

# Groton Daily Independent

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### 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.

### Sat., Aug. 19

**1 p.m.: Girls soccer hosts St. Thomas More**

**3 p.m.: Boys soccer hosts St. Thomas More**

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship at Rosewood Court.

**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 Daily Independent

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“SOME BOOKS LEAVE  
US FREE AND SOME  
BOOKS MAKE US FREE.”

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

A photograph of a person lying on their back in a field of tall, green grass. They are wearing a white shirt and shorts. Their hands are clasped together, holding an open book. The background is a soft-focus field of grass under natural light.

Chicken Soup  
for the Soul®

## The Life of 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.

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.

Dallas Wayne Sombke was born on February 10, 1938 in Aberdeen to Alvin and Adeline Breikreutz (Sombke). He attended school in Groton, where he was active in football, baseball and 4-H. At the age of 16, he was struck with Polio. Dallas graduated from Groton High School in 1958?? and began farming shortly after. On September 12, 1957 he was united in marriage with Carol Weihrauch in Columbia. Together they made their home on the family farm and were blessed with five children. Dallas self-taught himself to be an auctioneer and worked at both livestock barns in Aberdeen throughout the years.

Dallas was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney. He served on the church board, as Chairman of the committee to build the new church and also as an Elder. Dallas was active on several Co-op Boards, had served on the school board and was awarded the Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer Award. He and Carol enjoyed wintering in Mesa, Arizona before her death in 2008. Dallas continued to winter there, where he enjoyed golfing and "Marshalling" on the

course. He loved attending his grandchildren's activities and local fairs.

Celebrating his life are his children: Doug (Melenie) Sombke of Groton, Dean Sombke of Grand Island, NE, Sharolyn (Kevin) Jondahl of Groton, 9 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and his siblings; Larry & Sharon Sombke of Groton, Darlis Hamilton of Long Prairie, MN, Curtis & Janice Sombke of Groton, Gary & Lori Sombke of Sisseton, sister-in-law, Beverly Sombke of Groton and many nieces and nephews.

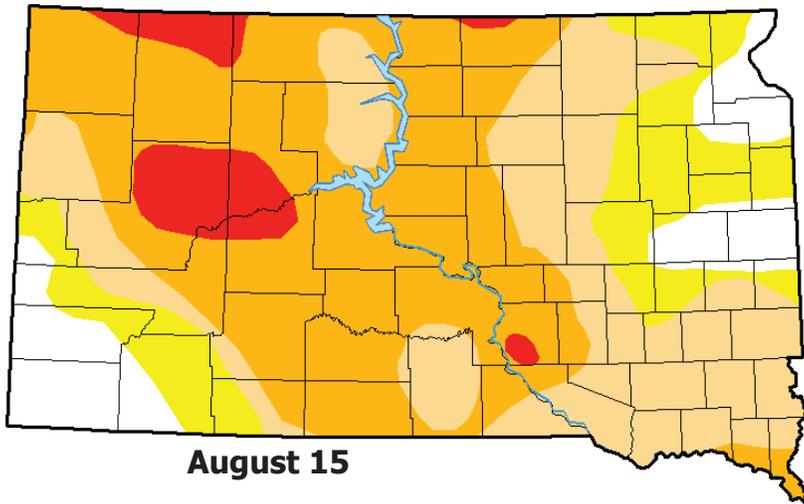
Preceding him in death was his wife of 50 years, Carol, two infant children, Gene Alan and Galyne and his brother, Darrel Sombke.

Honorary Casketbearers will be all of Dallas's Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren.

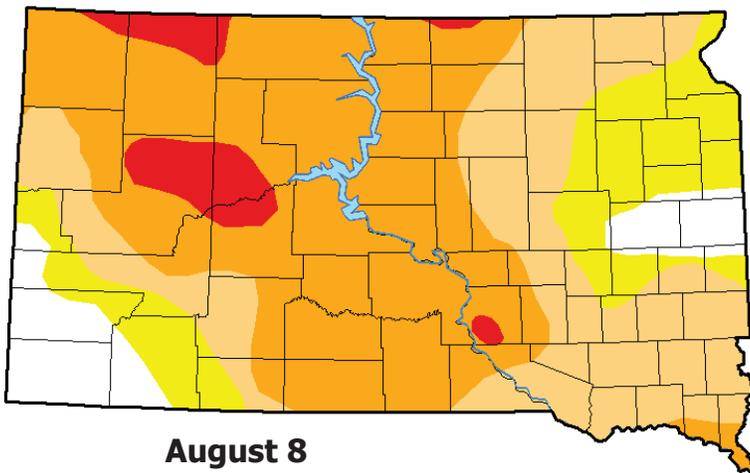
Casketbearers will be Roni Dobberpuhl, Rick Pigors, Marvin Dobberpuhl, Mike Nehls, Todd Breikreutz and Pat Wientjes.

## Drought Monitor

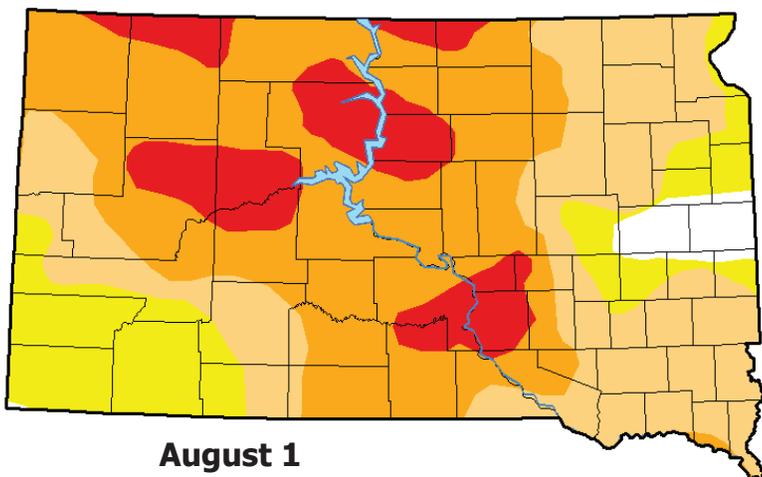
With the recent rainfalls, conditions returned to normal in northwestern Kansas along the Nebraska border and across extreme southern Kansas. In southwestern Nebraska, moderate drought shrank (D1) in Perkins, Chase, Hayes, and Lincoln Counties, following precipitation totals of up to nearly 4 inches. Likewise in the Nebraska panhandle, normal conditions prevail once again across eastern Box Butte, northeastern Morrill county, and northern Garden Counties, thanks to precipitation totals of 1.5-2.5 inches over the past week. Heavy rain also erased remaining dryness in Laramie County, Wyoming. Conditions improved to abnormally dry (D0) in parts of Custer, Blaine, and Loup counties in central Nebraska after two consecutive nights of heavy rainfall. Moderate drought also shrank slightly in north central Holt and south central Boyd counties, where up to 3.5 inches of rain fell. And normal conditions returned to a swath from Ewing to Atkinson in Holt County. Some areas in South Dakota received 3-7 inches of rain over the past week, contributing to improving conditions in some northeastern, north central, and south central pockets. However, the west was not as fortunate. Extreme drought (D3) crept farther west in Meade County while severe drought (D2) expanded in Jackson. In southwestern North Dakota, rainfall helped alleviate exceptional drought (D4, the worst category), although due to the extremely poor growing conditions, it remained around the Hettinger County area. Conditions also improved in Colorado. Normal conditions returned around the Denver metro area and in Phillips County in the northeastern corner of the state.



August 15



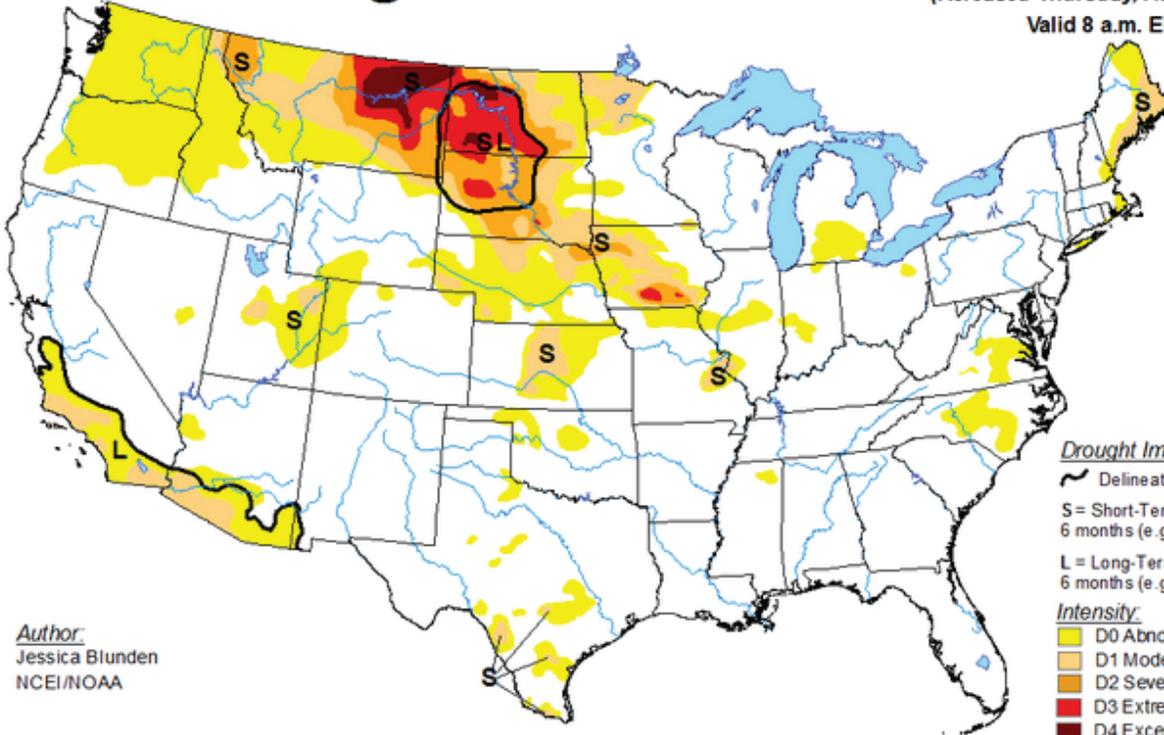
August 8



August 1

## U.S. Drought Monitor

August 15, 2017  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Author:  
Jessica Blunden  
NCEI/NOAA

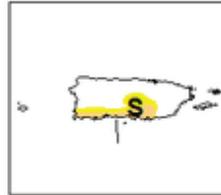
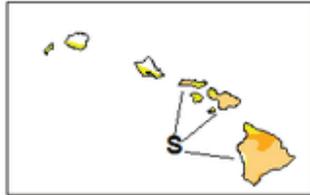
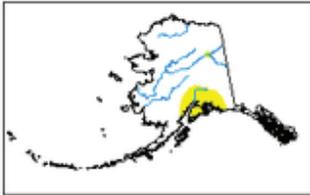
### Drought Impact Types:

- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

### Intensity:

- Yellow: D0 Abnormally Dry
- Light Orange: D1 Moderate Drought
- Orange: D2 Severe Drought
- Red: D3 Extreme Drought
- Dark Red: D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

NOTE: To view regional drought conditions, click on map above. State maps can be accessed from regional maps.

The data cutoff for Drought Monitor maps is each Tuesday at 8 a.m. EDT. The maps, which are based on analysis of the data, are released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

## Activities association plugs hole in budget

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Corporate sponsors will continue to help the South Dakota High School Activities Association pay its ongoing expenses in the coming year rather than directing their contributions to the association's foundation.

At previous meetings the SDHSAA Board of Directors learned that four corporate sponsors preferred to change their agreements with the association and donate to the foundation. Corporate sponsor funds are used by the association to help member schools pay for dues, subscriptions, postage, catastrophic insurance and liability insurance.

The move by corporate sponsors to give to the foundation was resisted by member schools who preferred that the funds continue to pay for ongoing expenses.

A switch in giving by corporate sponsors would have led to a \$305,000 shortfall in the association's budget. At Thursday's SDHSAA board meeting, new executive director Dan Swartos said that wouldn't be the case this year as each of the sponsors—Farmers Union Insurance, S.D. Army National Guard, First Premier/Premier Bank Card and Sanford Health—have agreed in writing or in principle to continue to help the association pay its ongoing expenses.

"Nothing changes for this year," Swartos said.

At its meeting on Thursday, the SDHSAA board approved the corporate contracts as well as a variety of changes designed to help create financial boundaries between the association and its foundation.

In the future, donations will go directly to the SDHSAA Foundation. In the past, the association has acted as a pass-through agency, accepting the donation and then funneling it on to the foundation.

This move was praised by board member Sandy Klatt of Brandon Valley who said there were good reasons for the previous system, but it didn't help with transparency.

"It still looked like the association was making donations to the foundation," Klatt said.

When the time comes for the foundation to distribute its funds—it currently has \$360,000—the decision will be made by the foundation board in concurrence with the SDHSAA staff and board.

The foundation has been a cause of concern for member schools that didn't want to see corporate contributions invested there. They were also less than enthusiastic about a plan to raise ticket prices by a dollar with the money earmarked for the foundation.

Given time, the foundation will be a benefit to member schools, according to board member Steve Morford of Spearfish.

"This foundation is not going to be divisive in the future," Morford said. "It has to build, but it will be good."

The board also heard from Don Kirkegaard, superintendent of the Meade School District. At the request of SDHSAA, Kirkegaard led a group of superintendents tasked with presenting to the board their ideas for the future of the foundation.

Kirkegaard said the group wanted to emphasize that there should be foundation donors as well as corporate sponsors.

"There's no reason we can't do both," Kirkegaard said. "There are people out there who want to be foundation donors."

Currently, corporate donors receive a variety of tickets, program advertisements, banners and T-shirts. Kirkegaard said the association and foundation would need to make sure that all donors, both corporate and foundation, receive recognition.

Kirkegaard's group will meet again before SDHSAA's November meeting to make their recommendations on what that recognition should entail.

## Activities association wrestles with 10 percent rule

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — A rule that helps school cooperatives compete in football and basketball won't be applied to wrestling.

Known as the 10 percent rule, it allows schools in a cooperative to count just 10 percent of the average daily membership of the smaller school for the purpose of determining in which class the cooperative will compete. A motion to apply that rule to wrestling died for the lack of a second at Thursday's meeting of the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors.

Speaking in favor of the change were representatives of the Alcester-Hudson cooperative and Beresford. Currently in Class B, the schools had hoped to form a wrestling cooperative without being placed in Class A.

Beresford Superintendent Brian Fields said it was a fairness issue and that wrestling should be treated the same as basketball or football.

"I just think it's the right thing to do for the sport of wrestling," Fields said.

Tom Culver, superintendent at Avon, said applying the 10 percent rule was the best way to provide an opportunity for students who want to wrestle. While open enrollment is available to students, Culver said, "One or two open enrollment kids can have a fair impact" on a small school.

The board also heard from Flandreau Superintendent Rick Weber who said he was "not a big fan of the 10 percent rule in any sport."

Weber said school districts should abide by the average daily membership numbers that determine which schools are in Class A and which are in Class B.

"Whatever your ADM is, that where you're at," said Weber, who noted that students who wanted to wrestle would have the chance by open enrolling.

"We're not denying anybody the chance to participate," Weber said.

The individual nature of wrestling was also a sticking point for Weber. He said a wrestler can go to the state tournament even if no one else from his team qualifies, but a basketball player qualifies for the state tournament with his entire team.

A motion to implement the 10 percent rule in wrestling by board member Jim Aisenbrey of Baltic died for a lack of a second.

—30—

## South Dakota recognized for athletic safety rules

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — After having the worst ranking in the nation for high school athlete safety rules, South Dakota has recently been ranked among the best.

At its Thursday meeting, the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors learned from assistant executive director John Krogstrand that the Korey Stringer Institute has ranked South Dakota fifth in the nation in its high school sports safety policy rankings.

According to Krogstrand, two years ago South Dakota was ranked 51st out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

A year ago SDHSAA formed a sports medicine advisory council. Working from a set of standards for athlete safety set by a national task force of trainers, sports medicine professionals and high school association representatives, the sports medicine advisory council worked on rules to ensure the safety of athletes in football, tennis and soccer.

Rules governing the way athletes get accustomed to heat during outdoor workouts was key.

"Heat stroke is the leading cause of preventable death in high school athletes," Krogstrand said.

The Korey Stringer Institute is named for the Minnesota Vikings' pro-bowl offensive tackle who died from heat stroke during training camp in August of 2001. The institute aims to provide research, education, ad-

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vocacy and consultation to maximize performance, optimize safety and prevent sudden death in athletes. Other rules in football limited two-a-day workouts until the fifth day of practice and put limits on the amount of full contact in drills.

The Save a Life Program was also introduced in schools. Krogstrand said in the event that an athlete, coach or spectator suffers heat stroke, students are trained to respond with CPR and a phone call for help.

Even with its high ranking, the institute puts South Dakota barely in the 60th percentile for meeting athlete safety standards. Krogstrand said some of that is due to South Dakota's population. He explained that the highest standard calls for an athletic trainer at each practice. That's unreasonable in South Dakota, he said, where a town can have a high school and field a football team but might not have a local clinic.

Krogstrand acknowledged that South Dakota's ranking could change next year, but he's confident that schools are doing more to watch out for the safety of athletes.



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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")**

## KIWANIS CLUB

Lori Giedt was program for Wednesday's Kiwanis Club dinner meeting.

Lori introduced Lily Cutler, from Claremont; and a 2016 GHS graduate. Lily is treasurer and very active member of the Circle K club, at School of Mines and Technology, in Rapid City. She gave a power point presentation of her club's activities, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club there.

Lily also spoke on how her experience as GHS sophomore, as a delegate to HOBY, literally changed her life. The Groton Kiwanis Club sponsors the HOBY program each year.

Jim and Lisa Cutler, of Claremont, are Lily's parents.

## 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.

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## The Life of 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.

Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday from 11-1 p.m.

Kervin passed away August 15, 2017 at his home.

Kervin Dewayne Wolter was born on August 1, 1975 in Aberdeen to Dale and Karen (Clopine) Wolter. He attended school in Groton, where he also played football. Following graduation in 1994, Kervin attended Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown for Building Trades. Kervin spent several years custom combining with Spanier Harvesting & Trucking. He then drove truck for a company based out of Fargo for 5 years. Kervin worked at the Cenex in Ferney and Twin City Fan before helping several local farmers, as well as, working on the family farm.

Kervin was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. He enjoyed hunting and ice fishing.

Celebrating his life are his parents, Dale & Karen Wolter of Groton, his siblings, Collette Baker of San Francisco, CA, Keith & Mayme Baker of Groton, Coralea Wolter of Groton, nephews, Rayne & Allen, and his maternal grandparents, Lyle & Ruth Clopine of Phoenix, AZ.

Preceding him in death were his paternal grandparents, Russell & Cora Wolter and his aunt, Karmyn.

Honorary Urnbearers will be Ryan & Ian Kutter, Jesse Overacker, Lincoln Shilhanek and his many friends. Family requests casual attire for the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.





## Customer Appreciation Days

Aug. 22 through Aug. 24

**Specials All Week! Daily Drawings!**

Tuesday is Coffee, cookies and cheese samples

Wednesday is bring your pet in for a treat

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

Ritchie Waterer rep Curt Weyh available  
to speak with on Thursday

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

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## Today in Weather History

August 18, 1936: A tornado moved east, ending southeast of Gettysburg. A farm house and four barns were destroyed near Gorman, in Potter County. Property damage was estimated at \$20,000.

August 18, 1938: A tornado destroyed a barn, unroofed a gym, and damaged other buildings near Stephen, in Hyde County. The funnel moved northeast then curved to the northwest. There were two other tornadoes on this day. One moved northeast from near Worley and Broadland in Beadle County producing estimated F3 damage. The other was an estimated F2 and also started off in Beadle County and moved northeast into Kingsbury County. This storm injured three people.

August 18, 1983: High winds up to 80 mph caused extensive damage to trees, structures, and cars, in Lyman, Hyde, Faulk, and Brown Counties. In Presho, several homes lost their roofs. Hay bales were scattered, metal siding was ripped from outbuildings, and a ballpark lost three large fence sections. Gusty winds up to 75 mph were recorded at Ordway, in Brown County, causing damage to a mobile home. Two hangers at the Aberdeen airport received extensive damage, with roofs and doors torn off.

August 18, 2009: Numerous thunderstorms developed along a stationary front and trained over the same locations producing very heavy rains along with large hail. Nickel size hail falling for several minutes piled up to 6 to 8 inches deep near Harrold in Hughes County. Massive rains of 2 to nearly 5 inches resulted in the flash flooding of numerous roads. Several of the roads were washed out. Some rainfall amounts included 3.05 inches at Warner, 3.15 inches southwest of Bristol, 4.40 inches in Webster, and 4.50 inches east of Warner.

1925 - During the late morning hours a severe hailstorm struck southeastern Iowa completely destroying crops along a path six to ten miles wide and 75 miles long. The hail also injured and killed poultry and livestock, and caused a total of 2.5 million dollars damage. The hailstorm flattened fields of corn to such an extent that many had to leave their farms in search of other work. It was one of the worst hailstorms of record for the nation. (The Weather Channel)

1931: The Yangtze River in China peaks during a horrible flood that kills 3.7 million people directly and indirectly over the next several months. This flood was perhaps the worst natural disaster of the 20th century.

1983 - Hurricane Alicia ravaged southeastern Texas. The hurricane caused more than three billion dollars property damage, making it one of the costliest hurricanes in the history of the U.S. Just thirteen persons were killed, but 1800 others were injured. The hurricane packed winds to 130 mph as it crossed Galveston Island, and spawned twenty-two tornadoes in less than 24 hours as it made landfall. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Thirteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Orlando FL with a reading of 98 degrees, and Portland ME with a high of 94 degrees. Newark NJ reached 90 degrees for the thirty-sixth time of the year, their second highest total of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Twenty-two cities, from the Carolinas to the Upper Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date, pushing the total number of daily record highs since the first of June above the 1100 mark. Afternoon highs of 102 degrees at Greensboro NC and 105 degrees at Raleigh NC equalled all-time records. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Scobey. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley produced torrential rains in eastern Virginia during the late morning and afternoon hours. Totals ranged up to twelve inches at Yorktown. Williamsburg VA was deluged with 10.78 inches of rain between 6 AM and 10 AM, with 6.72 inches reported in just two hours. Flash flooding caused nearly twelve million dollars damage in Accomack County VA. Early evening thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region produced walnut size hail and wind gusts to 80 mph around Casper WY. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the Yellowstone Park area, causing fifteen mudslides. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Isolated T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Chance Showers	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 81 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 80 °F



**Shows & Storms  
Far Eastern SD & Western MN  
Through The Afternoon  
Highs: Mid-Upper 70s**

**Sunny & Dry  
West Of The James Valley  
Highs: 80 – 90 &  
Low Humidity**

 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD   Updated: 8/18/2017 4:04 AM Central

Published on: 08/18/2017 at 4:10AM

An area of low pressure will drift out of North Dakota into eastern South Dakota. To the west of this feature, drier air will move into the region, resulting in warm pleasant conditions. To the east of this low, we retain a humid, unstable environment. The potential for severe weather is low however.

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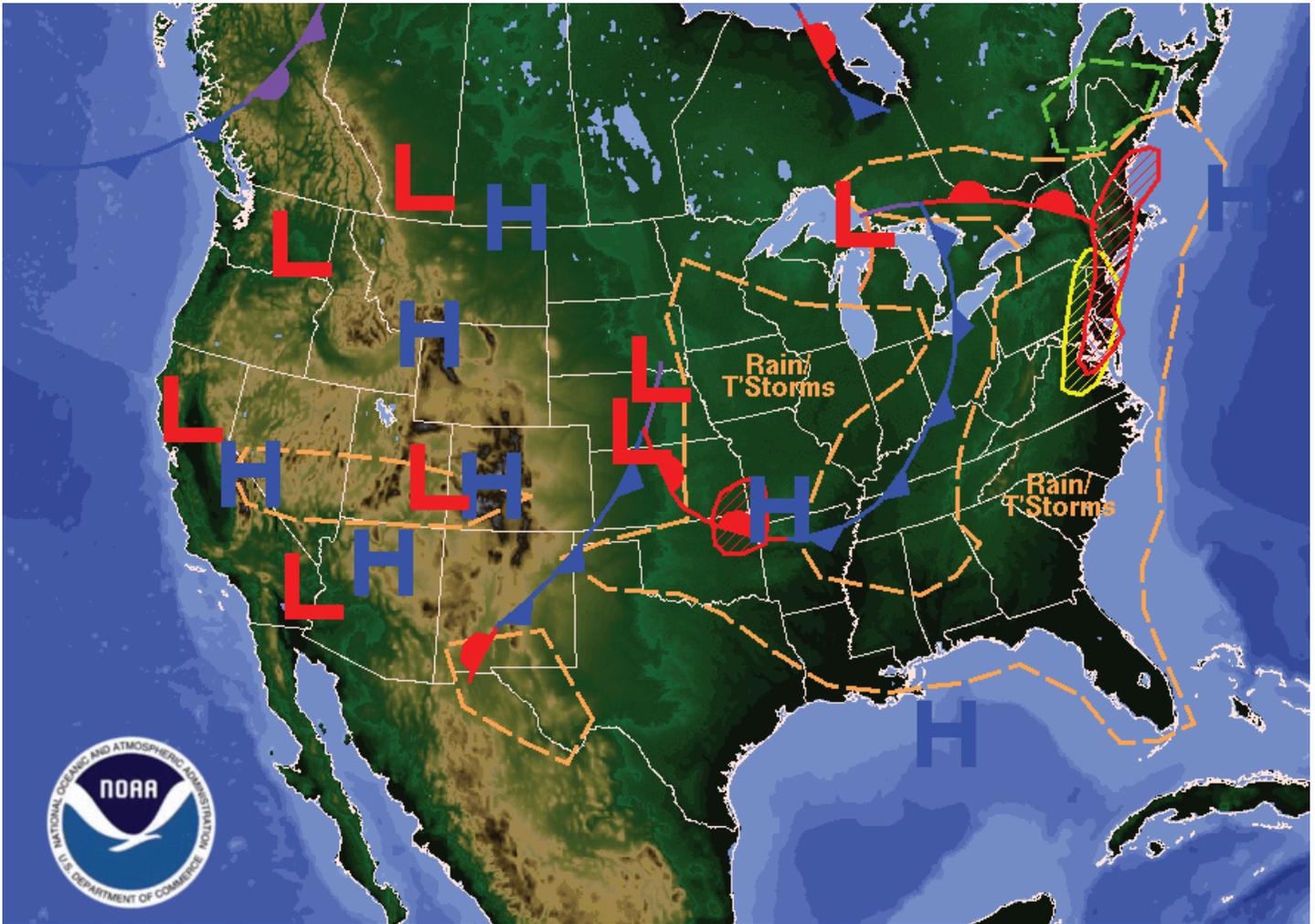
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 80.8 F at 5:17 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 54.7 F at 7:00 AM**  
**High Gust: 11.0 Mph at 5:29 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## 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 Fri, Aug 18, 2017, issued 4:36 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Krekeler with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow

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

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## FIGHT FOR ME, GOD!

Perhaps the deepest wounds any of us carry are the wounds that come from being betrayed. They leave a bitter taste in our mouths and a desire for revenge in our minds and hearts. When a trusted friend turns out to be an enemy, especially without cause, it fractures – sometimes forever – what was expected to be a confidant for life. Trust turns into resentment and what was love seeks revenge. Anger turns into grief and a large hole grows in our heart. We question what to do or where to go for help.

What is the best course of action for us to take? Spread rumors about “the enemy”? Seek ways to destroy that person’s reputation? Allow depression to overtake us and hide from the light of day? It’s too difficult to remain calm when our insides churn.

When David was being destroyed by those who he thought were his closest friends and advisors, he turned to God. He did not ask God to forgive them. Nor did he ask God to convict them and make amends to him. No! He asked God to arm Himself with a shield, buckler and spear and go after his foes. He allowed God to settle the score.

And then he asked God to speak to him, bring a peace to his heart and assure him that “I, God, am your salvation!” He was anxious but trusted in God.

David had done no wrong in this instance. He deserved to be vindicated. He was aware, however, that if he took things into his own hands it might have been disastrous if he lost control of his anger. So, in his wisdom, he asked God to vindicate him. And God did!

Prayer: Help us, God, to turn to You when we are wronged by others and to trust in You to make things right. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 35:9 Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation.

## News from the Associated Press

### Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

#### PREP FOOTBALL

Harding County 54, Edgemont 0

Kadoka Area 28, Philip 6

Rapid City Christian 15, Jones County/White River 12

Stanley County 30, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 20

Timber Lake 50, Faith 0

### 2 agriculture groups in Dakotas to vote on merger

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The boards of two agriculture co-ops in the Dakotas have decided to hold a second vote among their members about merging.

A narrow majority of members from North Central Farmers Elevator voted in 2015 against merging with Wheat Growers, the Aberdeen American News reported.

Merger discussions resurfaced a couple weeks ago when leaders from both groups wanted to gather member feedback on the idea amid a changing agricultural environment. The feedback collection ended Tuesday.

"Members have told us that unification will help us be better able to compete at a time when we see lots of competitor growth in the region," said Rick Osterday, board president of the North Central Farmers Elevator. "This will help keep our businesses strong, members' equity secure and local control intact."

Wheat Growers Board President Hal Clemensen said the benefits of a merger are timely given aggressive agricultural competition and continued market uncertainty.

In 2015, Wheat Growers members approved the merger, but more than 50 percent of North Central members voted no. That same process of needing member approval from both co-ops will be applied again this year.

Member information meetings will be held beginning Aug. 21. Ballots will be mailed to members a week later, and voting on the merger will end Sept. 28.

Both co-ops are based in South Dakota. North Central has about 2,500 members, while the Wheat Growers has 5,400 members in eastern North Dakota and South Dakota.

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

### Agency: Airbnb to collect state, local taxes in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Department of Revenue says Airbnb will start collecting South Dakota taxes on eligible bookings in the state.

The agency said Thursday that the popular online home-sharing service will begin collecting and remitting state and municipal taxes on Sept. 1. Department of Revenue Secretary Andy Gerlach says the agreement on sales and tourism taxes is a step in the right direction in "maintaining tax fairness" as the economy continues to evolve.

Sales tax is the state's main revenue source.

Marisa Moret, Airbnb public policy manager for South Dakota, says such agreements allow communities to benefit from home sharing's economic impact while making it easier for hosts to comply with state tax laws.

South Dakota has more than 600 Airbnb hosts, and there have been 26,000 guest arrivals at listings in the state in the last year.

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## Man dies in crash after collision with deer in South Dakota

BIG STONE CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 77-year-old man has died from injuries suffered in a crash that happened after a vehicle struck a deer in northeastern South Dakota.

The Highway Patrol says the accident happened Tuesday night west of Big Stone City. The man died Wednesday in a Fargo, North Dakota hospital.

The patrol says a 1999 Dodge Caravan was eastbound on U.S. Highway 12 when it struck the deer. The vehicle went off the road and rolled.

The name of the victim has not been released. The crash remains under investigation.

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

### Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Aug. 13

#### Regents should reject another fee proposal

Sometimes you have to wonder how the Board of Regents interprets its own reports while making decisions concerning the continued viability of the state's six public universities.

In May, the Board said it wants more state residents to earn degrees and released a report, prepared by the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute, that among other things said "South Dakota universities have become less affordable over the last decade in comparison with regional peers."

The report noted that undergraduate enrollment rates declined by 4.3 percent from 2010 to 2015 when high school students taking the far less costly dual-credit courses were excluded. "If this trend continues, undergraduate awards may begin to fall unless advances are made with respect to graduation rates."

So what has the Board done since then? It has begun discussing a South Dakota Higher Education Enhancement Fee that would increase fees by \$5.07 per credit hour to boost the pay of instructors who find themselves teaching a shrinking pool of students.

If approved by the Regents, the fee adds \$150 to the cost of a full-time load of 30 credits, raising the annual cost of tuition and fees to \$8,705, which doesn't include room, board and books. Tuition and fees were \$7,925 in 2014 and are now \$8,555. The proposal, unveiled at the Regents' Aug. 2 meeting, could increase by \$5.07 for each of the next ten years.

It is expected to generate an estimated \$4 million in its first year and would be shared by the universities. Black Hills State University President Tom Jackson is among the supporters.

At the same time, a mandatory activity fee for all six universities is scheduled to increase by 2.9 percent for the next school year. Currently, Jackson's BHSU students pay \$43.80 per credit hour for that one.

Full-time students also pay a Higher Education Facilities Fund Fee for campus building projects that costs \$916 a year.

How do South Dakota students and their families cope with what is becoming the annual increase in fees? Increasingly, they are taking out student loans and going further in debt. What kind of enhancement program is that?

According to the Project on Student Debt, seven out of 10 South Dakota college graduates left school in 2015 with student loan debt. The average amount was \$30,000 with interest rates of 6 percent and higher in some cases. In 2013, the average debt was \$25,750.

Student debt is a major issue in the U.S. It often takes years to repay these loans. It is particularly challenging here where state officials like to say that our low cost of living makes it easier to live on wages that are less than in most states.

As a result, South Dakota ranks second in the nation in the percentage of students with college debt and 17th in average debt, according to the Project on Student Debt.

The other issue identified in the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute report is that South Dakota relies on students more than other states to pick up college costs. In 2012, students covered 62 percent of college costs, while the state picked up 38 percent.

It wasn't long ago that Gov. Daugaard touted the state's fiscal policies after balancing its budget as the state Constitution requires. At the same time, however, he is presiding over a state that is putting its youth further in debt by increasing college costs. Some graduates will spend as many as 20 years paying off student loans.

If the Board of Regents continues on its current path of raising either tuition or fees every year, there is little doubt that the trend identified in the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute report will continue unabated.

Perhaps, the Regents should re-examine their own report and look for efficiencies and waste within the university system before once again asking debt-burdened students to pay more while at the same time discouraging others from pursuing a higher education in the state.

The Regents can start this process by rejecting the proposal for the South Dakota Higher Education Enhancement Fee and telling university presidents to make cuts if they want more money for faculty.

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## **The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Aug. 16** **Two school board members made error in judgment**

A short discussion on the consent agenda was held during the Mitchell Board of Education's meeting Monday night.

And typically, that's not a big deal.

Except this week one of the five topics listed under the consent agenda was "conflict disclosures/waiver requests," a policy in place due to South Dakota Codified Law 3-23-6. The reason for the policy is to avoid school board members and other school officials from having an interest in a contract or receiving a direct benefit if the school district is a party to the contract.

It's a good open government law that helps ensure public officials are acting in the best interests of the district when making financial decisions, rather than doing something that would otherwise benefit them.

On Monday night, school board members Kevin Kenkel and Matthew Christiansen, along with the rest of the five-person board, voted to approve the consent agenda. While the vote seems harmless, Kenkel and Christiansen declared they have potential conflicts of interest.

Kenkel is employed with Dakota Wesleyan University, and Christiansen works for Avera and is an adjunct professor for DWU. Both DWU and Avera have contracts with the Mitchell School District, so when the time came to approve waivers for Kenkel and Christiansen, those two board members should have abstained from voting on the consent agenda or asked to have that section of the agenda pulled out as a separate item. But they didn't, and that itself is a conflict of interest.

On Tuesday morning, school district officials admitted the mistake and said the item should not have been listed under the consent agenda. With a five-person board, Kenkel and Christiansen could have abstained from the vote and there still would have been enough other members to earn a majority vote to approve the waivers.

While we see no purposeful wrongdoing and we feel this was likely an oversight, for Kenkel and Christiansen to vote on the topic was careless. For their sake and the comfort of the taxpayers of Mitchell School District, anyone listed to have a possible conflict of interest should not be voting to approve their own waiver.

We are pleased Superintendent Joe Graves admitted the mistake Tuesday morning and commend him for taking the blame, but it shouldn't be his job to tell board members to be ethical.

That's why we hope all of the school board members learn a valuable lesson here. For the comfort of Mitchell School District taxpayers, board members always must be aware when they need to abstain from a vote.

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## Capital Journal, Pierre, Aug. 16

### Fight to save the CUC

In what can only be described as a slap in the face to the cities of Pierre and Fort Pierre, the South Dakota Board of Regents, last week, ordered its staff to come up with a plan to “wind down” the BOR’s involvement with the Capital University Center.

Meanwhile, the university centers in Sioux Falls and Rapid City — both of which have multiple universities within an hour’s drive — are being reorganized, not wound down.

The state’s three university centers have, without doubt, been struggling in recent years. The numbers of students and course hours are down. So is revenue. Much of the blame can be laid at the feet of the internet. Online courses and degree completion are much easier than they were when the university centers first were conceived. This reduces the need for satellite campuses.

Our state’s economy has played a significant role in this situation, too. We’ve got an extremely low unemployment rate, so there aren’t as many folks needing to beef-up their educational credentials to find better work. Naturally, this lowers the demand for help with completing a four-year or two-year degree.

The CUC’s recent switch to four-year nursing degrees also seems to have caused a drop in enrollment. The longer it takes to finish a degree, the tougher it is to pay for that degree, which further limits who chooses to enroll in the program.

There is an ebb-and-flow to every industry. Education is now different. Tough times call for tough decisions. That’s reasonable, it’s understandable and should be encouraged. Tough decisions should, however, be smart decisions, not knee-jerk reactions to a set of uncontrollable circumstances.

The Capital University Center is unique among its peers in that there is more than two hours of drive time between it and the nearest college, university or tech school. That fact was the reason that the foundations for what would become the Capital University Center were laid back in 1981. The CUC’s isolation also should cause the Regents pause when they call for winding down their involvement with the center.

There is no other entity in central South Dakota that can pick up the slack left by a degraded CUC. Nowhere is the risk of losing our region’s sole institute of higher education more clear than in the field of nursing.

The BOR may not know this, but rural South Dakota, indeed rural areas all over the U.S., are suffering from a shortage of health care professionals. It is difficult to recruit doctors and nurses to places that are a long distance from where they went to school. That’s one reason why the CUC’s nursing program is so important to the area. It provides a pipeline of nurses for clinics and hospitals from Chamberlain to Gettysburg.

Removing that pipeline of nurses will make providing health care in central South Dakota more difficult than it already is. Is that really something for which the BOR wants to be responsible? Surely, the CUC nursing program is worth saving.

Why wouldn’t the BOR consider “winding down” the university centers in Sioux Falls and Rapid City, where access to higher education already exists? They could then dedicate some of the savings to investing in the CUC, which happens to be in a location where more access to higher education is actually needed.

It must be noted that no decisions have been made about closing the CUC. And, even if the BOR ultimately does decide to abandon the CUC, the people of Pierre, Fort Pierre and the rest of central South Dakota need to step up and fight for the CUC. We’ve all got a dog in this fight. We may need to pony-up some economic-development money and come up with some innovative ideas of our own, but the alternative — losing our only higher education opportunity — is something we can ill afford.

## **Bankers: Drought still burdening rural economy in 10 states**

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A new monthly report shows drought conditions continue to burden the rural economy in parts of 10 Plains and Western states.

The overall Rural Mainstreet Index for the region rose slightly in August to 42.2 from July's abysmally low 40.7. The index ranges between 0 and 100, with any number under 50 indicating a shrinking economy.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, says nearly 58 percent of bankers reported in August's survey that drought conditions were having a negative effect on agriculture products in their area.

Also, bankers expect farmland prices to decline by another 3.5 percent on average over the next year.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

## **Wisconsin officials act to help Northern Plains drought**

**By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is taking steps to make it easier for farmers in his state to help out their drought-stricken colleagues in the Northern Plains.

Walker on Wednesday declared a 30-day "state of emergency" for the purpose of transporting loads of forage to North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. The states have been dealing with extreme drought this summer that has devastated crops and forced many ranchers to sell off cattle.

State agriculture and transportation officials in Wisconsin are relaxing certain commercial driving restrictions and fees to aid the transport of hay and other forage west.

"Wisconsin farmers are generously offering to donate their forage to help out farm families in these states, and this order will allow them to transport their donations through the state more easily while still maintaining safety," Walker said in a statement. "Wisconsin farmers want to do their part to help their neighbors, and the state is going to do its part, too."

North Dakota's Agriculture Department, North Dakota State University and the Michigan-based nonprofit Ag Community Relief earlier this month announced a program to accept hay donations at a site near the university's Fargo campus. The feed will be distributed to needy producers in the three states through a lottery drawing.

Applications from ranchers in all three states are being taken at the North Dakota Agriculture Department's website through the end of this month, with the first hay drawing in early September. More drawings will be held as donations allow.

Demand for hay has pushed prices in the region to as much as double the normal cost, and there is heavy interest in the hay lottery. The department as of Thursday had received 840 applications from ranchers in the three states.

"We know for sure that around 10 to 12 (semitrailer) loads or so are coming from Michigan through Ag Community Relief, and have heard of more possible," department spokeswoman Michelle Mielke said.

The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor map, released Thursday, shows 82 percent of North Dakota, 76 percent of South Dakota and 70 percent of Montana are in some stage of drought. The map lists 44 percent of North Dakota, 25 percent of Montana and 6 percent of South Dakota in extreme or exceptional drought, the two worst categories.

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

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## Ex-Esurance worker alleges discrimination in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former Esurance call center worker in South Dakota is suing the insurance company alleging discrimination and harassment because he's Jewish.

The Argus Leader reports that Brandon Marshall filed the federal lawsuit Tuesday.

Marshall claims his supervisor called him a "whiny Jew" for reporting an injury and that a human resources manager made anti-Semitic comments after he won baseball tickets.

Marshall's lawsuit says he had to indicate he would hire a lawyer to secure time off for Jewish Sabbath, and that he was later audited then terminated. The lawsuit says he was fired in June 2016 in part for inputting too many invalid credit card numbers.

Esurance said it couldn't comment directly on the lawsuit, but a spokeswoman told the newspaper that diversity and inclusion are "deeply rooted" company values.

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

## FAA investigates incident involving plane and ground sprayer

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating a recent incident in Sully County in which a low-flying crop-spraying plane hit a sprayer on the ground.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Curt Olson tells the American News that after the plane's landing gear scraped and punctured the ground sprayer, the uninjured pilot was able to land.

The operator of the ground sprayer was taken to a Pierre hospital with what were described as minor cuts.

Authorities said the incident happened a couple of weeks ago and didn't give an exact date. They didn't immediately identify either person involved.

Olson says the pilot was fired from his job. The Sully County state's attorney will decide whether to file criminal charges for reckless operation of an aircraft.

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

## 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. MANHUNT ON FOR DRIVER IN BARCELONA ATTACK

Spain's second largest city is reeling after a van plows into pedestrians in a terror attack that kills at least 13 people and injures over 100.

### 2. TRUMP DECRIES CRITICS OF HIS COMMENTS ON RACIAL VIOLENCE

The president finds himself under siege while fanning the controversy over race and politics toward a full-fledged national conflagration.

### 3. WHAT'S GROWING ALONGSIDE NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Economic markets blossom and a consumer culture takes root in the isolated country.

### 4. 'CONSIDER THIS YOUR WAKE-UP CALL'

Sue Riseling, a campus law enforcement expert, says more colleges should prepare for white supremacist rallies like the one that started at the University of Virginia and turned violent.

### 5. SKIPPER OF NAVY SHIP INVOLVED IN COLLISION TO LOSE COMMAND

Cmdr. Bryce Benson is being relieved as the USS Fitzgerald's captain after an investigation found poor seamanship contributed to the collision between the destroyer and a commercial ship.

### 6. DEATH TOLL RISES ABOVE 400 IN SIERRA LEONE MUDSLIDES

Some 600 others remain missing as people search through tons of mud and debris amid the remains of mangled buildings.

### 7. WHO'S GATHERING TO STUDY GERRYMANDERING

Some of the brightest minds in math attend a conference at Tufts University to lend their expertise to help courts identify voting maps that are drawn unfairly.

## 8. IRAQI CITIES MAY FACE DECADES OF WORK TO CLEAR UNEXPLODED BOMBS

The top U.S. commander in Iraq says the American military will help contractors and other officials locate unexploded bombs dropped by the coalition.

## 9. WHEN GRAND TETON PARK WILL ESCAPE YELLOWSTONE'S SHADOW

Grand Teton is directly in the path of Monday's total solar eclipse and is expecting its busiest day ever — outshining its world-renowned neighbor, Yellowstone.

## 10. WHERE FALL FOLIAGE FORECAST IS BRIGHT

A year after drought and gypsy moths muted autumn colors, New England expects to rebound with a vibrant leaf-peeping season.



**A man pushing a woman in a wheelchair stops to speak to an armed policeman on the spot where terrorists were shot by police in Cambrils, Spain, Friday, Aug. 18, 2017. Spanish police on Friday shot and killed five people carrying bomb belts who were connected to the Barcelona van attack that killed at least 13, as the manhunt intensified for the perpetrators of Europe's latest rampage claimed by the Islamic State group.** (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

## Spanish police kill 5 in resort hours after Barcelona attack

By JOSEPH WILSON and ALEX OLLER, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Police on Friday shot and killed five people wearing fake bomb belts who staged a car attack in a seaside resort in Spain's Catalonia region hours after a van plowed into pedestrians on a busy Barcelona promenade, killing at least 13 people and injuring over 100 others.

Authorities said the back-to-back vehicle attacks — as well as an explosion earlier this week elsewhere in Catalonia— were connected and the work of a large terrorist group. Three people were arrested, but the driver of the van used in the Barcelona attack remained at large and the manhunt intensified for the perpetrators of the latest European rampage claimed by the Islamic State group.

Authorities were still reeling from Thursday's Barcelona attack when police in the popular seaside town of Cambrils, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) to the south, fatally shot five people near the town's boardwalk who had plowed into a group of tourists and locals with their blue Audi 3. Six people, including a police officer, were injured, though it wasn't clear how badly.

Catalonia's interior minister, Joaquim Forn, told Onda Cero radio that the five suspects killed in a subsequent shootout with police were wearing fake bomb belts.

"They were fakes, but very well made, and it wasn't until the bomb squad carried out the controlled explosion of one that they could determine they were fakes," he said.

The Audi and a damaged police car were towed from the scene Friday.

The Cambrils attack came hours after a white van veered onto Barcelona's picturesque Las Ramblas promenade and mowed down pedestrians, zig-zagging down the strip packed with locals and tourists from

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around the world.

Forn, told local radio RAC1 the Cambrils attack "follows the same trail. There is a connection."

He told Onda Cero that the Cambrils and Barcelona attacks were being investigated together, as well as a Wednesday night explosion in the town of Alcanar in which one person was killed.

"We are not talking about a group of one or two people, but rather a numerous group," he said. He added that the Alcanar explosion had been caused by butane tanks stored in a house, and that firefighters and police responding to the blast had been injured.

The Barcelona attack at the peak of Spain's tourist season left victims sprawled across the street, spattered with blood and writhing in pain from broken limbs. Others were ushered inside shops by officers with their guns drawn or fled in panic, screaming and carrying young children in their arms.

"It was clearly a terror attack, intended to kill as many people as possible," Josep Lluís Traperó, a senior police official for Spain's Catalonia region told reporters late Thursday.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility, saying in a statement on its Amaq news agency that the attack was carried out by "soldiers of the Islamic State" in response to the extremist group's calls for followers to target countries participating in the coalition trying to drive it from Syria and Iraq.

Cambrils Mayor Cami Mendoza said the town had taken precautions after the Barcelona attack, but that the suspects had centered their assault early Friday on the narrow path to Cambrils's boardwalk, which is usually packed with locals and tourists late into the evening.

"We were on a terrace, like many others," said bystander Jose Antonio Saez. "We heard the crash and intense gun shots, then the dead bodies on the floor, shot by the police. They had what looked like explosive belts on."

Others described scenes of panic, and found safety inside bars and restaurants until police had secured the area.

Local resident Markel Artabe said he was heading to the seafront to get an ice cream when he heard the shots.

"We began to run. We saw one person lying on the pavement with a shot in his head then 20-30 meters further on we saw two more people, who must have been terrorists as they had explosive belts around them. We were worried so we hid."

A third Barcelona suspect was arrested Friday in the northern town of Ripoll, where one of the two detained on Thursday had also been nabbed. The third arrest was made in Alcanar, where the gas explosion in a house was being investigated.

"There could be more people in Ripoll connected to the group," Forn told TV3 television, adding that police were focusing their investigation on identifying the five dead in Cambrils as well as the driver of



**An armed policeman grimaces while on patrol in Cambrils, Spain, Friday, Aug. 18, 2017. Spanish police on Friday shot and killed five people carrying bomb belts who were connected to the Barcelona van attack that killed at least 13, as the manhunt intensified for the perpetrators of Europe's latest rampage claimed by the Islamic State group.** (AP Photo/

Emilio Morenatti)

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the Barcelona van.

Police said the two suspects arrested Thursday were a Spanish national from Melilla, a Spanish-run Mediterranean seafront enclave in North Africa, and the other a Moroccan.

Spanish public broadcaster RTVE and other news outlets named one of the detained as Driss Oukabir, a French citizen of Moroccan origin. RTVE reported said Oukabir went to police in Ripoll to report that his identity documents had been stolen. Various Spanish media said the IDs with his name were found in the attack van and that he claimed his brother might have stolen them.

Media outlets ran photographs of Oukabir they said police had issued to identify one of the suspects. The regional police told The Associated Press that they had not distributed the photograph. They refused to say if he was one of the two detained.

The driver, however, remained at large.

"We don't know if the driver is still in Barcelona or not, or what direction he fled in," Forn, the Catalan interior minister, told SER Radio. "We had local police on the scene, but we were unable to shoot him, as the Ramblas were packed with people."

The Catalan regional government said people from 24 countries were among those killed and injured in Barcelona.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy called the killings a "savage terrorist attack" and said Spaniards "are not just united in mourning, but especially in the firm determination to beat those who want to rob us of our values and our way of life."

After the afternoon attack, Las Ramblas went into lockdown. Swarms of officers brandishing hand guns and automatic weapons launched a manhunt in the downtown district, ordering stores and cafes and public transport to shut down.

By Friday morning, the promenade had reopened to the public, and neighbors and tourist were allowed past police lines to go back to their homes and hotels. The city center remained under heavy surveillance.

At noon Friday, a minute of silence honoring the victims was to be observed at the Plaza Catalunya, near the top of the Ramblas where the van attack started. Rajoy declared three days of national mourning.

Similar vehicle attacks have been carried out at tourist sites in France, Germany, Sweden and Britain.

"London, Brussels, Paris and some other European cities have had the same experience. It's been Barcelona's turn today," said Carles Puigdemont, president of Catalonia's government.

The bloodshed was Spain's deadliest attack since 2004, when al-Qaida-inspired bombers killed 192 people in coordinated assaults on Madrid's commuter trains. In the years since, Spanish authorities have arrested nearly 200 jihadists. The only deadly attacks were bombings claimed by the Basque separatist group ETA that killed five people over the past decade but it declared a cease-fire in 2011.

"Unfortunately, Spaniards know the absurd and irrational pain that terrorism causes. We have received blows like this in recent years, but we also that terrorists can be beaten," Rajoy said.

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Associated Press writers Ciaran Giles in Madrid, Albert Stumm in Barcelona, Barry Hatton in Lisbon and Alan Clendenning in Phoenix also contributed to this report.

## Colleges brace for more violence amid rash of hate on campus

By COLLIN BINKLEY and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Nicholas Fuentes is dropping out of Boston University and heading south, pressing ahead with his right-wing politics despite receiving online death threats.

The 19-year-old joined a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, last weekend and posted a defiant Facebook message promising that a "tidal wave of white identity is coming," less than an hour after a car plowed into a crowd of counter-protesters.

Now, he's hoping to transfer to Auburn University in Alabama.

"I'm ready to return to my base, return to my roots, to rally the troops and see what I can do down

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there," Fuentes said in an interview this week.

At college campuses, far-right extremist groups have found fertile ground to spread their messages and attract new followers.

And for many schools, the rally in Virginia served as a warning that these groups will no longer limit their efforts to social media or to flyers furtively posted around campus.

"It seems like what might have been a little in the shadows has come into full sun, and now it's out there and exposed for everyone to see," said Sue Riseling, a former police chief at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who is executive director of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

The violence in Charlottesville introduced many Americans to a new brand of hate, bred on internet message boards and migrating to the streets with increasing frequency.

On the eve of Saturday's rally, young white men wearing khakis and white polo shirts marched through the University of Virginia's campus, holding torches as they chanted racist and anti-Semitic slogans. The next morning, many donned helmets and shields and clashed with counter-protesters before a car drove into the crowd, killing a 32-year-old woman and injuring 19 others.

On Monday, Texas A&M University canceled plans for a "White Lives Matter" rally in September. On Wednesday, the University of Florida denied a request for white nationalist Richard Spencer to rent space on campus for a September event. Spencer and his supporters are promising court challenges.

Expecting more rallies to come, Riseling's group is planning a series of training events to help campus police prepare.

"If you're sitting on a campus where this hasn't happened, consider this your wake-up call that it might," she said.

Last school year, racist flyers popped up on college campuses at a rate that experts called unprecedented. The Anti-Defamation League counted 161 white supremacist "flying incidents" on 110 college campuses between September and June. Oren Segal, director of the group's Center on Extremism, said the culprits can't be dismissed as harmless trolls.

"You might have a few that don't take it seriously. But those that do, those are the ones we're concerned about," Segal said.

Matthew Heimbach, the 26-year-old leader of the white nationalist Traditionalist Worker Party, admits that dropping leaflets on campuses is a cheap way to generate media coverage.

"A dollar worth of paper, if it triggers the right person, can become \$100,000 in media attention," he said.

As a student at Towson University in Maryland, Heimbach made headlines for forming a "White Student Union" and scrawling messages like "white pride" in chalk on campus sidewalks. His college years are behind him, but Heimbach still views colleges as promising venues to expand his group's ranks. College students are running four of his group's chapters, he said.

"The entire dynamic has changed," Heimbach said. "I used to be the youngest person at white nationalist meetings by 20 or 30 years."



**Nicholas Fuentes, poses for a photo in his basement studio in LaGrange Park, Ill., Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017. The 18-year-old student who attended the white nationalist rally in Virginia last weekend says he has withdrawn from college in Boston in part because of death threats. The studio is where Fuentes records his YouTube show "America First."** (AP Photo/Teresa Crawford)

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The Foundation for the Marketplace of Ideas, a self-described “alt-right” nonprofit educational group, says it’s offering legal assistance to students caught hanging up posters or flyers containing “hate facts.” The “alt-right” is a fringe movement loosely mixing white nationalism, anti-Semitism and anti-immigration populism.

One of the foundation’s attorneys, Jason Van Dyke, said he represented a student at Southern Methodist University who was accused last year of posting flyers on campus that said, “Why White Women Shouldn’t Date Black Men.” The student wasn’t suspended or expelled, Van Dyke added.

“Just because speech makes someone uncomfortable or offends somebody does not make it a violation of the student code of conduct,” he said.

Scores of schools publicly denounced the violence in Virginia this week, including some that learned they enroll students who attended the “Unite the Right” rally.

The University of Nevada, Reno, said it stands against bigotry and racism but concluded there’s “no constitutional or legal reason” to expel Peter Cvjetanovic, a 20-year-old student and school employee who attended the rally, as an online petition demanded.

Other schools, including Washington State University, condemned the rally but didn’t specifically address their students who attended it.

Campus leaders say they walk a fine line when trying to combat messages from hate groups. Many strive to protect speech even if it’s offensive but also recognize hate speech can make students feel unsafe. Some schools have sought to counter extremist messages with town halls and events promoting diversity. Others try to avoid drawing attention to hate speech.

After flyers promoting white supremacy were posted at Purdue University last school year, Purdue President Mitch Daniels refused to dwell on the incident.

“This is a transparent effort to bait people into overreacting, thereby giving a minuscule fringe group attention it does not deserve, and that we decline to do,” Daniels said in a statement at the time.

Cameron Padgett, a 23-year-old senior at Georgia State University, only dabbled in campus activism before he decided to organize a speaking engagement for Spencer this year. Padgett sued — successfully — for Spencer to speak at Auburn University in April after the school tried to cancel the event.

“My motivation from the beginning was just free speech,” he said.

Padgett calls himself an “identitarian” — not a white nationalist — and insists “advocating for the interests of white people” doesn’t make him a racist. Padgett said he hasn’t faced harassment for working with Spencer and doesn’t fear any.

“There are a lot of people who just sit behind keyboards,” he said. “But what are we doing this for if no one wants to show their face?”

At Boston University, Fuentes says he met a few others with similar views — he considers himself a “white advocate” — but mostly found political kinship online. He hosts his own YouTube show and is prolific on social media, but when he heard about the “Unite the Right” rally, he saw it as a chance to network in the real world.

“It was going from online to actually physically assembling somewhere,” he said. “We shake hands, we look people in the eye. We actually have some solidarity in the movement.”

So, along with a friend from Chicago, Fuentes booked a flight and headed to Virginia.

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Kunzelman reported from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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Follow Collin Binkley on Twitter at @cbinkley and Michael Kunzelman at @Kunzelman75

## Estimates of North Korea's nuclear weapons hard to nail down

By DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. intelligence agencies' assessments of the size of North Korea's nuclear arsenal have a wide gap between high and low estimates. Size matters and not knowing makes it harder for the United States to develop a policy for deterrence and defend itself and allies in the region.

The secrecy of North Korea's nuclear program, the underground nature of its test explosions and the location of its uranium-enrichment activity has made it historically difficult to assess its capabilities.

Some U.S. assessments conclude North Korea has produced or can make around 30 to 60 nuclear weapons, said two U.S. officials who weren't authorized to discuss sensitive intelligence matters and demanded anonymity. Such a wide range affects how the U.S. considers addressing the threat. More North Korean bombs could indicate second-strike capacity and then there are questions about how much nuclear firepower the country could mobilize on a moment's notice.

Estimates by civilian experts cloud the picture even further. Most put the arsenal anywhere from a dozen to about 30 weapons.

"The bottom line is that we really don't know how many nuclear weapons they have," said Bruce Bennett, a senior international and defense researcher at RAND specializing in northeast Asian military issues. "Does it make a difference? Absolutely."

"If North Korea only has a small number — one or two or three — they will not brandish them early in a conflict. If they have 30-plus, they are almost certainly going to consider early use of nuclear weapons in a conflict."

Although remote, the danger of a U.S.-North Korean nuclear confrontation has escalated in recent weeks after Pyongyang's first successful tests last month of intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the United States.

President Donald Trump has traded bombastic threats with the isolated, communist government. Last week, Trump pledged to answer North Korean aggression with "fire and fury." He later tweeted that a military solution was "locked and loaded" after leader Kim Jong Un was said to be considering a provocative launch of missiles into waters near the U.S. Pacific island of Guam.

If a war were to break out now, North Korea could very well be destroyed. But if North Korea succeeds in building nuclear missiles that can reach the continental U.S., the equation changes. And having more than a few reliable missiles — long-range ones, plus short-range ones that could, for instance, hit South



**In this Aug. 16, 2017, file photo, a South Korean soldier watches the north side at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, South Korea. The U.S. intelligence agencies' assessments of the size of North Korea's nuclear arsenal have a wide gap between high and low estimates. Size matters and not knowing makes it harder for the United States to develop a policy for deterrence and defend itself and allies in the region. The secrecy of North Korea's nuclear program, the underground nature of its test explosions and the location of its uranium-enrichment activity has made it historically difficult to assess its capabilities.** (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man, File)

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Korea where 28,000 U.S. troops are deployed — enhance North Korea's leverage.

The risk of mass casualties makes any pre-emptive U.S. strikes problematic, as Trump's own chief strategist recognized in an interview this week.

"There's no military solution, forget it," Steve 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." Seoul is South Korea's capital.

Olli Heinonen, a former deputy director-general at the U.N. nuclear agency, said an arsenal of dozens of weapons might suggest North Korea seeks the capacity to retaliate in a nuclear war. A half-dozen weapons would suggest pure deterrence, said Heinonen, who estimates that North Korea now has enough fissile material for up to 40 weapons — about 10 using plutonium and 30 using uranium.

"When you increase the number, it means normally you're going a little bit more offensive, you plan to have a second-strike capability," Heinonen said. "Very often it's from submarines and we see North Korea also working with those."

While size is important, Kelsey Davenport at the Arms Control Association thinks the more pressing problem is stopping Pyongyang from further advancing its nuclear program.

"North Korea wants to threaten the United States with a nuclear strike, not actually conduct one, so determining the exact size of North Korea's stockpile of nuclear warheads is far less urgent than de-escalating tensions," she said.

Sen. Deb Fischer, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee's panel on strategic forces, said not knowing the size of North Korea's nuclear program can complicate planning and limit options available to the president. But general principles of deterrence can still be applied, she said.

"Kim Jong Un is probably less likely to launch an intercontinental ballistic missile armed with a nuclear weapon at the United States, and suffer our overwhelming retaliation, if he knows our missile defense will prevent his attack from succeeding," said Fischer, who has called for more funding for homeland missile defense.

A 2015 study by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies said North Korea could have up to 100 weapons by the end of the decade. That is, if it had 9,000 centrifuges in operation for uranium enrichment and if a light-water reactor, long under construction, finally came online. Under that projection, North Korea would have 58 weapons by 2017, which is comparable to the high end of the intelligence estimates.

Still, most experts think the number is far less.

"It's possible that they have discovered an additional uranium enrichment facility that we haven't known about," said John Schilling, a consultant with the 38 North website on North Korea at Johns Hopkins. If 60 is the high end, he said, then there "has to be an additional uranium enrichment facility to have produced that level."

Assuming the existence of one or more covert centrifuge facilities, North Korea's inventory of plutonium and highly enriched uranium might have provided enough fuel for 20 to 25 nuclear devices by the end of last year, according to Siegfried Hecker, a nuclear scientist and former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory who visited North Korea's declared centrifuge facility at Nyongbyon in 2010.

"Almost all in government believe there are two centrifuge plants," added David Albright of the Institute for Science and International Security, who views an arsenal of 60 as "unlikely."

## Trump defends Confederate statues, berates his critics

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — With prominent Republicans openly questioning his competence and moral leadership, President Donald Trump burrowed deeper into the racially charged debate over Confederate memorials and lashed out at members of his own party in the latest controversy to engulf his presidency.

Out of sight, but still online, Trump tweeted his defense of monuments to Confederate icons — bemoaning rising efforts to remove them as an attack on America's "history and culture."

And he berated his critics who, with increasingly sharper language, have denounced his initially slow and then ultimately combative comments on the racial violence at a white supremacist rally last weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Trump was much quicker Thursday to condemn violence in Barcelona, where more than a dozen people were killed when a van veered onto a sidewalk and sped down a busy pedestrian zone in what authorities called a terror attack.

He then added to his expression of support a tweet reviving a debunked legend about a U.S. general subduing Muslim rebels a century ago in the Philippines by shooting them with bullets dipped in pig blood.

"Study what General Pershing of the United States did to terrorists when caught. There was no more Radical Islamic Terror for 35 years!" Trump wrote.

Trump's unpredictable, defiant and, critics claim, racially provocative behavior has clearly begun to wear on his Republican allies.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, whom Trump considered for a Cabinet post, declared Thursday that "the president has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability nor some of the competence that he needs to" in dealing with crises. And Sen. Dan Sullivan of Alaska tweeted, "Anything less than complete & unambiguous condemnation of white supremacists, neo-Nazis and the KKK by the @POTUS is unacceptable. Period."

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina said Trump's "moral authority is compromised."

Trump, who is known to try to change the focus of news coverage with an attention-grabbing declaration, sought to shift Thursday from the white supremacists to the future of statues.

"You can't change history, but you can learn from it," he tweeted. "Robert E. Lee. Stonewall Jackson — who's next, Washington, Jefferson? So foolish. ...

"Also the beauty that is being taken out of our cities, towns and parks will be greatly missed and never able to be comparably replaced!"



**In this Aug. 14, 2017 file photo, President Donald Trump walks across the tarmac from Marine One to board Air Force One at Morristown Municipal Airport in Morristown, N.J. Bombarded by the sharpest attacks yet from fellow Republicans, President Donald Trump on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017, dug into his defense of racist groups by attacking members of own party and renouncing the rising movement to pull down monuments to Confederate icons.** (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

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"Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments," he tweeted.

Trump met separately Thursday at his golf club in nearby Bedminster with the administrator of the Small Business Administration and Florida Gov. Rick Scott, a longtime Trump supporter. Trump also prepared for an unusual meeting Friday at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland with his national security team to discuss strategy for South Asia, including India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Vice President Mike Pence was cutting short a long-planned Latin America tour to attend the meeting.

Though out of public view, Trump sought to make his voice heard on Twitter as he found himself increasingly under siege and alone while fanning the controversy over race and politics toward a full-fledged national conflagration.

He dissolved two business councils Wednesday after the CEO members began quitting, damaging his central campaign promise to be a business-savvy chief executive in the Oval Office.

And the White House said Thursday that it was abandoning plans to form an infrastructure advisory council.

Two major charities, the Cleveland Clinic and the American Cancer Society, announced they are canceling fundraisers scheduled for Trump's resort in Palm Beach, Florida, amid the continuing backlash over Trump's remarks.

Meanwhile, rumblings of discontent from his staff grew so loud that the White House had to release a statement saying that Trump's chief economic adviser wasn't quitting. And the president remained on the receiving end of bipartisan criticism for his handling of the aftermath of the Charlottesville clashes.

On Thursday, he hit back hard — against Republicans.

He accused "publicity-seeking" Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina of falsely stating Trump's position on the demonstrators. He called Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake "toxic" and praised Flake's potential primary election opponent.

Graham said Wednesday that Trump "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. Flake has been increasingly critical of Trump in recent weeks.

Pressured by advisers, the president had softened his words on the dispute Monday, two days after he had enraged many by declining to single out the white supremacists and neo-Nazis whose demonstration against the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue had led to violence and the death of a counter-protester in Charlottesville.

He returned to his combative stance Tuesday — insisting anew during an unexpected and contentious news conference at Trump Tower that "both sides" were to blame.

Aides watching from the sidelines reacted with dismay and disbelief and privately told colleagues they were upset by the president's remarks, though not upset enough for anyone to resign.

The resignation speculation around Gary Cohn, head of the National Economic Council and a Jew, had grown so intense by Thursday that the White House released a statement saying reports that Cohn was stepping down were "100 percent false."

But not all of Trump's aides were unhappy with his performance.

Adviser Steve Bannon's job security in the White House has become tenuous — Trump offered only a "we'll see" on Tuesday when asked if his chief strategist would remain in his post — but Bannon has been telling allies that the president's news conference would electrify the GOP base.

And in a pair of interviews Wednesday, Bannon cheered on the president's nationalist tendencies and suggested that a fight over Confederate monuments was a political fight he welcomes.

"The race-identity politics of the left wants to say it's all racist," Bannon told The New York Times. "Just give me more. Tear down more statues. Say the revolution is coming. I can't get enough of it."

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Julie Bykovicz in Washington contributed to this report.

## Why hate came to the progressive island of Charlottesville

By SARAH RANKIN, Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — The white nationalists behind last week's violent rally found an appealing target in the historic town where Thomas Jefferson founded a university and an outspoken, progressive mayor declared his city the "capital of the resistance" to President Donald Trump.

For more than a year, the Charlottesville government has also been engaged in contentious public soul searching over its Confederate monuments, a process that led to the decision to remove a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee. All those factors made this community a symbolically powerful backdrop for what's considered the largest white nationalist gathering in at least a decade.

"We are a progressive, tolerant city. We are also a Southern city," Mayor Mike Signer said. About a year and a half ago, Charlottesville "decided to launch on the difficult but essential work of finally telling the truth about race. That made us a target for tons of people who don't want to change the narrative."

On the eve of Saturday's rally, hundreds of white men marched through the University of Virginia campus, holding torches and chanting racist and anti-Semitic slogans. The next morning, many looked like they were dressed for war as they made their way to Emancipation Park.

They clashed with counter-protesters in a stunning display of violence before authorities forced the crowd to disperse. Later, a car plowed into a crowd of demonstrators, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others.

With a population of around 47,000, Charlottesville is a progressive island in a conservative part of Virginia.

The funky, cosmopolitan town is nestled in the rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It's known for being home to Jefferson's plantation, Monticello, and the place where the Dave Matthews Band got its start.

The heart of its downtown is an open-air pedestrian mall lined with restaurants, bars and quirky boutiques. Tourists flock to Charlottesville not only for the history and culture but also to visit the wineries that dot the countryside just outside of town.

Charlottesville was easily overwhelmed by the numbers that showed up Saturday, said Ed Ayers, a leading Civil War scholar who taught at UVA for decades before moving to Richmond.

Despite Virginia's bloody part in the Civil War, Ayers said, the Lee statue does not have a significant historical connection to Charlottesville. The city "did not play a central role in the war at all, he explained, and the statue was not erected until the 1920s, when Jim Crow laws were eroding the rights of black citizens.

Charlottesville was just "a very clear symbol they could go to and have a protest," Ayers said.

The city is proud of Jefferson's university, a prestigious school with graduates that include prominent



**Sen. Tim Kaine, left, and Charlottesville mayor Michael Signer visit a makeshift memorial Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017, where Heather Heyer was killed when a car rammed into a crowd of people protesting a white nationalist rally Charlottesville, Va.** (AP Photo/Julia Rendleman)

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figures such as Robert F. Kennedy. But UVA is also a school largely built by slaves and where professors had ideological connections to the resistance movement that followed the Brown vs. Board of Education school desegregation decision.

The university did not admit black students until 1950. Last year, figures provided by the school show only 6 percent of students were black.

White nationalist leader Richard Spencer — a UVA grad who was one of the most high-profile speakers lined up for the rally — echoed Ayers' perspective. He said that the Confederate monuments are a metaphor for something "much bigger," referring to "white dispossession and the de-legitimization of white people in this country and around the world."

Saturday was not Spencer's first demonstration in Charlottesville. In May, he was among another torch-wielding group that rallied around the statue at night, chanting, "You will not replace us." Later that month, local right-wing blogger and UVA graduate Jason Kessler applied for the permit for Saturday's event.

Then, in July, about 50 Ku Klux Klan members rallied at the statue, where they were met by more than 1,000 protesters. That, too, made national news.

Oren Segal, director of Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, said hate groups are eager to exploit media attention.

"When they saw a built-in opportunity to build off the other two rallies, it was clear they decided, 'This is the place. We're going to get more attention here,'" he said.

Virginia's closely watched governor's race, one of only two in the nation this year, also helped draw attention.

Republican Corey Stewart successfully made the statue's proposed removal a key talking point in the GOP primary, which he almost won despite being an underdog.

Stewart, a one-time state chairman of Trump's campaign, made several campaign stops in Charlottesville. At least one public appearance was with Kessler.

Katie Straight, who stood outside the downtown theater Wednesday where a memorial service for Heyer took place, agreed that the city's "democratic" discussion about what to do with the statues had contributed to the scope of what happened Saturday.

"I also think that you have a group of angry people in this country who are looking for a place to physically terrorize those who might challenge their legacy of power," Straight said. "And Charlottesville, in this historic moment, happens to be that place. I hope and pray it's the last place, but I don't think it will be."

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Associated Press Writer Alan Suderman in Richmond contributed to this report.

## Warship captain in collision that killed 7 to lose command

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Poor seamanship and flaws in keeping watch contributed to a collision between a Navy destroyer and a commercial container ship that killed seven sailors, Navy officials said, announcing that the warship captain will be relieved of command and more than a dozen other sailors will be punished.

Adm. William Moran, the vice chief of naval operations, told reporters Thursday that the top three leaders aboard the USS Fitzgerald, which was badly damaged in the June collision off the coast of Japan, will be removed from duty aboard the ship. They are the commanding officer, Cmdr. Bryce Benson; the executive officer, Cmdr. Sean Babbitt; and Master Chief Petty Officer Brice Baldwin, who as the ship's command master chief is its most senior enlisted sailor.

"The collision was avoidable, and both ships demonstrated poor seamanship," the Navy's 7th Fleet said in a statement, noting that "flawed" teamwork among those assigned to keep watch contributed to the collision.

The actions are being taken by Rear Adm. Joseph Aucoin, commander of the 7th Fleet, based at Yokosuka, Japan, because he lost confidence in the three, Moran said.

The Navy said the three had shown "inadequate leadership." Separately, seven junior officers were relieved of their duties because they had shown "poor seamanship" and bad teamwork, 7th Fleet spokesman

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Cmdr. Clay Doss said Friday.

Administrative penalties were handed out to seven others that were members of the watch teams, he said, without giving details. All 14 remain in the Navy, but they will be assigned to other jobs, he said.

The Navy's investigation into how and why the USS Fitzgerald collided with the container ship has not yet been completed, but enough details were available to decide on Friday's actions, the Navy said.

Doss said the specifics of what led to the collision were related to preparations for litigation and cannot be released.

"Serious mistakes were made by members of the crew," Moran said, adding that he could not fully detail those mistakes because the investigation is ongoing.

He said "the bridge team," or the sailors responsible for keeping watch on the ship's bridge to ensure it remains safe, had "lost situational awareness," which left them unable to respond quickly enough to avoid the disaster once the oncoming container ship was spotted.

Separately, the Navy released the results of a review of events that took place aboard the ship after the collision, focusing on the crew's efforts to control damage, save lives and keep the ship afloat.

The crash occurred in the pre-dawn hours of June 17 off the coast of Japan in an accident-prone area known for congestion. That is within Japanese territorial waters. The seas were relatively calm, and visibility was unrestricted. The bow of the container ship, the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal, slammed into the Fitzgerald's right side above the waterline, quickly flooding several areas inside the ship, including a berthing, or sleeping, area.

Of the 35 sailors who were in Berthing 2 at the time, 28 escaped. Seven drowned.

The collision knocked out external communications and cut power in the forward portion of the ship.

The Navy review of what happened aboard the ship following the collision found that the seven deaths could not be blamed on misconduct. It commended the response by the ship's crew, singling out two sailors for taking extra steps to help other out of the flooded berthing space — actions that it said likely saved the lives of at least two of their shipmates.

"No damage control efforts, however, would have prevented Berthing 2 from flooding completely within the first two minutes following the collision, or the deadly circumstances in that situation," the review said.

Within 30 to 60 seconds, the berthing was flooded, and the water was waist deep, the study said. Mattresses, furniture, an exercise bicycle were floating in the aisles.

The sailors tried to escape and helped each other, looking for their mates. One sailor got pinned between floating lockers and was barely able to pull himself free. The seven sailors who died were sleeping in the



**In this June 18, 2017, file photo, damaged USS Fitzgerald is docked at the U.S. Naval base in Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo, after colliding with Philippine-flagged container ship ACX Crystal off Japan. The Navy said the commanding officer of a warship that lost seven sailors in the collision will be relieved of command, and nearly a dozen other sailors face punishment. Adm. William Moran, the No. 2 Navy officer, told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017, that the actions are to be taken shortly, although the Navy's investigation into how and why the USS Fitzgerald collided with the container ship in June has not yet been completed.** (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)

area closest to and directly in the path of the incoming water, the study found.

The report said that although some in Berthing 2 heard a loud noise at the time of the collision or were thrown from their beds by the force of the impact, some did not realize what had happened and remained in bed. Some remained asleep.

"At least one sailor had to be pulled from his rack and into the water before he woke up," it said.

The Japanese and U.S. coast guards are conducting their own investigations.

Japan's Coast Guard is "not in a position to make any comments on the Navy's investigation," spokesman Yoshihito Nakamura said.

Yoshinori Fukushima, spokesman for the operators of the container ship ACX Crystal, also declined to comment, saying they had yet to see the Navy report.

Associated Press Writer Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

## Barcelona van attack kills 13 in agonizing repeat for Europe

By BARRY HATTON and JOSEPH WILSON, Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — A van veered onto a promenade and barreled down the busy walkway in central Barcelona on Thursday, swerving back and forth as it mowed down pedestrians and turned a picturesque tourist destination into a bloody killing zone. Thirteen people were killed and 100 were injured, 15 of them seriously, in what authorities called a terrorist attack.

Two people were arrested but the van driver, who fled on foot, remained at large. Early Friday morning, police killed five suspects engaged in an attack that injured six people in a seaside resort town and that the government for Spain's Catalonia region said was connected to the Barcelona killings.

The late afternoon attack in the city's Las Ramblas district left victims sprawled in the historic street, spattered with blood or writhing in pain from broken limbs. Others were ushered inside shops by officers with their guns drawn or fled in panic, screaming and carrying young children in their arms.

"It was clearly a terror attack, intended to kill as many people as possible," Josep Lluís Traperó, a senior police official for Catalonia told reporters late Thursday.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility, saying in a statement on its Amaq news agency that the attack was carried out by "soldiers of the Islamic State" in response to the extremist group's calls for followers to target countries participating in the coalition trying to drive it from Syria and Iraq.

Early Friday, Catalan police said they shot and killed five suspects in response to a terrorist attack in the seaside resort town of Cambrils, south of Barcelona. They said the suspects carried bomb belts, which



**A woman is carried in Barcelona, Spain, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017 after a white van jumped the sidewalk in the historic Las Ramblas district, crashing into a summer crowd of residents and tourists and injuring several people, police said.** (AP Photo/Oriol Duran)

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were detonated by a police bomb squad.

Media reports said a car crashed into a police vehicle and nearby civilians and police shot the attackers, one brandishing a knife. Police did not immediately say how the attack was carried out. A police officer and five civilians were injured and two were in serious condition.

Police are working on the theory that the Cambrils and Barcelona attacks are connected, as well as a Wednesday night explosion in the town of Alcanar in which one person was killed.

Catalan Interior Minister Joaquin Forn told local radio RAC1 early Friday that the Cambrils attack "follows the same trail" as the Barcelona attack. "There is a connection."

He did not explain what connected the attacks but confirmed that the driver in the Barcelona attack remains at large.

The Catalan regional government said citizens from 24 countries were among the people killed and injured during the Barcelona van attack.

Authorities said the dead included a Belgian and a Greek woman was among the injured. Australia confirmed three of its citizens were injured; two others were Taiwanese and one was from Hong Kong, according to their governments. Germany was investigating whether its citizens were among the dead or injured.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy called the killings a "savagely terrorist attack" and said Spaniards "are not just united in mourning, but especially in the firm determination to beat those who want to rob us of our values and our way of life."

After the afternoon attack, Las Ramblas went into lockdown. Swarms of officers brandishing hand guns and automatic weapons launched a manhunt in the downtown district, ordering stores and cafes and public transport to shut down.

Several hours later authorities reported two arrests, one a Spanish national from Melilla, a Spanish-run Mediterranean seafront enclave in North Africa, and the other a Moroccan. They declined to identify them.

Trapero said neither of them was the van's driver, who remained at large after abandoning the van and fleeing on foot. The arrests took place in the northern Catalan town of Ripoll and in Alcanar, where a gas explosion in a house is being investigated for a possible connection.

Spanish public broadcaster RTVE and other news outlets named one of the detained as Driss Oukabir, a French citizen of Moroccan origin. RTVE reported said Oukabir went to police in Ripoll to report that his identity documents had been stolen. Various Spanish media said the IDs with his name were found in the attack van and that he claimed his brother might have stolen them.

Media outlets ran photographs of Oukabir they said police had issued to identify one of the suspects. The regional police told the Associated Press that they had not distributed the photograph. They refused to say if he was one of the two detained.

Barcelona is the latest European city where attackers used a vehicle as a weapon of terror against a popular tourist destination, after other deadly attacks in France, Germany, Sweden and Britain.

"London, Brussels, Paris and some other European cities have had the same experience. It's been Barcelona's turn today," Carles Puigdemont, president of Catalonia's government.

Thursday's bloodshed was Spain's deadliest attack since 2004, when al-Qaida-inspired bombers killed 192 people in coordinated assaults on Madrid's commuter trains. In the years since, Spanish authorities have arrested nearly 200 jihadists. The only deadly attacks were bombings claimed by the Basque separatist group ETA that killed five people over the past decade but it declared a cease-fire in 2011.

"Unfortunately, Spaniards know the absurd and irrational pain that terrorism causes. We have received blows like this in recent years, but we also that terrorists can be beaten," Rajoy said.

During the search for the perpetrators, troopers shot and killed a man who was in a vehicle that hit two officers at a traffic blockade on the outskirts of Barcelona. But Trapero said the driver's actions were not linked to the van attack.

Las Ramblas cuts through the center of Barcelona and is one of the city's top tourist destinations. It is a wide avenue of stalls and shops with a pedestrian-only walkway in the center while cars can travel on

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either side.

A taxi driver who witnessed the attack, Oscar Cano, said the white van suddenly jumped the curb and sped down the central pedestrian area at a high speed for about 500 yards (457 meters), veering from side to side as it targeted people.

"I heard a lot of people screaming and then I saw the van going down the boulevard," another witness, Miguel Angel Rizo, told The Associated Press. "You could see all the bodies lying through Las Ramblas. It was brutal. A very tough image to see."

Jordi Laparra, a 55-year-old physical education teacher and Barcelona resident, said it initially looked like a terrible traffic accident.

"At first I thought it was an accident, as the van crashed into 10 people or so and seemed to get stuck. But then he maneuvered left and accelerated full speed down the Ramblas and I realized it was a terrorist attack," Laparra said. "He zigzagged from side to side into the kiosks, pinning as many people as he could, so they had no escape."

Carol Augustin, a manager at La Palau Moja, an 18th-century former palace on Las Ramblas that now houses offices and a tourism center, said the van passed in front of the building.

"People started screaming and running into the office. It was such a chaotic situation. There were families with children," she said.

Dutch visitor Tamara Jurgen said she and a friend were inside a clothing store steps from the scene and were kept inside until it was safe to leave.

"We were downstairs when it happened and everyone was screaming and running. We had to run up to the roof and throw our bags over a wall," Jurgen said. "We were all together along this wall and we were scared we were going to have to jump."

Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau announced a minute of silence to be held Friday in Barcelona's main square "to show that we are not scared." The prime minister announced three days of national mourning.

Leaders around the world offered their support and condolences to Barcelona after the attack.

President Donald Trump tweeted that the U.S. condemned the attack and "will do whatever is necessary to help. Be tough & strong, we love you!"

British Prime Minister Theresa May said the U.K. "stands with Spain against terror" while French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted: "All my thoughts and solidarity from France for the victims of the tragic attack in Barcelona. We will remain united and determined."

Spain has been on a security alert one step below the maximum since June 2015 following attacks elsewhere in Europe and Africa.

Cars, trucks and vans have been the weapon of choice in multiple extremist attacks in Europe in the last year.

The deadliest targeted Bastille Day revelers in Nice, France, in July 2016, killing 86 people. In December 2016, 12 people died after a driver used a hijacked truck to drive into a Christmas market in Berlin.

Multiple attacks occurred in London this year. A man in a rented SUV plowed into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge, killing four people before he ran onto the grounds of Parliament and stabbed an unarmed police officer to death in March.

Four other men drove onto the sidewalk of London Bridge, unleashing a rampage with knives that killed eight people in June. Another man also drove into pedestrians leaving a London mosque later in June.

Hatton reported from Lisbon. Associated Press writers Ciaran Giles in Madrid, Albert Stumm in Barcelona and Alan Clendenning in Phoenix also contributed to this report.

This version corrects that the van veered onto a promenade, not a sidewalk.

## Threat looms of more mudslides in Sierra Leone amid burials

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY and LEKAN OYEKANMI, Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — The president joined with families in paying final respects Thursday to victims of this week's mudslides and flooding in Sierra Leone's capital, while the government warned residents to evacuate a mountainside where a large crack opened.

Approximately 350 people had been confirmed killed and 600 more remained missing from the disaster early Monday. Workers struggled in the thick mud and debris of smashed homes looking for more bodies, picking their way through stools, shoes and other remnants of daily life.

The government hired 600 gravediggers for individual burials taking place in a cemetery that already holds victims of the 2014-15 Ebola outbreak which killed thousands in the West African nation.

"We all share the agony which has befallen the nation," President Ernest Bai Koroma told mourners at the cemetery.

"They had their hopes and aspirations, a bright future — like the six innocent children who went to study in the home of one of their brightest colleagues, like the young man who was due to get married tomorrow, like the husband who has worked so hard to get his family a new home and had just moved them to this new and lovely home," he said.

Dr. Owiss Koroma, the government's chief pathologist, said the confirmed death toll from the mudslide and flooding was at least 350, a third of them children. The bodies of many victims were too mangled and decomposed to be identified.

"I lost my sister and mother. The water took away my mother and sister and they have buried them today. That's why we are here, to mourn and go back home," said Zainab Kargbo, who was among those at the cemetery.

Thousands lost their homes in poor, low-lying areas of Freetown and surrounding communities.

With more rain forecast for the coming week, further mudslides were a threat. The Office of National Security warned people of the danger from the newly opened crack on the side of a mountain and urged residents to evacuate.

The main focus is getting people away from areas still under threat, Zuliatu Cooper, the deputy minister of health and sanitation, told The Associated Press.

"The rains are still pending and there is a possibility that we will have another incident," he said. "We would rather have structures falling down without people in them."

The mudslides tore apart multistory concrete homes, leaving their metal reinforcements tangled like threads. Incongruously, on the same hillsides, near swaths stripped bare by the surging mud, fully intact



**Volunteers handle a coffin during a mass funeral for victims of heavy flooding and mudslides in Regent at a cemetery in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. The government has begun burying the hundreds of people killed earlier this week in mudslides in Sierra Leone's capital, and it warned Thursday of new danger from a large crack that has opened on a mountainside where residents were told to evacuate.** (AP Photo/ Manika Kamara)

homes still stand, with untouched, lush vegetation.

Grieving survivors said they were haunted by thoughts of dead relatives.

"Last night, I could not sleep," said Tenneh Bull, who lost a daughter. "Even now I'm still thinking of her; thoughts of her death is lingering."

Sierra Leone has pleaded for international assistance, while Amnesty International issued a statement accusing the government of failing to learn from similar incidents.

"Due to a lack of regulation and insufficient consideration for minimum standards and environmental laws, millions of Sierra Leoneans are living in dangerously vulnerable homes," said Makmid Kamara, the group's deputy director of global issues.

Many poor areas around Freetown are near sea level and lack good drainage, which makes flooding worse during the rainy season. The capital also is plagued by unregulated construction in hilltop areas. Deforestation for firewood and charcoal is another leading contributor to flooding and mudslides.

Associated Press writer Carley Petesch in Dakar, Senegal, contributed to this report.

## Senior officer on damaged ship to be relieved of command

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The captain of a Navy warship that lost seven sailors in a collision with a commercial container ship in June will be relieved of command and nearly a dozen others face punishment, the Navy's second-ranking admiral said Thursday.

Adm. William Moran, the vice chief of naval operations, told reporters that the top three leaders aboard the USS Fitzgerald, which was badly damaged in the collision off the coast of Japan, will be removed from duty aboard the ship. They are the commanding officer, Cmdr. Bryce Benson; the executive officer, Cmdr. Sean Babbitt; and Master Chief Petty Officer Brice Baldwin, who as the ship's command master chief is its most senior enlisted sailor.

The actions are being taken by Rear Adm. Joseph Aucoin, commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet, based at Yokosuka, Japan, because he lost confidence in the three, Moran said.

In addition, nearly a dozen face non-judicial punishment that has yet to be determined, Moran said, adding that details on those actions are to be announced Friday after they are completed.

Moran said the actions are to be taken shortly, although the Navy's investigation into how and why the



**This June 17, 2017 file photo shows the damaged USS Fitzgerald near the U.S. Naval base in Yokosuka, southwest of Tokyo. The Navy says the commanding officer of a warship that lost seven sailors in a collision off the coast of Japan will be relieved of command, and nearly a dozen other sailors face punishment. Adm. William Moran, the No. 2 Navy officer, told reporters at the Pentagon on Thursday, Aug. 17, that the actions are to be taken shortly, although the Navy's investigation into how and why the USS Fitzgerald collided with the container ship in June has not yet been completed.** (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)

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USS Fitzgerald collided with the container ship in June has not yet been completed.

"Serious mistakes were made by members of the crew," Moran said, adding that he could not fully detail those mistakes because the investigation is ongoing. He said "the bridge team," or the sailors responsible for keeping watch on the ship's bridge to ensure it remains safe, had "lost situational awareness," which left them unable to respond quickly enough to avoid the disaster once the oncoming container ship was spotted.

Separately, the Navy released the results of a review of events that took place aboard the ship after the collision, focusing on the crew's efforts to control damage, save lives and keep the ship afloat.

The crash occurred in the pre-dawn hours of June 17 off the coast of Japan in an accident-prone area known for congestion. That is within Japanese territorial waters. The seas were relatively calm, and visibility was unrestricted. The bow of the container ship, the Philippine-flagged ACX Crystal, slammed into the Fitzgerald's right side above the waterline, quickly flooding several areas inside the ship, including a berthing, or sleeping, area.

Of the 35 sailors who were in Berthing 2 at the time, 28 escaped. Seven drowned.

The collision knocked out external communications and cut power in the forward portion of the ship.

The Navy review of what happened aboard the ship following the collision found that the seven deaths could not be blamed on misconduct. It commended the response by the ship's crew, singling out two sailors for taking extra steps to help other out of the flooded berthing space — actions that it said likely saved the lives of at least two of their shipmates.

"No damage control efforts, however, would have prevented Berthing 2 from flooding completely within the first two minutes following the collision, or the deadly circumstances in that situation," the review said.

The report said that although some in Berthing 2 heard a loud noise at the time of the collision or were thrown from their beds by the force of the impact, some did not realize what had happened and remained in bed. Some remained asleep.

"At least one sailor had to be pulled from his rack and into the water before he woke up," it said.

## US helping clear 'historic' amount of explosives in Mosul

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The wires protruding from the small, misshapen stuffed animal revealed the deadly booby-trap tucked inside.

For the people of Mosul, the sophisticated bomb was a reminder of how difficult it will be to return to homes littered with hidden explosives by Islamic State militants and dotted with the remnants of undetonated bombs dropped by the U.S.-led coalition that still could blow up.

Washington at least is trying to ease a bit of the massive clean-up burden.

On Thursday, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said for the first time that the American military will help contractors and other officials locate unexploded bombs dropped by the coalition. U.S. Embassy officials have asked the coalition to declassify grid coordinates for bombs dropped in Iraq to help clear the explosives.

It may not be that simple, Gen. Stephen Townsend told a small group of reporters, "but we'll find a way through that."

"We'll find a way to help them," he said.

The coalition's unexploded bombs are only a small part of Mosul's problems. The bulk of the explosives have been hidden by IS fighters to be triggered by the slightest movement, even picking up a seemingly innocent children's toy, lifting a vacuum cleaner, or opening an oven door. The effort could continue wreaking destruction on Iraq's second largest city even as IS was defeated after a nine-month battle.

U.S. Embassy officials and contractors hired to root out the hidden explosives use the same words to describe the devastation in western Mosul: Historic. Unprecedented. Exponentially worse than any other place.

"We use broad terms like historic because when you enter a dwelling, everything is suspect," said the team leader in northern Iraq for Janus Global Operations, a contracting company hired to find and re-

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move hidden explosive devices and unexploded bombs from Iraqi cities recaptured from the Islamic State group. "You can't take anything at face value."

The team leader asked that he not be identified by name because he and his teams continue working in Mosul and the company fears for their safety.

Some estimates suggest it may take 25 years to clear West Mosul of explosives. The bomb-removing team leader said those understate what is sure to be a long, enduring problem.

Normalcy may return to parts of west Mosul in a year, and perhaps after a decade many of the obvious explosives will be found. But other unexploded bombs and hidden devices will surface at construction sites and other locations for years and likely decades to come, he said.

As much as 90 percent of west Mosul's old city has been reduced to ruins, destroyed by the IS militants who occupied it for nearly three years and by the campaign of airstrikes and ground combat needed to retake the city.

For Muhammed Mustafa, a restaurant owner from west Mosul, the disaster is very personal.

"In the beginning we thanked God we had been liberated from our oppressor," said Mustafa, 54, who had lived in Mosul's old city.

Mustafa escaped IS territory as Iraqi forces pushed through western Mosul earlier this year and is now living with extended family in the city's east.

"When my neighborhood was liberated, I wanted to return and gather some belongings. On my street all I saw was destruction, except my home, thank God, but I found a written statement on the wall warning it was bobby-trapped," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "When I saw it, I couldn't stand. I fell to the ground."

Security forces in the area barred him from entering due to the risk.

"They said there were many houses like it and many people had already died trying to inspect their homes when a bomb inside exploded," he said. "Can you imagine, the house I grew up in, now I can no longer enter?"

David Johnson, vice president for the Washington office of Janus Global Operations, said his workers are finding explosives where local residents would be most likely to trigger them, and are "seeing a level of sophistication and a number of improvised explosive devices that is literally without parallel."

Over time, the officials said, the improvised explosive devices — or IEDs — have become far more innovative and sophisticated. They range from basic pressure plates in the roads or doorways to small



**In this March 22, 2017, file photo, a Federal Police stands next to unexploded bombs left by Islamic State group militants on the western side of Mosul, Iraq. On Thursday, Aug. 17, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said for the first time that the American military will help contractors and other officials locate unexploded bombs dropped by the coalition. U.S. Embassy officials have asked the coalition to declassify grid coordinates for bombs dropped in Iraq to help clear the explosives. The coalition's unexploded bombs are only a small part of Mosul's problems. The bulk of the explosives have been hidden by IS fighters to be triggered by the slightest movement, even picking up a seemingly innocent children's toy, lifting a vacuum cleaner, or opening an oven door.** (AP Photo/Felipe Dana, File)

devices, similar to ones that turn on a refrigerator light when the door is opened. They're tucked into dresser drawers or smoke detectors, or buried under large piles of rubble that were pushed aside as Iraqi forces cleared roads to move through the city.

The devastation is so extensive and the danger so high that government and humanitarian agencies have been unable to get a full assessment of the explosives threat or a solid estimate of how much money and effort is needed to make the city safe and livable again.

The team leader painted a grim picture of the city where his workers have spent the last two weeks trying to clear explosives from critical infrastructure, including the electric grid.

A retired Navy explosives specialist who served multiple tours in Iraq and Syria, he said his team is "facing something we've never seen before."

In the Navy, he said, his worst day involved finding 18 explosive devices. On Wednesday, on the outskirts of Mosul, his team cleared 50 explosive devices out of a pipeline. He estimated as many as 300 in that one area alone.

There are five such teams, totaling 130 people, working in Mosul. So far, no one has been injured. In Ramadi, however, company workers were killed and injured as they tried to eliminate explosives. Janus wouldn't provide details.

Associated Press writer Susannah George contributed to this report.

## Tillerson, Mattis insist military options remain for NKorea

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's diplomatic and defense chiefs sought Thursday to reinforce the threat of possible U.S. military action against North Korea after President Donald Trump's top strategist essentially called the commander-in-chief's warnings a bluff.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stressed after security talks with close ally Japan that the U.S. seeks a peaceful solution to the standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. But he said a U.S.-led campaign of economic pressure and diplomacy needs to be backed by potential military consequences.

Washington is "prepared militarily" to respond, if necessary, he said.

Tillerson spoke after he and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis held annual security talks with Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera and Foreign Minister Taro Kono at the State Department. Much of the discussion focused on North Korea, which also poses a threat to Japan.

Neither Tillerson nor Mattis responded directly to strategist Steve Bannon's argument in an interview published Wednesday that there's no military solution to the North Korean threat. But both Cabinet mem-



**Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera, left, next to Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, shakes hands with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, next to Defense Secretary James Mattis, at the start of a Security Consultative Committee meeting, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017, at the State Department in Washington.** (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

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bers sought to rebut the claim.

"In close collaboration with our allies, there are strong military consequences if DPRK initiates hostilities," Mattis said, referring to an abbreviation of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mattis said that if North Korea launches a missile toward Japan, the U.S. Pacific island of Guam, the United States or South Korea, "we would take immediate, specific actions to take it down."

North Korea's missile launches "must stop immediately," Tillerson said. Given the magnitude of the threat posed by the North's weapons development, he said any diplomatic effort "has to be backed by a strong military consequence if North Korea chooses wrongly."

"That is the message the president has wanted to send to the leadership of North Korea," Tillerson said, "to remind the regime of what the consequences for them would be if they chose to carry out those threats."

Trump last week pledged to answer North Korean aggression with "fire and fury." He later tweeted that a military solution was "locked and loaded," after leader Kim Jong Un was said to be considering a provocative launch of missiles into waters near Guam.

Tensions have since eased somewhat since North Korea said Kim doesn't immediately plan to fire the missiles. But fears of conflict remain as the U.S. and South Korea next week begin military drills that the North views as preparation for invasion, and as Washington seeks to stop the North's progress toward having a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike the continental United States.

Japan, which hosts some 50,000 American forces, voiced support for international efforts to pressure North Korea. The U.N. recently enacted its toughest sanctions yet after Pyongyang tested long-range missiles twice last month.

Kono called on the North's traditional ally and main trading partner, China, to take actions "to make North Korea change its behavior."

Bannon's comments in his interview with The American Prospect appeared to call bluff on Trump's tough talk to North Korea last week.

"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," Bannon was quoted as saying. Seoul is the capital of South Korea.

Bannon also called for a tougher U.S. stance on trade with China, saying the two powers were in an "economic war." He talked about purging rivals from the Defense and State departments to advance a more hawkish policy.

Bannon named the acting top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, Susan Thornton, as one official he wanted out.

At the start of Thursday's meeting, Tillerson pointedly shook the hand of Thornton after greeting the Japanese visitors.

State Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to comment publicly, said Tillerson went out of his way to do so to demonstrate his confidence in Thornton, a career diplomat.

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Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

## US Jewish criticism of Trump expands to some supporters

By RACHEL ZOLL, AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ivanka Trump's rabbi denounced President Donald Trump for blaming "both sides" in a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the number of American Jewish leaders willing to criticize him grew.

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, and other rabbis from the prominent modern Orthodox synagogue in Manhattan, said in a Facebook message late Wednesday that they were "deeply troubled by the moral equivalency and equivocation" of Trump's reaction. Lookstein oversaw Ivanka Trump's conversion to Judaism. He has only rarely commented on the president.

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Separately, the Republican Jewish Coalition, which has supported Trump through earlier controversies, urged him "to provide greater moral clarity in rejecting racism, bigotry and anti-Semitism." Among the coalition's board members is Las Vegas casino magnate and GOP donor Sheldon Adelson, who eventually supported Trump.

"The Nazis, the KKK, and white supremacists are dangerous anti-Semites," the Republican Jewish Coalition said in a statement Wednesday. "There are no good Nazis and no good members of the Klan."

The rebukes are the latest from American Jews outraged and frightened not only by Saturday's march, which drew neo-Nazis and Ku Klux Klan members ostensibly to protest the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. But they were also troubled by Trump's reaction. At a news conference Tuesday, Trump doubled down on his initial comments on Saturday and said, "I think there is blame on both sides" and "there were very fine people on both sides." A car driven by an alleged white nationalist plowed into a group of counter-protesters at the march, killing a woman, Heather Heyer, and injuring 19 others.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the liberal Union for Reform Judaism, the largest American synagogue movement, and an outspoken critic of many Trump policies, said it should have been "incredibly simple and easy and obvious" for the president to denounce white supremacists and neo-Nazis.

A Reform Jewish synagogue in Charlottesville, Congregation Beth Israel, which sits one block from the site of Saturday's demonstrations, said Nazi websites had called for burning the synagogue, so congregational leaders moved their Torah scrolls out of the building and hired a guard. Marchers passed by carrying flags with swastikas and shouting the Nazi salute "Sieg Heil," the synagogue president said.

But condemnations of Trump also have come from U.S. Jewish groups that usually avoid commenting directly on the president. The Rabbinical Council of America, which is part of the modern Orthodox movement, said in a statement specifically naming Trump that, "failure to unequivocally reject hatred and bias is a failing of moral leadership and fans the flames of intolerance and chauvinism."

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a powerful pro-Israel source of campaign funds, issued a statement Thursday that did not name the president, but said, "We urge all elected officials to reject moral equivalence between those who promote hate and those who oppose it. There must be no quarter for bigotry in our country."

American Jews vote overwhelmingly Democratic, but Trump has maintained a solid if comparatively small base of support among American Jews who were angered by President Barack Obama's policies in the Middle East and viewed Trump as far more friendly to Israel.

Since the Charlottesville march, some of Trump's U.S. Jewish backers have gone quiet. World Jewish Congress president Ronald Lauder, who has been one of Trump's most prominent defenders, declined to comment through a spokesman.



**In this July 12, 2011 file photo, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein speaks in New York. Lookstein, Ivanka Trump's rabbi denounced President Donald Trump for blaming "both sides" in a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., as the number of American Jewish leaders willing to criticize him grew.** (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II, File)

However, some have praised how Trump has handled the fallout from the Virginia rally.

Rabbi Yaakov Menken of the Coalition for Jewish Values, an Orthodox Jewish public policy organization based in Baltimore, said the president was right to call out bigotry on "many sides." Menken said he sees anti-Jewish bigotry coming from the right and the left, including from parts of the Black Lives Matter movement.

"Why this apparent desire of some to mask hatred coming from left-wing groups? David Duke is worse than Louis Farrakhan?" Menken said of the Nation of Islam leader who has blamed Israel and Jews for the Sept. 11 attacks and accused Jews of controlling the American government. "We were not looking for him to single out the hate groups on the right."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, a Holocaust education institution that fights anti-Semitism and other prejudice, said Trump failed when he didn't single out the white nationalist marchers as "haters and bigots." Still, Hier said Trump has had some strong accomplishments in office, pointing to the president's handling of North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

Hier had offered a prayer at Trump's inauguration and joined faith leaders who cheered Trump at a Rose Garden ceremony in May when the president signed an executive order pledging to expand religious liberty protections. The rabbi lamented that Trump's remarks on the violence in Virginia "interferes with the good things I think he has done."

## Tech companies banishing extremists after Charlottesville

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It took bloodshed in Charlottesville to get tech companies to do what civil rights groups have been calling for for years: take a firmer stand against accounts used to promote hate and violence.

In the wake of the deadly clash at a white-nationalist rally last weekend in Virginia, major companies such as Google, Facebook and PayPal are banishing a growing cadre of extremist groups and individuals for violating service terms.

What took so long? For one thing, tech companies have long seen themselves as bastions of free expression.

But the Charlottesville rally seemed to have a sobering effect. It showed how easily technology can be used to organize and finance such events, and how extreme views online can translate into violence offline.

"There is a difference between freedom of speech and what happened in Charlottesville," said Rashad Robinson, executive director of Color of Change, an online racial justice group. The battle of ideas is "different than people who show up with guns to terrorize communities."

A SLOW REACTION



**This photo combo of images shows, clockwise, from upper left: a Google sign at a store in Hialeah, Fla., the Twitter app displayed on a smartphone, PayPal headquarters in San Jose, Calif., and the Facebook app displayed on an iPad. It took a violent rally to get tech companies, such as these and others, to do what civil rights groups have been calling for for years: take a firmer stand against accounts used to promote hate and violence.** (AP Photo)

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Tech companies are in a bind. On one hand, they want to be open to as many people as possible so they can show them ads or provide rides, apartments or financial services. On the other hand, some of these users turn out to be white supremacists, terrorists or child molesters.

Keegan Hanks, analyst at the Southern Poverty Law Center's intelligence project, said his group has been trying for more than a year to get Facebook and PayPal to shut down these accounts. Even now, he said, the two companies are taking action only in the most extreme cases.

"They have policies against violence, racism, harassment," said Hanks, whose center monitors hate groups and extremism. "The problem is that there has been no enforcement."

Case in point: The neo-Nazi website Daily Stormer has been around since 2013. But it wasn't effectively kicked off the internet until it mocked the woman killed while protesting the white nationalists in Charlottesville.

## SHIFTING LINE

PayPal said groups that advocate racist views have no place on its service, but added that there is a "fine line" when it comes to balancing freedom of expression with taking a stand against violent extremism.

Other companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google struggle with the same balancing act. The fine line is constantly moving and being tested.

Ahead of the rally, Airbnb barred housing rentals to people it believed were traveling to participate. Before and after Charlottesville, PayPal cut off payments to groups that promote hate and violence. GoDaddy and Google yanked the domain name for Daily Stormer following the rally. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are removing known hate groups from their services, and the music streaming service Spotify dropped what it considers hate bands.

"Companies are trying to figure out what the right thing is to do and how to do it," said Steve Jones, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago who focuses on communication technology. What happens from here is "partly going to depend on the individual leadership at these companies and company culture — and probably resources, too."

## CAT AND MOUSE

While traditional brands such as Tiki had no way of knowing that their torches were being bought for the rally, tech companies have tools to identify and ban people with extremist views.

That's thanks to the troves of data they store on people and to their ability to easily switch off access to users. Airbnb users can link to social media profiles, and the company said it used its existing background checks and "input from the community" to identify users who didn't align with its standards.

Yet these services also allow for anonymity, which makes their jobs more difficult. Banned people can sign up again with a different email address, something they can easily obtain anonymously.

Facebook spokeswoman Ruchika Budhreja said hate groups also know the site's policies and try to keep things just benign enough to ensure they are not in violation.

For instance, the event page for the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville looked fairly innocuous. Budhreja said there was nothing on the page that would suggest it was created by a hate organization. It has since been removed.

Facebook's technology is designed to automatically flag posts that are on the absolute extreme and clearly violate the company's policies. They are sometimes removed before users can even see them. What Facebook can't leave to automation are posts, events and groups in that ever-growing gray area.

## THE BROADEST REACH

The First Amendment offers hate groups a lot of speech protection, but it applies only to government and public settings. A private company is typically free to set its own standards.

Christopher Cantwell, a self-described white nationalist who has been labeled an extremist by the Southern Poverty Law Center, said he was banned from Facebook, Instagram and PayPal because the companies are trying to silence him for his views.

"Everybody is going through extraordinary lengths to make sure we are not heard," Cantwell told The Associated Press .

Even Cloudflare, a security company that prides itself on providing services regardless of their content, terminated Daily Stormer on Wednesday. This appears to be the site's final blow.

Daily Stormer founder Andrew Anglin said in an email to the AP that these private companies are "de facto monopolies and oligopolies" and should be regulated as "critical infrastructure."

The Daily Stormer and other banned groups could move to darker corners of the web, where extreme views are welcome. But this won't help with recruitment and won't allow them to disseminate their views as broadly as they could on Facebook or Twitter.

"These are the platforms everyone is using," Hanks said. "They don't want to be pushed to the margins because they want influence."

Because of that, the industry's efforts might just be a game of whack-a-mole, with extremist views returning, perhaps in different guises, once public outrage dies down.

Associated Press Writers Michael Casey in Concord, New Hampshire, and Michael Kunzelman in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, contributed to this report.

## 'Red alert' over Zimbabwe first lady, accused of assault

By KRISTA MAHR, Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Lawyers for the young model who claims she was assaulted by Zimbabwe's first lady Grace Mugabe in a Johannesburg hotel said Thursday that her family had been approached with an offer of money to drop the allegation.

South African police issued a "red alert" to prevent Mugabe from leaving the country after Zimbabwe's government requested diplomatic immunity.

Lawyers for 20-year-old Gabriella Engels threatened to go to court if South Africa's government grants Mugabe immunity, saying it cannot be used to "escape prosecution from grave crimes."

The lawyers said Engels' family had been approached with an offer of "financial compensation" by a third party, which Engels refused. "They made an offer and said 'Let us talk, this will go away.' ... There was no amount mentioned," said Gerrie Nel, a prominent South African lawyer who has offered his assistance to Engels.

In a letter sent Thursday to the South African government, Willie Spies, another lawyer involved in the case, said the offer was made Tuesday and suggested that Engels should "come up with a figure so that parties could meet in order to settle the matter quietly."

The scandal has become a diplomatic mess for South Africa's government and Zimbabwe's 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe, who arrived in South Africa's capital late Wednesday apparently to deal with the crisis. He came early for a regional summit of southern African nations this weekend.



**Gabriella Engels, right, and her mother, Debbie Engels look on during a media conference in Pretoria, South Africa, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. The model who accuses Zimbabwe's first lady of assault, 20-year-old Gabriella Engels, has been offered legal assistance by a prominent lawyer Gerrie Nel, who secured the murder conviction of Oscar Pistorius.** (AP Photo/Themba Hadebe)

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South Africa's minister of police, Fikile Mbalula, said all borders had been notified to prevent Grace Mugabe from leaving the country before the matter is resolved, the African News Agency reported. "The red alert has been put," Mbalula told reporters.

South African authorities are debating whether to grant the 52-year-old Mugabe diplomatic immunity.

Engels has registered a case with police accusing Mugabe of attacking her with an extension cord in a luxury hotel in a Johannesburg suburb late Sunday. Engels said she was in a hotel room with mutual friends of Mugabe's two sons, who live in Johannesburg, when the first lady burst in and assaulted her. Photos of Engels posted on social media show a bloody gash to her forehead that she claimed was a result of the encounter.

Police said they've completed their investigation into the case and are waiting for direction from South Africa's government on the status of Mugabe's immunity request.

The question of immunity is "totally out of our jurisdiction," said Brigadier Vishnu Naidoo, a police spokesman. Until there is a decision on the immunity application, he said, "the whole investigation is in abeyance."

Engels has been offered legal help by Nel, a former state prosecutor who now works as a private prosecutor for AfriForum, an organization that primarily represents the rights of South Africa's white Afrikaner minority. Nel secured the murder conviction of Oscar Pistorius.

If Engels' case goes to court and Mugabe is convicted a jail sentence could be possible, Nel said.

Engels attended a news conference on Thursday, a bandage still on her forehead, but did not comment. Her mother, Debbie Engels, thanked AfriForum for offering to help.

"Now I know this woman is not going to get off scot-free for what she did to my child," she said.

It is unclear whether Grace Mugabe entered South Africa with a personal or diplomatic passport. Zimbabwe's state-owned Herald newspaper reported last weekend that she was in South Africa seeking medical care.

The debate over whether Mugabe should be granted immunity quickly took on a political dimension in South Africa, with the opposition Democratic Alliance calling on President Jacob Zuma's Cabinet to ensure the first lady is brought to justice.

"Ms. Mugabe should have applied for diplomatic immunity before she came to our country, not after she finds herself facing criminal charges," said Zakhele Mbhele, a member of parliament for the Democratic Alliance. He said the police minister "needs to do his job and ensure she is arrested and has her day in court to answer the serious charges against her."

## Nobel winner shot for promoting education to study at Oxford

By **DANICA KIRKA**, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by a Taliban gunman for speaking out for girls' rights to an education, has been accepted by the University of Oxford.

The 20-year-old activist shared word of her acceptance on Twitter and included the screenshot of her "Congratulations" notice. She plans to major in philosophy, politics and economics, the favored degree of many of Britain's top leaders.

"So excited to go to Oxford!!" she tweeted Thursday.

Yousafzai will study at Lady Margaret Hall, an Oxford college whose notable alumni include the late Benazir Bhutto, the one-time leader of Pakistan and a hero of Yousafzai's, and Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, a fellow Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Yousafzai won international renown in 2012 after she was shot by a Taliban gunman in Pakistan as a teenager for speaking out for the right of girls to go to school, a topic she started raising publicly as an 11-year-old with a blog.

After being treated at a hospital in Birmingham, England, she continued her education in the city and went on to win the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

"As far as I know, I am just a committed and even stubborn person who wants to see every child getting quality education, who wants to see women having equal rights and who wants peace in every corner of

the world," she said on the day she collected the Nobel. "Education is one of the blessings of life, and one of its necessities."

Her acceptance to such a famed university marks a milestone in Malala's steady progression to achieve her dreams. Social media erupted into the technological equivalent of rounds of applause.

Among those offering accolades were author J.K. Rowling and Alan Rusbridger, the former editor of the Guardian newspaper who is now the principal of Lady Margaret Hall. He tweeted: "Welcome to @Imhoxford, Malala!"

Others pointed out that Oxford was about to get a Nobel laureate not on the faculty but in the student body.

"To be fair, I think we should be congratulating Oxford," novelist Julian Furman tweeted.

Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, all but burst with pride.

"My heart is full of gratitude," he tweeted. "We are grateful to Allah & thank u 2 al those who support @Malala 4 the grand cause of education."



**A Tuesday, July. 18, 2017 file photo of Nobel Peace laureate, Malala Yousafzai, gesturing, during a visit to school in Maiduguri Nigeria. Malala Yousafzai has gained a place at the University of Oxford. The 20-year-old education activist tweeted her acceptance to the school, saying she was "so excited" to win a spot to study philosophy, politics and economics.** (AP Photo/ Jossy Ola, File)

## Dog tags, possible remains of WWII soldier found on island

By CHRIS CAROLA, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — A New York military aviation researcher got more than she bargained for on a dream trip to a battle-scarred South Pacific island — the chance to help solve the mystery of an American soldier listed as missing in action from World War II.

Donna Esposito, who works at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum in upstate Glenville, visited Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands this spring and was approached by a local man who knew of WWII dog tags and bones found along a nearby jungle trail. The man asked if Esposito could help find relatives of the man named on the tags: Pfc. Dale W. Ross.

After she returned home, Esposito found that Ross had nieces and nephews still living in Ashland, Oregon. A niece and a nephew accompanied Esposito on her late July return to Guadalcanal, where they were given his dog tags and a bag containing the skeletal remains.

Although it's not certain yet the remains are the missing soldier's, the nephew who made the Guadalcanal trip is confident they will be a match.

"It's Uncle Dale. I have no doubt," said Dale W. Ross, who was named after his relative.

The elder Ross, a North Dakota native whose family moved to southern Oregon, was the third of four brothers who fought in WWII. Assigned to the Army's 25th Infantry Division, he was listed as MIA in January 1943, during the final weeks of the Guadalcanal campaign. He was last seen in an area that saw heavy fighting around a Japanese-held hilltop.

When the Japanese evacuated Guadalcanal three weeks later, it was the first major land victory in the

Allies' island-hopping campaign in the Pacific.

Ross' relatives handed the remains — about four dozen bones, including rib bones — to a team from the Pentagon agency that identifies American MIAs found on foreign battlefields. On Aug. 7, the 75th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Guadalcanal, an American honor guard carried a flag-draped coffin containing the bones onto a U.S. Coast Guard aircraft.

The Pentagon said the remains were taken to Hawaii for DNA testing.

"Until a complete and thorough analysis of the remains is done by our lab, we are unable to comment on the specific case associated to the turnover," said Maj. Jessie Romero of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

The other three Ross brothers made it back home, including the oldest, Charles, who served aboard a Navy PT boat in the Solomons and visited Guadalcanal in the vain attempt to learn about his brother Dale's fate.

Ross' niece and nephew made their trip last month with Esposito and Justin Taylan, founder of Pacific Wrecks, a New York-based nonprofit involved in the search for American MIAs from WWII. They met the family whose 8-year-old son found the dog tags and remains. They also were taken to the spot on a slope in the jungle where the discovery was made.

"I never met this man, but I was a little emotional," Ross, 71, said of the experience.

For Esposito, 45, finding evidence that could solve a lingering mystery in an American family's military history is the most meaningful thing she's ever done in her life.

"I can't believe this has all happened," she said. "It has been an amazing journey."



**In this Aug. 3, 2017 photo, the dog tags and a Hawaiian pressed penny charm of Pfc. Dale W. Ross are displayed at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Ross, a North Dakota native, was assigned to the Army's 25th Infantry Division and was reported missing in action in January 1943 during the Guadalcanal campaign.** (Justin Taylan/Pacific Wrecks via AP)

## Turkey bones may help trace fate of ancient cliff dwellers

By DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Researchers say they have found a new clue into the mysterious exodus of ancient cliff-dwelling people from the Mesa Verde area of Colorado more than 700 years ago: DNA from the bones of domesticated turkeys.

The DNA shows the Mesa Verde people raised turkeys that had telltale similarities to turkeys kept by ancient people in the Rio Grande Valley of northern New Mexico — and that those birds became more common in New Mexico about the same time the Mesa Verde people were leaving their cliff dwellings, according to a paper published last month in the journal PLoS One.

That supports the hypothesis that when the cliff dwellers left the Mesa Verde region in the late 1200s, many migrated to northern New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) to the southeast, and that the Pueblo Indians who live there today are their descendants, the archaeologists wrote.

The cliff dwellers would have taken some turkeys with them, accounting for the increase in numbers in New Mexico, the authors said.

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Researchers have long debated what became of the people sometimes called Ancestral Puebloans, who lived in the elaborate Mesa Verde cliff dwellings and other communities across the Four Corners region, where the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah meet.

Archaeologists believe the Ancestral Puebloans were a flourishing population of about 30,000 in 1200, but by 1280 they were gone, driven off by a devastating drought, social turbulence and warfare.

Because they left no written record, their paths are not known with certainty. Many archaeologists and present-day Pueblo Indians believe the Ancestral Puebloans moved to villages across New Mexico and Arizona, and that their descendants live there today.

Scott Ortman, a University of Colorado archaeologist and a co-author of the PLoS One paper, said the turkey DNA supports the explanation that many migrated to an area along the Rio Grande north of present-day Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"The patterns that we found are consistent with several other studies and several other lines of evidence," he said in an interview.

Jim Allison, an archaeologist at Brigham Young University who was not involved in the paper, agreed the findings mesh with other evidence of a southeastward migration.

But a weakness of the study is the number of DNA samples used, he said. Researchers examined DNA from nearly 270 sets of turkey remains — some from before 1280 and some from after that date. But only 11 sets of remains came from the Rio Grande before 1280.

"It would have been really nice to have 10 times as many," Allison said, but they were not available.

Ortman acknowledged that the turkey DNA alone is not conclusive evidence of migration to the Rio Grande Valley.

The New Mexico turkeys could have come from someplace other than the Mesa Verde region, or turkey-herding communities could already have sprung up in New Mexico before the Ancestral Puebloans left their Mesa Verde communities, he said.

Some archaeologists argue the evidence for a migration to the Rio Grande Valley is thin. Even supporters, such as Allison, acknowledge that some evidence does not fit, including differences in pottery and architectural styles.

Tim Hovezak, an archaeologist at Mesa Verde National Park, said he is not convinced the Ancestral Puebloans moved to the Rio Grande, but he tries to keep an open mind.



**In this Aug. 27, 2005 file photo, visitors tour Cliff Palace, an ancient cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Colo. Researchers say they have new evidence that ancestral Pueblo people who disappeared from the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings of southwestern Colorado 700 years ago migrated to what is now New Mexico. DNA from the bones of domesticated turkeys. The turkey DNA shows Native American people in the Rio Grande Valley of northern New Mexico raised and ate the same genetic strain of bird as the Mesa Verde people, and that the turkeys arrived in New Mexico about the same time Mesa Verde was abandoned, the researchers said.** (AP Photo/Beth J. Harpaz,File)

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"I think it's still a mystery, and it's a very compelling one," he said.

Ortman said other evidence besides the turkey DNA points to the migration.

The Tewa language spoken by some northern New Mexico Pueblo Indians today includes vocabulary "that seems to harken back to the material culture of the Mesa Verde area," he said.

The Tewa term for the roof of a church translates roughly to "a basket made out of timbers," Ortman said. That better describes the roofs used on kivas — ceremonial rooms — in ancient Mesa Verde communities than it does the churches in New Mexico, he said.

Another line of evidence is similarities in the facial structures of the remains of ancient people from the Mesa Verde region and New Mexico, Ortman said.

Examining human DNA from Ancestral Puebloan remains would provide a more definitive answer, Ortman said. But some contemporary Pueblo Indians object to doing that, and Ortman and others said they respect their wishes.

Theresa Pasqual, a member of the Acoma Pueblo in northwestern New Mexico and the pueblo's former preservation director, said she knows of no pueblos that would consent to DNA testing on ancestral remains because of spiritual and cultural concerns.

Pasqual, who is studying archaeology at the University of New Mexico, said she was heartened by the turkey DNA study because it supports the oral traditions of Acoma and other present-day pueblos that point to ancestral ties to the Mesa Verde region.

Some Acoma families still raise domestic turkeys and hunt wild ones, but it would be difficult to trace that tradition to the Ancestral Puebloans, Pasqual said.

The Ancestral Puebloan sites are a key factor in what she called Acoma's "migration narrative."

"These places have been a part of our narrative and a part of our history and a part of our present-day life for as long as we can remember," Pasqual said.

Follow Dan Elliott at <http://twitter.com/DanElliottAP>. His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/dan%20elliott>.

## Trump aide: No military solution in North Korea

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — Contradicting a boss already under pressure to fire him, 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. Just last week, Trump pledged to answer North Korean 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 and talks about purging his rivals from the Defense and State departments.

Asked about the white supremacist movement, whose march on Charlottesville, Virginia, last weekend led to deadly violence, Bannon dismisses them as "losers," "a fringe element" and "a collection of clowns."

A White House spokeswoman said "Bannon's comments stand on their own."

In a separate interview with the DailyMail.com, Bannon said his comments to The American Prospect "drew fire away from" Trump and that he successfully "changed the (media) narrative" around Trump with the earlier interview.

Bannon, one of the most contentious members of Trump's inner circle, is again facing an uncertain future in the White House, a situation that could be further complicated by his decision to give the initial interview.

Trump passed up an opportunity this week to offer a public vote of confidence in Bannon, who was a key campaign adviser during the general election and has become a forceful presence in a divided White House. But the former leader of the conservative Breitbart News has drawn fire from some of Trump's closest advisers, including son-in-law Jared Kushner.

The latest anti-Bannon campaign comes as Trump finds himself increasingly isolated, except among

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his core supporters, for insisting that white supremacist groups and those who opposed them were both at fault in Charlottesville.

Others believe Bannon is behind a campaign conservative groups and the Breitbart website are waging against national security adviser H.R. McMaster, arguing he is insufficiently supportive of Israel and soft on Iran. Trump recently issued a rare public statement of support for McMaster.

Bannon's comments on North Korea, which contradict Trump's tough approach, could add to pressure on the president to fire him. Bannon has survived earlier rounds of having fallen out of favor with Trump, who is irked by perceptions that Bannon was the mastermind of Trump's winning campaign and that he guides policy in the White House.

"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 early 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. Trump also has lamented U.S. trade deficits with China.

"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 that both sides have benefited from trade.

Asked at a regular news briefing about Bannon's comments, Hua said "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."

In the interview, Bannon muses about getting rid of administration officials who disagree with his stance on 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.

One official Bannon mentioned by name is Susan Thornton, currently America's top diplomat for Asia.

On Thursday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson signaled support for his senior adviser. After greeting Japan's defense chief and top diplomat at the State Department, Tillerson pointedly shook Thornton's hand in front of the cameras as their meeting began.



**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)

Associated Press writer Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed to this report.

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## HBO regains control of hacked social media accounts

NEW YORK (AP) — HBO says it has regained control of its social media accounts after the latest security breach to hit the entertainment company.

The hacking group OurMine on Wednesday night took over several of HBO's Twitter accounts, including ones for "Game of Thrones" and John Oliver's show. The group posted that "we are just testing your security" and asked HBO to contact it for an upgrade.

HBO said in a statement Thursday that "the infringement on our social media accounts was recognized and rectified quickly." It declined further comment.

OurMine has a history of similar hacks showing companies' security vulnerabilities.

It caused far less damage and appeared unrelated to another group of hackers who broke into HBO's computer network and have been doling out stolen information and unaired episodes for several weeks.



**This file image provided by HBO shows John Oliver on the set of "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver." HBO says it has regained control of its social media accounts after the latest security breach to hit the entertainment company. On Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017, the hacking group OurMine took over several of HBO's Twitter accounts, including for the "Game of Thrones" and John Oliver shows. The group posted that "we are just testing your security" and asked HBO to contact it for an upgrade.** (Eric Liebowitz/HBO via AP, File)

## Anti-Muslim Australian senator wears burqa in Parliament

By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — An Australian senator provoked an angry backlash from lawmakers by wearing a burqa in Parliament on Thursday as part of her campaign for a national ban on Islamic face covers.

Pauline Hanson, leader of the anti-Muslim, anti-immigration One Nation minor party, sat wearing the black head-to-ankle garment for more than 10 minutes before taking it off as she rose to explain that she wanted such outfits banned on national security grounds.

"There has been a large majority of Australians (who) wish to see the banning of the burqa," said Hanson, an outspoken fan of President Donald Trump, as senators objected.

Attorney-General George Brandis drew applause when he said his government would not ban the burqa, and chastised Hanson for what he described as a "stunt" that offended Australia's Muslim minority.

"To ridicule that community, to drive it into a corner, to mock its religious garments is an appalling thing to do and I would ask you to reflect on what you have done," Brandis said.

Opposition Senate leader Penny Wong told Hanson: "It is one thing to wear religious dress as a sincere

act of faith; it is another to wear it as a stunt here in the Senate.”

Sam Dastyari, an opposition senator and an Iranian-born Muslim, said: “We have seen the stunt of all stunts in this chamber by Sen. Hanson.”

“The close to 500,000 Muslim Australians do not deserve to be targeted, do not deserve to be marginalized, do not deserve to be ridiculed, do not deserve to have their faith made some political point by the desperate leader of a desperate political party,” Dastyari said.

Senate President Stephen Parry said Hanson’s identity had been confirmed before she entered the chamber. He also said he would not dictate the standards of dress for the chamber.

Parliament House briefly segregated women wearing burqas and niqabs in 2014. The department that runs Parliament House said that “persons with facial coverings” would no longer be allowed in the building’s open public galleries. Instead, they were to be directed to galleries usually reserved for noisy schoolchildren, where they could sit behind soundproof glass.

The policy was branded a “burqa ban” and was widely condemned as a segregation of Muslim women, as well as a potential breach of anti-discrimination laws.

Officials relented, allowing people wearing face coverings in all public areas of Parliament House after the coverings were removed temporarily at the building’s front door so that staff can check the visitor’s identity.

The reason behind the segregation was never explained, but it seems to have been triggered by a rumor on Sydney talk radio that men dressed in burqas were planning an anti-Muslim demonstration in Parliament House.



**In this combination of photos Sen. Pauline Hanson takes off a burqa she wore into the Senate chamber at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. Hanson, leader of the anti-Muslim, anti-immigration One Nation minor party, sat wearing the black head-to-ankle garment for more than 10 minutes before taking it off as she rose to explain that she wanted such outfits banned on national security grounds.** (Lukas Coch/AAP Image via AP)

## Young leaders of massive 2014 Hong Kong protests get prison

By **KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press**

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong court sent young activist Joshua Wong and two other student leaders to prison Thursday for their roles in huge pro-democracy protests nearly three years earlier, in the latest sign that tolerance for dissent is waning in the Chinese-ruled former British colony.

The High Court overturned an earlier verdict that let Wong, Nathan Law and Alex Chow avoid prison, agreeing with prosecutors that the original punishment for joining or leading an unlawful assembly that sparked the protests was too light.

They were immediately taken to serve their sentences of up to eight months, which have the added consequence of blocking each of them from seeking public office for five years.

Wong had little visible reaction as the verdict was read out but tweeted minutes after: “You can lock up our bodies, but not our minds! We want democracy in Hong Kong. And we will not give up.”

“See you soon,” he added.

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He pumped his fist in the air as he walked out of the dock into custody.

The three were found guilty last year of leading or encouraging an illegal rally in September 2014 that kicked off the "Umbrella Movement" protests that captured world headlines. Youthful activists brought major thoroughfares to a standstill for 11 weeks to protest Beijing's plan to restrict elections in the semi-autonomous region.

Wong and Law were originally given community service and Chow had received a suspended three-week prison sentence.

A three-judge panel on Thursday decided to stiffen those sentences following the justice secretary's request. The judges, who said there was a need to deter others, gave Law eight months in prison, seven to Chow and six for Wong, following deductions that included one-month cuts in sentences for the community service Wong and Law completed.

Their supporters said they plan to appeal.

The case raises 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 and constrain its ability to protest.

Under the "one country, two systems" format that took effect after the 1997 handover from Britain, Beijing promised to let the city keep its wide autonomy and civil rights like freedom of speech and protest unknown on mainland China. But many residents and analysts fear China's communist leaders are backtracking on their promises.

It's "going to have a chilling effect on freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly and may deter other people from taking part in similar demonstrations in the future," said William Nee of Amnesty International.

The ruling is also a setback for the city's next generation of pro-democracy political leaders, because it prevents the movement's most charismatic leaders from running for office. Anyone sentenced to at least three months in prison can't stand for public office for five years.

Last year, Law became the youngest person to be elected to the city's legislature at age 23, but was among half a dozen lawmakers later disqualified for using their oaths to make apparent protests against Beijing. Wong, 20, has also spoken of his desire to stand for election but is still too young. Chow, 27, was set for graduate school but the case derailed his plans.

"The government is determined to put peaceful protesters behind bars to mute all dissidents by abusing judicial procedures," their political party, Demosisto, said in a statement.

Before the ruling, 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.

"People united will never be defeated," Wong told a huge throng of media outside the courthouse, flanked by his co-defendants. He vowed they would continue "this long battle" for freedom and democracy.



**Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong is taken away in a prison bus leaving the high court after his sentencing in Hong Kong, Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017. The court on Thursday overturned sentences that the prosecution said were too light and sent Wong and two other student leaders of huge pro-democracy protests in 2014 to prison.** (AP Photo)

"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 the three 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 earlier 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?" wrote Wong, who is now in university. He added that he promised to keep up with his studies.

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

Follow Kelvin Chan: [www.twitter.com/chanman](http://www.twitter.com/chanman)

## The real revolution in NKorea is rise of consumer culture

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Like all North Korean adults, Song Un Pyol wears the faces of leader Kim Jong Un's father and grandfather pinned neatly to her left lapel, above her heart. But on her right glitters a diamond-and-gold brooch.

Song is what a success story in Kim Jong Un's North Korea is supposed to look like. Just after Kim assumed power in late 2011, she started managing the supermarket floor at a state-run department store, which has freezers stocked full of pork and beef and rows of dairy, bakery and canned goods. She watches as customers fill their shopping carts, take their groceries directly to be scanned at the checkout counter and pay with cash or bank debit cards.

Song is part of a paradigm shift within North Korea: Three generations into the Kim family's ruling dynasty, markets have blossomed and a consumer culture is taking root. From 120 varieties of "May Day Stadium" brand ice cream to the widespread use of plastic to pay the bills, it's a change visibly and irreversibly transforming her nation.

While Kim has in recent weeks gained attention for his threat to fire missiles near Guam, his trademark two-track policy focuses on the development of both nuclear weapons and the economy. His acceptance of a more consumer-friendly economy is meant to foster economic growth and bring profits into the regime's coffers. But like his pursuit of nuclear weapons, it's a risky business.



**In this Monday, June 19, 2017, photo, cashiers stand at checkout counters waiting to serve customers at the Potonggang department store in Pyongyang, North Korea. Three generations into Kim Jong Un's ruling dynasty, markets have blossomed and a consumer culture is taking root.** (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

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Facing even more international sanctions and a flood of Chinese imports that has generated a huge trade imbalance, there are good reasons to believe the North Korean economy is in a bubble that could soon burst. Prices for gasoline imports have soared more than 200 percent in less than six months, the AP has found. The price of rice is also believed to be sharply rising, although harder to independently confirm because of the difficulty in visiting local markets.

The new round of sanctions announced by the U.N. earlier this month will make it harder for the North to export its goods, cap the number of laborers it can send abroad — an important source of foreign currency for the regime — and limit the growth of joint ventures. North Korea will be hit particularly strongly by a Chinese ban on several key products, including coal, iron ore and seafood.

The problem, however, goes deeper than that.

Market forces bring new forms of competition, uncertainty and change that are the antithesis of the centrally controlled, state-run economy of the North Korea of old. Markets are like a genie offering to grant the wish of wealth — but at the potential cost of political instability.

Once the genie has been released from its bottle, it's very hard to put it back in.

## GUNS AND BUTTER

The North Korean consumer landscape has evolved dramatically under Kim Jong Un.

In keeping with his father, whose motto was "Military First," Kim devotes nearly a quarter of North Korea's estimated \$30 billion GDP to defense spending, which is a far higher military burden than any other country in the world. But his new slogan of "Parallel Development" — guns and butter, so to speak — reflects an inescapable reality of his era:

In the 1990s, North Korea nearly imploded when the Soviet Union and its satellite empire collapsed. Reeling from floods, famine and an overwhelmed bureaucracy, it could no longer afford the public distribution system many North Koreans had depended on for their basic needs. This change sparked a wave of grassroots barter and trade, which has swollen into the burgeoning market economy today.

Life in rural North Korea is still marked by far more hardship and scarcity than in its urban areas, and is hard even to compare to the showcase capital, Pyongyang. Yet there is, surprisingly, a bustling, almost booming, feeling in many parts of the country.

Under a 5-year plan for the economy Kim Jong Un announced last May, North Korean factories are putting a new priority on making more and better daily-life products. Managers, meanwhile, have more freedom to decide what to make, how much to pay their workers and how to forge profitable partnerships.

Along the roads into virtually every city, street vendors, usually weather-beaten old women, sell fruits, vegetables and other food. In the cities, bazaar-style markets, shops and department stores are full of people. The shelves are lined with dozens of brands of domestically made cigarettes, sugary soft drinks and colorfully packaged chips or canned soups.

In specialty shops, the latest "Pyongyang" model smartphones — probably Chinese-made but rebranded to have a locally made appearance — go for \$200. Apps to put on them, like the popular "Boy General" role-playing game, are \$2 a pop. Pyongyang's premier brewery, Taedonggang, just added an eighth kind of beer to its product line, which already includes beers dark and light, and even one that is chocolatey.

Despite the ever-tightening sanctions, consumer products are still coming in from all over the world. Buying a can of Pokka coffee from Japan is easy, and costs about 80 cents. Purchasing a Mercedes-Benz Viano might require some connections, but it is doable — for a \$63,000 sticker price.

On the country's bumpy highways, caravans of cram-packed long-distance buses and trucks hauling goods from city to city are common. More products made in Pyongyang are found in rural areas these days, and vice versa. Although the use of U.S. dollars or Chinese yuan remains widespread, more people are using prepaid cards or local bills at the checkout counter — suggesting greater buying power in general and more confidence in the stability of the national currency.

Some blatant manifestations of commercialism remain taboo. There are only three billboards in Pyongyang, a city of about 3 million. They advertise the local automaker, Pyonghwa Motors, and are more for the benefit of impressing foreign visitors than selling cars. There are no advertisements on television or in the newspapers.

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But stores are under instructions to be more consumer-friendly.

"At first, we opened the store from 10 in the morning to 6 in the evening," said Song. "But in 2015, our dear respected Marshal Kim Jong Un made sure that we serve from 10 in the morning to 8 in the evening so one can use late night at any given time, as many working people often used the shop during the evening after work."

Stores now commonly offer buy-two-get-one-free type sales and discounts on products the management wants to move off the shelves. Posters for new medicines or sports drinks can be seen inside shops and customers can sign up for "loyalty cards" to get points toward ever more discounts.

"In today's North Korea there is a growing competition between the domestic companies themselves as they try to attract customers and establish reputable brands," said Michael Spavor, a Canadian entrepreneur who visits the North frequently and is one of the only Westerners to have ever met Kim Jong Un.

Spavor calls it a "brilliant strategy."

But the emphasis on locally produced consumer goods isn't just because Kim wants to make good on his promise to give his people a higher standard of living.

It's also an attempt to counter the gravitational pull of China.

## THE POWER OF CHINA

As sanctions advocates rightly point out, cutting off trade with China would be catastrophic for Pyongyang. But North Korean leaders, including Kim Jong Un himself, have shown a great deal of concern over the flip side of that coin: what might happen to their country if trade continues, or grows even larger.

The expansion of trade increases Chinese leverage on the ground and feeds market forces that are hard for Pyongyang to keep under control. China already accounts for nearly all of North Korea's trade and its fuel. While the North has minimal dealings with the rest of the world, it did \$2 billion worth of business with China in the first five months of this year alone.

During Kim Jong Un's first three years in power, North Korea's exports to China of coal, garments, minerals and seafood were all growing. But what North Korea was able to sell to China fell far short of what it needed to buy, particularly because of its need for oil and fuel products.

That imbalance has widened dramatically this year as China cut back on buying from the North. The new U.N. sanctions will further squeeze the North's main sources of export income.

Georgetown University economist William Brown estimates the North is suffering an outflow of \$200 million in foreign exchange every month. This is crucial because the more Pyongyang owes Beijing, the less it has to spend on other things. But it still needs essential commodities like food and fuel, which can deepen the problems of both shortages and inflation.

Signs of trouble are already appearing.

Right around April, according to data compiled by the AP, gasoline prices started to soar. Many stations either closed their gates or restricted the amount they would sell each customer. As of late July, the price surge had yet to abate.

Few North Koreans have their own cars. But gasoline, virtually all of which comes from China, fuels the transportation of goods and people in the new economy.

Brown said the price of rice was also up nearly 20 percent in July from May and was significantly higher than a year ago. There could be a trickle-down effect, since tractors and even the fertilizer used to grow rice require petroleum products. Fears of a poor harvest in the fall could send prices shooting up much higher.

"This may represent the greatest near-term threat to the regime stability," Brown said.

North Korea has proven it is nothing if not resilient, often finding a way out of its economic problems. Even so, the longer-term changes to society won't be easy to address.

The goods and trading opportunities spilling across the Chinese border are also spurring the growth of profitable enterprises, which has substantial financial benefits for well-connected individuals and, at least initially, the regime's elite. For this tier of North Korean society — and for farmers who can profit from their excess produce — the new economy has opened up a way to get money from sometimes under-the-table businesses.

Loyalty to the regime and party ties remain an important means of social advancement. But, in Kim Jong

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Un's North Korea these days, so is a good sense for how to run a proper side hustle to augment what are often paltry official paychecks.

However, the same opportunities have widened the gap between the rich by North Korean standards and the poor. The haves benefit disproportionately from the new economy, while a far larger number of have-nots live mostly outside the Pyongyang bubble of affluence. Ambiguity over what officials will overlook and what they will strictly enforce has also created a gray area that opens the door to corruption and bribery.

ARE STATE GOODS GOOD ENOUGH?

The regime is not blind to what's happening. It knows the new consumerism can be a destabilizing force. But it also knows it needs the markets.

North Korean officials insist markets are a stopgap coping measure for the economy that will be overcome. Kang Chol Min, a researcher with the Economics Institute of the Academy of Social Science, said the regime is trying to produce more, and better, goods to woo consumers away from the markets and back to state-run businesses.

"The number of people relying on the state-run commercial networks is increasing," he said in an interview with AP Television News.

But many outside experts believe state enterprises and farms are too inefficient to provide enough goods and services for the whole nation without the help of markets and private activities.

If they are right, it's hard to imagine North Korea's economic future will lie in Kang's vow to produce more goods locally. Nor is it likely to be model worker Song, the state-sanctioned success story.

It might, however, be a Miniso store.

Miniso is decidedly not trying to appeal to the shoppers by filling its shelves with products made in North Korea. It's an international brand name — found in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Sydney — selling bargain-priced goods such as backpacks and consumer electronics. Its Pyongyang store just opened in April, near two of the capital's most prestigious universities in a newly built high-rise district appropriately called Ryomyong Gori, the "Avenue of Dawn."

It's the trendiest shop in town.

And it's a joint venture. With China.

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Eric Talmadge, the only American journalist regularly allowed to work in North Korea, has been the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief since 2013. Follow him on Twitter at EricTalmadge. His photos from North Korea are on Instagram @erictalmadge.

## Asian shares slide as Wall Street fall, Spain attack weigh

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stocks sank Friday as global investor sentiment was battered by big losses on Wall Street amid U.S. political turmoil and a deadly van attack in Spain.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 1 percent to 19,505.23 and South Korea's Kospi shed 0.2 percent to 2,356.58. Hong Kong's Hang Seng sank 0.7 percent to 27,155.03, clawing back some earlier losses, and the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.2 percent to 3,260.88. Australia's ASX 200 fell 0.7 percent to 5,738.70. Benchmarks in Taiwan and Southeast Asia also lost ground

BARCELONA ATTACK: Investors shied away from riskier investments following the latest attack to hit Europe. Police in Spain's Catalonia region said they killed five suspects after a van swerved into pedestrians in downtown Barcelona, killing 13 and injuring 100. Police called it a terror attack and the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for it.

EARNINGS JITTERS: U.S. stocks had their second worst day this year as some big companies provided disappointing forecasts in their latest quarterly earnings reports, darkening the outlook for the world's No. 1 economy. Network equipment maker Cisco Systems and data storage company NetApp both offered poor sales forecasts for the current quarter and Victoria's Secret parent L Brands cut its annual profit forecast on weakening sales.

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**TRUMP TROUBLE:** More turmoil at the White House added to investor pessimism. President Donald Trump abandoned his plans to form an infrastructure advisory council, a day after the administration said would close down two other advisory councils made up primarily of business leaders. The White House was also forced to issue a statement dispelling swirling rumors that Gary Cohn, head of the National Economic Council, was stepping down, saying they were "100 percent false."

**MARKET VIEW:** "The White House drama shows little sign of easing," said Stephen Innes, head of Asia trading at OANDA. "With U.S. investors' nerves fraying at the thought of a discombobulated White House — the face of the nation — investor risk appetite could remain fractured for some time."

**WALL STREET:** U.S. benchmarks had their biggest loss since May. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped

1.5 percent to 2,430.01, its lowest close since July 11. The Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 1.2 percent to 21,750.73. The Nasdaq composite sank 1.9 percent to 6,221.91.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude dipped 3 cents to \$47.06 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 31 cents to settle at \$47.09 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added shed 9 cents to \$50.94 a barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar dipped to 109.40 yen from 110.55 yen in late trading Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1732 from \$1.1723.



**A woman walks by an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo, Friday, Aug. 18, 2017. Asian stocks sank Friday as big losses on Wall Street amid continuing U.S. political turmoil and a deadly van attack in Spain pressured global investor sentiment.** (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 18, the 230th day of 2017. There are 135 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 18, 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

On this date:

In 1838, the first marine expedition sponsored by the U.S. government set sail from Hampton Roads, Virginia; the crews traveled the southern Pacific Ocean, gathering scientific information.

In 1846, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces led by Gen. Stephen W. Kearny occupied Santa Fe in present-day New Mexico.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

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In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

In 1954, during the Eisenhower administration, Assistant Secretary of Labor James Ernest Wilkins became the first black official to attend a meeting of the president's Cabinet as he sat in for Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage. The Kansas City Royals defeated the New York Yankees, 5-4, in the completion of the "pine-tar" game in just 12 minutes.

In 1988, Vice President George H.W. Bush accepted the presidential nomination of the Republican National Convention in New Orleans.

In 1997, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the nation's largest Lutheran body, voted for closer ties with three other major Protestant denominations: the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church in America.

Ten years ago: Alarmed tourists jammed Caribbean airports for flights out of Hurricane Dean's path as the monster storm began sweeping past the Dominican Republic and Haiti. NASA, meanwhile, ordered space shuttle Endeavour back to Earth a day early out of fear Dean might disrupt flight operations. A seven-alarm fire ripped through an abandoned skyscraper next to ground zero in Lower Manhattan, killing two firefighters who responded to the blaze. Michael K. Deaver, a close adviser to President Ronald Reagan, died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 69.

Five years ago: Tropical Storm Helene quickly weakened into a tropical depression after moving ashore on Mexico's Gulf Coast. Diana Nyad launched her latest attempt to become the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a wetsuit or a shark cage (she ended her bid three days later). Singer Scott McKenzie, 73, who performed "San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)," died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: For the first time since declaring his presidential run, Republican Donald Trump offered an apology to those who might have been hurt by his caustic comments, saying he regretted some of what he had said "in the heat of debate." Former NFL star Darren Sharper was sentenced by a federal judge in New Orleans to more than 18 years in prison for drugging women in order to rape them — double the sentence recommended by prosecutors. At the Rio Games, Jamaica's Usain Bolt completed an unprecedented third consecutive sweep of the 100- and 200-meter sprints. Retired Army Gen. John W. Vessey, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, died in North Oaks, Minnesota, at age 94.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 90. Movie director Roman Polanski is 84. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 82. Actor-director Robert Redford is 81. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 75. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 72. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 67. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 67. Comedian Elayne Boosler is 65. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinsons) is 62. Actor Denis Leary is 60. Actor Reg E. Cathey is 59. Actress Madeleine Stowe is 59. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT'-nur) is 56. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 56. The former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 55. Bluegrass musician Jimmy Mattingly is 55. Actor Adam Storke is 55. Actor Craig Bierko (BEER'-koh) is 53. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 49. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 48. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 48. Actor Christian Slater is 48. Actor Edward Norton is 48. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 47. Actress Kaitlin Olson is 42. Actor-writer-director Hadji is 41. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 41. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 39. Country musician Brad Tursi (Old Dominion) is 38. Actress Mika Boorem is 30. Actress Maia Mitchell is 24. Actress Parker McKenna Posey is 22.

Thought for Today: "That is one of the bitter curses of poverty; it leaves no right to be generous." — George Gissing, English author and critic (1857-1903).