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Official Notices

Brown County (updated 8-31)
Frederick Area School (updated 8-29)
Groton City (updated 8-29)
Groton Area School (updated 8-29)
Westport Town (updated 8-21-17)
Other Notices (updated 8-21)
Frederick Town (Updated 8-15)
Groton Area School (updated 8-7)
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**

18 Homecoming Week

Elementary Dress-up Day: College day (support your local or favorite college)

MS/HS Dress-up Day: "Nerd Day"

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

School Breakfast: French toast, sausage links, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Taco salad, tater tots, refried beans, fruit.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Cross Country: at Deuel

Homecoming Coronation: 7:30 p.m.

City Council: 7 p.m. at Groton Community Center

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Elementary Dress-up Day: Jersey day (wear your favorite jersey)

High School- "Toga Day"

Senior Menu: Honey glazed chicken breast, parsley buttered potatoes, winter-blend vegetables, ambrosia salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich, fruit, milk and juice.

School Lunch: Hamburger, fries, romaine salad, fruit. **JH Football**: at Milbank, 7th grade at 4 p.m., 8th grade at 5 p.m.

Volleyball: at Warner, 7th and C matches at 5:15 p.m.; 8th and JV match at 6:30 p.m. followed by varsity match.

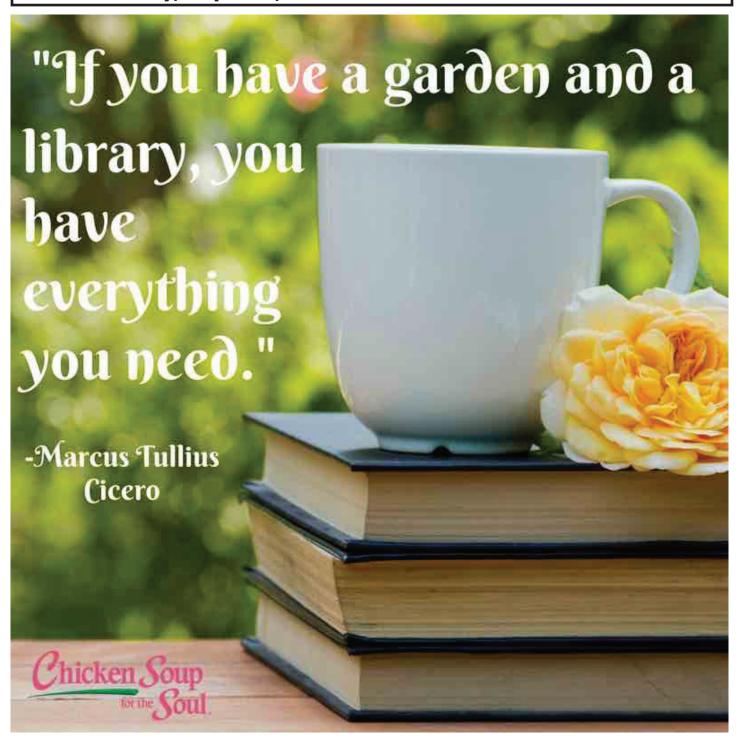
United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.

Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance: Ladies Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Olive Grove: Bridge Card Tourney, registration at 9 a.m., cards at 10 a.m.



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Weekly Vikings Roundup By Jordan Wright

After coming off a dominant performance in the week 1 against the New Orleans Saints, the Minnesota Vikings traveled to Pittsburgh, trying to make it two wins in a row. Unfortunately for the Vikings, week 1 MVP Sam Bradford was having issues with his surgically repaired knee and ended up missing the game. The combination of using a backup quarterback and facing the Steelers in Pittsburgh was too much for the Vikings to overcome, and they lost 26-9.

The Vikings offense, led by Case Keenum, was unable to get anything going on Sunday. After racking up 470 total yards in week 1 against the Saints, the Vikings could only muster 237 yards against the Steelers. Keenum completed 20 of 37 passes for 167 yards, no touchdowns and no interceptions. Dalvin Cook was limited to 64 yards on the ground, while Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen were held to 71 total receiving yards. Overall it was an uninspiring performance by the offense, but it was to be expected with Bradford out.

The Vikings defense did a much better job than the offense, but they were far from perfect. Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell, one of the best in the NFL, got 27 carries but only amassed 87 yards on the ground. Antonio Brown, one of the best receivers in the league, was blanketed by Xavier Rhodes for most of the game and was limited to only five catches (11 targets) for 62 yards. While the Vikings did a good job against one of the most potent offenses in the NFL, they also shot themselves in the foot on multiple occasions with penalties - both of Pittsburgh's touchdowns in the first half were assisted by pass interference calls

2017 Groton Area Elementary

Preschool Developmental Screening for 3 year olds

September 20 and 21

Parents of children age 3 in the Groton Area School District are asked to contact Heidi Krueger at the Groton Area Elementary School during school hours at 397-2317 to either confirm their screening time or set up a time. Letters will be send out the week of September 10. If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

The Developmental Screening will take place at the Groton Area High School Arena. Please park and use the east entrance to the arena.



on the Vikings defense.

The play of the game for Minnesota came at the hands of tight end Kyle Rudolph. Case Keenum threw a pass Rudolph's way, but the pass was too high. Rudolph was able to leap, get a finger on the ball, tip it into the air, and somehow bring in the pass. In the end, it didn't mean much, but it was a great catch nonetheless.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will return home and prepare to host the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Sunday, September 24). The two teams have plenty of history, as they used to be in the same division – the NFC Central. Tampa Bay was unable to play their week 1 game because of the hurricane in Florida, but they beat the Chicago Bears in week 2, 29-7. The Bucs will be without starting running back Doug

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94 octane, more power, same mileage, fewer carbon deposits, lower maintenance costs, slashed benzene & related genotoxic, carcinogenic tailpipe emissions; *see sdfu.org's E30 tab for info, E30 prices\locations.

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

Martin, who is serving a three-game suspension for performance enhancing drugs, but their offense is still potent. Quarterback Jameis Winston is very similar to Ben Roethlisberger, as he is capable of making any throw and doesn't take a lot of sacks because his large frame is hard to bring down. The Bucs also have two great receivers who bring different skills to the table and will make life miserable for the Vikings cornerbacks. Mike Evans is big enough to leap over just about anyone, and he is strong enough to come down with most passes thrown his way. DeSean Jackson, on the other hand, is one of the fastest receivers in the league.

If Sam Bradford is able to play, the Vikings should be able to handle the Buccaneers. If he is unable to play because of his knee, it will likely be up to the defense to win this game. Either way, I think the Vikings will be 2-1 after week 3. Skol!

Have any questions or comments? Reach out to me on Face-book (facebook.com/SkolJWright) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright).

Help Wanted

We are Hiring Nurses – RN or LPN, Full or Part Time.

NEW WAGE PACKAGE!!!

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

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Past presidents were honored at the last Groton senior citizens meeting. They are, L-R Grace Albrecht, Lois Pasch, Lee Schinkel, Beulah Hoops, and Ella Johnson.

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Today in Weather History

September 18, 2000: Mid-September record to near record heat occurred across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. Aberdeen, Kennebec, Pierre, and Wheaton all set record highs for the day. Aberdeen and Wheaton set record highs of 95 degrees. Kennebec rose to a record high of 99 degrees while Pierre rose to 104 degrees on this day in 2000. Some of the near record highs occurred at Timber Lake and Mobridge with 92 degrees and 97 degrees, respectively.

1926: The great "Miami Hurricane" produced winds of 138 mph that drove ocean waters into the Biscayne Bay drowning 135 persons. The eye of the hurricane passed over Miami, at which time the barometric pressure reached 27.61 inches. Tides up to twelve feet high accompanied the storm, which claimed a total of 372 lives.

1941: One of the greatest aurora borealis or northern lights ever observed in the central Atlantic and mid-central portions of the U.S. occurred on the night of September 18-19th. The displays continued from twilight until just before dawn and were observed as far south as Florida and southern California.

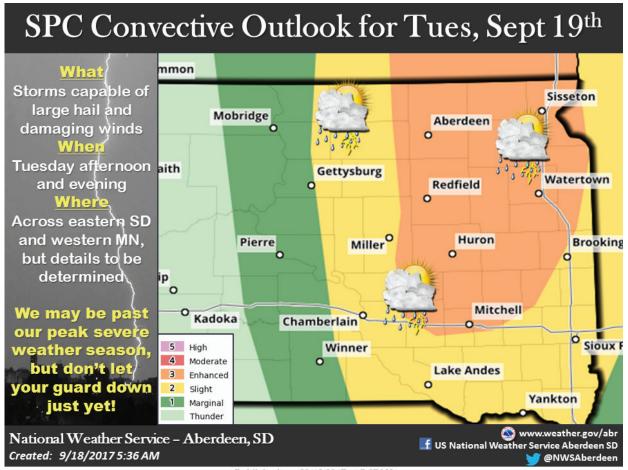
1987 - Early morning thunderstorms in northern Texas produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Sulphur Springs, and 2.50 inches of rain in one hour at Commerce, which caused widespread street flooding. Bonham TX received 4.50 inches of rain which also resulted in widespread street flooding as Pig Branch overflowed its banks. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A strong cold front produced severe thunderstorms in the north central U.S. High winds behind the cold front gusted to 92 mph at Fort Collins CO, and up to a foot of snow blanketed the mountains of Montana, with seven inches reported at Great Falls. High winds in Colorado caused three million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Hugo hit Puerto Rico, producing wind gusts to 92 mph at San Juan, and wind gusts to 120 mph at Roosevelt Roads. Hugo produced a storm surge of four to six feet, and northeastern sections of the island were deluged with more than ten inches of rain. Hugo claimed the lives of a dozen persons in Puerto Rico, and caused a bilion dollars damage, including 100 million dollars damage to crops. Thunderstorms representing what remained of Hurricane Octave continued to bring heavy rain to the valleys of northern California. Heavier 24 hour rainfall totals included 3.15 inches at Redding, and 2.66 inches at Red Bluff. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Tonight Today Tuesday Tuesday Wednesday Wednesday Thursday Night Night Sunny Increasing Breezy. Severe Sunny Mostly Clear Mostly Sunny Clouds Partly Sunny Thunderstorms then Slight then Severe Chance Thunderstorms Showers Low: 52 °F High: 77 °F Low: 59 °F High: 81 °F Low: 49 °F High: 73 °F High: 80 °F



Published on: 09/18/2017 at 5:37AM

The Storm Prediction Center has upgraded the severe storm risk for Tuesday to \"Enhanced.\" Confidence is increasing in a scenario that sees scattered strong to severe storms developing east of the Missouri River late Tuesday afternoon. These storms are forecast to form into a line of storms, with damaging winds possible. Large hail is possible as well, but damaging winds may be the bigger threat. There is even a potential for a tornado or two towards the evening hours across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Stay tuned to the latest forecasts concerning the threat for strong to severe storms on Tuesday!

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Yesterday's Weather

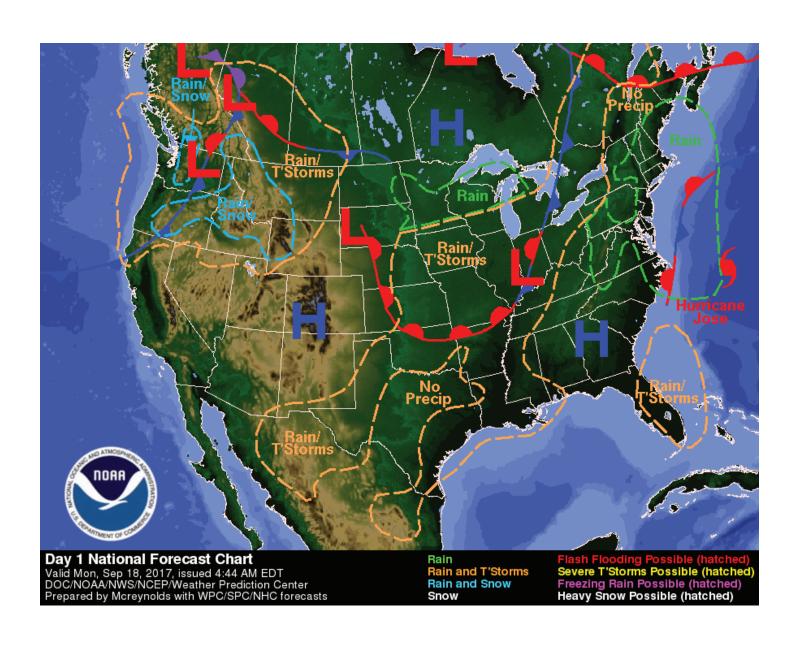
High Outside Temp: 64.8 Low Outside Temp: 34.7

High Gust: 12 Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 95° in 2000

Record High: 95° in 2000 Record Low: 22° in 1896 Average High: 71°F Average Low: 45°F

Average Precip in Sept: 1.34 Precip to date in Sept: 0.24 Average Precip to date: 17.63 Precip Year to Date: 9.76 Sunset Tonight: 7:38 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:17 a.m.



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WHAT SIZE GOD DO YOU WORSHIP?

"Is your God a great God or a little God?" asked a well-known skeptic of an elderly gentleman known for his deep love of God.

"Well," he said after a moment's thought, "He's both. He's so great that the heavens cannot contain him, and He's so little that He can live within my heart!"

This is the identical way that the writer of Psalm 46 spoke of his God: "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

We often have questions about God's involvement in our everyday affairs and concerns. "Are my personal problems, even though they are small and only matter to me, important to Him? When I have the flu and feel horrible, does it make any difference to Him? What about the threat of violence, terrorism, children being gunned down at school? What about the preacher being tried in Iran as a heretic? What about the war in Afghanistan?"

"The Lord who is Almighty," said the Psalmist, "is with us" – not may be or should be or will be – but is with us this very moment. Wherever we are – He is. From our smallest need to our greatest problem He is with us and is always ready, willing and able to do His will for us and through us.

Yet, there is more: He is not only with us, but He is our fortress. When this Psalm was written, a fortress was a place of security and safety. It was built on an isolated, elevated place to provide protection from the enemy. It was the place to go if an enemy was approaching.

What powerful thoughts: Our God is an Almighty God who cares for each of us and protects us from any threat in life.

Prayer: Lord, we marvel at Your greatness and are humbled by Your goodness when we understand Your concern for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 46:7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

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News from the Associated Press

Wind Cave National Park wildfire now completely contained

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Firefighters have completely contained a wildfire that burned more than 2,100 acres in Wind Cave National Park in southwestern South Dakota.

The National Park Service says firefighters had the blaze 100 percent contained Saturday morning. The fire started with a lightning strike last Monday.

Rain and cooler weather helped bring the fire under control.

All trails north of Wind Cave Canyon Trail, and including Wind Cave Canyon Trail, remain closed Sunday.

Weather radar station in South Dakota gets new life

NEW UNDERWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A joint venture by three federal agencies is breathing new life into weather radar stations, including one in the western part of South Dakota.

Service Life Extension Program is part of a \$150 million, seven-year joint endeavor by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service, the U.S. Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The agencies are working to refurbish the nearly 160 weather radars across the country.

The tower outside New Underwood is the first in South Dakota to receive the upgrade. The radar tower gives a picture of incoming weather, from Gillette, Wyoming, to Chamberlain.

"This radar is 20 years old and it can go for another 20 years, but it just needs some upgrades," said Nathan Rambo, an electronics technician for the National Weather Service. "As opposed to going out and purchasing a new radar, this will save the government a lot of money."

The upgrades include rewiring the unit, the second phase of the project. Technicians worked on replacing old breaker and cables with new ones Tuesday.

Red labels are plastered all over the large electrical box with warnings for high voltage, gamma rays and radiation.

"This thing will kill if you aren't careful," Rambo said. "Even though we have the power off to the unit, we still follow strict safety measures."

The program is expected to be completed at all 159 weather radars across the county by 2022.

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

Police arrest more than 80 amid violent St. Louis protests By JIM SALTER and SUMMER BALLENTINE, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Hundreds of riot police mobilized in downtown St. Louis overnight, arresting more than 80 people and seizing weapons amid reports of property damage and vandalism following another day of peaceful protests over a former police officer's acquittal in the killing of a black man.

The arrests late Sunday came after demonstrators ignored orders to disperse, police said.

"I'm proud to tell you the city of St. Louis is safe and the police owned tonight," Interim Police Chief Lawrence O'Toole said at a news conference early Monday.

A judge ruled Friday that Jason Stockley, who left the police department and moved to Houston three years ago, was not guilty in the 2011 death of Anthony Lamar Smith. The ruling set off raucous protests throughout the weekend. Another peaceful demonstration was expected Monday.

On Sunday, more than 1,000 people gathered at police headquarters then marched without trouble through downtown St. Louis, the posh Central West End, and the trendy Delmar Loop area of nearby University City. Protesters also marched through two shopping malls in a wealthy area of St. Louis County.

By nightfall, most had gone home. The 100 or so people who remained grew increasingly agitated as

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they marched back toward downtown. Along the way, they knocked over planters, broke windows at a few shops and hotels, and scattered plastic chairs at an outdoor venue.

According to police, the demonstrators then sprayed bottles with an unknown substance on officers.

One officer suffered a leg injury and was taken to a hospital. His condition wasn't known.

Soon afterward, buses brought in additional officers in riot gear, and police scoured downtown deep into the night, making arrests and seizing at least five weapons, according to O'Toole. Later, officers in riot gear gathered alongside a city boulevard chanting "whose street, our street" — a common refrain used by the protesters — after clearing the street of demonstrators and onlookers.

"We're in control. This is our city and we're going to protect it," O'Toole said.

Mayor Lyda Krewson said at the same Monday news conference that "the days have been calm and the nights have been destructive" and that "destruction cannot be tolerated."

The recent St. Louis protests follow a pattern seen since the August 2014 killing of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson: The majority of demonstrators, though angry, are law-abiding. But as the night wears on, a subsection emerges, a different crowd more willing to confront police, sometimes to the point of clashes.

Protest organizer Anthony Bell said he understands why some act out: While change can come through peaceful protests, such as those led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., years of oppression has caused some to turn violent.

"I do not say the (violent) demonstrators are wrong, but I believe peaceful demonstrations are the best," Bell said.

State Rep. Bruce Franks, a Democrat who has participated in the peaceful protests, said those behind the violence "are not protesters."

The late night unrest since the verdict was issued has led to destruction across the St. Louis area. It was after nightfall Friday that people shattered a window at the home of Mayor Lynda Krewson, smashed about two dozen windows and threw trash cans and rocks at police in University City on Saturday, and knocked out windows downtown on Sunday.

Many protesters believe police provoked demonstrators by showing up in riot gear and armored vehicles; police said they had no choice but to protect themselves once protesters started throwing things at them.

Democratic Rep. Michael Butler said police should target the agitators and allow others to continue demonstrating. He protested Friday, and after that said police have been doing a poor job of identifying bad actors in the crowds.

"There's not been any learning from Ferguson," Butler said.

Stockley shot Smith after high-speed chase as officers tried to arrest Smith and his partner in a suspected drug deal.

Stockley, 36, testified he felt endangered because he saw Smith holding a silver revolver when Smith backed his car toward the officers and sped away.

Prosecutors said Stockley planted a gun in Smith's car after the shooting. The officer's DNA was on the weapon but Smith's wasn't. Dashcam video from Stockley's cruiser recorded him saying he was "going to kill this (expletive)." Less than a minute later, he shot Smith five times.

Stockley's lawyer dismissed the comment as "human emotions" during a dangerous pursuit. St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson, who said prosecutors didn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Stockley murdered Smith, said the statement could be ambiguous.

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas: http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv .

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US flies powerful warplanes amid tensions with North Korea By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.S. military flew advanced bombers and stealth jets over the Korean Peninsula and near Japan in drills with South Korean and Japanese warplanes on Monday, three days after North Korea fired a missile over Japan.

The United States often sends powerful military aircraft in a show of force in times of heightened animosities with North Korea. The North launched its latest missile as it protested against tough new U.N. sanctions over its sixth nuclear test on Sept. 3.

Monday's flyovers over the Korean Peninsula involved two B-1Bs and four F-35Bs from the U.S. military and four F-15K fighter jets from South Korea, according to the South Korean and U.S. militaries. The U.S. and South Korean planes practiced attacks by releasing live weapons at a firing range in South Korea, the U.S. Pacific Command said in a statement.

The U.S. warplanes also conducted formation training with Japanese fighter jets over waters near the southern island of Kyushu, according to the Pacific Command.

Since Kim Jong Un took power in North Korea in late 2011, his nation has tested weapons at a torrid pace. The country flight-tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July. Its nuclear test in September was its most powerful to date.

Many experts say it's only a matter of time until Kim achieves his stated objective of possessing reliable nuclear-tipped missiles capable of striking anywhere in the mainland U.S.

State media on Saturday quoted Kim as saying that North Korea's final goal "is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option" for the North.

Alarmed by North Korea's advancing weapons programs, many conservatives in South Korea have called for the reintroduction of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in the South. But the liberal-leaning government of President Moon Jae-in said it has no intention of requesting that the U.S. bring back such weapons.

South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo told lawmakers on Monday that it is "not proper" to reintroduce U.S. nuclear weapons. He previously said the idea should be "deeply considered" by the allies, inflaming already-heated debate on the issue.

Meanwhile, China's Communist Party newspaper on Monday criticized the United States for demanding that Beijing put more pressure on North Korea to rein in its weapons programs.

"The so-called 'China's responsibility theory' is essentially moral kidnapping," the People's Daily said in a commentary. It also noted that sanctions should not harm "legitimate economic and trade exchanges between North Korea and the outside world" and the lives of everyday people.

China accounts for about 90 percent of North Korea's trade and sends largely free crude oil shipments to the North. Beijing has been increasingly frustrated with North Korea's nuclear drive, but it still doesn't want the North to collapse and cause a wave of refugees to cross the border into China and American troops to move into North Korea.

China's foreign ministry said Monday that military threats being made by North Korea and the U.S. were counterproductive.

"Some related parties keep sending threatening messages both in words and deeds that include warnings of military actions to each other," ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters at a regular briefing. "But actually, these kinds of actions didn't help solving the problem but further complicate the situation, which do no good to the resolution of the peninsular issue."

Instead, he said, the international community should strictly implement the sanctions imposed on North Korea by the U.N. Security Council.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel also said in comments reported Monday by the Bild daily that the world should wait for the sanctions to bite, but that "visions and courageous steps" such as direct negotiations with North Korea are also needed.

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Trump's week anchored by speech to UN General Assembly By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump is making his debut at the United Nations and taking his complaints about the world body straight to the source.

In his first appearance as president, Trump on Monday was addressing a U.S.-sponsored event on reforming the 193-member organization he has sharply criticized.

As a candidate for president, Trump labeled the U.N. as weak and incompetent, and not a friend of either the United States or Israel. But he has softened his tone since taking office, telling ambassadors from U.N. Security Council member countries at a White House meeting this year that the U.N. has "tremendous potential."

Trump more recently has praised a pair of unanimous council votes to tighten sanctions on North Korea over its continued nuclear weapon and ballistic missile tests.

Trump's big moment comes Tuesday, when he delivers his first address to a session of the U.N. General Assembly. The annual gathering of world leaders will open amid serious concerns about Trump's priorities, including his policy of "America First," his support for the U.N. and a series of global crises. It will be the first time world leaders will be in the same room and able to take the measure of Trump.

The president and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will speak at Monday's reform meeting. The U.S. has asked member nations to sign a declaration on U.N. reforms, and more than 100 have done so. Trump wants the U.N. to cut spending and make other operational changes.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said Trump's criticisms were accurate at the time, but that it is now a "new day" at the U.N. An organization that "talked a lot but didn't have a lot of action" has given way to a "United Nations that's action-oriented," she said, noting the Security Council votes on North Korea this month.

Guterres has proposed a massive package of changes, and Haley said the U.N. is "totally moving toward reform."

"We said that we needed to get value for our dollar and what we're finding is the international community is right there with us in support of reform. So it is a new day at the U.N.," she said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union." She said Trump's pleas had been heard and "what we'll do is see him respond to that."

Trump also planned to hold separate talks Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and French President Emmanuel Macron. U.S. national security adviser H.R. McMaster said the conversations would be wide-ranging, but that "Iran's destabilizing behavior" would be a major focus of Trump's discussions with both leaders.

Breakthroughs on a Middle East peace agreement are not expected. Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser on the issue, recently returned from a trip to the Middle East.

Trump told Jewish leaders on a conference call last week that his team is working very hard to achieve a peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians and that he hoped to see "significant progress" on a deal before the end of the year. Trump is scheduled to meet later this week with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Trump was also hosting a dinner for Latin American leaders. Venezuela, which has been gripped by economic and political turmoil, will be discussed, McMaster said.

The United States is the largest contributor to the U.N. budget, reflecting its position as the world's largest economy. It pays 25 percent of the U.N.'s regular operating budget and over 28 percent of the separate peacekeeping budget — a level of spending that Trump has complained is unfair.

"We need the member states to come together to eliminate inefficiency and bloat, and to ensure that no one nation shoulders a disproportionate share of the burden militarily or financially," Trump told the security council ambassadors as they dined at the White House in April. "This is only fair to our taxpayers."

The Trump administration is conducting a review of the U.N.'s 16 far-flung peacekeeping operations, which cost nearly \$8 billion a year. Cutting their costs and making them more effective is a top priority for Haley. Guterres has said he is totally committed to reforming the U.N. and making it more responsive to the

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needs of the 21st century world. As for the peacekeeping budget, he said last week that his intention is to do everything possible to make the missions "the most effective" as well as "cost-effective."

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

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

Trump's childhood home becomes showcase for refugees

By WILLIAM MATHIS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump's childhood home in New York had some new occupants over the weekend — refugees who shared their stories as a way to draw attention to the refugee crisis as the United Nations General Assembly convenes this week with Trump in attendance.

The three-story Tudor-style home in Queens that Trump's father, Fred, built in 1940 is now a rental available on Airbnb that anyone can stay in for \$725 a night. It was auctioned off to an unidentified buyer in March for \$2.14 million, its second time going up for auction.

The international anti-poverty organization Oxfam rented it Saturday and invited four refugees to talk with journalists. The Republican president's administration issued travel bans on people from six Muslimmajority countries and all refugees. After various court challenges, the Supreme Court last week allowed the restrictive policy on refugees to remain temporarily. The justices will hear arguments on the bans Oct. 10.

"We wanted to send a strong message to Trump and world leaders that they must do more to welcome refugees," said Shannon Scribner, acting director for the humanitarian department of Oxfam America.

Trump lived in the house on a tree-lined street of single-family dwellings until he was about 4, when his family moved to another home his father had built nearby.

In an upstairs bedroom, Eiman Ali, 22, looked around at the dark wood floors and a copy of the book "Trump: The Art of the Deal" on a nearby table and wondered about the home's previous resident.

"Knowing Donald Trump was here at the age of four makes me think about where I was at the age of four," said Ali, her smiling face framed by a dark gray hijab. "We're all kids who are raised to be productive citizens, who have all these dreams and hopes."

Ali was three when she arrived in the United States from Yemen, where her parents had fled when war broke out in their native Somalia. Ali said she remembered Trump as an entertaining character on "The Celebrity Apprentice," but has since changed her opinion.

"To have someone so outspoken against my community become the president of the United States was very eye-opening and hurtful because I have invested a lot in this country," she said.

Down the hall, Ghassan al-Chahada, 41, a Syrian refugee who arrived in the United States with his wife and three children in 2012, sat in a room with bunk beds and a sign on the wall that said it likely was Trump's childhood bedroom.

"Before the conflict began in Syria we had dreams of coming to America," al-Chahada said. "For us, it was a dream come true."

Al-Chahada said his life changed when Trump signed the ban that barred people from Syria and five other countries, from entering the United States.

"I had hopes I would get my green card and be able to visit my country," al-Chahada said. "But since Trump was elected I don't dare, I don't dare leave this country and not be able to come back."

He looked out the window into the front yard and thought about what he would say to the president.

"I would advise him to remember, to think about how he felt when he slept in this bedroom," al-Chahada said. "If he can stay in tune with who he was as a child, the compassion children have and the mercy, I would say he's a great person."

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Hurricane Maria nearing already battered Caribbean islands

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A strengthening Hurricane Maria churned toward the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean on Monday as forecasters warned it was expected to become a major hurricane by early Tuesday.

Maria swiftly grew into a hurricane Sunday, and forecasters said it was expected to become much stronger over the coming hours following a path that would take it near many of the islands wrecked by Hurricane Irma and then on toward Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Hurricane warnings were posted for Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and Martinique. A tropical storm warning was issued for Antigua and Barbuda, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Lucia. Other islands were warned to stay alert for changes in the storm. Hurricane watches were up in Puerto Rico, the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, the island shared by French St. Martin and Dutch St. Maarten, St. Barts and Anguilla.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Maria had maximum sustained winds of 90 mph (150 kph) early Monday. It was centered about 130 miles (215 kilometers) east-southeast of Dominica — or 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of Martinique — and heading west-northwest at 13 mph (20 kph).

The hurricane center said hurricane conditions should begin to affect parts of the Leeward Islands by Monday night, with storm surge raising water levels by 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 meters) near the storm's center. The storm was predicted to bring 6 to 12 inches (15 to 30 centimeters) of rain across the islands, with more in isolated areas.

Maria could make a direct hit on Puerto Rico, which was spared the full brunt of Irma although much of the island had its power knocked out. Gov. Ricardo Rossello said officials had prepared about 450 shelters with a capacity for nearly 68,000 people — or even 125,000 in an emergency. He said schools were cancelled for Monday and government employees would work only a half day.

Officials in the Dominican Republic urged people to leave areas prone to flooding and said fishermen should remain in port.

Farther north, long-lived Hurricane Jose continued to head northward off the U.S. East Coast, causing dangerous surf and rip currents. It wasn't expected to make landfall but tropical storm watches were posted along the coast from Delaware to Massachusetts' Cape Cod.

Jose was centered about 280 miles (450 kilometers) east-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and was moving north at 9 mph (15 kph). It had maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph).

In the Pacific, Tropical Storm Norma's threat to Mexico's Los Cabos resort area at the southern end of the Baja California peninsula seemed to ease as forecasters said the storm's center was likely to remain offshore.

Norma had winds of about 50 mph (85 kph) and it was centered about 160 miles (255 kilometers) southwest of Cabo San Lucas. That area was hit two weeks ago by Tropical Storm Lidia, which flooded streets and homes and killed at least four people.

The Baja California Sur state government prepared storm shelters and canceled classes for Monday. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Lee weakened into a tropical depression far out in the Atlantic while Hurricane Otis weakened some far out in the Pacific. Neither threatened land.

Senate poised to pass \$700 billion defense policy bill By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is poised to pass a defense policy bill that pumps \$700 billion into the Pentagon budget, expands U.S. missile defenses in response to North Korea's growing hostility and refuses to allow excess military bases to be closed.

The legislation is expected to be approved on Monday by a wide margin in another burst of bipartisanship amid President Donald Trump's push for cooperation with congressional Democrats. The 1,215-page measure defies a number of White House objections, but Trump hasn't threatened to veto the measure. The bill helps him honor a pledge to boost military spending by tens of billions of dollars.

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Sen. John McCain, the Armed Services Committee chairman battling an aggressive type of brain cancer, has guided the bill toward passage over the last week as he railed against Washington gridlock and political gamesmanship. But McCain, R-Ariz., couldn't quell disputes among his colleagues over several contentious amendments that so far have been blocked from votes and failed to be added to the bill.

Among them is a proposal by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Susan Collins, R-Maine, that would have protected transgender service members from being kicked out of the armed forces. Another amendment, from Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, would prevent the government from detaining indefinitely U.S. citizens apprehended on American soil who are suspected of supporting a terrorist group.

Approved by the Armed Services Committee by a vote of 27-0 in late June, the Senate bill would provide \$640 billion for core Pentagon operations, such as buying weapons and paying troops, and another \$60 billion for wartime missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and elsewhere. Trump's budget request sought \$603 billion for basic functions and \$65 billion for overseas missions.

With North Korea's nuclear program a clear threat to the U.S. and its allies, the bill would provide \$8.5 billion to strengthen U.S. missile and defense systems. That's \$630 million more than the Trump administration sought for those programs, according to a committee analysis.

North Korea last week conducted its longest-ever test flight of a ballistic missile, firing an intermediaterange weapon over U.S. ally Japan into the northern Pacific Ocean. The launch signaled both defiance of its rivals and a significant technological advance.

The legislation requires the Defense Department to deploy up to 14 additional ground-based interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska, that will expand to 58 the number of interceptors designed to destroy incoming warheads. The department also is tasked with finding a storage site for as many as 14 spare interceptors, and senators envision an eventual arsenal of 100 with additional missile fields in the Midwest and on the East Coast.

The White House, in a statement issued earlier this month, called the order for more interceptors "premature" given the Pentagon's ongoing review of missile defense programs.

Although the bill calls for more military spending than at any point during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, major hurdles need to be cleared before all the extra money materializes. Congress would have to roll back a 2011 law that set strict limits on military spending. That's a tall order in the Senate, where support from Democrats will be necessary to get the 60 votes required to lift the so-called budget caps.

As their House counterparts did, the Senate bill rejects Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' plan to launch a new round of base closings starting in 2021. He told lawmakers in June that closing excess installations would save \$10 billion over a five-year period. Mattis said the savings could be used to acquire four nuclear submarines or dozens of jet fighters. But military installations are prized possessions in states and lawmakers refused to go along.

Follow Richard Lardner on Twitter at http://twitter.com/rplardner

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. HOW TRUMP'S ADVISERS SCHOOLED HIM ON GLOBALISM

Aides laid out the case for maintaining far-flung diplomatic, military and intelligence outposts — and used charts and maps as a key part of the presentation.

2. DOZENS ARRESTED AS ST. LOUIS READIES FOR MORE PROTESTS

The acquittal of a white former police officer charged with killing a black man went from nonviolent demonstrations to some acts of vandalism for the third straight night.

3. MEMO: 6 OF 27 NATIONAL MONUMENTS FACE REDUCTION

The Interior Department is recommending that Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante in Utah, along with Nevada's Gold Butte and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou be reduced in size.

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4. HURRICANE MARIA SWIRLS TOWARD EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Forecasters warn it probably would be a major storm by the time it passes through the already battered Leeward Islands later in the day.

5. SENATE POISED TO PASS \$700 BILLION DEFENSE POLICY BILL

The legislation would also expand U.S. missile defenses to counter the growing threat from North Korea.

6. NEW OCCUPANTS RENT TRUMP'S CHILDHOOD HOME

As world leaders gather for the United Nations General Assembly, refugees invited by Oxfam share their stories as a way to draw attention to the crisis.

7. WHAT SALMON IS FALLING PREY TO

One of the most farmed aquatic species, the fish are being victimized by parasitic sea lice more and more as oceans warm.

8. WHOSE PRESENCE WAS FELT AT EMMYS

Skewered by host Stephen Colbert, Trump was the butt of jokes and pointed political commentary.

9. LADY GAGA POSTPONES EUROPEAN LEG OF WORLD TOUR UNTIL NEXT YEAR

The 31-year-old singer of hits "Bad Romance" and "Poker Face" has been battling "severe physical pain," according to tour promoter Live Nation.

10. NEW SEASON. NEW STADIUM. SAME RESULT.

The rematch of last season's NFC championship game was essentially a repeat: Matt Ryan and Devonta Freeman led the Falcons to a dominating 34-23 win over the Packers.

President Trump omnipresent over Emmy Awards ceremony By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump never won an Emmy, it's true. But his presence was felt at this year's television awards ceremony more than any actor, writer or producer.

"Saturday Night Live," for which Trump was an endless fount of comedy during his campaign and early presidency, had its best Emmys haul in the show's 41-year history. "The Handmaid's Tale," the Hulu drama about an authoritarian society where some found disturbing echoes in real life, was the most-honored drama Sunday night.

Then there was host Stephen Colbert's string of one-liners about the man he considered the biggest television star of the past year, and former White House press secretary Sean Spicer's jaw-dropping cameo in Colbert's opening monologue.

Trump is a past Emmy nominee, from his time as "Celebrity Apprentice" host. Colbert told the audience that the Emmys may be to blame for his presidency, because Trump might not have run if he'd won an Emmy. Then he got in a dig where he knew it would hurt: "Unlike the presidency, Emmys go to the winner of the popular vote," he said.

Spicer wheeled onto the stage behind a mobile podium — a la "SNL" impersonator Melissa McCarthy — and joked about the Emmys having its biggest audience ever. The reference to his dubious claim about the crowd size at Trump's inaugural struck some on social media as not the sort of thing that should be joked about.

"Saturday Night Live" won a total of nine Emmys Sunday and at last week's Creative Arts Emmys. The cast members who impersonated Trump and opponent Hillary Clinton — Alec Baldwin and Kate McKinnon — both won Emmys for supporting roles in a comedy. The show won the Emmy for best variety sketch series.

Backstage, the show's longtime top executive, Lorne Michaels said it was one of the show's most amazing years, "because everything changed every day."

"Philosophically, anyone who is in power should be questioned and that's what we do," he said. "If you seem to have a clear bias I think people stop listening and resist the show."

"The Handmaid's Tale" won the Emmy for best drama. The show was also responsible for drama writing and directing awards, and star Elisabeth Moss won best actress. Margaret Atwood, whose 1985 novel is

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the show's source, stood onstage with the cast and crew to soak in the adulation.

Asked about it after the telecast, show producer Bruce Miller said the show doesn't look to the politics of the day to bend the story.

"But we're a really plugged in group of actors," he said. "I don't think you can help but have it affect you."

Julia Louis-Dreyfus earned the best comic actress Emmy for the sixth time as the clueless politician in
"Veep," and the show was named best comedy for the third time. Add in the Emmys Louis-Dreyfus won
for "Seinfeld" and "New Adventures of Old Christine," and she's now tied with Cloris Leachman as the
most Emmy-winning performer ever.

The dominance of "Veep" is about to come to an end, since the HBO show is going into its final season. "We did have a whole story line about impeachment, but we abandoned that because we were worried that someone else might get to it first," Louis-Dreyfus said.

HBO's "Big Little Lies" won the Emmy for best limited series, and Nicole Kidman won best actress in a limited series for her role in the show. Kidman and co-star Reese Witherspoon said they were grateful the show provided strong roles for women.

The Emmys seemed a bit star-struck by Kidman, giving her two minutes, 45 seconds of uninterrupted time to talk after her award. Meanwhile, Sterling K. Brown, who won for best actor in a drama for his role in "This is Us," got a loud musical hook ending his acceptance speech before he'd reached the two-minute mark. Brown paid tribute to the last African-American man to win in his category, Andre Braugher.

Donald Glover won the best comedy actor and best comedy director Emmys for "Atlanta," which he created and which carries his distinctive voice.

"I want to thank Trump for making black people No. 1 on the most oppressed list. He's the reason I'm probably up here," Glover said.

John Lithgow, who received the best supporting drama actor for his role as British leader Winston Churchill in "The Crown," took a more diplomatic approach to political commentary.

"Most of all I have to thank Winston Churchill. In these crazy times, his life, even as an old man, reminds us what courage and leadership in government really looks like," Lithgow said.

Online: http://www.emmys.com

AP Television Writer Lynn Elber and Entertainment Writer Lindsey Bahr in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Interior secretary recommends shrinking 6 national monuments By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending that six of 27 national monuments under review by the Trump administration be reduced in size, with changes to several others proposed.

A leaked memo from Zinke to President Donald Trump recommends that two Utah monuments - Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante — be reduced, along with Nevada's Gold Butte and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou.

Two marine monuments in the Pacific Ocean also would be reduced under Zinke's memo, which has not been officially released. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the memo, which was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Trump ordered the review earlier this year after complaining about improper "land grabs" by former presidents, including Barack Obama.

National monument designations add protections for lands revered for their natural beauty and historical significance with the goal of preserving them for future generations. The restrictions aren't as stringent as for national parks, but some policies include limits on mining, timber cutting and recreational activities such as riding off-road vehicles.

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The monuments under review were designated by four presidents over the last two decades. Several are about the size of the state of Delaware, including Mojave Trails in California, Grand-Staircase Escalante in Utah and Bears Ears, which is on sacred tribal land.

No other president has tried to eliminate a monument, but some have trimmed and redrawn boundaries 18 times, according to the National Park Service.

Zinke told The Associated Press last month that unspecified boundary adjustments for some monuments designated over the past four decades will be included in the recommendations submitted to Trump. None of the sites would revert to new ownership, he said, while public access for uses such as hunting, fishing or grazing would be maintained or restored.

He also spoke of protecting tribal interests and historical land grants, pointing to monuments in New Mexico, where Hispanic ranchers have opposed two monuments proclaimed by Obama.

Zinke declined to say whether portions of the monuments would be opened up to oil and gas drilling, mining, logging and other industries for which Trump has advocated. It was not clear from the memo how much energy development would be allowed on the sites recommended for changes, although the memo cites increased public access as a key goal.

A spokeswoman for Zinke referred questions Sunday night to the White House, which did not offer immediate comment.

If Trump adopts the recommendations, it would quiet some of the worst fears of his opponents, who warned that vast public lands and marine areas could be lost to states or private interests.

But significant reductions in the size of the monuments, especially those created by Obama, would mark the latest in a string of actions where Trump has sought to erode his Democratic predecessor's legacy.

The recommendations cap an unprecedented four-month review based on Trump's claim that the centuryold Antiquities Act had been misused by past presidents to create oversized monuments that hinder energy development, grazing and other uses.

The review raised alarm among conservationists who said protections could be lost for areas that are home to ancient cliff dwellings, towering sequoia trees, deep canyons and ocean habitats. They've vowed to file lawsuits if Trump attempts any changes that would reduce the size of monuments or rescind their designations.

Zinke had previously announced that no changes would be made at six national monuments — in Montana, Colorado, Idaho, California, Arizona and Washington. He also said that Bears Ears monument in Utah should be downsized.

In addition to shrinking six monuments, Zinke recommends changes at several other sites, including two national monuments in New Mexico: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande del Norte.

He also recommended changes to Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine.

Jamie Williams, president of the Wilderness Society, said the recommendations apparently made by Zinke "represent an unprecedented assault on our parks and public lands" by the Trump administration.

"This callous proposal will needlessly punish local, predominantly rural communities that depend on parks and public lands for outdoor recreation, sustainable jobs and economic growth," Williams said in a statement.

"We believe the Trump administration has no legal authority to alter or erase protections for national treasures. If President Trump acts in support of these recommendations, The Wilderness Society will move swiftly to challenge those actions in court," Williams said.

'Veep' and 'The Handmaid's Tale' win top Emmy Award prizesBy LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The dystopian vision of "The Handmaid's Tale," the deeply cynical Washington comedy "Veep" and the ever-topical "Saturday Night Live" won top series honors Sunday in an Emmy Awards ceremony that took almost nonstop aim at President Donald Trump in awards and speeches.

"Go home, get to work, we have a lot of things to fight for," producer Bruce Miller said in accepting the

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best drama trophy for "A Handmaid's Tale," which also won best drama writing and directing awards and a best actress trophy for Elisabeth Moss. A beaming Margaret Atwood, the Canadian author whose 1985 novel is the show's source, was onstage.

Sterling K. Brown, whose role in "This Is Us" earned him the top drama series actor trophy, paid tribute to the last African-American man to win in the category, Andre Braugher in 1998 for his role as a police detective in "Homicide: Life on the Street."

"Nineteen years ago, Detective Frank Pemberton held this joint," Brown, hoisting his Emmy and calling it his "supreme honor" to follow Braugher. He was good-natured as the orchestra cut into his speech, but it seemed a glaring misstep on a night in which the TV academy reveled in signs of the industry's increasing diversity.

Earlier, Nicole Kidman spoke uninterrupted for 2 minutes and 45 seconds, while Brown got 1 minute, 58 seconds, before he was played off, a significant difference given the short time winners get to say their piece.

Moss captured her first Emmy and thanked her mother in a speech that was peppered with expletives, while Ann Dowd won supporting actress honors for "A Handmaid's Tale."

Donald Glover won the best comedy actor for "Atlanta," which he created and which carries his distinctive voice, while Julia Louis-Dreyfus was honored for a sixth time for her role as a self-absorbed politician in "Veep," named best comedy for the third time.

"I want to thank Trump for making black people No. 1 on the most oppressed list. He's the reason I'm probably up here," Glover said, acknowledging the entertainment industry's and the Emmys' increased tilt toward the nonstop political under Trump. He also won a directing trophy for his FX Networks show.

Combined with Emmys that Louis-Dreyfus has won for "Seinfeld" and "New Adventures of Old Christine," her latest trophy tied her with Cloris Leachman as the most-winning Emmy performer ever. She called "Veep" an "adventure of utter joy," but first made a sharp-edged joke about the show's direction next season, its last.

"We did have a whole story line about an impeachment, but we abandoned that because we worried that someone else might get to it first," Louis-Dreyfus said.

Host Stephen Colbert's song-and-dance opening — with help from Chance the Rapper — included the song "Everything Is Better on TV," which, among other Trump digs, mentioned his alleged ties to Russia and included the lyric "even treason is better on TV."

The ceremony was also smartly free-wheeling under Colbert's sure hand, including a taped bit in which the nude comedian — carefully shown seated and from the back — was being "reprogrammed" by "Westworld" star and nominee Jeffrey Wright to correct a glitch in the host mechanism.

"Saturday Night Live" triumphed for a season of skewering Trump.

"I remember the first time we won this award," creator Lorne Michaels said in accepting the show's trophy for best variety sketch series. "It was after our first season in 1976. And I remember thinking ... there would never be another season as crazy, as unpredictable, as frightening, as exhausting, or as exhilarating. Turns out I was wrong."

The trophies for best supporting comedy acting went to Kate McKinnon, who played Hillary Clinton on "SNL," and Alec Baldwin for his Trump portrayal on the NBC show.

McKinnon thanked Clinton for her "grace and grit." Baldwin spoke directly to Trump, who has complained in the past that he was cheated out of a trophy for hosting "Celebrity Apprentice": "I suppose I should say, 'At long last, Mr. President, here is your Emmy."

Melissa McCarthy was honored at last weekend's creative arts Emmys as best guest actress for her "SNL" work, including portraying Sean Spicer. The former White House press secretary made a surprise Emmys appearance, wheeling in his own podium.

"This will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys, period. Both in person and around the world," Spicer shouted with authority, echoing his claim that Trump's inauguration crowd was the biggest ever and evoking McCarthy's manic portrayal of him.

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John Lithgow, who received the best supporting drama actor for his role as British leader Winston Churchill in "The Crown," took a more diplomatic approach to political commentary.

"Most of all I have to thank Winston Churchill. In these crazy times, his life, even as an old man, reminds us what courage and leadership in government really looks like," Lithgow said.

Many celebrities wore blue ribbons to support the American Civil Liberties Union, which is seeking to shed light on the plight of young immigrants facing the potential of being deported.

In a sign of the dramatically changed TV landscape, premium cable was joined by streaming services to dominate traditional broadcast networks with winners including Hulu's "Handmaid's Tale," Netflix's TV movie "Black Mirror: San Junipero" and HBO's "Big Little Lies."

HBO claimed a leading 29 awards based on the combined totals from Sunday and last week's creative arts awards, followed by Netflix with 20, NBC with 15, Hulu with 10, ABC with seven and FX Networks with six. NBC's uplifting family drama "This Is Us" missed its shot at being the first network drama to win since

Fox's "24" in 2006, but the network's "SNL" won a leading nine awards among programs.

"Big Little Lies" won the limited series award, with Kidman taking the lead actress award and supporting honors going to her castmates Alexander Skarsgard and Laura Dern.

"More great roles for women, please," said Kidman as she and her fellow executive producer and co-star Reese Witherspoon accepted the miniseries' award.

Riz Ahmed was honored as best limited series actor for "The Night Of."

Lena Waithe became the first African-American woman to win an Emmy for comedy series writing, for "Master of None," sharing the award with series co-creator Aziz Ansari, who is of Indian heritage.

"The things that make us different, those are superpowers," Waithe said. "Thank you for embracing a little Indian boy from South Carolina and a little queer black girl from the south side of Chicago," she said, basking in a standing ovation from the theater audience.

TV academy President and CEO Hayma Washington paid tribute to TV's increasing diversity. That was reflected in the record number of African-American continuing series acting nominees, but Latinos were overlooked and Ansari was the only Asian-American contender.

"The Voice" won the reality competition category. "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" won the award for best variety talk series writing and then the variety show prize itself, prompting also-rans Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel to jokingly raise a glass to each other and speculate whether the wrong name was announced.

The "In Memorian" segment had several notable exclusions, including Dick Gregory and Harry Dean Stanton.

Online: http://www.emmys.com

AP Entertainment Writers Sandy Cohen and Lindsey Bahr in Los Angeles and David Bauder in New York contributed to this report.

Police report arrests in 3rd night of demonstrations By JIM SALTER and SUMMER BALLENTINE, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis police made several arrests and one officer was injured Sunday night after an afternoon of nonviolent protest over the acquittal of a white former police officer charged in the shooting death of a black man gave way to broken windows and a police response of several hundred officers in full riot gear.

Following the same pattern as the previous two days, Sunday's protests began as marches of hundreds of people chanting in opposition to the verdict released Friday. But after organizers declared the demonstration a success and urged participants to head home, several dozen remained and grew increasingly agitated as the evening wore on.

By the time buses carrying hundreds of officers arrived, windows were broken at several businesses,

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plants were pulled from decorative downtown planters and police said they were sprayed with an unknown chemical.

At least seven people were taken into custody.

Heading into a third night of protests, organizers said they were frustrated that a few people who have caused trouble at night could make it harder to spread their nonviolent message.

State Rep. Bruce Franks, who has participated in the protests, said those who are violent and vandalizing "are not protesters," but a group separate from those marching in organized demonstrations.

Sunday's crowd began protesting silently in the late afternoon in front of the police department building, then chanted "stop killing us" as officers looked on from headquarters windows. Afterward, they resumed large-scale marching through streets, similar to what they'd done in previous days, chanting slogans such as "this is what democracy looks like."

As nightfall came, most of the protesters had left, with about 100 remaining near the police station chanting "the whole damn system is guilty as hell."

Protesters object to the not-guilty verdict released Friday for Jason Stockley, who had been charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Anthony Lamar Smith in 2011.

Authorities closed off several blocks around the police headquarters Sunday afternoon in anticipation of the demonstration, which followed two days of nonviolent marches that devolved after sunset when small groups turned violent on Friday and Saturday nights.

Protesters and organizers say the violence and vandalism by a few people threatens to detract from broader messages of racial equity.

"It's counterproductive," said Democratic Rep. Michael Butler, who added that people he described as "agitators" are not part of protest leadership.

Kayla Reed, an organizer and activist with the St. Louis Action Council, said actions of those few people have unfairly been used to "demonize" nonviolent protesters. She said not everyone who shows up at protests share the same goals as organizers or the majority of protesters.

"At any point, an individual can shift the entire moment that's planned and organized," Reed said.

Protest organizer Anthony Bell during demonstrations Sunday said change is made through peaceful protests, such as those led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But Bell said he understands the anger that sometimes leads to violence and property damage.

"I do not say the demonstrators are wrong, but I believe peaceful demonstrations are the best," he said. The recent St. Louis protests have followed a pattern borne out of months of angry and sometimes violent protests after the 2014 killing of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson: The majority of demonstrators, though angry, are law-abiding. But as the night wears on, a subsection emerges, a different crowd more willing to confront police, sometimes to the point of a violent interaction.

On Friday night, a few thousand protesters were disruptive but organized as they marched in the early evening in front of hospitals and down the streets of the posh Central West End, urging diners at patios of expensive restaurants, "Off the sidewalk onto the street" as part of broader efforts to force potentially uncomfortable conversations about racial inequity in affluent and mainly white areas.

But as the night wore on and protesters converged outside the home of Mayor Lyda Krewson, someone threw a rock through a window and paint was splashed on the home. Police responded in riot gear and, shortly, began tossing tear gas. Within an hour, police say protesters were breaking windows.

The same scene played out Saturday. Protesters marched for hours in the trendy Delmar Loop area until organizers announced shortly before 9 p.m. that the event was over and most of the couple of thousand protesters went home.

Around 100 to 150 didn't, continued to march, and some eventually began confronting police. It wasn't clear what set off the anger, but police in riot gear began to line the streets and some people tossed rocks, trash cans and other things at them.

Butler said police should target the agitators and allow others to continue demonstrating. He protested Friday, and after that said police have been doing a poor job of identifying bad actors amid crowds of

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other protesters.

"There's not been any learning from Ferguson," Butler said.

Stockley shot Smith after Smith led from Stockley and his partner on a high-speed chase as they tried to arrest him for a suspected drug deal.

Stockley, 36, testified that he felt he was in danger because he saw Smith holding a silver revolver when Smith backed his car toward the officers and sped away.

Prosecutors said Stockley planted a gun in Smith's car after the shooting. The officer's DNA was on the weapon but Smith's wasn't. Dashcam video from Stockley's cruiser recorded him saying he was "going to kill this (expletive)." Less than a minute later, he shot Smith five times.

Stockley's lawyer dismissed the comment as "human emotions" during a dangerous pursuit. St. Louis Circuit Judge Timothy Wilson, who said prosecutors didn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Stockley murdered Smith, said the statement could be ambiguous.

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas: http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv.

2 Louisiana slayings likely racially motivated, police say By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — The slayings of two black men in Baton Rouge last week were likely racially motivated, police said Sunday, and a suspect — a 23-year-old white man — was in custody. In both shootings the gunman fired from his car then walked up to the victims as they were lying on the ground and fired again multiple times.

The suspect, Kenneth Gleason, was being held on drug charges and was given a \$3,500 bond on Sunday evening, a district attorney told The Associated Press. Authorities didn't immediately have enough evidence to arrest him on charges related to the killings, but the investigation was ongoing, Baton Rouge Sgt. L'Jean McKneely told The Associated Press.

Gleason was still jailed as of 6 p.m. Sunday, according to the sheriff's office.

"The victims were ... ambushed," McKneely said. "There is a strong possibility that it could be racially motivated."

McKneely said shell casings from the shootings linked the two slayings, and a car belonging to Gleason fit the description of the vehicle used in the killings. He said authorities had collected other circumstantial evidence but he wouldn't say what it was.

Neither victim had any prior relationship with Gleason. It wasn't immediately clear if Gleason had an attorney or when his first court appearance would be.

The shootings happened about five miles from each other. The first occurred Tuesday night when 59-year-old Bruce Cofield, who was homeless, was shot to death. The second happened Thursday night when 49-year-old Donald Smart was gunned down while walking to his job as a dishwasher at a cafe popular with Louisiana State University students, Mckneely said.

Smart's aunt, Mary Smart, said she was still dealing with the shock of her nephew's death.

"I'm feeling down and depressed. My nephew, I love him, and he was on his way to work and that makes it so sad," she said in a telephone interview Sunday. "He was always smiling and hugging everybody. A lot of people knew him."

Smart had a son and two daughters, she said.

She declined to comment on police allegations that her nephew might have been shot because of the color of his skin.

"I cannot say," she said. "Only God knows."

No one answered the door at Gleason's house in a quiet neighborhood of mostly ranch-style homes with well-kept lawns, located about 10 miles from the sites of the shootings.

"He looks like any clean-cut American kid," said neighbor Nancy Reynolds, who said she didn't know

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Gleason or his family. She said it was "hard to believe this sort of thing is still happening."

Two of Gleason's cousins said they couldn't believe he had anything to do with the killings.

"He had no problems with any person," said Garrett Sing, 37. "He had black friends, white friends, Asian friends. He made friends with anyone."

Another cousin, 33-year-old Barton Sing, described Gleason as a "good kid" and recalled how his cousin recently asked him to teach him how to bow hunt.

"He said he never liked guns. That's why he wanted to get into archery," Sing said. "He's the last person I'd think to do something like this."

Gleason didn't appear to have any active social media profiles. A spokesman at Louisiana State University said a student by that name attended the university from the fall of 2013 to the fall of 2014 before withdrawing. He had transferred to LSU from Baton Rouge Community College, the spokesman, Ernie Ballard, said.

East Baton Rouge District Attorney Hillar Moore wouldn't comment on what led investigators to him. "We're actively investigating right now," Moore said.

Detectives searched Gleason's home on Saturday and found 9 grams of marijuana and vials of human growth hormone at his house, according to a police document. After Gleason was read his Miranda rights, he claimed ownership of the drugs, the document said.

Louisiana's capital, a city of 229,000, is known for its championship college football team and its political scene. A year ago, racial tensions roiled the city when a black man was shot to death by white police officers outside of a convenience store. About two weeks later, a black gunman targeted police in an ambush, killing three officers and wounding three others before he was shot to death. The city is about 55 percent black and 40 percent white.

Smart consistently showed up for his overnight shift as a dishwasher at Louie's Cafe in a spotless white T-shirt and bright white Nike tennis shoes, The Advocate newspaper reported.

"I've seen 26 years of folks washing dishes in a busy diner and this guy is untouchable," Louie's general manager, Fred Simonson, was quoted as saying. "When you have an employee like Donald, he's the type of person who's going to make the person next to him better."

Associated Press writers Jacob Jordan in Atlanta, Janet McConnaughey in New Orleans and Gillian Flaccus in Portland, OR, contributed to this report.

Trump, in new dig, mocks North Korea leader as 'Rocket Man' By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

SOMERSET, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump on Sunday mocked the leader of nuclear-armed North Korea as "Rocket Man" while White House advisers said the isolated nation would face destruction unless it shelves its weapons programs and bellicose threats.

Trump's chief diplomat held out hope the North would return to the bargaining table, though the president's envoy to the United Nations said the Security Council had "pretty much exhausted" all its options. Kim Jong Un has pledged to continue the North's programs, saying his country is nearing its goal of "equilibrium" in military force with the United States.

North Korea will be high on the agenda for world leaders this coming week at the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, Trump's biggest moment on the world stage since his inauguration in January. Trump is scheduled to address the world body, which he has criticized as weak and incompetent, on Tuesday.

Trump, who spent the weekend at his New Jersey golf club, tweeted that he and South Korean President Moon Jae-in discussed North Korea during their latest telephone conversation Saturday.

Asked about Trump's description of Kim, national security adviser H.R. McMaster said "Rocket Man" was "a new one and I think maybe for the president." But, he said, "that's where the rockets are coming from. Rockets, though, we ought to probably not laugh too much about because they do represent a

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great threat to all."

McMcaster said Kim is "going to have to give up his nuclear weapons because the president has said he's not going to tolerate this regime threatening the United States and our citizens with a nuclear weapon."

Asked if that meant Trump would launch a military strike, McMaster said "he's been very clear about that, that all options are on the table."

Some doubt that Kim would ever agree to surrender his arsenal.

"I think that North Korea is not going to give up its program with nothing on the table," said Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Kim has threatened Guam, a U.S. territory in the Pacific, and has fired missiles over Japan, a U.S. ally. North Korea also recently tested its most powerful bomb.

The U.N. Security Council has voted unanimously twice in recent weeks to tighten economic sanctions on North Korea, including targeting shipments of oil and other fuel used in missile testing. Trump's U.N. ambassador, Nikki Haley, said North Korea was starting to "feel the pinch."

Trump, in a tweet, asserted that long lines for gas were forming in North Korea, and he said that was "too bad."

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he was waiting for the North to express interest in "constructive, productive talks."

"All they need to do to let us know they're ready to talk is to just stop these tests, stop these provocative actions, and let's lower the threat level and the rhetoric," he said.

But Haley warned of a tougher U.S. response to future North Korean provocations, and said she would be happy to turn the matter over to Defense Secretary Jim Mattis "because he has plenty of military options." Mattis said after Kim tested a hydrogen bomb earlier this month that the U.S. would answer any threat from the North with a "massive military response, a response both effective and overwhelming."

Trump has threatened to rain "fire and fury" on North Korea if the North continued with its threats. Haley said that wasn't an empty threat from the president but she declined to describe the president's intentions.

"If North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea will be destroyed and we all know that and none of us want that," Haley said. "None of us want war. But we also have to look at the fact that you are dealing with someone who is being reckless, irresponsible and is continuing to give threats not only to the United States, but to all their allies, so something is going to have to be done."

In other developments Sunday:

—McMaster said "the president's ears are open" to possible participation in a new global climate agreement that addresses his concerns about the original 2015 deal, when Barack Obama was president. The White House has denied reports that Trump has changed his mind about withdrawing the U.S. from the accord.

—McMaster suggested that Friday's bomb attack in London could lead Trump to introduce a stronger travel ban. Trump's original travel ban has been tied up in court, with the Supreme Court scheduled to hear arguments next month in a legal challenge.

Haley and Feinstein spoke on CNN's "State of the Union," McMaster appeared on ABC's "This Week" and "Fox News Sunday" and Tillerson was on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Associated Press writer Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

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Top US diplomat says closing embassy in Cuba 'under review' By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Trump administration is considering closing down the recently reopened U.S. Embassy in Havana following a string of unexplained incidents harming the health of American diplomats in Cuba, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Sunday.

Tillerson's comments were the strongest indication to date that the United States might mount a major diplomatic response, potentially jeopardizing the historic restart of relations between the U.S. and Cuba. The two former foes reopened embassies in Washington and Havana in 2015 after a half-century of estrangement.

"We have it under evaluation," Tillerson said of a possible embassy closure. "It's a very serious issue with respect to the harm that certain individuals have suffered. We've brought some of those people home. It's under review."

Of the 21 medically confirmed U.S. victims — diplomats and their families — some have permanent hearing loss or concussions, while others suffered nausea, headaches and ear-ringing. Some are struggling with concentration or common word recall, The Associated Press has reported .

Some victims felt vibrations or heard loud sounds mysteriously audible in only parts of rooms, leading investigators to consider a potential "sonic attack." Others heard nothing but later developed symptoms.

Tillerson once called the events "health attacks," but the State Department has since used the term "incidents" while emphasizing the U.S. still doesn't know what has occurred. Cuba has denied any involvement or responsibility but stressed it's eager to help the U.S. resolve the matter.

The U.S. has said the tally of Americans affected could grow as more cases are potentially detected.

The last reported incident was on Aug. 21, according to a U.S. official briefed on the matter. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and requested anonymity.

A decision to shutter the embassy, even temporarily, would deal a demoralizing blow to the delicate detente that President Barack Obama and Cuban leader Raul Castro announced in late 2014. The next year, embassies were reopened and restrictions on travel and commerce eased — signs of a warming relationship that displeased some hard-liners in Cuba's government. President Donald Trump has reversed some of the changes, but left many in place.

Tillerson spoke on CBS' "Face the Nation" as world leaders and top diplomats descended on New York for annual U.N. General Assembly meetings. President Donald Trump will give his first speech on the major global platform this week.

Cuba is also represented at the U.N., but it's not expected Trump will meet with any Cuban leaders or officials during his visit.

The U.S. hasn't identified either a culprit or a device. Investigators have explored the possibility of sonic waves, an electromagnetic weapon, or an advanced spying operation gone awry, U.S. officials briefed on the probe told the AP. The U.S. hasn't ruled out that a third country or a rogue faction of Cuba's security services might be involved.

In Washington, lawmakers in Congress have been raising alarm over the incidents, with some calling for the embassy to be closed. On Friday, five Republican senators wrote Tillerson urging him to not only shutter the embassy, but also kick all Cuban diplomats out of the United States — a move with dramatic diplomatic implications

"Cuba's neglect of its duty to protect our diplomats and their families cannot go unchallenged," said the lawmakers, who included Sen. Tom Cotton of Arkansas, who led the effort, and Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a prominent Cuban-American and critic of the U.S. detente.

The incidents have frightened Havana's tight-knit diplomatic community, raising concerns about the potential scope. At least one other country, France, has tested embassy staff for potential sonic-induced injuries, the AP has reported.

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France: Acid attack on 4 US students not seen as terror act BY PHILIPPE SOTTO, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Four American college students were attacked with acid Sunday at a train station in France, but French authorities so far do not think extremist views motivated the 41-year-old woman who was arrested as the alleged assailant, the local prosecutor's office and the students' school said.

Boston College, a private Jesuit university in Massachusetts, said in a statement Sunday that the four female students were treated at a hospital for burns after they were sprayed in the face with acid in the city of Marseille. The statement said the four all were juniors studying abroad, three of them at the college's Paris program.

"It appears that the students are fine, considering the circumstances, though they may require additional treatment for burns," Nick Gozik, who directs Boston College's Office of International Programs. "We have been in contact with the students and their parents and remain in touch with French officials and the U.S. Embassy regarding the incident."

Police in France described the suspect as "disturbed" and said the attack was not thought at this point to be terror-related, according the university's statement.

The Paris prosecutor's office said earlier Sunday that its counter-terrorism division had decided for the time being not to assume jurisdiction for investigating the attack. The prosecutor's office in the capital, which has responsibility for all terror-related cases in France, did not explain the reasoning behind the decision.

A spokeswoman for the Marseille prosecutor's office told The Associated Press in a telephone call that the suspect did not make any extremist threats or declarations during the late morning attack at the city's Saint Charles train station. She said there were no obvious indications that the woman's actions were terror-related.

The spokeswoman spoke on condition of anonymity, per the custom of the French judicial system. She said all four of the victims were in their 20s and treated at a hospital, two of them for shock. The suspect was taken into police custody.

Boston College identified the students as Courtney Siverling, Charlotte Kaufman, Michelle Krug and Kelsey Kosten.

The Marseille fire department was alerted just after 11 a.m. and dispatched four vehicles and 14 fire-fighters to the train station, a department spokeswoman said.

Two of the Americans were "slightly injured" with acid but did not require emergency medical treatment from medics at the scene, the spokeswoman said. She requested anonymity in keeping with fire department protocol.

A person with knowledge of the investigation said the suspect had a history of mental health problems but no apparent past links to extremism. The person was not authorized to be publicly named speaking about the investigation. Regional newspaper La Provence said the assailant remained at the site of the attack without trying to flee.

France has seen scattered attacks by unstable individuals as well as extremist violence in recent years, including in Marseille, a port city in southern France that is closer to Barcelona than Paris.

A driver deliberately rammed into two bus stops in Marseille last month, killing a woman, but officials said it wasn't terror-related.

In April, French police said they thwarted an imminent "terror attack" and arrested two suspected radicals in Marseille just days before the first round of France's presidential election. Paris prosecutor Francois Molins told reporters the two suspects "were getting ready to carry out an imminent, violent action." In January 2016, a 15-year-old Turkish Kurd was arrested after attacking a Jewish teacher on a Marseille street. He told police he acted in the name of the Islamic State group.

Angela Charlton in Paris and Crystal Hill in Boston contributed to the report.

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UK lowers terror threat level as subway bomb probe advances By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British police made progress Sunday in their frantic pursuit of suspects and evidence connected to the bomb that partially exploded on a packed London subway, leading counter-terrorism officials to lower the country's threat level because they no longer considered a fresh attack to be imminent.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced the downgraded terror threat level hours after London police said a second suspect was in custody and a second property was being searched in connection with Friday's attack that injured 30 people.

Rudd cautioned that the investigation was ongoing and that Britain still faced a substantial threat even though the terror level had been reset to "severe" from "critical."

"Severe still means that an attack is highly likely, so I would urge everybody to be vigilant but not alarmed," she said.

The advancing investigation was welcome news for London commuters who had anticipated heading to work Monday morning while suspects remained at large and police were racing to round them up before they could hit the city again.

Mark Rowley, who heads the police counter-terrorism operation, said the traveling public still would see an increased police and military presence in the coming days.

"For practical and precautionary reasons, we made the decision that the increased resources will continue for the beginning of this week," Rowley said. "So the public will still see that high level of policing presence; some armed, some unarmed."

He said two properties were being searched and that police had "much more to do."

The fact that a second person — a 21-year-old man — was arrested under the Terrorism Act offered the clearest proof yet that police and security services believe the subway bombing was not just the work of one person.

The first suspect, an 18-year-old man, was arrested early Saturday in the departure area of the port of Dover, where ferries leave for France on a regular basis. The second was arrested in Hounslow in west London shortly before midnight Saturday.

Both were questioned Sunday at a south London police station. They have not been charged or identified. The subway bomb caused limited casualties because it failed to completely explode. Officials say 30 people were injured, including some hurt in the panic that ensued, and all but one have been released from the hospital. Most of the injured suffered burns.

The two searches were taking place at a suburban home in Sunbury, southwest of London, and in Stanwell, another suburb close to London Heathrow Airport.

The first search, linked to the first subject, started in Sunbury Saturday afternoon at a house that belongs to an elderly couple who have for years taken in foster children, including refugees from conflict zones in Syria and Iraq.

The pair — Ronald Jones, 88, and his wife, Penelope Jones, 71 — have been honored by Queen Elizabeth II for their work with children in need of a stable home.

A friend, Alison Griffiths, said the Joneses are "great pillars of the community" who have taken in several hundred children in the last 40 years.

Neighbors said two young men had been staying with them recently.

The second search started Sunday afternoon and was linked to the second suspect.

The Islamic State extremist group has said Friday's subway attack was carried out by one of its affiliated units.

Britain has endured four other attacks this year, which have killed a total of 36 people. The other attacks in London — near Parliament, on London Bridge and near a mosque in Finsbury Park in north London — used vehicles and knives to kill and wound.

The official terrorist threat level is set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Center, which consists of senior police and intelligence figures. The level has been set at "severe" for most of the past year, but was briefly raised to "critical" on Friday and after the bombing of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester in May.

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The Latest: 4 Boston college students hurt in France attack

PARIS (AP) — The Latest on the acid attack on U.S. tourists in the French city of Marseille (all times local): 10:15 p.m.

The four American tourists who French authorities say were attacked with acid at a train station in the city of Marseille have been identified as students at Boston College in Massachusetts.

The private Jesuit university said in a statement Sunday that the four female students were treated for burns at a Marseille hospital after they were sprayed in the face with acid on Sunday morning. The statement said the four all were juniors studying abroad, three of them at the college's Paris program.

The director of the college's Office of International Programs, Nick Gozik, said the women have been released from the hospital and "it appears that the students are fine, considering the circumstances."

The students were identified as Courtney Siverling, Charlotte Kaufman, Michelle Krug and Kelsey Kosten. A 41-year-old female suspect has been arrested in the attack. Boston College says police described the suspect as "disturbed."

7:45 p.m.

French authorities are not investigating the acid attack on four American women in the southern city of Marseille as an act of terrorism for the time being.

The Paris prosecutor's office said that its counter-terrorism division had not assumed jurisdiction for the attack at Marseille's main train station on Sunday morning. The prosecutor's office has responsibility for all terror-related cases in France.

A spokeswoman for Marseille's prosecutor said earlier that the 41-year-old woman arrested as a suspect in the attack did not make any extremist declarations, but said officials couldn't rule out terror as a motive so early in the investigation.

Regional newspaper La Provence, quoting unidentified police officials, reported that the suspect had a history of mental health problems and didn't try to flee the site of the attack.

The Marseille fire department says two of the tourists were slightly injured.

5:05 p.m.

The United States embassy in Paris says diplomatic staff in France is in contact with French authorities about the acid attack on four American women.

An embassy spokesman said Sunday that the U.S. consulate in the southern port city of Marseille is communicating with French officials about the attack at Marseille's main train station.

The spokesman says U.S. authorities in France are not immediately commenting further on what happened to protect the privacy of the American tourists, all women in their 20s.

French officials have arrested a 41-year-old female suspect in the attack.

4:25 p.m.

The spokeswoman for the Marseille prosecutor's office says the suspect who attacked four American women with acid in the Marseille train station did not yell any out any terror-linked threats.

The spokeswoman says there were no immediate indications that the attack was terror-related but adds that officials can't be 100 percent sure about ruling out terror links at such an early stage of the investigation.

She says French officials have arrested a suspect in Sunday's acid attack, a 41-year-old woman, and the four victims have been taken to the hospital. There was no immediate information on where the American tourists were from.

The spokeswoman spoke on condition of anonymity, per the French judicial system, in a phone call to The Associated Press.

3:45 p.m.

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The Marseille prosecutor's office says four young female U.S. tourists have been attacked with acid in Marseille's main train station by a woman who has been arrested.

A spokeswoman for the prosecutor office told The Associated Press that two of the tourists have been injured in the face in the attack Sunday in the Saint Charles train station and one of them has a possible eye injury. She says all four of the tourists, who are in their 20s, have been hospitalized, two of them for shock.

She did not have any more details and spoke on condition of anonymity, per the French judicial system. There was no immediate information on where the U.S. tourists were from.

Marseille is a port city in southern France that is closer to Barcelona than Paris.

This Week: Housing starts, Fed meeting, CarMax earnings By The Associated Press

A look at some of the key business events and economic indicators upcoming this week: BREAKING GROUND

New government data on residential construction should provide insight into the state of the new-home market.

The Commerce Department is expected to report on Tuesday that builders broke ground on new apartments and single-family homes at a faster pace in August than in the previous month. U.S. home construction slowed in July as builders started fewer apartment complexes, causing housing starts to tumble to a three-month low.

Housing starts, monthly, seasonally adjusted annual rate:

March 1,189,000

April 1,154,000

May 1,129,000

June 1,213,000

July 1,155,000

Aug. (est.) 1,178,000

Source: FactSet

EYES ON THE FED

The Federal Reserve wraps up a two-day meeting of its policymakers on Wednesday.

Investors will be listening for any hint of a shift in the central bank's interest rate plans or views on the U.S. economy. At their last meeting in July, Fed officials unanimously decided to keep the Fed's key benchmark interest rate unchanged. They also signaled that they were edging closer to gradually shrinking the Fed's bond holdings.

SMOOTH RIDE?

Wall Street predicts that CarMax's latest quarterly results improved from a year ago.

Financial analysts expect the used car retailer's earnings and revenue increased in its fiscal second quarter. CarMax is on a roll of late, with gains in earnings and revenue in its previous quarter and the 12 months that ended in February. The company releases its earnings Friday.

Irma's damage a reminder of Florida economy's vulnerability By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Florida's economy has long thrived on one import above all: People.

Until Irma struck this month, the state was adding nearly 1,000 residents a day — 333,471 in the past year, akin to absorbing a city the size of St. Louis or Pittsburgh. Every jobseeker, retiree or new birth, along with billions spent by tourists, helped fuel Florida's propulsive growth and economic gains.

Yet Hurricane Irma's destructive floodwaters renewed fears about how to manage the state's population boom as the risks of climate change intensify. Rising sea levels and spreading flood plains have magnified the vulnerabilities for the legions of people who continue to move to Florida and the state economy they

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have sustained.

Florida faces an urgent need to adapt to the environmental changes, said Jesse Keenan, a lecturer at Harvard University who researches the effects of rising sea levels on cities.

"A lot is going to change in the next 30 years — this is just the beginning," Keenan said.

People might need to live further inland, Keenan said, and employers might have to relocate to higher ground, with the resulting competition between offices and housing driving up land prices. It would become harder to adequately insure houses built along canals. Traffic delays could worsen across parts of Florida as more roads flood. Developers might shift away from sprawling suburban tracts toward denser urban pockets that are better equipped to manage floods.

At the same time, the belief remains firm among some developers and economists that for all the threats from rising water levels, the state's population influx will continue with scarcely any interruption. The allure of lower taxes and easier living, the thinking goes, should keep drawing a flow of residents and vacationers.

"Irma doesn't change the fact that there is no state income tax," said Sean Snaith, director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Economic Competitiveness. "In a few months, when the first Alberta Clipper starts blowing down cold weather across the United States and it's 80 degrees and sunny down here, the memories of Irma will be blown away."

Certainly, the influx of people has been testament to that appeal. After slowing when the housing bubble burst in 2007, the population has marched steadily upward. The number of Floridians, now above 20 million, is projected to hit 24 million by 2030, with more than half the increase coming from retiring baby boomers. Many of them first experienced Florida as tourists. More than 112 million people visited the state last year — a 33 percent increase over the past decade.

All of which means that compared with Hurricane Andrew 25 years ago, Irma struck a far more densely packed state. It is also one marked by greater extremes of wealth and poverty. Luxury condo towers populated by the global elite now crowd the Miami skyline. But the metro area is also cursed by the worst rental housing affordability in the United States, according to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Flooding washed away mobile home parks in the Florida Keys where lower-income workers live. As a magnet for jobs at restaurants, hotels and other parts of the services sector, the state attracts workers with relatively low incomes who can't pay higher rents if flooding eliminates a chunk of the housing stock.

Still, Citigroup estimated that damages were just \$50 billion — well below initial estimates — in part because some homes were better equipped to weather the wind and rain than during Andrew.

Storms can cause population loss in the near term. A year after Andrew hit in 1992, Miami-Dade County lost 31,000 residents. Many appear to have moved to Broward and Palm Beach counties, where the risks of flooding were lower, a pattern that could be repeated after Irma.

Given the brisk pace of construction and population growth, Florida could endure a heavy economic blow in coming decades if it fails to reduce the risks from climate change. Homes that were too close to eroding beaches could become effectively worthless. Those along canals that flood could become too costly to rebuild. The state's economic fuel — tourism and residential development — could dissipate.

Sean Becketti, chief economist at Freddie Mac, the mortgage giant, warned in an analysis last year that rising sea levels and widening flood plains "appear likely to destroy billions of dollars in property and to displace millions of people."

"The economic losses and social disruption," Becketti added, "may happen gradually, but they are likely to be greater in total than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession."

Federal taxpayers might oppose bailing out these homeowners, Becketti said, mortgage lenders could absorb heavy losses and employers might choose to move to safer parts of the country — and take their jobs with them.

Still, for now at least, the heads of several major Florida real estate companies say they expect people to keep flocking to Florida despite the increasing risks.

Budge Huskey, president of Premier Sotheby's International Realty, drove around Naples, Florida, and said he observed "very little damage" to homes constructed under new building codes after Hurricane

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Andrew. These houses had wind-resistant hurricane windows and stronger roofs.

"Let's face it, people work their whole lives to retire to Florida — that's where they want to be," Huskey said.

Jay Parker, CEO of Douglas Elliman's Florida brokerage, monitored Irma from an Atlanta hotel. He was gratified that Florida escaped much of the expected destruction. And he said would-be buyers, sniffing out potential bargains, were approaching him at the hotel about cut-rate deals on condos in the storm's wake. "If anything," Parker said, "this might create some short-term buying sprees."

Today in HistoryBy The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 18, the 261st day of 2017. There are 104 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 18, 1947, the National Security Act, which created a National Military Establishment and the position of Secretary of Defense, went into effect.

On this date:

In A.D. 14, the Roman Senate officially confirmed Tiberius as the second emperor of the Roman Empire, succeeding the late Augustus.

In 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1810, Chile made its initial declaration of independence from Spain with the forming of a national junta.

In 1927, the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System (later CBS) made its on-air debut with a basic network of 16 radio stations.

In 1931, an explosion in the Chinese city of Mukden damaged a section of Japanese-owned railway track; Japan, blaming Chinese nationalists, invaded Manchuria the next day.

In 1959, during his U.S. tour, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev visited Wall Street, the Empire State Building and the grave of President Franklin D. Roosevelt; in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Khrushchev called on all countries to disarm.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold (dahg HAWM'-ahr-shoold) was killed in a plane crash in northern Rhodesia.

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27.

In 1975, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was captured by the FBI in San Francisco, 19 months after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1981, a museum honoring former President Gerald R. Ford was dedicated in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In 1987, the psychological thriller "Fatal Attraction," starring Michael Douglas and Glenn Close, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1990, the city of Atlanta was named the site of the 1996 Summer Olympics.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, cheered on by Iraq war veterans and their families on the White House's South Lawn, urged lawmakers to back his plan to withdraw some troops from Iraq but keep at least 130,000 through the summer of 2008 or longer. O.J. Simpson was charged with seven felonies, including kidnapping, in the alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia collectors in a Las Vegas casinohotel room. (Simpson, sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison, is scheduled to be released on parole in October 2017.)

Five years ago: Chicago teachers voted to suspend their strike and return to the classroom after more than a week on picket lines, ending a combative stalemate with Mayor Rahm Emanuel over evaluations and job security. NFL Films President Steve Sabol, 69, died in Moorestown, New Jersey.

One year ago: At the United Nations, the United States, Japan and South Korea roundly condemned North Korea's latest nuclear test and called for tough new measures to further isolate the communist state. The Los Angeles Rams defeated the Seattle Seahawks 9-3 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in a game that marked the return of pro football to the nation's second-largest market for the first time in nearly 22

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years. In Gee Chun of South Korea won the Evian Championship with the lowest 72-hole score in major championship history, finishing at 21-under 263 for a four-stroke victory. "Game of Thrones" was honored at the Emmy Awards as top drama for the second consecutive year; "Veep" repeated as best comedy series.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jimmie Rodgers is 84. Actor Robert Blake is 84. Actor Fred Willard is 84. Actor Eddie Jones is 83. Gospel singer Bobby Jones is 79. Singer Frankie Avalon is 77. Actress Beth Grant is 68. Rock musician Kerry Livgren is 68. Actress Anna Deavere Smith is 67. The U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Ben Carson, is 66. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino is 65. College Football Hall of Famer and retired NFL player Billy Sims is 62. Movie director Mark Romanek is 58. Baseball Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg is 58. Alt-country-rock musician Mark Olson is 56. Singer Joanne Catherall (Human League) is 55. Actress Holly Robinson Peete is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ricky Bell (Bell Biv Devoe and New Edition) is 50. Actress Aisha Tyler is 47. Former racing cyclist Lance Armstrong is 46. Opera singer Anna Netrebko is 46. Actress Jada Pinkett Smith is 46. Actor James Marsden is 44. Actress Emily Rutherfurd is 43. Actor Travis Schuldt is 43. Rapper Xzibit is 43. Comedian-actor Jason Sudeikis is 42. Actress Sophina Brown is 41. Actor Barrett Foa is 40. Talk show co-host Sara Haines (TV: "The View") is 40. Actress Alison Lohman is 38. Designer Brandon Maxwell is 33. Actors Brandon and Taylor Porter are 24. Country singer Tae Dye (Maddie and Tae) is 22. Actor C.J. Sanders is 21.

Thought for Today: "Don't think of retiring from the world until the world will be sorry that you retire. I hate a fellow whom pride or cowardice or laziness drives into a corner, and who does nothing when he is there but sit and growl. Let him come out as I do, and bark." — Samuel Johnson, English author, critic and lexicographer (1709-1784).