote.

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Moore has a loyal following among the state's evangelical voters, but also cuts a polarizing figure. His harshest critics have called him the "Ayatollah of Alabama" and accused him of putting his personal religious beliefs ahead of his judicial responsibilities.

The outspoken chief justice left the bench to run for Senate after he was suspended from the rest of his term last year by a judicial discipline panel.

The Senate Leadership Fund spent millions on Strange and is likely to continue that support in the runoff. Ever since a series of messy Republican primaries led to losses of winnable Senate races in 2010 and 2012, Republicans led by McConnell of Kentucky have worked aggressively to defeat fringe primary candidates in Senate races.

Both Strange and the PAC emphasized the president's endorsement ahead of the Sept. 26 runoff, although Trump's tweet later Wednesday focused more on his own impact: "Wow, Senator Luther Strange picked up a lot of additional support since my endorsement."

"Now the battle begins," Strange said Tuesday night. "Really, what it all boils down to is who is best suited to stand with the people of this country — with our president — to make sure we make America great again. The stakes are high. This election five weeks from now, I need y'all to go back to the polls."

Senate Leadership Fund President and CEO Steven Law congratulated Strange for "closing the gap in the final week and positioning himself well for the runoff."

"We are proud to have strongly supported President Trump's number-one ally in this race, and we believe the President's support will be decisive as we head into the next phase of this campaign, which Senator Strange will win in September," Law said.

The big question now is which candidate can collect the votes of the third-place finisher, U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks.

"The book on Moore has been that he has a high floor and a low ceiling," political consultant David Mowery said. "It's anybody's ball game, but with an advantage to Strange because of the money."

Associated Press Writer Jay Reeves in Gallant, Alabama, and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.



Former Alabama Chief Justice and U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore, rides his horse named "Sassy" to vote at the Gallant Volunteer Fire Department, Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, in Gallant, Ala. Alabama's Republicans and Democrats were casting ballots Tuesday to select party nominees in the closely watched race for the Senate seat vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The GOP race is testing the reach of both Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

Winner of Utah GOP primary cuts nuanced stance on Trump

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Republican Utah mayor celebrating a primary win will have to fend off competitors linking him to embattled President Donald Trump as he prepares for the general election to replace Jason Chaffetz in the U.S. House of Representatives.

John Curtis, the popular mayor of the Mormon stronghold of Provo, won a GOP primary Tuesday in Utah after fending off two challengers in Utah's 3rd Congressional District who were both backed by further-right conservatives. The challengers tried to undercut him for having once been a Democrat.

The win gives him a heavy advantage in the November special election in the district, where Republicans outnumber Democrats 5-to-1. But Curtis's opponents have already cast him as the candidate of Trump and his party.

Jim Bennett, the first candidate of a new centrist United Utah Party, congratulated Curtis but said Wednesday that as a good man, Curtis should feel uncomfortable in the "Party of Trump."

"Mayor Curtis is going to be just one more log on the fire of Republican dysfunction," Bennett added.

Democratic Dr. Kathryn Allen agreed Wednesday, saying Curtis can't avoid being linked to the president. "Members of the GOP seem to fall in line, no matter what," she said. "It's kind of hard to believe that another representative from the same party would behave any differently."

Curtis has walked a line between party loyalty and distancing himself from the turbulence surrounding the president, a similar tension Chaffetz faced before he abruptly resigned in June, saying he needed to spend more time with family.

Before resigning, the five-term Republican carved out a reputation for using the House Oversight committee he chaired to run aggressive investigations of Hillary Clinton. Chaffetz took a tepid approach to Trump's alleged conflicts of interest and ties to Russia.

During last year's election, Chaffetz rescinded his endorsement of Trump after recordings surfaced of the president bragging about groping women, but Chaffetz later re-endorsed the president.

Utah's 3rd Congressional District, stretching from Salt Lake City suburbs and several ski towns southeast to the Mormon-stronghold of Provo, Utah's coal country and the tourist-heavy red rock deserts, is heavily conservative but lukewarm on Trump.

The president won the district in November, but he did so with only 47 percent of the vote — far below Republican presidential candidates in 2012 and 2008, who collected more than two-thirds of the vote.

In the race to replace Chaffetz, Curtis was the only GOP candidate who didn't vote for Trump, saying he had significant moral concerns.

Opponent Tanner Ainge, a business consultant and the Sarah Palin-endorsed son of Boston Celtics President Danny Ainge, voted for the president, as did former state lawmaker Chris Herrod, who was known for strict immigration positions and spoke at a Trump rally.



Provo Mayor John Curtis celebrates after winning Utah's Republican primary to fill the U.S. House seat vacated by Jason Chaffetz Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, in Provo, Utah. Curtis of Provo, defeated former state lawmaker Chris Herrod and business consultant Tanner Ainge, son of Boston Celtics president Danny Ainge. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

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While Trump has endorsed candidates in other special elections this year, including a Republican runoff this week for a U.S. Senate seat in Alabama, the president didn't weigh in on Utah's primary until after Curtis won, tweeting him a message of congratulations Wednesday.

Curtis, 57, said he's happy to support Trump's agenda, including tax reform, his Supreme Court nominations and calls to "drain the swamp." But he hopes that turmoil surrounding the White House doesn't derail the GOP agenda.

"I'll work hard to avoid the distractions and move those agenda items forward," Curtis said in an interview last week with The Associated Press. "I believe that the district, I think, generally supports the Trump agenda, but they struggle with some of the distractions."

Bennett said Wednesday that Curtis is "going to run into the same problem that Jason Chaffetz did: It's going to be very hard for him to maintain principles when the leader of his party is unprincipled."

Curtis said he thinks allowing the special prosecutor to continue investigating possible ties between the president's campaign and Russia "is the best way to exonerate President Trump" and will give the American people confidence.

He said he supports Trump's plan to beef up border security, including plans to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border. But Curtis said it may be appropriate to use various kinds of technology instead of a wall to secure parts of the border.

He also said he'd prefer that Republicans in Congress repeal the Affordable Care Act, but added: "We've shown that that may be a difficult thing. So I do think a viable option is to simply say, 'Ok, let's just start making changes' " to President Barack Obama's health law.

On Tuesday night, shortly before giving his victory speech, Curtis called the president's equivocation on violence that erupted at a weekend gathering of white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, "totally unacceptable."

Curtis said "there's no room for racism, especially neo-Nazi and white supremacy."

He said he's looking forward to facing opponents who will challenge him for moderate voters, saying "we've got a great message for all of Utah."

While he explained away his time as a Democratic legislative candidate and former party officer as a "fling on the dark side," it earned him favor with some Republicans in Utah who want to see bipartisanship.

Ada Wilson, a 59-year-old Republican homemaker from Orem, said Curtis' stint across the aisle was one of the reasons she voted for him. Wilson said it shows Curtis can work in a bipartisan way to get things done.

"I think he acknowledges that being Republican with an 'R' by your name does not automatically make you a keeper of all the answers," she said.

Associated Press writer Brady McCombs contributed to this report.

Lucky carrot: Alberta woman finds mother-in-law's lost ring

CAMROSE, Alberta (AP) — A Canadian woman who lost her engagement ring 13 years ago while weeding her garden on the family farm is wearing it proudly again after her daughter-in-law pulled it from the ground on a misshapen carrot.

Mary Grams, 84, said she can't believe the lucky carrot actually grew through and around the diamond ring she had long given up hope of finding.

Grams said she never told her husband, Norman, that she lost the ring, but told her son. Her husband died five years ago.

"I feel relieved and happy inside," Grams said this week. "It grew into the carrot. I still can't figure it out."

Her daughter-in-law, Colleen Daley, found the ring while harvesting carrots for supper with her dog Billy at the farm near Armena, Alberta, where Grams used to live. The farm has been in the family for 105 years.

Daley said while she was pulling the carrots and noticed one of them looked strange. She almost fed it to her dog but decided to keep it and just threw it in her pail. When she was washing the carrots she noticed the ring and spoke to her husband, Grams' son, about what she had found.

They quickly called Grams. "I said we found your ring in the garden. She couldn't believe it," Daley said. "It was so weird that the carrot grew perfectly through that ring."

Grams said she was eager to try the ring on again after so many years. With family looking on she washed the ring with a little soap to get the dirt off. It slid on her finger as easily as it did when her husband gave it to her.

"We were giggling and laughing," she said. "It fit. After that many years it fits."

Mayor: Baltimore statues came down 'quietly, quickly'

By JULIET LINDERMAN, Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh has a few words of advice for leaders in other cities who might want to get rid of Confederate monuments: "Do it quietly and quickly."

On Tuesday Pugh ordered four statues in Baltimore removed under the cover of night. In the morning, city residents awoke to empty marble plinths.

Crews began removing the city's Confederate monuments late Tuesday and finished at about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday. The city also removed a statue of Marylander Roger B. Taney, the U.S. Supreme Court justice who wrote the Dred Scott decision denying citizenship to African Americans.

Pugh made the decision Tuesday morning to remove the monuments that night in order to avoid attention.

"It was important that we move quickly and quietly," Pugh said, "and that's what we did."

Elliott Cummings, a member of the Maryland Sons of Confederate Veterans, denounced Pugh's "barbarism and Taliban-esque actions" in tearing down the statues. "I'm angry and very sad at the same time."

Cummings also said he doesn't think the city followed proper protocols, which would have included getting approval from the Maryland Historical Trust to remove the monuments.

John Coleman, public information officer for the Trust, said in a statement that while "the formal process of removing the monuments was not followed, due to the rapidly evolving circumstances MHT will work with the city on the relocation, restoration or preservation, etc., decided in accordance with the current easements."

Workers used cranes to lift the towering monument to Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson onto a flatbed truck in the dark.

"I did what was right for my city," Pugh said. "Any city that has Confederate statues has concern about violence occurring in their city."

Social justice activists in Baltimore had pledged to take the statues down themselves on Wednesday evening. Protesters in Durham, North Carolina, toppled a monument to Confederate veterans on Monday night.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, a stone monument at Hollywood Forever Cemetery commemorating Confederate veterans was taken down Wednesday after hundreds of people demanded its removal.



In an undated photo provided by Iva Harberg, Mary Grams, 84, holds a carrot that grew through her engagement ring in Alberta, Canada. Grams, who lost her diamond ring 13 years ago while pulling weeds in her garden, is wearing it proudly again after her daughter-in-law pulled it from the ground on a misshapen carrot. Grams, 84, said she can't believe the vegetable actually grew through and around the diamond engagement ring she had given up for lost. (Iva Harberg/The Canadian Press via AP)

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And in Annapolis, three of the four members of the State House Trust voted Wednesday to remove another statue of Taney from the State House grounds, according to Doug Mayer, a spokesman for Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, and Alexandra Hughes, chief of staff to Maryland House Speaker Michael Busch. It was not immediately clear when the removal will take place.

Baltimore's swift removal of its monuments comes days after what's believed to be the largest gathering of white supremacists in a decade — including neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members. They descended on Charlottesville for a rally prompted by the city's decision to remove a monument to Lee.

Violent clashes broke out between white nationalists and counter protesters and a woman, 32-year-old Heather Heyer, was killed when a car plowed into a crowd of people who were there to condemn the white nationalists.

New Orleans removed its Confederate monuments in late April and May, also in overnight operations. Pugh said she'd met with New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and discussed his strategy.

Jamye Wooten, an activist and organizer, said removing the statues is a good start, but there is much more work to be done.

"I'm much more concerned with the systems and institutional structures of white supremacy than the symbols," he said in an email Wednesday, "but when I read a post by a dear sister friend on Facebook this morning expressing her relief that she would no longer have to walk past the Confederate monument in her neighborhood - that gave me a moment of joy."

Greg Baranoski was walking his dog in Baltimore's Mt. Vernon neighborhood just after midnight on Wednesday morning when he saw a crew taking down the Taney statue. It took about 40 minutes, he said.

"It was the fastest thing I've ever seen the city do," he said. "It was amazing, really amazing."

Baranoski said that until recently, he admired the monuments as pieces of art even though he didn't agree with "what they stood for." But he said in the past few days, he's come to believe that the monuments should be removed.

Baranoski's suggestion: Replace the Taney statue with one of Maryland native Thurgood Marshall, the nation's first black Supreme Court justice.

"It'd be super poetic to replace the statue of Chief Justice Taney with Justice Marshall," he said.



Workers remove a monument dedicated to the Confederate Women of Maryland early Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017, after it was taken down in Baltimore. Local news outlets reported that workers hauled several monuments away, days after a white nationalist rally in Virginia turned deadly.

(Jerry Jackson/The Baltimore Sun via AP)

Associated Press writer Brian Witte contributed to this report from Charlottesville, Virginia.

Virginia clashes bring attention to anti-fascist movement

By LISA BAUMANN and SARAH RANKIN, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The deadly white nationalist demonstration in Virginia has brought new attention to an anti-fascist movement whose black-clad, bandanna-wearing members have been a regular presence at protests around the country in the last year.

Members of the “antifa” movement were among those protesting the Charlottesville rally last weekend. During a combative news conference Tuesday, President Donald Trump did not mention antifa by name but said there was blame “on both sides” for the violence. He said the counter-demonstrators charged at white nationalists with clubs and suggested they also had a hand in escalating the violence.

“You had a group on one side that was bad, and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent, and nobody wants to say that, but I’ll say it right now,” Trump said.

Here are some facts about the antifa movement and those who protested the rally:



Tae Phoenix, a singer-songwriter and activist, hands out signs as people gather for “Solidarity Against Hate,” a counter-protest to the “Freedom Rally” group, at Denny Park in Seattle Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017. (Bettina Hansen/The Seattle Times via AP)

Times via AP)

WHAT IS ANTIFA?

“Antifa” is short for anti-fascists and emulates historic anti-fascist actors in Europe.

It’s an umbrella term covering different groups that organize largely on the internet, said Mark Smith, political science professor at the University of Washington. According to websites and Facebook posts, people who affiliate with the term take a militant approach against fascism and white nationalism that doesn’t necessarily shy away from violence.

A website that appears to have been created by a group of anti-fascists in Sacramento, California, says anti-fascism opposes the power structures of white supremacy, patriarchy and capitalism and strives to dismantle all systems that promote prejudice and oppression.

The site also says they have no leaders, official members or spokespeople.

In April, pro-Trump demonstrators at a planned Ann Coulter talk in Berkeley called for antifa to be declared a terrorist organization. Others disagree with that assessment.

“There’s extremist ideology and then there’s extremist tactics,” said Oren Segal, the director of Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism. His organization does not directly track antifa groups but says they come up in their work because of their opposition to the hate groups they do track, he said.

The ADL opposes antifa’s use of violence in part because “it helps the white supremacist narrative of victimization become a more effective talking point,” he said.

Smith rejects the claim that both sides are equal, saying the movements of neo-Nazis and white nationalists are at least in part what’s driving the antifa movement.

WHAT DID ANTIFA DO IN CHARLOTTESVILLE?

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Both sides did engage in violence Saturday. For nearly an hour, fights broke out among a crowd of hundreds of people who gathered in the street before the rally was set to start.

Antifa members were among those protesting the white nationalists, along with Black Lives Matter protesters, clergy members and others. In the mass of hundreds of people, it was not always possible to see who was instigating the fights.

In a combative news conference at Trump Tower, the president acknowledged that there were "some very bad people" among those who gathered to protest Saturday. But he added, "You also had people that were very fine people, on both sides."

He also said he had "no doubt" that blame laid with both groups.

The comments drew a swift rebuke from political leaders of both parties.

Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer said Wednesday that he did not think it was fair for the president to equate the actions of those protesting racism and fascism to the white nationalists.

"The spark for that whole event was Nazis and KKK members choosing to launch a public event with the intent of inciting mayhem. I place the blame for the entire event at their feet," he said.

WHAT ABOUT THE SO-CALLED ALT-LEFT?

In recent weeks, conservatives have described violent protesters who have been clashing with conservatives at political rallies as the "alt-left" or "alternative left." Trump used the newly coined term several times Tuesday.

The "alt-left" seems to encompass far-left-leaning militant groups that disrupt or resist what they see as fascist activity, countering neo-Nazis and white supremacists at demonstrations and other events.

The "alt-right" movement has been described as a mix of racism, white nationalism, populism and anti-Semitism. It emphasizes preserving and protecting the white race in the United States.

WHERE ELSE HAS ANTIFA PROTESTED?

In the hundreds of protests against Trump since his election, there have been rare, scattered incidents of violence. Those episodes usually involve select anarchists or members of the anti-fascist movement that see violence as a way to fight the state and protect the vulnerable.

Yong Jung-Cho of the activist group All of Us said in June that only "a real small percentage of people" on the left engage in violence.

"This is the challenge of large social movements — there's a lot of people in them."

A group identified as anti-fascists demonstrated in Portland, Oregon, in June — many wearing masks and black clothing— during a larger rally with other counter-protesters that was organized by a pro-Trump conservative group. Police used flash-bang grenades and pepper spray to disperse the anti-fascist crowd. They said protesters hurled bricks and other objects at officers.

A prominent San Francisco Bay Area anti-fascist leader, Yvonne C. Felarca, was recently arrested on charges stemming from a state Capitol brawl last year between white nationalist groups and counter-protesters.

Felarca has been prominent at several clashes in Berkeley involving the Occupy movement and more recently between supporters and opponents of Trump and conservative leaders.

The first time Smith heard the word antifa, he said, was in connection with the January shooting by a purported Trump supporter of a man protesting an appearance by right-wing speaker Milo Yiannopoulos at the University of Washington.

That protest involved people wearing black clothing and bandannas and carrying signs that said "Make Fascists Afraid Again," among other slogans. The look and actions were not new to the Pacific Northwest, a region that Seattle Police Department spokesman Sean Whitcomb said has always had a strong anarchist presence.

"The two groups are not dissimilar," he said.

Federal court: Arkansas can block Planned Parenthood money

By **ANDREW DeMILLO**, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A federal appeals court panel ruled Wednesday that Arkansas can block Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood, two years after the state ended its contract with the group over videos secretly recorded by an anti-abortion group.

In a 2-1 ruling, an 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel vacated preliminary injunctions a federal judge issued preventing the state from suspending any Medicaid payments for services rendered to patients from Planned Parenthood. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson ended the state's Medicaid contract with the organization in 2015.

The court ruled the unnamed patients suing the state did not have the right to challenge the defunding decision. The panel did not directly address Arkansas' reason for terminating the contract.

The decision could potentially lead to a showdown before the U.S. Supreme Court over efforts by Arkansas and several other states to defund Planned Parenthood that have been blocked by other courts. In a dissenting opinion to Wednesday's ruling, Judge Michael Melloy noted that several other federal courts have ruled the opposite way on defunding and said the patients have a right to challenge the end of Planned Parenthood's contract.

U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker initially ordered the state to continue the payments to three patients who had sued over the move and later expanded that order to anyone who seeks or wants to obtain services from the organization's health centers in Arkansas.

Planned Parenthood said it's evaluating options for challenging the appeals court's decision. The ruling does not take effect until the court issues its mandate in about one to two weeks, and Planned Parenthood said it's still serving Medicaid patients in Arkansas.

"We will do everything in our power to protect our patients' access to birth control, cancer screenings, and other lifesaving care," Dr. Raegan McDonald-Mosley, chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said in a statement. "Extreme politicians are trying to defund and shut down Planned Parenthood — and this is not what Americans want. Every person deserves the opportunity to lead a healthy life and access care at a provider they know and trust, no matter who you are or where you live."

Attorney General Leslie Rutledge praised the court's ruling.

"The Court found that Planned Parenthood and the three patients it recruited could not contest in federal court Arkansas's determination that a medical provider has engaged in misconduct that merits disqualification from the Medicaid program," Rutledge, a Republican, said in a statement. "All patients should have access to ethical, quality and responsible health care, and should never be beholden to a company that is only seeking to protect its profits."

Hutchinson also praised the ruling, saying he blocked the funding because he believed there was evidence Planned Parenthood engaged in wrongful conduct.

"This is a substantial legal victory for the right of the state to determine whether Medicaid providers are acting in accordance with best practices and affirms the prerogative of the state to make reasoned judgments on the Medicaid program," he said in a statement.

The state has said Planned Parenthood received \$51,000 in Medicaid funds in the fiscal year before Hutchinson's decision to terminate the contract. None of the money paid for abortions. Planned Parenthood operates health centers in Fayetteville and Little Rock.

Republican lawmakers and governors around the country targeted the organization after several videos were released by the anti-abortion Center for Medical Progress. The center said the videos showed that Planned Parenthood illegally sells fetal tissue for profit. Planned Parenthood said the videos were heavily edited and denied seeking any payments beyond legally permitted reimbursement of costs. A Texas grand jury that looked into the videos cleared Planned Parenthood of misusing fetal tissue.

The decision is the latest in a series of federal court fights over efforts in solidly Republican Arkansas to limit abortion.

Baker last month blocked Arkansas from enforcing four new abortion restrictions, including a ban on a

common second-trimester procedure. Another federal judge is weighing whether to halt another new law that would allow Arkansas to suspend or revoke an abortion clinic's license for any violation. In a separate case, the 8th Circuit last month vacated another preliminary injunction Baker issued preventing Arkansas from enforcing new limits on how the abortion pill is administered.

Follow Andrew DeMillo on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ademillo

Families wait in rain to ID lost loved ones in Sierra Leone

By **ALHAJI MANIKA KAMARA** and **CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY**, Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Hawa Stevens spoke through tears of the 28 family members she lost after surging mudslides and floodwaters swept through Sierra Leone's capital, killing hundreds and leaving hundreds more missing.

"Mother, father, sisters, brothers, cousins all gone. My life has been shattered. ... Please help me God," she sobbed as she waited in a long line in the pouring rain Wednesday outside Freetown's overwhelmed mortuary to try to identify the corpses of her loved ones.

She was surrounded by hundreds of others, some wearing face masks to try to ward off the smell of death and blue hospital booties over their shoes. Many clutched photos in the desperate hope that they would be among those fortunate enough to find their loved ones and give them a proper burial.

For Stevens, the wait brought only disappointment. "I was only able to identify two of my entire family," she said in anguish.

More than 300 people were confirmed dead — a third of them children — from the devastating mudslides that struck before dawn on Monday, triggered by days of heavy rain. Red Cross officials estimated some 600 others remained missing more than 48 hours after the storm hit while most of the victims slept. Thousands of people lost their homes.

On Wednesday, crews continued the grim work of digging out bodies from the tons of mud and debris that came roaring down the hillsides onto impoverished, low-lying areas of Freetown and surrounding settlements. Many were volunteers who dug with shovels, pick axes and, at times, only their hands.

At the city's Connaught Hospital morgue, firefighters, military personnel, police and volunteers tried to help grieving survivors with the difficult process of finding their dead relatives, many too mangled and decomposed to be identified. President Ernest Bai Koroma's office has said that all unidentified corpses will



Hawa Stevens, who claim she lost 28 family members following heavy flooding and mudslides in Regent cries as she speaks to Journalist outside Connaught hospital morgue in Sierra Leone, Freetown, Wednesday, Aug. 16 , 2017. Hawa Stevens spoke through tears of the 28 family members she lost after heavy rains and mudslides swept in and around Sierra Leone's capital, killing hundreds and leaving hundreds more missing as rescue teams fought to save them. "I can't believe my eyes....mother, father, sisters, brothers, cousins and other family members all gone. My life has been shattered. Where will I start? ...please help me God," she cried out. (AP Photo/ Manika Kamara)

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be given a "dignified burial" in the coming days. He called for seven days of mourning starting Wednesday.

Amara Kallon held up photos of his 3-year-old daughter, Hawa, who had been spending her school holidays with her mother in Freetown when a wall of mud hit their home, killing them both. In one, the wide-eyed girl held a microphone as she sang; in another she was dressed in festive bright pink native garb, her hair braided with beads.

With the help of hospital porters, who used the photos to find the child's body among the hundreds at the morgue, he was able to identify her corpse.

"The present condition of my daughter is nothing good to talk about," he said. "I've spoken with other family members and we have decided to allow the government to go ahead with dignified burial process."

Mortuary officials said mass burials would begin Thursday.

Amid the chaos of rescue efforts, the government has said contingency plans were being put in place to try to stem the outbreak of diseases such as cholera.

Sierra Leone's government has pleaded for international assistance as it reels from the disaster. With rain forecast for at least the coming week, the threat of further mudslides around Freetown remained. Many poor areas of the capital are near sea level and have poor drainage systems, which makes flooding worse during the rainy season.

Freetown also is plagued by unregulated construction of large residential houses in hilltop areas. Deforestation for firewood and charcoal is another leading contributor to flooding and mudslides.

Forty-year-old Brima Munde, who escaped the disaster with his two children, said he feared that three missing family members were buried under the mud. Three other relatives have already been confirmed dead.

"I can't describe the magic that took me and my family out of my house," he said. "But I believe it's the work of God because I don't know where the strength and power came from to get us out."

Express Scripts to limit opioids; doctors concerned

By JIM SALTER, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The nation's largest pharmacy benefit manager will soon limit the number and strength of opioid drugs prescribed to first-time users as part of a wide-ranging effort to curb an epidemic affecting millions of Americans.

But the new program from Express Scripts is drawing criticism from the American Medical Association, the largest association of physicians and medical students in the U.S., which believes treatment plans should be left to doctors and their patients.

About 12.5 million Americans misused prescription opioids in 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. More than 33,000 deaths that year were blamed on opioid overdoses.

Express Scripts launched a yearlong pilot program in 2016 aimed at reducing patients' dependency on opioids and the risk of addiction, said Snezana Mahon, the Missouri-based company's vice president of clinical product development.

Mahon said analysis of 106,000 patients in the pilot program showed a 38 percent reduction in hospitalizations and a 40 percent reduction in emergency room visits, compared to a control group. The program is scheduled to take effect nationwide on Sept. 1 for Express Scripts members whose employer or health insurer has enrolled to participate.

Under the program, new opioid users are limited to seven-day prescriptions, even if the doctor orders scripts for much longer. Mahon said the average prescription is for 22 days.

The program also requires short-acting drugs for first-time opioid prescriptions, even though many doctors prescribe long-acting opioids. Dosage is also limited, and the company will monitor and try to prevent for patterns of potential "pill shopping," where a patient goes from doctor to doctor to collect prescriptions.

The program does not apply to patients in hospice or palliative care, or to cancer patients.

A competitor, CVS Caremark, has a similar program.

"A lot of times physicians are prescribing these drugs blindly," Mahon said. "They don't know that a

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patient may be going to see multiple prescribers.”

She said some physicians “are actually appreciative and saying, ‘Thank you, I didn’t know this was happening.’”

But Dr. Patrice Harris, an Atlanta psychiatrist who chairs the American Medical Association’s Opioids Task Force, said doctors are already working toward addressing the opioid epidemic.

Harris said doctors have reduced such prescriptions by 17 percent over the past couple of years and are directing patients to other forms of pain management, including physical therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy.

“We want to be pro-active in making sure the alternatives are available, versus a sort of blunt, one-size-fits-all approach regarding the number of prescriptions,” Harris said. “The AMA’s take has always been that the decision about a specific treatment alternative is best left to the physician and their patient.”

Express Scripts said that if a doctor wants a patient to have more than a seven-day supply of medication, he or she can request it. Harris said those additional steps create an administrative burden for the doctor, “but more importantly they delay care for the patient.”

Harris said the AMA has not contacted Express Scripts to raise concerns about the program or taken any action to stop it.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration already requires label warnings about misuse on all prescription medications, but Express Scripts will take the additional step of sending a letter to new opioid patients warning about the dangers of misuse and addiction.

CVS Caremark already has a 10-day limit on opioids and limits the dosage, the company said. Patients must start on short-acting drugs, and physicians are required to regularly assess patients using opioid prescriptions.

CVS Caremark also has a monitoring process to identify pill shopping and other forms of misuse or fraud, and works with its retail pharmacies to review “prescribing trends and irregular behavior and with physicians to ensure appropriate therapy for patients with chronic pain,” spokeswoman Christine Cramer said in an email.

Express Scripts also is providing data analytics as part of Missouri’s new prescription drug-monitoring program. Republican Gov. Eric Greitens announced details last month at the Express Scripts corporate headquarters in suburban St. Louis. Missouri was the last state without a program to track prescription drugs.



This July 21, 2011, file photo shows a building on the Express Scripts campus in Berkeley, Mo. Express Scripts, the nation’s largest pharmacy benefits manager, will limit the number and strength of opioid drugs prescribed to first-time users starting in September 2017 as part of a wide-ranging effort to curb an epidemic affecting millions of Americans. The new program is drawing criticism from the American Medical Association. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson, File)

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Back to bomb shelters? North Korea threats revive nuke fears

By JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the era of nuclear nightmares — of the atomic arms race, of backyard bomb shelters, of schoolchildren diving under desks to practice their survival skills in the event of an attack — seemed to finally, thankfully, fade into history.

Until now.

For some baby boomers, North Korea's nuclear advances and President Donald Trump's bellicose response have prompted flashbacks to a time when they were young, and when they prayed each night that they might awaken the next morning. For their children, the North Korean crisis was a taste of what the Cold War was like.

"I'm not concerned to where I can't sleep at night. But it certainly raises alarms for Guam or even Hawaii, where it might be a real threat," said 24-year-old banker Christian Zwicky of San Bernardino, California.

People of his parents' generation were taught to duck and cover when the bombs came.

"Maybe those types of drills should come back," Zwicky said.

He isn't old enough to remember the popular 1950s public service announcement in which a cartoon character named Bert the Turtle teaches kids how to dive under their desks for safety. But Zwicky did see it often enough in high school history classes that he can hum the catchy tune that plays at the beginning. That's when Bert avoids disaster by ducking into his shell, then goes on to explain to schoolchildren what they should do.

"I do remember that," says 65-year-old retiree Scott Paul of Los Angeles. "And also the drop drills that we had in elementary school, which was a pretty regular thing then."

Even as a 10-year-old, Paul said, he wondered how much good ducking under a desk could do if a bomb powerful enough to destroy a city fell nearby. No good at all, his teacher acknowledged.

Then there were backyard bomb shelters, which briefly became the rage during the missile crisis of 1962, when it was learned the Soviets had slipped nuclear-tipped missiles into Cuba and pointed them at the United States.

After a tense, two-week standoff between President John F. Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev that some believe brought the world the closest it's ever come to nuclear war, the missiles were removed and the shelters faded from public interest.

Now they, too, seem to be having a revival.

"When Trump took office it doubled our sales, and then when he started making crazy statements we got a lot more orders," says Walton McCarthy of Norad Shelter Systems LLC of Garland, Texas. "Between now and a year ago, we've quadrupled our sales."

His competitor, California-based Atlas Survival Shelters, says it sold 30 shelters in three days last week.



In this Sept. 12, 1958 file photo, Beverly Wysocki, top, and Marie Graskamp, right, emerge from a new family-type bomb shelter on display in Milwaukee, Wis. For some baby boomers, North Korea's nuclear advances and the Trump administration's bellicose response have prompted flashbacks to a time when they were young, and when they prayed each night that they might awaken the next morning. For their children, the North Korean crisis was a taste of what the Cold War was like. (AP Photo/File)

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During its first year in business in 2011 it sold only 10.

Bill Miller, a 74-year-old retired film director living in Sherborn, Massachusetts, thinks these days are more nerve-wracking than the standoff in October 1962.

"I think it's much, much crazier, scarier times," he said. "I think the people who were in charge in the Kennedy administration had much more of a handle on it."

Nathan Guerrero, a 22-year-old political science major from Fullerton, California, agrees, saying he learned in history class that the "shining example" of a way to resolve such a conflict was how Kennedy's brother and attorney general, Robert Kennedy, brokered the tense negotiations.

"But knowing the way the current administration has sort of been carrying itself, it doesn't look like they are keen to solving things diplomatically," he said.

"As a young person, honestly, it's pretty unsettling," he continued.

Had he given any thought to building a backyard bomb shelter?

"I'd be lying if I said such crazy things haven't crossed my mind," he said, laughing nervously. "But in reality it doesn't strike me as I'd be ready to go shopping for bunkers yet." Instead, he studies for law school and tries "not to think too much about it."

Other Americans are more sanguine about the possibility of nuclear war. Rob Stapleton has lived in Anchorage, Alaska, since 1975, and he is aware that Alaska has been considered a possible target because it is within reach of North Korean missiles.

"There's been some discussion about it around the beer barrel and I'm sure the United States is taking it seriously, but we're not too concerned around here," he said.

Alaska is so vast and spread out, said Stapleton, that he and his friends can't imagine why North Korea would waste its time attacking The Last Frontier.

"I mean sure you'd be making a statement, but you'd not really be doing any damage."

Is it really Lyme? Researchers developing a new test to tell

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Diagnosing if a tick bite caused Lyme or another disease can be difficult but scientists are developing a new way to do it early — using a "signature" of molecules in patients' blood.

It's still highly experimental, but initial studies suggest the novel tool just might uncover early-stage Lyme disease more accurately than today's standard test, researchers reported Wednesday. And it could tell the difference between two tick-borne diseases with nearly identical early symptoms.

"Think about it as looking at a fingerprint," said microbiology professor John Belisle of Colorado State University, who helped lead the research.

Lyme disease is estimated to infect 300,000 people in the U.S. every year. Lyme-causing bacteria are spread by blacklegged ticks — also called deer



In this undated photo provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a blacklegged tick - also known as a deer tick. Diagnosing if a tick bite caused Lyme or something else can be difficult but scientists are developing a new way to catch the disease early, using a "signature" of molecules in patients' blood. (CDC via AP)

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ticks — primarily in the Northeast and Midwest, although their range is spreading. Lyme typically starts as a fever, fatigue and flu-like symptoms — often but not always with a hallmark bulls-eye rash — and people usually recover quickly with prompt antibiotics. But untreated, Lyme causes more serious complications, including swollen joints and arthritis, memory and concentration problems, even irregular heartbeat.

Yet today's best available test often misses early Lyme. It's considered no more than 40 percent accurate in the first few weeks of infection. It measures infection-fighting antibodies the immune system produces. Those take a while to form, making the test more useful a month or more after infection sets in than when people first start feeling ill.

"We are trying our best to come up with something to help the diagnosis in the very early stages of this infection," said microbiologist Claudia Molins of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who teamed with Belisle to develop a new test. "Our goal really is to try to fill that gap."

The new approach essentially looks for a biochemical fingerprint that shows the body is beginning to respond to an infection, long before antibodies mobilize. It's based on cellular metabolism, subtle changes in the kind and amount of small molecules that cells produce, such as sugars and amino acids and fats.

First, Belisle and Molins found a signature — specific changes in those metabolites — that enabled them to distinguish between blood from Lyme patients and from healthy people.

The tougher hurdle: Could the tool also tell the difference between Lyme and a disease with very similar symptoms? To tell, they compared a mysterious Lyme look-alike called Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness, or STARI.

STARI is spread by a different tick, the Lone Star tick that is found widely throughout the East and Southeast, areas that overlap with the Lyme-carrying blacklegged ticks. STARI involves a round rash and other symptoms similar to early Lyme, and is treated with the same antibiotic — but it's not caused by the same bacteria. In fact, scientists don't yet know the cause of STARI, and there's no test for it. The only way to identify STARI is to definitively rule out other ailments.

Using carefully stored blood samples from people determined to have either Lyme or STARI, Belisle and Molins found biomarkers that could tell the two disease apart. Using those markers to study additional blood samples, they concluded their tool was 82 percent accurate in determining early Lyme — far better than today's standard, Molins said.

The research was published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

"It is a very novel way of looking at diagnosis," said Dr. John Aucott, who directs Johns Hopkins University's Lyme Disease Clinical Research Center. He was not involved in the new study, and notes that other test approaches are being explored, too.

Creating a test will take several more years of research, cautioned Molins. First, the team is turning its sophisticated metabolic-measuring techniques into a test that standard laboratories could use. Then, with next spring's tick season, researchers will start a new round of testing.

Hopkins' Aucott cautions that other infections unrelated to ticks can be confused with Lyme, too, so any new test also would have to rule out those possibilities.

But better early diagnosis isn't the only need, he stressed. Today's Lyme test also can't prove if antibiotic treatment was successful, because it can detect antibodies even years after people recovered. He wonders if tracking cellular metabolism could solve that problem.

"If you can show the host metabolic signature goes back to normal, that could be a great test of cure," he said.

On a chaotic day in DC, Trump goes after Amazon, again

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump renewed his attacks on e-commerce giant Amazon, saying Wednesday that the company is "doing great damage to tax paying retailers."

Trump, in a tweet, said that "towns, cities and states throughout the U.S. are being hurt - many jobs being lost!"

The president has been a frequent critic of the company and CEO Jeff Bezos (BAY'-zohs), who also owns

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The Washington Post.

Many traditional retailers are closing stores and blaming Amazon for a shift to buying goods online. But the company has been hiring thousands of warehouse workers on the spot at job fairs across the country. Amazon has announced goal of adding 100,000 full-time workers by the middle of next year.

Trump has said that Amazon does not pay "Internet taxes," but it's unclear what he meant by that. Amazon.com collects state sales taxes in all 45 states with a sales tax and the District of Columbia, according to their website. State governments have sought to capture sales taxes lost to internet retailers, though they have struggled with a 1992 Supreme Court ruling that found for a state to collect sales tax from retailer, the retailer must have a physical presence within state borders.

The issue arose recently in South Carolina, which is attempting recoup tax revenue it says it's owed in court. This summer, the state Department of Revenue filed a case with the Administrative Law Court, alleging that Amazon had failed to collect taxes on third-party merchant sales.

Third-party merchant sales involve items that can be bought on Amazon.com, but the company acts solely as a middleman between buyers and sellers. Amazon processes the payments and offers other support to the parties involved.

The state claims that Amazon owes the state \$12.5 million in taxes, penalties and interest from first quarter of last year alone, according to the complaint obtained by The Associated Press.

Amazon had a five-year moratorium on taxes, the state wrote in the complaint, giving the company "fair warning that its sales of tangible personal property in South Carolina subjected it to South Carolina's taxing jurisdiction."

The state's case is in the early stages, and a court date has not been set.

For years, the Seattle company fought against collecting sales taxes from its customers. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, South Carolina was among 10 states that initially gave Amazon a temporary tax reprieve in exchange for jobs and investment, voting in 2011 to give the company until the beginning of 2016 before the state levied taxes.

According to the conference, that deal made South Carolina the last state to collect among those where officials cut similar deals with Amazon. The company promised to create at least 2,000 full-time jobs and invest \$125 million by Dec. 31, 2013. It opened two distribution centers in the state.

Max Behlke, who has been tracking this issue for the conference, told AP Wednesday that dozens of states have been grappling with how to collect taxes from entities like Amazon, with several heading to court over it in recent years. As for the South Carolina case, Behlke said it could lead to more actions elsewhere.

"If the court ends up ruling in favor of the state, then I can almost guarantee you that we're going to see other state tax departments handling it similarly, too," he said.

Amazon did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

The Iowa State Fair is opening. Time to visit the Butter Cow

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — More than 1 million people typically visit the Iowa State Fair each year, and sometimes it seems like every one of them is clustered around the Butter Cow's climate-controlled glass enclosure.

Here are some details about the creamy sculpture that has been an essential part of the fair since 1911.

WHY A BUTTER COW?

Butter cow sculptures appeared to have started with the Ohio State Fair in 1903, and the first one was displayed at the Iowa State Fair eight years later as a way to promote dairy products in one of the country's leading agricultural states.

IS IT REALLY MADE OF BUTTER?

It's not solid butter. The core of the cow is composed of a wood, wire and steel mesh frame, and that structure is then layered with about 600 pounds (270 kilograms) of Iowa butter. It's a big sculpture but not as hefty as an actual dairy cow, which typically weighs about 1,000 pounds (450 kilograms).

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THAT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF BUTTER TO WASTE

The state fair estimates it's enough butter for 19,200 slices of toast, but even fairgoers with grumbling stomachs probably wouldn't want to dig into the sculpture. Most of the butter is reused from year to year, and some of it is up to a decade old.

GIVEN IOWA'S STEAMY AUGUST HEAT, DOES THE COW MELT?

Fairgoers often swelter in the heat and humidity, but the Butter Cow looks out of a glass enclosure kept at a chilly 40 degrees (4.4 Celsius).

WHO DOES THE SCULPTING, AND DOES THE COW HAVE COMPANY?

Sarah Pratt, of West Des Moines, has been forming the cow and other buttery creations since 2006, making her only the fifth sculptor in 106 years. This year, she's also creating of sculpture of Laura Ingalls Wilder in honor of the "Little House on the Prairie" author's 150th birthday, as well as a replica of the Solheim Cup

trophy, awarded to the winners of a golf tournament held this summer in Iowa. Previous sculptures have included Elvis Presley, John Wayne and Leonardo DaVinci's "The Last Supper."

DO OTHER STATES HAVE BUTTER SCULPTURES?

Yes. They're particularly popular in the Midwest, with sculptures in Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. They're also a part of state fairs in other regions, including New York, Texas and Utah. Not all are of cows, though. The Minnesota State Fair's sculptures are especially beloved, as each year a dairy association's Princess Kay of the Milky Way and her court have their likenesses carved into 90-pound (40 kilogram) butter blocks.



In this Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017, photo, the Butter Cow displayed at the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines, Iowa. More than 1 million people typically visit the Iowa State Fair annually, and sometimes it seems like all of them are clustered around Butter Cow. The creamy creation has been among the state fair's top attraction since 1911. (AP

Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

'Please don't let her be dead': man who saved fiancée

By BRIAN WITTE and JOSH REPLOGLE, Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — With tires screeching and bodies flying, Marcus Martin shoved his fiancée out of the way of a car charging through a crowd of peaceful protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Marcus Martin was promptly hit and upended by the car as it plowed through the crowd. Flat on his back with a broken leg, he says he experienced several minutes of terror.

"The only thing running through my mind was: please don't let her be dead," Martin, 26, told The Associated Press in an interview. "Please don't let her be dead."

Marissa Blair was OK, and Martin's body was captured in a photograph as he tumbled over the crashing car that fatally hit Heather Heyer, a friend who had been marching with Blair and Martin. Nineteen others were injured.

Martin's mother, Kimberly Martin, was terrified as she watched the scene replayed on television.

"I'm thanking God, because after seeing that photo and then I'm seeing videos and I'm seeing my son behind this car and then when I see the car backing back up the street, it was nobody but God that got

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him out of the way, you know? And it was just a cruel, cruel, act because those peaceful people: it was like going to a battleground without any protection from anybody," she said.

While her son survived, Kimberly Martin said she's pained by Heyer's death.

"As a mother it hurts, you know, because I could have lost my child, but somebody else did and, like I said, it just hurts," she said.

James Alex Fields Jr., a 20-year-old Ohio man who was said to idolize Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany in high school, has been charged with second-degree murder in Heyer's death. Authorities say he drove into a group of counter-protesters at a white nationalist rally on Saturday after the crowd had moved from a nearby park to downtown. Fields has been held without bail.

Blair said she has never had a close friend pass away. She saw Heyer every day at work at a local law firm and on weekends. They had met up in Charlottesville on Saturday to march as counter-protesters against participants in the white nationalist rally. Even when distraught by her death, she brightens at the thought of Heyer, who was 32.

"I just smile when I think about Heather," Blair said Sunday night after attending a vigil at the spot of the crash now covered with flowers. "She always spoke with so much conviction and she stood up for what she believed in, and she liked to make you laugh and she didn't care what she said. It was Heather. She cared about people. She wanted the best for everyone. She stood up for equality. She didn't want hate. She just wanted everybody to be equal."

Blair said the crash was an "act of terror," a hate crime that she believes should be treated as such.

"The group that was here, the alt right, the neo-Nazis, they stood for hate, and he knew what he was doing. It was a deliberate act," Blair said.

Martin said he attended the march in a peaceful response to the white nationalist rally, at a time when he is focusing on turning his life around. He pleaded guilty to robbery in 2013 and was released last summer in July. He said in an interview he is a "100-percent" different person.

Martin, who may have surgery this week on his ankle, said the crash shouldn't have happened. He doesn't think the white nationalist rally should have been allowed near the city. Other cities should consider what happened in Charlottesville before allowing similar rallies, he said.

A total of three people died as a result of Saturday's violent protests. As the violence of that day's rally waned, a state police helicopter deployed in a large-scale police response to the violence crashed outside the city. Both troopers on board, Lt. H. Jay Cullen and Berke M.M. Bates, were killed. An investigation into the crash is ongoing.

"Is not one life enough?" Martin said. "Do you need more of that?"



In this Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017 file photo, Marcus Martin pauses during a vigil, held for the victims of an attack on Saturday in Charlottesville, Va. James Alex Fields Jr. plowed a car into a crowd of people protesting a white supremacist rally on Saturday, injuring over a dozen people including Martin. (AP Photo/Steve Helber, File)

UK vows Brexit won't mean the return of Irish border posts

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — There must be no border posts between the U.K. and Ireland after Brexit, and European Union citizens will be able to enter Britain through EU member state Ireland without immigration checks, the British government said Wednesday.

Britain has vowed to end the free movement of people from the bloc after it leaves the EU in 2019,

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removing the automatic right of EU nationals to settle and work in the U.K.

But it made clear on Wednesday that EU citizens will still be able to travel freely from Ireland to Northern Ireland, and onward to other parts of the U.K.

Outlining proposals for the Ireland-Northern Ireland border — one of the most complex aspects of Brexit — the government said there should be no physical border posts or electronic checks. It also committed itself to maintaining the border-free Common Travel Area covering the U.K. and Ireland, which predates the establishment of the EU.

“There should be no physical border infrastructure of any kind on either side of the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland,” Conservative British Prime Minister Theresa May said.

The right of EU citizens to live in any member state is one of the EU’s key principles, and has allowed hundreds of thousands of Europeans to move to Britain and get jobs there, especially since the bloc expanded into eastern Europe more than a decade ago.

There are an estimated 3 million EU nationals living in Britain, and 1 million Britons residing in other parts of the bloc.

Many Britons who voted last year to leave the EU cited a desire to regain control of immigration as a key reason.

In a paper outlining proposals for the Irish border after Brexit, the British government insisted it will be able to control immigration through work permits or other measures, even though EU nationals will remain free to come and go.

It said “immigration controls are not, and never have been, solely about the ability to prevent and control entry at the U.K.’s physical border.” Control of access to the labor market and social welfare are also “an integral part” of the immigration system, the paper added.

Northern Ireland is an especially thorny issue in Brexit talks, because it has the U.K.’s only land border with the EU, and because an open border has helped build the economic prosperity that underpins the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Since the 1998 Good Friday peace accord, British military checkpoints along the border have been dismantled, rendering it all but invisible. Thousands of people cross the 300-mile (500-kilometer) border every day.

Britain said it was determined that “nothing agreed as part of the U.K.’s exit in any way undermines” the Northern Ireland peace agreement.

The government’s Department for Exiting the European Union acknowledged that “unprecedented” solutions would be needed to preserve the peace process and maintain the benefits of an open border after Britain leaves the EU, its single market in goods and services and its tariff-free customs union.

It suggested a future “customs partnership” between Britain and the EU could eliminate the need for checks on goods crossing the border.



This is a June 15, 2016 file photo of of traffic crossing the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the village of Bridgend, Co Donegal Ireland. Britain said Wednesday Aug. 16, 2017 that there must be no border posts between Northern Ireland and the Irish republic after Brexit. (Brian Lawless/PA, File via AP)

For agricultural and food products, Britain said one option could be “regulatory equivalence,” where the U.K. and EU agree to maintain the same standards. But it’s unclear what that would mean for Britain’s ability to trade with countries that do not always meet EU standards, such as the United States.

The Northern Ireland proposals came in a series of papers covering aspects of Brexit negotiations, which are due to resume in Brussels at the end of this month.

Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney said the document “brings some clarity and is certainly helpful to move this process forward.” But, he said, “there are still significant questions that are unanswered.”

European Commission spokeswoman Annika Breidthardt said Britain’s position papers — which come after allegations from EU officials that the U.K. is underprepared for the EU divorce negotiations — are “a positive step.”

“The clock is ticking and this will allow us to make progress,” she said.

Lorne Cook in Brussels contributed to this story.

Fugitive’s trail exposes Red Bull co-owners’ offshore deals

By MARTHA MENDOZA, AP National Writer

The Bangkok billionaire family that co-founded Red Bull, the world’s leading energy drink, uses offshore companies to cloak purchases of jets and luxury properties, including the posh London home where the clan’s fugitive son was last seen.

The Yoovidhya family’s efforts to hide assets show how easily major global financial players can routinely — and, usually, legally — move billions of dollars with little or no oversight.

The family’s confidential deals were inadvertently exposed by the jet-setting son Vorayuth “Boss” Yoovidhya, who attracted cries of impunity after repeatedly failing to show up in court for allegedly racing away in his Ferrari after slamming into a motorcycle cop in a deadly hit-and-run. More than 120 Instagram and Facebook postings by friends and family led The Associated Press earlier this year to the Yoovidhyas’ London vacation home, where Vorayuth refused to comment.

Thai authorities revoked his passport and issued an arrest warrant, but say they don’t know where he is.

Now the investigation into Vorayuth’s whereabouts has led to the Panama Papers, a collection of 11 million secret financial documents that illustrate how the world’s wealthiest families hide their money. Yoovidhya family financial arrangements are outlined in those records.



In this April 15, 2017, file photo, Vorayuth “Boss” Yoovidhya, whose grandfather co-founded energy drink company Red Bull, walks to get in a car as he leaves a house in London. The Bangkok billionaire family uses offshore companies to cloak purchases of jets and luxury properties, including the posh London home where the clan’s fugitive son was last seen. The Yoovidhya family’s efforts to hide assets show how easily major global financial players can routinely - and, usually, legally - move billions of dollars with little or no oversight. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, File)

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The Panama Papers leak was first obtained by the German newspaper Sudeutsche Zeitung and shared with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, which began publishing collaborative reports with news organizations in 2016, putting wealthy and powerful people in more than 70 countries under scrutiny.

Since then, political leaders have been thrown out of office, including Pakistan's prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, who was kicked out just last month after being accused of concealing assets exposed in the leak. Overall, an estimated \$135 billion was wiped off the value of nearly 400 companies, and governments and the European Commission began cracking down on offshore tax havens. The reports won a 2017 Pulitzer Prize.

Founders of the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca, which owned the leaked documents, were charged earlier this year with money-laundering.

The Yoovidhya family's network of offshore companies — set up by Mossack Fonseca — was so complex that, until now, they managed to keep the family name and Red Bull brand out of the spotlight. But the Panama Papers shared with the AP show the family has used at least a half-dozen offshore, anonymous companies in tax havens for more than two decades.

The Yoovidhyas, who share ownership of Red Bull with Austrian Dietrich Mateschitz, did not respond to repeated requests — faxed, telephoned and hand-delivered — for comment. Red Bull said in a statement that Vorayuth's legal situation "is not a matter for Red Bull and only concerns the Yoovidhya family." A spokesman also said that, as a private company, Red Bull doesn't speak publicly about financial and commercial matters.

Experts agree that tax avoidance maneuvers involving offshore companies are permissible and ubiquitous worldwide, including among many of Thailand's richest families. Shell companies can facilitate shared ownership between different countries.

There's no indication the Yoovidhya family's accounts violated any laws, but the extremely confidential deals also can be used to evade taxes or launder money.

Days after the 32-year-old Vorayuth's attorney told a Bangkok court his client couldn't show up because he was on a mission in the United Kingdom, an AP reporter called out questions to the Red Bull heir on his London doorstep:

"What is your mission in the UK, Boss? What are you doing here? Are you going to Thailand to meet with prosecutors?"

Smiling slightly, eyes averted, Vorayuth gave no answer. Hours later, he and his parents hurried with suitcases out of the home where the clan has celebrated anniversaries and family dinners for years. That was in April, the last time Vorayuth was seen in public.

The five-story, brick home is the address Vorayuth's father, Chalerm Yoovidhya, gave when incorporating Thai Siam Winery Ltd. in the U.K. in 2002, and that his mother, Daranee Yoovidhya, used when opening a food related business there in 2006.

But the listed owner of the home, and at least four other multimillion-dollar properties in London, isn't the Yoovidhyas — it's Karnforth Investments Ltd., a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, according to the Panama Papers.

Even though the Yoovidhyas and Mateschitz own Red Bull, the main shareholder of the energy drink's United Kingdom business is another British Virgin Islands company called Jerrard Company Ltd.

Here's where it gets complicated:

Karnforth has just one shareholder: Jerrard. And Jerrard is held by a third offshore company, which controls a fourth, JK Fly. Who owns JK Fly? Karnforth.

The Yoovidhyas' offshore companies overlap with stand-in brokers, secretaries, directors and officers — people legally paid small amounts to sign forms and attend directors meetings in lieu of the true owners, whose names remain confidential.

For years, money has flowed back and forth between the various entities, the documents show.

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For example, in 2005, Jerrard loaned Karnforth \$6.5 million to buy two London properties. In 2012, Jerrard canceled the mortgages, giving Karnforth ownership of the properties. Since 2010, JK Fly has owed Karnforth, its sole shareholder, about \$14 million in an interest-free loan to purchase aircraft.

Business transactions that are deliberately obscured might look suspicious, but the Yoovidhya family might just be using established and legal tax-avoidance arrangements, financial experts told the AP.

"Anonymous money transfers? Those are pretty common in illegal schemes, but they're also common in legal schemes," said Australia's Griffith University professor Jason Sharman, who researches corruption and money-laundering.

What matters, Sharman said, is that the agents moving the money know who the true owners are. And that has not always happened, the Panama Papers show.

In 2010, and again in 2013, the papers show that auditors at Mossack Fonseca's head offices in Panama raised concerns about the Yoovidhya companies Karnforth and Jerrard. Documents verifying the true owners were missing.

"Failure to keep such files up to date will result in high administrative and statutory fines," Mossack Fonseca auditors told the U.K.-based corporate services agent handling their accounts. AP could not determine whether full documentation was ever provided.

In an unrelated case, when Mossack Fonseca's Panama office asked their own agent in Thailand to provide due diligence on a prominent Bangkok billionaire, he flat-out refused, the documents show.

"This is a CROCK. Any rich person here knows someone or is related to someone in politics," Steve Wagner in Bangkok's Mossack Fonseca office wrote when asked to supply certified passport copies, names of the ultimate beneficial owners, bank reference letters and more.

"We have provided all due diligence on our clients and we are no (sic) going to anger our best clients by these witch hunts and investigative internet searches that are going on in the back offices of Panama," he wrote.

Wagner did not respond to AP's requests for comment.

While other governments were swift and aggressive in responding to Panama Papers revelations, that has not been the case in Thailand. More than 1,400 Thai individuals were identified in the documents, but the government calls the reports rumors with no evidence.

Last year, Thailand's Anti-Money Laundering Office said it was investigating more than a dozen of those individuals — unnamed current and former politicians and business people. To date, that office has not reported any crimes, however, and it would not answer AP's questions.

"People do this to hide corrupt money," said law professor Viraphong Boonyobhas, director of Chulalongkorn University's business crime and money-laundering databank in Bangkok.

Viraphong would not speak directly about the Yoovidhyas or any other Thai person or company, saying he feared for his legal and physical safety, but added that his expectations for accountability in the military-run government are low.

Thai authorities have vowed to fight corruption, but "wealthy people in Thailand are influential people," Viraphong said. "Maybe the government can't untangle such a complicated network."

Thai laws also are filled with loopholes, said Sumaporn Manason, a legal expert at the Thai Ministry of Finance.

The country doesn't meet basic international frameworks to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing, she said. And tax avoidance — that is, keeping money anonymously in offshore accounts — is legal and common.

"Here we call it tax planning," she said.

As a result, she said, Thailand misses out on much-needed revenues that could build bridges, highways and schools.

In 1987, Vorayuth's reclusive grandfather, Chaleo Yoovidhya, partnered his company T.C. Pharma with Mateschitz, with each investing \$500,000 to market a caffeine-powered energy drink popular in Thailand.

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In 1987, Red Bull Energy Drink went international. Today, it's sold in 170 countries. Red Bull also has race cars and jets, and sponsors extreme athletes. Last year, the company reported \$6 billion in profits.

Vorayuth's 2012 Ferrari accident, in which he dragged police Sgt. Maj. Wichean Glanprasert and his motorcycle along the road and then sped away from the mangled body, has raised concerns about impunity and the Red Bull brand from around the world.

For more than four years, Vorayuth repeatedly failed to show up when ordered to face criminal charges of speeding, hit-and-run, and deadly, reckless driving.

"Spoiled brat Red Bull heir," read one recent Toronto Sun headline.

"It seems money can buy anything in Thailand, including the justice system," said Time.com.

Police say Vorayuth disputes the reckless-driving charge, claiming the officer swerved in front of him. The speeding charge expired after a year. The more serious charge of hit-and-run, which police say carries a penalty of up to six months in jail, expires Sept. 3 if he isn't apprehended.

Authorities didn't issue an arrest warrant until earlier this year, after AP tracked Vorayuth down to report that, since the accident, he has flown around the world on Red Bull jets, openly cheering his family's Formula One racing team and enjoying luxury resort vacations.

The arrest warrant may have cramped his lifestyle — he's no longer seen hanging out with Team Red Bull at Grand Prix races, and his friends and family stopped posting pictures of him at their parties. But the biggest impact from Vorayuth's accident and courtroom no-shows may, in the end, be the clues he left that now expose his family's confidential and complex offshore deals.

On the face of it, nothing illegal is taking place, said City University London professor Ronen Palan, who researches how the world's riches pass through tax havens.

"But this whole thing smacks of tax avoidance," Palan said. "At the very least."

Reverence for robots: Japanese workers treasure automation

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

MORIYA, Japan (AP) — Thousands upon thousands of cans are filled with beer, capped and washed, wrapped into six-packs, and boxed at dizzying speeds — 1,500 a minute, to be exact — on humming conveyor belts that zip and wind in a sprawling factory near Tokyo.

Nary a soul is in sight in this picture-perfect image of Japanese automation.

The machines do all the heavy lifting at this plant run by Asahi Breweries, Japan's top brewer. The human job is to make sure the machines do the work right, and to check on the quality the sensors are monitoring.

"Basically, nothing goes wrong. The lines are up and running 96 percent," said Shinichi Uno, a manager at the plant. "Although machines make things, human beings oversee the machines."

The debate over machines snatching jobs from people is muted in Japan,



In this Monday, May 29, 2017 photo, Asahi Breweries employee Kiyoshi Sakai speaks during an interview at a factory in Moriya near Tokyo. Sakai, who has worked at Asahi for 29 years, recalls those days the caps for beer cans had to be placed into machines by hand, a repetitive task that was hard not just on the body but the mind. And so he is grateful for the helping hand from automation. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

Photo/Koji Sasahara)

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where birth rates have been sinking for decades, raising fears of a labor shortage. It would be hard to find a culture that celebrates robots more, evident in the popularity of companion robots for consumers, sold by the internet company SoftBank and Toyota Motor Corp, among others.

Japan, which forged a big push toward robotics starting in the 1990s, leads the world in robots per 10,000 workers in the automobile sector — 1,562, compared with 1,091 in the U.S. and 1,133 in Germany, according to a White House report submitted to Congress last year. Japan was also ahead in sectors outside automobiles at 219 robots per 10,000 workers, compared with 76 for the U.S. and 147 for Germany.

One factor in Japan's different take on automation is the "lifetime employment" system. Major Japanese companies generally retain workers, even if their abilities become outdated, and retrain them for other tasks, said Koichi Iwamoto, a senior fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry.

That system is starting to fray as Japan globalizes, but it's still largely in use, Iwamoto said.

Although data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development show digitalization reduces demand for mid-level routine tasks — such as running assembly lines — while boosting demand for low- and high-skilled jobs, that trend has been less pronounced in Japan than in the U.S.

The OECD data, which studied shifts from 2002 to 2014, showed employment trends remained almost unchanged for Japan.

That means companies in Japan weren't resorting as aggressively as those in the U.S. to robots to replace humans. Clerical workers, for instance, were keeping their jobs, although their jobs could be done better, in theory, by computers.

That kind of resistance to adopting digital technology for services also is reflected in how Japanese society has so far opted to keep taxis instead of shifting to online ride hailing and shuttle services.

Still, automation has progressed in Japan to the extent the nation has now entered what Iwamoto called a "reflective stage," in which "human harmony with machines" is being pursued, he said.

"Some tasks may be better performed by people, after all," said Iwamoto.

Kiyoshi Sakai, who has worked at Asahi for 29 years, recalls how, in the past, can caps had to be placed into machines by hand, a repetitive task that was hard not just on the body, but also the mind.

And so he is grateful for automation's helping hand. Machines at the plant have become more than 50 percent smaller over the years. They are faster and more precise than three decades ago.

Gone are the days things used to go wrong all the time and human intervention was needed to get machines running properly again. Every 10 to 15 minutes, people used to have to go check on the products; there were no sensors back then.

Glitches are so few these days there is barely any reason to work up a sweat, he added with a smile.

Like many workers in Japan, Sakai doesn't seem worried about his job disappearing. As the need for plant workers nose-dived with the advance of automation, he was promoted to the general affairs section, a common administrative department at Japanese companies.

"I remember the work being so hard. But when I think back, and it was all about delivering great beer to everyone, it makes me so proud," said Sakai, who drinks beer every day.

"I have no regrets. This is a stable job."

See other Future of Work stories at <https://www.apnews.com/tag/FutureofWork> . Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at twitter.com/yurikageyama. Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Asian shares mostly higher following gains on Wall Street

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Thursday in narrow trading, tracking gains overnight on Wall Street. Japan's Nikkei 225 index slipped as the yen strengthened against the U.S. dollar.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index edged 0.1 percent lower to 19,718.09. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was also almost unchanged at 27,400.17. South Korea's Kospi gained 0.5 percent to 2,360.26 and the

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S&P/ASX 200 was flat at 5,785.80. The Shanghai Composite index added 0.4 percent to 3,258.91. Shares in Southeast Asia were mostly higher.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks rose slightly Wednesday as Urban Outfitters and Target helped retailers rally, offsetting energy companies' losses. The Standard & Poor's 500 index picked up 0.1 percent to 2,468.11. The Dow Jones industrial average added 0.1 percent to 22,024.87. The Nasdaq composite gained 0.2 percent to 6,345.11. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies inched up 0.30 points to 1,383.53.

FED MINUTES: The minutes from the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee meeting last month did not include many details about the central bank's plans for letting its balance sheet shrink. The notes showed a divided Fed, as some members of its policy committee think that interest rates should stay about where they are because inflation is still low. But others felt that interest rates should be raised because delays might lead to dangerously high inflation later.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "U.S. investors shrugged off Fed fretting over low inflation, weaker than forecast housing data and crumbling business support for the White House to maintain stock market levels within 1 percent of all-time highs. U.S. dollar weakness followed the release of FOMC minutes that indicated 'many' members feared inflation will stay lower for longer," Michael McCarthy of CMC Markets said in a commentary.

JAPAN TRADE: Japan's exports and imports rose at a fast clip in July, reflecting a recovery in demand in China, Southeast Asia and the U.S., though export prices rose faster than volumes for many products. Exports rose more than 13 percent from a year earlier to 6.5 trillion yen (\$59 billion) while imports jumped 16 percent to 6.1 trillion yen (\$55 billion), helped by a surge in oil and coal shipments, according to data released Thursday.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 14 cents to \$46.92 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 77 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$46.78 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 24 cents to \$50.51 per barrel. It dipped 53 cents, or 1 percent, to \$50.27 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar dipped to 109.90 yen from 110.20 yen. The euro rebounded to \$1.1778 from \$1.1767.



A woman walks past an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. Asian shares were mostly higher Thursday, tracking gains overnight on Wall Street. The Nikkei index slipped as the yen strengthened against the U.S. dollar. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay contributed to this story. He can be reached at <http://twitter.com/Marley-JayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2017. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 17, 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

On this date:

In 1863, Federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

In 1945, Indonesian nationalists declared their independence from the Netherlands. The George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.

In 1962, East German border guards shot and killed 18-year-old Peter Fechter, who had attempted to cross the Berlin Wall into the western sector.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide. The musical drama "Dirty Dancing," starring Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, premiered in New York.

In 1996, the Reform Party announced Ross Perot had been selected to be its first-ever presidential nominee, opting for the third-party's founder over challenger Richard Lamm.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Dean roared into the eastern Caribbean, tearing away roofs, flooding streets and causing at least three deaths on small islands as the powerful storm headed on a collision course with Jamaica and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Five years ago: In Moscow, a judge sentenced three punk rock-style activists, members of the band Pussy Riot, to two years in prison for hooliganism for briefly taking over a cathedral in a raucous prayer for deliverance from Russian President Vladimir Putin; the court decision drew protests around the world. (One of the three defendants was later released on probation; the other two were released several months short of their two-year sentence in December 2013.)

One year ago: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announced a shake-up of his campaign leadership, naming Stephen Bannon of the conservative Breitbart News website as chief executive officer and promoting pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager. Caster Semenya of South Africa made her debut at the Rio Olympics amid questions about how track and field can deal with hyperandrogenic women; Semenya qualified for the 800 semifinals, an event she won three days later. Movie director Arthur Hiller ("Love Story") died in Los Angeles at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 91. Author V.S. Naipaul

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is 85. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 76. Actor Robert DeNiro is 74. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 71. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 70. Actor-screenwriter-producer Julian Fellowes is 68. Actor Robert Joy is 66. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 65. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 64. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 62. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 62. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 60. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 59. Author Jonathan Franzen is 58. Actor Sean Penn is 57. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 56. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 55. Singer Maria McKee is 53. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 52. Rock musician Jill Cunniff (kuh-NIHF') is 51. Actor David Conrad is 50. Actress Helen McCrory is 49. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 48. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 48. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 48. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 47. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 46. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 43. Actor Mark Salling is 35. Actor Bryton James is 31. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 29. Actress Taissa Farmiga is 23. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 22.

Thought for Today: "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it." — Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).