

# Groton Daily Independent

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“Passion is energy.  
Feel the power  
that comes from  
focusing on what  
excites you.”

—Oprah



**Closed:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East  
Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers  
and aluminum cans.

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Groton Ford Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Game, Fish and Parks News
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
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## **GFP Commission Removes Age Restriction for Mentored Hunters**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission removed the minimum age restriction in administrative rule to match state law for the mentor deer, antelope and turkey seasons; currently set at age 10.

The 2018 South Dakota Legislature passed a bill removing the minimum age under the mentor hunter regulations. This action aligns department rules with the legislative action. Any youth, less than 16 years of age, are eligible for their resident parent or guardian to purchase no more than one mentored antlerless deer license, one doe-fawn antelope license, one fall any turkey license and one spring male turkey license for a designated mentored youth.

## **GFP Commission Eliminates Group Size Hunting Restrictions; and the Elimination of Preference Point Timeframe Rule**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission will no longer restrict hunters to groups of 20 people or less.

The Commission also eliminated the portion of the rule that would forfeit any preference points accumulated after five years of not applying for a certain season.

## **GFP Commission to Allow Armed Accompaniment**

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission voted to allow archers to carry firearms with them while bow hunting, provided they have a firearm big game license valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the archery license.

The Commission also approved the allowance of a firearm big game hunter to accompany a licensed archery hunter. The firearm hunter needs to possess a firearm big game license valid for the same geographic area and time of year as the archery license.

## **GFP Commission Finalizes Fur Dealer Rule Changes**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission created a new rule requiring all fur dealers to list employees/agents on their application who will purchase, or contract to purchase, fur-bearing animals.

In addition, the department can now refuse the issuance of a license to a fur dealer with an employee/agent who has received a suspension or revocation of their fur dealer's license or who has been denied issuance of a license during the previous or current calendar year.

The rule is similar to a rule change the Commission passed earlier this year for commercial bait dealers.

## **GFP Commission Requires Checks for Deer Harvested in Custer State Park**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission requires Custer State Park deer hunters to submit samples of their harvested deer to be tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD); effective this fall.

Similar to the current requirement for harvested elk in Custer State Park, test results will be used for

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Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

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



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determining a random prevalence rate of CWD for deer within the park. To learn more about CWD and its known presence in South Dakota, visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/wildlife-disease/>.

## **Archery Deer Season to Begin Sept. 1; Muzzleloader Handguns Allowed for Big Game Hunting**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Park (GFP) Commission set the archery deer season to start Sept. 1 and conclude Jan. 1 at their June meeting in Aberdeen this week.

The Commission will also allow for the use of muzzleloading handguns for big game hunting. The rule sets the standards for muzzleloading handguns.

Hunters will be allowed to the minimum standard of .50 caliber bullets when big game hunting as the vast majority of loads using smaller calibers do not meet the standard currently in place for foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle.

The Commission also changed the term "factory rated" to "rated." As currently written, the use of the term "factory rated" suggests that hand loaded ammunition is prohibited for big game hunting.

## **Fall Turkey Season Proposed**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to offer 355 fewer prairie unit and 200 fewer Black Hills turkey licenses for the 2018 fall turkey hunting season.

The Commission also proposed to close prairie units in Bon Homme County (12A), Brule County (13A), Davison/Hanson (8A), Hutchinson County (37A), Perkins County (53A), Union County (62A), establish and open a unit in Jackson County (Unit 39A), include all of Roberts County in Unit 48A and remove those portions of Lawrence, Meade and Pennington counties from the Black Hills unit.

The GFP Commission will consider the adoption of this proposal on July 11 in Pierre. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held July 11 Pierre at 2 p.m. CDT at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center. Individuals can also provide written comments on proposals by sending them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501, or online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing).

## **GFP Proposes to Ease Archery Equipment Restrictions**

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to remove several archery equipment restrictions at their June meeting in Aberdeen.

The proposal would expand the list of legal equipment and would remove confusion and often unenforceable regulations. Modification of the rule would allow archers to make equipment decisions based on personal preference, performance and tailor their equipment setup to their individual requirements.

The proposal would allow archery hunters to:

Use arrow rests that have more than three inches of continuous contact with the arrow;

Use electronic devices mounted to the bow, provided they do not project a light beam or image.

Use compound bows with a let off of more than 80 percent;

Use compound bows shorter than 28 inches as measured from the top of the upper wheel or cam to the bottom of the lower wheel or cam;

Use telescopic sights;

Use an arrow, including the attached broadhead, weighing less than 275 grains when hunting a big game animal;

Use an arrow that is less than 26 inches long when measured from the notch of the nock to the end of the shaft, not including the blunt or broadhead;

Use a bow that measures 40 pounds or greater to hunt elk with any broadhead;

And use a bow that measures 30 pounds or greater to hunt deer with any broadhead. Hunters would also be required to use a broadhead when hunting any big game, including turkeys. Hunters would still be allowed to possess an arrow tipped with any point while in the field for practice. The GFP Commission will consider the adoption of this proposal on July 11 in Pierre. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held July 11 Pierre at 2 p.m. CDT at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center. Individuals can also provide written comments on proposals by sending them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501, or online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing).

## **GFP Commission Proposes Several Changes to State Refuges and Boating Restrictions**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed several changes to refuges and seasonal no boating areas to focus on increasing recreational opportunities and simplifying regulations to make it easier for sportsmen and women to participate in the outdoors in these areas.

A list of proposed changes include:

Remove the East Oakwood Lake Waterfowl Refuge and the "no boating zone" from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31 in Brookings county.

Remove the Sand Lake Game Bird Refuge in Campbell county.

Reclassify the Waubay State Game Refuge to Waubay State Game Bird Refuge and remove the "no boating zone" in the Windgate Arm in Day county.

Remove the state game refuge status in the Windgate Arm area for Waubay Lake in Day county and the lands adjacent to the national wildlife refuge below the ordinary high water mark.

Modify the pheasant hunting start date from the second Monday in Dec. to Dec. 1 for Renzienhausen State Game Bird Refuge in Brown County, (including shooting and retrieval zones), Gerkin State Game Bird Refuge in Faulk County and White Lake State Game Bird Refuge in Marshall county.

Remove the Whitewood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge and the "no boating zone" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Kingsbury county.

Change the Cottonwood Lake State Refuge "no boating zone" during the open migratory waterfowl hunting season to "electric motors only" from Oct. 20 – Dec.31 in Roberts county.

Remove the State Waterfowl Refuge status on the Game Production Area located on the south side of Cottonwood Lake in Spink county.

Modify the Putney Slough "no boating zone" to "electric motors only" and change the date from Oct. 15-Dec.31 to Oct. 20 – Dec.31 in Brown county.

Modify the Long Lake "no boating zone" to "electric motors only" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Codington county.

Modify the McKilligan Lake "no boating zone" during open migratory waterfowl hunting seasons to an "electric motors only" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Codington county.

Modify the Horseshoe Lake "no motor zone" during open migratory waterfowl hunting seasons to an "electric motors only" from Oct. 20-Dec. 31 in Codington county.

Remove the Silver Lake "no boating zone" during the spring conservation order (spring take of light geese) as well as during regular open migratory waterfowl hunting seasons in Hutchinson county.

Remove the Crow Lake "no motorized boating zone" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Jerauld county.

Remove the Spirit Lake "no boating zone" to an "electric motors only" zone from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Kingsbury county.

Remove the Milwaukee Lake "no motors zone" from Oct. 20 to Dec. 31 in Lake county.

Remove the Island Lake "no boating zone" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in McCook and Minnehaha counties.

Modify the Lehrman Game Production Area "no boating zone" to an "electric motors only" zone from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in McCook county.

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Modify the Bear Butte Lake "no motors over 25 horse power zone" to a "no wake zone" in Meade county. Modify the Clear Lake "no boating zone" to an "electric motors only" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Minnehaha county.

Add electric motors only from Oct. 20-Dec. 31 on Swan Lake in Clark county.

The GFP Commission will consider the adoption of these proposals on July 11 in Pierre. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held July 11 Pierre at 2 p.m. CDT at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center. Individuals can also provide written comments on proposals by sending them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501, or online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing).

## GFP Proposes State Park Firewood Restrictions

PIERRE, S.D. – Due to the emerald ash borer being detected in South Dakota, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission approved an emergency measure that no wood may be brought from a quarantined area into the South Dakota state park system. This includes state parks, state recreation areas, state lakeside use areas, state nature areas and state recreation trails. The emergency measure will be effective for up to 90 days. The Commission also proposed to make the emergency measure permanent.

The quarantine area, designated by the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, currently includes all of Minnehaha County and portions of Turner and Lincoln County area and will grow if the infestation moves beyond the area. Firewood from out of state is also not permitted.

Wood may be brought into the South Dakota state park system if it has a label affixed certifying it as treated for emerald ash borer.

For more information on emerald ash borer and how to help slow the spread, visit <http://emeraldashborerinsouthdakota.sd.gov/>.

The GFP Commission will consider the adoption of this proposal on July 11 in Pierre. To comment in person, the public hearing will be held July 11 Pierre at 2 p.m. CDT at the Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center. Individuals can also provide written comments on proposals by sending them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501, or online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing (not including the day of the public hearing).

**The Groton Community  
is Invited to**

*Rootbeer! Float*



**LIVE MUSIC**

**Wednesday, June 13th  
6:30 p.m.**

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## South Dakota PUC grants construction permit for Crocker Wind Farm

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission today voted to grant a construction permit with conditions to Crocker Wind Farm to build a wind energy facility and associated 345-kV transmission line in Clark County. The wind farm will include up to 120 wind turbines and 5.2 miles of overhead transmission and will have the capability to produce up to 400 megawatts of electricity.

Issues related to road protections, decommissioning and aircraft detection lighting are among the 40 conditions approved by PUC commissioners Kristie Fiegen, Gary Hanson and Chris Nelson.

Crocker filed the application to construct the Crocker Wind Farm with PUC on Dec. 17, 2017. The PUC held a public input hearing in February in Clark and an evidentiary hearing in May in Pierre. State law requires the commission to make its decision no later than six months after receiving an application for a wind energy facility. Formal parties participating in the docket included Crocker, PUC staff, and intervenors Shad Stevens and Gayle Paulson.

“The Crocker Wind project has generated significant public interest,” said PUC Chairperson Fiegen. “The PUC worked hard to develop meaningful conditions that are responsive to the landowners, area residents and the applicant. I hope the decision today allows the process to move forward as smoothly as possible,” she concluded.

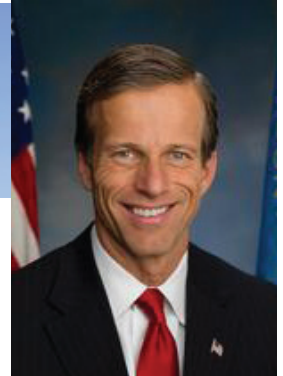
At the meeting, Commissioner Hanson offered a condition, that was met with agreement by his fellow commissioners, that Crocker provide a public liaison officer to facilitate communication among landowners, area residents and PUC staff and work to resolve problems or complaints. “I feel strongly that folks in Clark County be given a clear path to communicate if they have concerns during the construction or operation of the facility,” he said.

“Crocker has met the legal threshold to receive the permit,” said Commissioner Chris Nelson in making the motion to grant the construction permit with conditions. “State law outlines the criteria the applicant is required to meet and the PUC has thoroughly reviewed the application, testimony and evidence, as well as the public input, to arrive at this decision,” he said.

In its application for the permit, Crocker stated it anticipates the Crocker Wind Farm will begin commercial operation by fourth quarter 2019.

The Crocker Wind Farm docket can be viewed on the PUC's website at [www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov), Commission Actions, Electric Dockets, 2017 Electric Dockets, EL17-055 – In the Matter of the Application by Crocker Wind Farm, LLC for a Permit of a Wind Energy Facility and a 345 kV Transmission Line in Clark County, South Dakota, for Crocker Wind Farm.

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



## Big Wins for the American People

I can't think of another period of time while I've served in Congress when we've been able to put so many points on the scoreboard for the American people. Over the last year and a half alone, despite the historic levels of obstruction we've faced from my Democrat colleagues in the Senate, Republicans have achieved numerous legislative accomplishments that will have a positive and lasting effect on the country for generations to come. From tax reform to regulatory reform to reshaping the judiciary, the Republican-led Congress has made the American people's priorities its priorities.

On tax reform – promise made, promise delivered. In just the handful of months since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act became law, more than 1 million jobs have been created. It's an important milestone that fulfills a promise Republicans made to the American people when we debated the bill in Congress, and it's welcome news for American workers.

More than 500 companies, including several here in South Dakota, have already passed tax savings on to their customers and employees in the form of pay raises, bonuses, and utility rate reductions. Today, the unemployment rate matches a near five-decade low, and for the first time ever, there are more job openings than there are job seekers in the United States. We're still in the early stages of this new law, though, and while there's plenty of good news to share, there's more yet to come.

The Republican-led Congress devoted a significant amount of time to rolling back burdensome Obama-era regulations that were hamstringing growth and opportunity. We used a congressional oversight process that, up until last year, had only been successfully used one time in history. That process, the Congressional Review Act, gives Congress the ability to undo regulations that were implemented by the executive branch. We didn't use it just once, twice, or even 10 times. We used it a record-setting 16 times. As a result, we provided much-needed relief to businesses and consumers across the country.

While Senate Democrats have done everything they can to delay and obstruct the president's nominees to the executive and judicial branches, we've continued to plow ahead, threatening to keep the Senate in session around the clock or over the weekend, if that's what it takes. Despite the obstruction, in 2017, the Senate set a record for confirming circuit court judges. Today, one-in-eight of all circuit court judges in the United States have been nominated by President Trump and confirmed by this Senate.

We also confirmed U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, passed multiple bills to help our veterans, strengthened our military with the greatest investment in 15 years (plus the largest troop pay increase in nearly a decade), combatted opioid abuse, enacted the longest State Children's Health Insurance Program extension in history, fought sex traffickers, and repealed Obamacare's individual mandate – the cornerstone of the failed health care law – just to name a few.

We've accomplished a lot of big things over the last 18 months, but there's more work to do, including getting a pro-farmer, pro-agriculture farm bill to the president as soon as possible. I look forward to delivering more positive results like these for South Dakotans and the American people in 2018 and beyond.

## Northern State University Releases Spring 2018 Dean's List

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D., has released the dean's list for the spring 2018 semester.

Students who have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester are eligible for the dean's list. There are four categories:

- Full-time students with a GPA of 4.0.
- Full-time students with a GPA of 3.5-3.99.
- Part-time students with a GPA of 4.0.
- Part-time students with a GPA of 3.5-3.99.

Students who achieved dean's list status and requested that their names be released to the media are listed below. Each category is listed separately.

### **Full-time students, 3.5-3.99**

Bath: Jayleen Lier

Columbia: Sadie Hanna

Conde: Haley Grandpre

Frederick: Dane Campbell, Hattie Zinter

Groton: Britni Carlson, Josephine Doeden, Jasmine Schaller, Megan Unzen, Carly Wheeting

Langford: Jordan Carson, Zachariah Fries, Chance Olson

Stratford: Shayna Lier

Westport: Meghan Conn

### **Full-time students, 4.0**

Claremont: Donte Blanchard

Frederick: Caitlin Beckman

Groton: Kiana Kokales, Breanna Marzahn

Houghton: Joellen Miller

Langford: Bo Fries

Westport: Lucas Fredrick



## The Life of Eddy Opp

A Celebration of Life for Eddy A. Opp, 83, of Groton will be 7:00 p.m., Saturday, June 16th at the Groton Community Center. Rev. Terry Kenny will officiate. Inurnment will take place at a later date in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Eddy passed away Wednesday, June 06, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family.

Edward Alvin was born on June 10, 1934 in Campbell County, SD to Christ and Mary (Heib) Opp. He attended school in Eureka. He enlisted with the US Army on January 29, 1953 and served until his honorable discharge in January of 1955. Eddy returned to South Dakota where he worked in law enforcement from 1956 until his retirement. Eddy was a police officer in Groton from 1972 to 1980 and served on the Groton City Council since 2010. On August 23, 1960, he united with Eleanor (Beil) Buechler in Pierre.

Eddy enjoyed visiting with people, and could be found most mornings having coffee with his buddies. He also liked to tinker with lawn mowers and bikes. Other hobbies included woodworking and playing cards. He will forever be remembered for his love for family, especially his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eleanor of Groton, his daughters, Brenda (Daniel) Facinelli of Faulkton Nancy Hoops (Clark Craig) of Watertown, , Jeannie (Greg) Clocksene of Groton, sons, Greg Buechler of Groton, Randy Buechler of Portland, Oregon, 13 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson and his sister, Norma Merkel of Gillette, Wyoming.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers, Norman Opp and Edwin Opp, his sister, Martha Aman, his daughter, Jody and an infant grandson, Alan.

[www.paetznick-garness.com](http://www.paetznick-garness.com)



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James Valley Telecommunications held its annual meeting on Thursday at the Groton Area Gym and Arena. The credit winners are pictured above, left to right with CEO James Groft, Rose Hoellein - \$100 credit, Marilyn Clocksene - \$100 credit, Maralyn & Ron Hoops - \$250 credit, Randy Zimmerman - \$250 credit, Dakota Press/Kathy Sundermeyer - \$500 credit.

(Courtesy photo)



The board of directors of James Valley Telecommunications is pictured above. Left to right, they are Attorney Jim Cremer, Garrett Rahm, Bob Wegner, Duane Jark, Mark Wattier, Roger Zastrow, Wendell Rye, Bill Ewalt and CEO James Groft. (Courtesy photo)

James Valley Telecommunications Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000 each (L to R): Faith Crissman, Alexis Gustafson and Jenifer Fjelstad. (Courtesy photo)



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## Supporting the Hometown Newspaper

Chances are that if you are reading this, you subscribe to a local newspaper. Publications like this play an instrumental role in keeping communities strong and informed. Sadly, many are disappearing from our rural communities, making it increasingly difficult to stay connected with what's happening within the local school system, around town, and around the state.

The ever-increasing cost of production is one of the most common concerns South Dakota's newspapers raise with me. In recent years, new tariffs on Canadian newsprint have increased paper prices by 20 to 30 percent. That's significant. A paper that services around 20,000 customers, for instance, could see paper costs rise by about a quarter-million dollars annually, threatening the newspaper's survival.

As David Bordewyk, the Executive Director of the South Dakota Newspaper Association, told me: "I have already heard from South Dakota newspaper publishers who fear that if these tariffs were to carry forward indefinitely, they will very well be forced to close their doors. That creates a ripple effect in the community for businesses that rely on the local newspaper to advertise and promote their goods and services."

To help ease the burden, I introduced the PRINT Act in early June. This legislation places a temporary hold on the newsprint tariffs, giving time for the Commerce Department to investigate the negative impact the tariffs have on our hometown papers. As Bordewyk explains it: "This legislation will provide some breathing room and an opportunity for a more complete review and analysis."

The PRINT Act is the latest in a series of efforts to better support our local newspapers. During tax reform, many South Dakota newspapers reached out with concerns about a proposed "Ad Tax," which would have forced news organizations to pay taxes on advertising dollars. The impact of a tax like that would have been widespread and made it more expensive for local businesses to advertise their goods and services. In the end, we were able to stave off the proposed tax hike.

Even if you can mitigate costs, however, delivery can be a challenge. In recent years, the U.S. Postal Service has threatened to cut Saturday delivery, a move that would have dealt another devastating blow to the local newspaper industry, which relies heavily on consistent and reliable mail service. We successfully fought the measure and forced the Postal Service to create organizational efficiencies before cutting services to South Dakota families, newspapers, and businesses.

Today, South Dakota is home to more than 125 local newspapers. That's a number we need to protect. Their reporting reminds us the world is made of neighborhoods and shared experiences. It keeps us connected and strengthens our sense of community and connection. Thank you for supporting your local newspaper.

## **CFR Provides Free Education for Future Home Owners**

### **Class Provides Valuable Information for Consumers Considering a New Home**

The Center for Financial Resources' (CFR) Homebuyer Express class is free to attend and open to the public. Topics include: personal money management; credit history review; mortgage financing and the loan process; shopping for a home; homeowner responsibilities; and predatory lending awareness. It is a valuable resource for those even just considering a home purchase.

The LSS Center for Financial Resources' Homebuyer Express series is made possible through a grant from the SDHDA Homeownership Education Resource Organization (H.E.R.O.) H.E.R.O. Certificates of Completion are issued to participants after attending both parts 1 and 2. This certificate is required for some loan products, down payment assistance, and may qualify the buyer for closing cost credits through their title company.

Homebuyer Express Part One will be Tuesday, June 19th, and Part Two will be Tuesday, June 26th. Both classes will be 5:30-8:30 PM at the Downtown Library at 200 N Dakota Ave. in Sioux Falls. Those interested can register through the calendar at [www.LssSD.org](http://www.LssSD.org) or by calling 888-258-2227. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required to help ensure we have seating for those attending in person.

Video conference is available for those unable to attend in person. To attend by video conference, you must register at least 24 hours in advance.

Lutheran Social Services is a private non-profit social service agency. Last year, 61,144 lives were touched through a variety of services offered through LSS statewide.

Core services offered by LSS include adoption, pregnancy counseling, foster care, kinship services, childcare & education, disaster response, mental health counseling, re-entry services, Center for Financial Resources, residential services for children & youth, alternatives to detention, independent living services for young adults, mentoring, Better Together and Center for New Americans. LSS serves people of all ages, races, faiths and economic levels with professional, confidential and affordable services.

LSS services are licensed by the State of South Dakota and accredited by the Council on Accreditation. LSS is a United Way agency.

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Paul Kosel made the journey to the catwalk up on the water tower on Friday in an effort to get the "Show" lights back in operation. The bulbs were changed out, but that did not solve the problem. It was later discovered that a wire had been burned off and that new wire will have to be fished through the conduit to get the lights operational again. Looking down from where Paul is at is Dan Sunne doing some test on the power source on the tower.



View to the southwest

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**View to the west**



**View to the north-west**

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**View to  
the north**



**View to  
the north-  
east**

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**View to the east**



**View to the south-east**



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## Today in Weather History

June 9, 1957: Southwest of Faulkton, one of four funnel clouds finally touched down and cut an unusual path to the northeast. One home was reduced to "matchsticks and tidbits." The tornado strength was an F3.

June 9, 1968: A brief F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles northeast of Britton. Barns were destroyed, and trees were uprooted on three farms. Two cars were picked up and thrown into a ditch. One person in a car was hospitalized. Damage was estimated at \$150,000 to property and another \$80,000 to crops.

June 9, 1972: A steady flow of warm moist air near the surface fed storms and anchored them against the Black Hills for six to eight hours. A flash flood killed 238 people in the Rapid City area after as much as fifteen inches of rain fell over the eastern Black Hills.

1953 - A tornado hit the town of Worcester MA killing ninety persons. The northeastern states usually remain free of destructive tornadoes, however in this case a low pressure system, responsible for producing severe thunderstorms in Michigan and Ohio the previous day, brought severe weather to New Hampshire and central Massachusetts. The tornado, up to a mile in width at times, tracked 46 miles through Worcester County. It mangled steel towers built to withstand winds of 375 mph. Debris from the tornado fell in the Boston area, and adjacent Atlantic Ocea. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1966: Hurricane Alma made landfall over the eastern Florida panhandle becoming the earliest hurricane to make landfall on the United States mainland.

1972 - A cloudburst along the eastern slopes of the Black Hills of South Dakota produced as much as 14 inches of rain resulting in the Rapid City flash flood disaster. The rains, which fell in about four hours time, caused the Canyon Lake Dam to collapse. A wall of water swept through the city drowning 237 persons, and causing more than 100 million dollars property damage. (David Ludlum)








1987 - Lightning struck Tire Mountain near Denver CO, destroying two million tires out of a huge pile of six million tires. Thunderstorms spawned three tornadoes around Denver, and a man was killed at Conifer CO when strong thunderstorm winds lifted up a porch and dropped it on him. A thunderstorm near Compton MD produced two inch hail, and high winds which destroyed twenty barns and ten houses injuring five persons. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from North Carolina to the Central Gulf Coast Region. Hail in North Carolina caused more than five million dollars damage to property, and more than sixty million dollars damage to crops. Hail three and a half inches in diameter was reported at New Bern NC. Thunderstorms in the Central High Plains produced eighteen inches of hail at Fountain CO. The temperature at Del Rio TX soared to an all-time record high of 112 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Severe weather abated for a date, however, showers and thunderstorms continued to drench the eastern U.S. with torrential rains. Milton, FL, was deluged with 15.47 inches in 24 hours. Record heat and prolonged drought in south central Texas left salt deposits on power lines and insulators near the coast, and when nighttime dew caused arcing, the city of Brownsville was plunged into darkness. (The National Weather Summary)

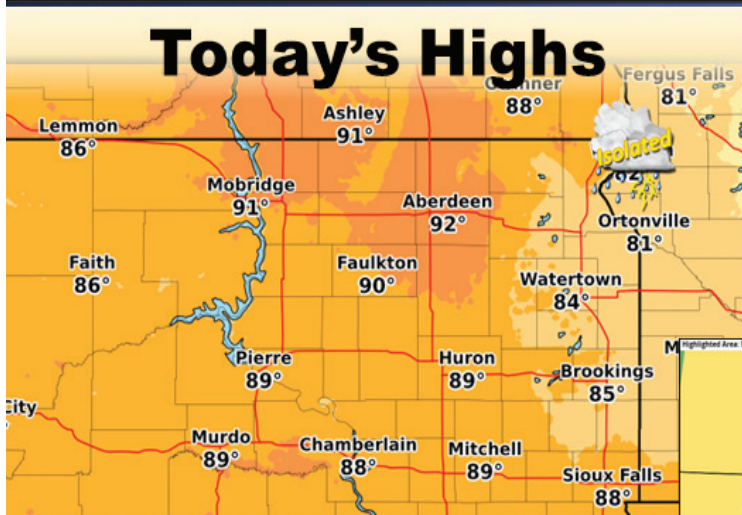
# Broton Daily Independent

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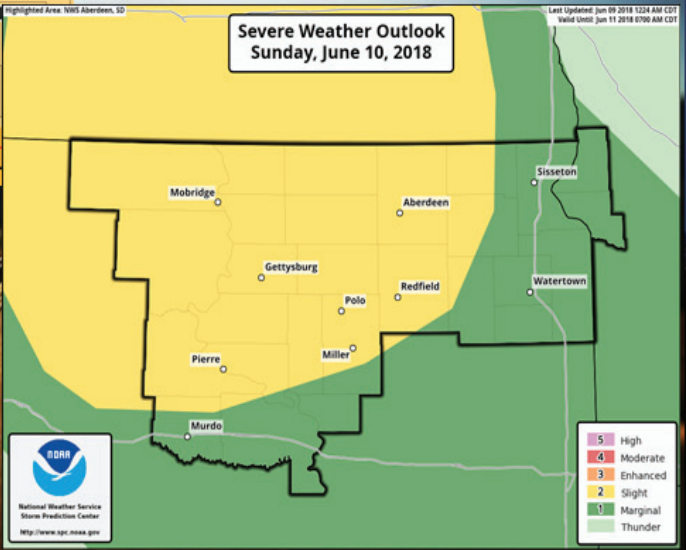
Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Hot	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Chance T-storms	Chance Showers	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 93 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 91 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 79 °F

## Hot Today, Severe Storms Possible on Sunday

### Today's Highs



### Severe Weather Outlook Sunday, June 10, 2018



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 6/9/2018 5:48 AM Central

Published on: 06/09/2018 at 5:56AM

Eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota will see isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorm through this afternoon. Warm and dry conditions are expected elsewhere. Late Sunday afternoon through Sunday night is our next potential for severe storms.

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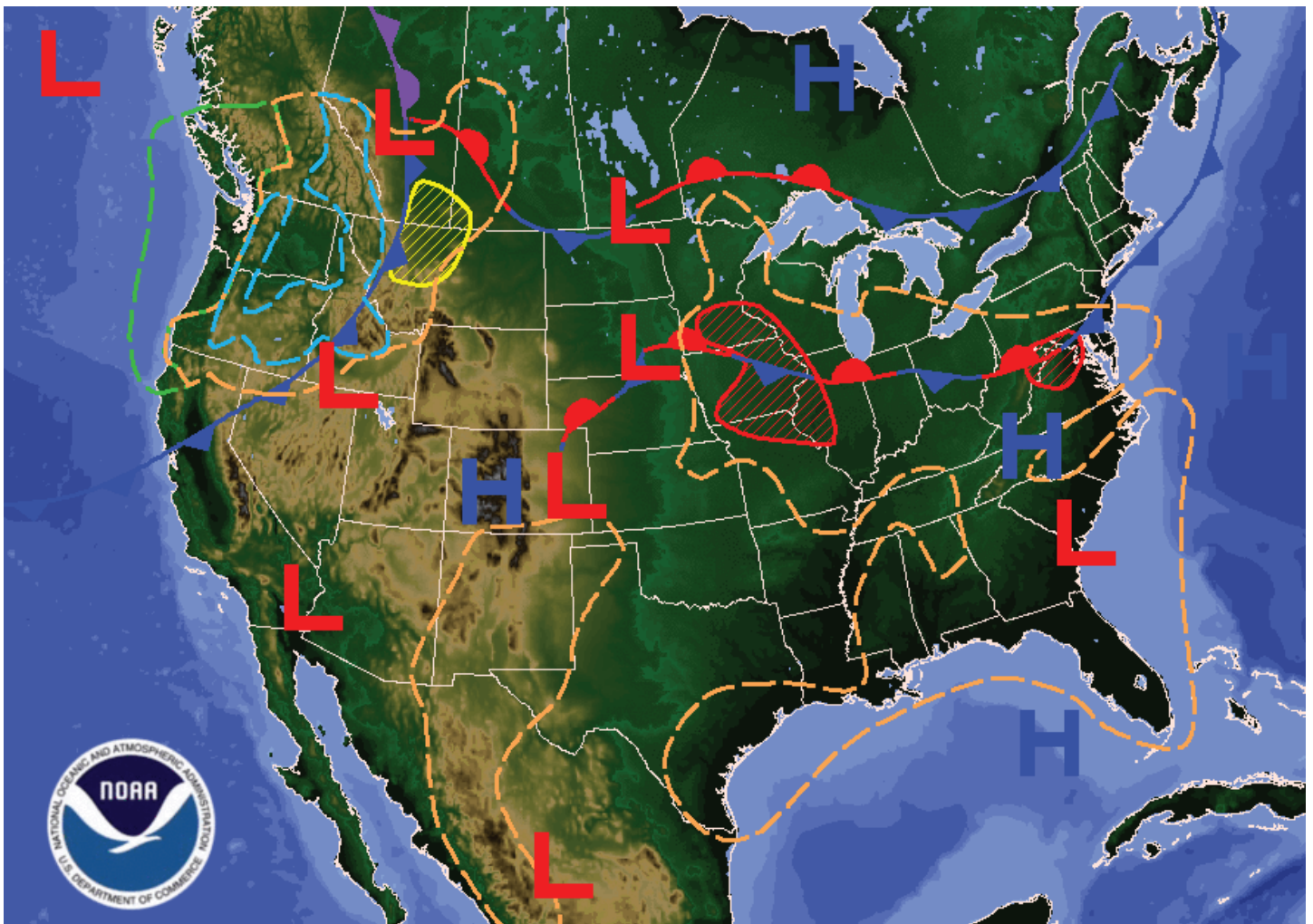
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 90.5 F at 6:33 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 63.3 F at 5:02 AM**  
**Wind Chill:**  
**High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 7:47 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 100° in 1933**  
**Record Low: 33° in 1915**  
**Average High: 75°F**  
**Average Low: 52°F**  
**Average Precip in June: 1.05**  
**Precip to date in June: 0.29**  
**Average Precip to date: 8.19**  
**Precip Year to Date: 4.59**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:20 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jun 09, 2018, issued 4:48 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Oravec with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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## GOING IN CIRCLES?

A big black lab was watching a little poodle chase its tail around and around. When it finally stopped to catch its breath, the lab asked, "Why are you chasing your tail?"

After a brief pause the poodle replied, "I have been told that happiness is in my tail. So, as soon as I catch my tail, I'll be happy."

After a moment's thought the big lab scratched its ear, looked at the poor poodle that was still panting and said, "I, too, know that happiness is in my tail. And when I chase it, it also keeps running away from me. But when I go about my business, it comes along with me."

Psalm 119:2 contains a description of the "business" of the Christian: "Blessed are those who keep His statutes and seek Him with all their heart."

This brief statement provides a "job description" for Christians who want God's blessings. If we want God's blessings, we must be obedient - or "comply" - to His laws. If we are serious about knowing these "laws," we will study His Word and seek His truth and follow the teachings we find throughout Scripture. Perhaps the biggest issue for Christians is not the laws or requirements of God that we do not know, but the laws or requirements of God that we know but do not follow or keep.

The Psalmist then addressed the issue of motivation. We are to seek Him "with all of our hearts." Here we find the Psalmist addressing our attitude - or motivation. If our "heart" is right our lives will be right. More than anything else our heart is responsible for the way we live.

Prayer: We ask, Father, that Your Spirit will trouble our hearts until we fill them with and live by Your laws. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!

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## 2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
  
- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

14-30-33-44-56, Mega Ball: 13, Megaplier: 2

(fourteen, thirty, thirty-three, forty-four, fifty-six; Mega Ball: thirteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$127 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$105 million

### Debate ensues in South Dakota over meaning of Poet's Table

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — The handle from a purple roller suitcase stuck up from the soggy, boulder-strewn pathway leading up to Poet's Table on a Wednesday afternoon. Soon, a man in an orange shirt appeared. "Do you know the way to Poet's Table?" he called out.

A Journal photographer, reporter and local guide walked up the trail. Hours earlier, Custer State Park posted to Facebook that park officials had taken a new green table — constructed by a local woodworker — up to Poet's Table to replace the one two women sawed up and trucked down on their backs the weekend prior. The women told a park ranger the site "desecrated" the natural Black Hills alcove. Many on social media excoriated them. Some agreed.

Going forward, however, the debate over what exactly Poet's Table means and represents to people in the Black Hills continues, the Rapid City Journal reported. Is Poet's Table a mountainous Shrang-La? A shrine to the poetic muse? Or an overrun dump heap long detached from original vagabond poet's John Raeck's dream for the place?

On May 30, hours after Poet's Table Pt. 2 arrived, the pilgrimage of this one man — who declined to offer his name because his wife could be reading — seemed to embody all of these things at once.

"What's in the bag?"

"Oh, a chess set," said the man. "I'm bringing it up to Poet's Table. It's back, right?"

Last year, park officials removed a fort. The rock wall has been tagged by #NoDAPL hashtag to high school romances. Verse, sacred and profane, stuffed the now-removed cabinets. And within hours of the table's return, some guy left a business card for his visual design company.

Is this the sacred Poet's Table?

James Giago Davies, a writer and correspondent for Native Sun News Today, said for many Lakota people the public outrage over the removal of clutter from the mountain has been amusing.

"For Lakota, this whole situation resonates in a completely different way," he said, noting what the U.S. Supreme Court has acknowledged, that the Black Hills was illegally annexed by the U.S. government in the 19th Century. "Many of us see that picnic table as a blight, not as an iconic piece of sentimentality."

A meme is circling the internet featuring a Kermit the Frog sipping sun-tea, framed by the words, "Black Hills Stolen from the Lakota and nobody bats an eye....A table is taken off the hill and everybody loses their mind."

Giago Davies also questioned the initial act by Raeck, a transplant to the Black Hills from Wisconsin.

"If the intention of that vagabond poet in 1968 was to honor that spot, then he should've just written poetry encouraging them to go up there, instead of crudely erecting a manifestation of a culture that is

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anathema to nature and beauty.”

Davies suggested the two Rapid City women charged with misdemeanor counts of intentional damage to property, Skyler Anders, 29, and Shelby Johnson, 27, should even be reconsidered not as social nihilists but as having taken a principled stand against encroachment of artificiality into a natural space.

“I wouldn’t have done it,” he said, “It was brazen as hell. But I can see why they did it.”

On May 30, the spur leading off from the Little Devil’s Tower trail flooded with a trickle of water, drainage from recent, late spring rains. Higher up, past the sound of running water, granite thumbs shoot into the air, the remarkable, distinctive igneous intrusions of the Black Hills. It’s like standing inside a giant, granite oven, the blue sky above. A raw space, save for the orange-shirted man with wet socks and sandals. Sweat beaded above his lip, as he carried his purple suitcase.

“She (his ex-girlfriend) told me about Poet’s Table,” said the man, looking for shade beneath an Aspen. “I’ve never been here, but I felt like it was the appropriate place.”

For Custer State Park, the question of what Poet’s Table “is” is easy.

“We heard enough from people on Facebook and through phone calls that Poet’s Table is a pretty special place to all the locals,” said Kobee Stalder, visitor services program manager for the park.

But they’ve taken a light-touch approach to managing the site. While they claimed through a statute on abandoned property that technically the table has more or less been state property for decades — the same as leaving a cooler in the park — he said park staff only make occasional sweeps of the area to pick up trash or other leftover distractions (such as last year’s fort).

“We would ask that visitors take it upon themselves (to clean up),” he said. “You probably could’ve taken the chess set back down with you.”

As the Journal team and the pilgrim with the suitcase turned around a boulder, the green table came into sight. It is a spectacular view. Mt. Coolidge rises in the distance. The alcove harkens as the perfect, au naturel study, for writing or reflection.

Bruce Roseland, president of the South Dakota State Poetry Society, said in a message that he believes there should be public places set aside for writing.

“Seeking out, the climb to and the view from Poet’s Table touch inward to our hearts our connection to this earth and each other.”

In a blog post written after the theft of the table last weekend, he remembered encountering a woman at Poet’s Table years ago with a notebook writing at the desk. She was from Oklahoma and was stationed at nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base. On his way down, he met two more young women who asked him for directions.

“I pointed in the direction and told them how many lefts and rights.”

Roseland said he did not see “a bit of trash, bottles, candy wrappers or anything out of place” and instead called the place one of “pilgrimage for poets and those who love poetry.”

When the two women cleanly swept the perch of furniture and abandoned knick-knacks on Saturday, they also ran down with family heirlooms, such as the last message of Carter Davis, a young man with Rapid City ties who was murdered a week after leaving a message in a wish-box his mother left at Poet’s Table to “add more love to the world.”

On May 30, the table was relatively unadorned. Only a few signatures scribbled in a black marker. A large emblem hanging from a nearby tree. Some notebooks. And then, soon, a broken chess set.

The man in the orange shirt knelt below the table and unzipped the purple suitcase. He lifted out the tan-and-silver, stone chess set — likely valuable — and then ceremoniously lowered it swiftly onto a pointy rock. Smash! Shrapnel scattered. Then he removed another piece and repeated the act. Smash!

The sound of destruction echoed in the quiet place.

“I’m sorry for doing this in front of you,” he said, “But I think I’ll feel better.”

He then picked up the scattered pieces, and deposited them onto the table — along with rooks and pawns. He also stowed a large binder of diary entries and photographs and a Janis Joplin CD below the table. In any other spot in the park he’d be guilty of littering. But here, at Poet’s Table, there are no rules.

“Well, one,” he said. “I guess don’t take the table.”

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The man, his baggage emptied, walked back down the steep trail, disappearing around the boulder. The Journal team stayed atop, shooting photographs, before descending, too. At the trail, though, a grandmother, Melinda Zore, hiked down from Little Devils Tower with her granddaughter, Danielle Bewley. It was a present for the girl's high school graduation. They were from suburban Indianapolis and had never heard of Poet's Table, but marveled that a man would leave an entire destructed chess set at this green altar in the natural alcove.

"We just kept all our garbage in our backpacks," said Zore. "Like they say, 'Leave no trace,' right?"

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

## Deputy fired after unseating sheriff stirs backlash

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota sheriff's department is being inundated with phone calls condemning a sheriff for firing a deputy who defeated him in a primary race.

The Bon Homme County sheriff's department alerted county commissioners Thursday that the overwhelming response to the firing is affecting the agency's ability to do its job, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported .

Sheriff Lenny Gramkow fired deputy Mark Maggs almost immediately after Maggs defeated him by a vote of 878-331 in Tuesday's Republican primary. Gramkow didn't give a reason for the firing in the termination notice, which Maggs posted on Facebook after polls closed.

Maggs will assume office in January, but the father of four is jobless for now.

Gramkow has declined to comment on the firing, saying "the action is done."

Deputy Brian McGuire said some people are using 911 to contact the department about the move. The calls could be interfering with the department's response to actual emergency calls, putting the public in danger, he cautioned.

The department has been has also been facing backlash on Facebook, McGuire said.

"It's gotten so bad that we may have to take down the Facebook page," he said. "It's not something we want to do, because it's a good way to put out information and receive messages from the public. But we may have to shut it down if we continue getting these messages."

County commissioners also started receiving calls moments after the termination notice was posted on social media, said Chairman Mike Soukup.

Commissioners will meet with Gramkow and Maggs to discuss the termination next week.

## Proposed Clark County wind farm granted construction permit

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission has granted a construction permit for a proposed 120-turbine wind farm in Clark County.

The Crocker Wind Farm will have the capability to produce up to 400 megawatts of electricity. The wind energy facility will include an associated transmission line.

The permit approved Friday includes conditions on issues related to protecting roads and aircraft detection lighting. One condition requires that Crocker provide a public liaison to help communication between landowners, area residents and the commission, and work to help resolve complaints.

The Crocker Wind Farm submitted an application for construction in December. Friday's vote came after public hearings.

The Crocker Wind Farm anticipates it will begin operation by the fourth quarter of 2019.

## Air Force grounds B-1B Lancer fleet after emergency landing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command has grounded its B-1B Lancer fleet after one of the bombers made an emergency landing in Texas.

Gen. Robin Rand ordered the safety stand-down on Thursday. The Air Force says a safety investiga-



tion after the May 1 emergency landing found a problem with ejection seat components that caused the stand-down.

Air Force spokesman Maj. Ethan Stoker says there are 62 B-1Bs in the fleet stationed at bases including Dyess Air Force Base in Texas, Edwards Air Force Base in California, Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma.

Col. John Edwards, commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth, says they're working on the issue closely with experts across the Air Force.

## **Iowa authorities investigating death of infant girl**

ESTHERVILLE, Iowa (AP) — Police in northwestern Iowa are investigating the death of an infant from Estherville.

Estherville police said Friday that 11-month-old Jasmine Rodriguez Sebastian died Wednesday at a Sioux Falls, South Dakota, hospital two days after she was taken there for undisclosed reasons.

Estherville police, the Emmet County Attorney's Office, the Iowa Department of Human Services and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation are investigating the girl's death.

Police said no further information on the death would immediately be released.

## **1 of 2 men who escaped Nebraska jail found in South Dakota**

RUSHVILLE, Neb. (AP) — A prosecutor says one of two men who escaped from a Nebraska Panhandle jail has been captured on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Chadron station KCSR reports that Hijinio (HEEN'-yoh) Garnette, of Gordon, was captured last week at a home in Kyle, South Dakota. He and Esdon Haukass (HAH'-kuhs), of Mission, South Dakota, escaped from the Sheridan County Jail in Rushville on March 26.

Sheridan County Attorney Jamian Simmons says Garnette is back in Nebraska and is due in a Rushville courtroom next Thursday to face charges of escape and theft. Court records don't list the name of an attorney who could speak for Garnette. Simmons says she had no information on the whereabouts of Haukass.

The two escaped out a window after overpowering a jailer.

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Information from: KCSR-AM, <http://www.chadrad.com/>

## **Authorities ID Sioux Falls motorcyclist killed in crash**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Sioux Falls man who died in a motorcycle crash in the city.

The Highway Patrol says 25-year-old Pete Swedeen lost control of his bike on Interstate 29 in the early morning hours of Tuesday.

Swedeen was thrown from the motorcycle and pronounced dead at the scene.

## **Longtime warden of medium-security Yankton prison retiring**

SPRINGFIELD, S.D. (AP) — The longtime warden of the medium-security Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield is retiring.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that Friday is the last day on the job for Bob Dooley. He's worked at the prison since it opened in the mid-1980s and has been the warden since the mid-1990s.

During his career, Dooley has overseen not only the Mike Durfee State Prison but also the Yankton Community Work Center and the Rapid City Community Work Center.

A program was held at the prison on Thursday to honor him.

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Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

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## Sanford Sports Complex adds golf facility

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sanford Sports Complex is adding a \$12 million indoor golf entertainment facility.

Great Shots will have an interactive driving range, a video game area for children, a restaurant and meeting space. Developers say the driving range will have three floors of bays to hold up to 60 golfers at a time.

The facility will also house Sanford POWER Golf Academy that will include research space for the Sanford Sports Science Institute to study injury prevention and performance in golf.

Construction is expected to start this fall. The Argus Leader reports Great Shots is scheduled to open by fall of 2019.

## Man sentenced for assaulting federal officer on reservation

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A man who punched a tribal officer in the face on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation last fall has been sentenced to two years in federal prison.

The U.S. attorney's office says 24-year-old Franklin Long Black Cat, of Pine Ridge, assaulted the officer last October. He was indicted by a federal grand jury in December and later convicted of assault on a federal officer.

Long Black Cat will be on supervised release for three years following his prison term.

## Tough talk: US envoys on how to negotiate with North Korea

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's Singapore summit with Kim Jong Un may be unprecedented, but during a quarter-century of on-off nuclear talks with North Korea, U.S. officials have learned a thing or two about dealing with an inscrutable adversary and have tried many tactics to get their way: quiet persuasion, black humor and even walking out of the room.

Across the table, they've faced dogged North Korea negotiators who launch into anti-American tirades, reflecting a doctrinaire mindset and the vast ideological gulf between two nations still technically at war. But they've also encountered officials who are polite, know their brief inside-out, and occasionally flash wit.

As Trump prepares to meet with Kim on Tuesday, there's uncertainty about how the two headstrong leaders will get along and whether the former real estate mogul can extract nuclear concessions from the young North Korean autocrat. Four former U.S. officials reflect here on their own, often-difficult experience of negotiating with North Korea.

### GONE WITH THE WIND

Starting in mid-1993, Robert Gallucci led the U.S. in direct talks with North Korea, seeking to rein in its then-nascent nuclear program. The first meeting took place in New York, on the top floor of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

Gallucci, then an assistant secretary of state, recalled that the Americans were taken aback by the sight of a dozen or so North Korean diplomats, each one with a lapel pin with a picture of their supreme leader.

"You can imagine us going into a meeting with lapel pins with Bill Clinton's picture? It's just implausible. But that actually goes to something that's quite important for people to understand," said Gallucci, describing North Korea as a cult of leadership as much as it is an authoritarian government. "And one forgets that at one's peril. I think you can lose a lot of ground in discussion if you don't understand how sensitive they are about their leadership."

To the Americans' surprise, North Korea's deputy foreign minister, Kang Sok Ju, during the talks quoted from the epic American civil war novel, "Gone with the Wind." It wasn't the line immortalized by Clark Gable in the Hollywood movie — "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn," Gallucci said, but rather "something to do with wagons rolling and dogs barking." After the meeting, he gave Kang a copy of the book as a gift. Gallucci got a box of Korean ginseng tea in return.

Gallucci said the North Korean would use extreme and insulting language about America, and he'd push

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back, but ultimately he wasn't interested in polemics. "It's natural that you have this hostility. Having said that, you still want to build what rapport you can in the discussion so that you can reach your objectives." After nearly a year-a-half, the two sides finalized a framework that halted North Korea's production of plutonium for bombs in exchange for energy assistance.

## DINNER WITH KIM JONG IL

The closest the U.S. has come in the past to holding a leadership summit with North Korea was in the dying months of the Clinton administration when the North expressed willingness to reach a deal restricting its ballistic missile program. Wendy Sherman was a close aide to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she visited Pyongyang in October 2000, exploring that possibility.

As a gift for then-autocrat Kim Jong Il — the current leader's father — Albright had brought a basketball signed by Michael Jordan after learning that the diminutive Kim was a fan of the NBA.

During negotiations, the Americans were impressed by Kim's mastery of missile technicalities. At dinner, an aide to Kim was leading constant toasts with soju, the fiery Korean liquor, leaving some of the U.S. delegation worse for wear.

Sherman said the North Korea leader was strangely protective of Albright and herself, who were seated on either side of Kim, several times waving the aide away. The atmosphere around the North leader was constrained. "No one is going to disagree with him. No one is going to correct him. What he says, goes," Sherman said.

When a dancing troupe performed, and one dancer made a mistake, Kim was visibly displeased. "We were quite concerned for that young woman: that she had displeased the leader and that she would pay for it," Sherman said.

Advice for Trump: "There is no trust between the United States and North Korea, any more than there is between the United States and Iran. There may be some respect or regard for the subject at hand, but no one should stop thinking for a moment about the horrific conditions in North Korea."

## A HIGHER CALLING

After Clinton left office, hopes for a U.S.-North Korea summit expired as the George W. Bush administration took a tougher line toward Pyongyang. The framework collapsed in 2002 amid U.S. suspicions that North Korea had a clandestine uranium enrichment program. In 2006, North Korea conducted the first of its six nuclear test explosions. The Bush administration used sticks, and eventually carrots, to press for progress on denuclearization.

Top diplomat for East Asia, Christopher Hill, led the U.S. in six-nation talks with the North hosted by China. "You need to be very specific about what you're trying to get accomplished. And if they (North Koreans) come back and try to take something away that they've already agreed to, my approach was to just leave the table," Hill said. "Sometimes they'd come back and say we have new instructions. And I'd say well that's too bad because so do I. And I'd leave."

The talks led to the temporary disabling of the North's plutonium reactor but ultimately collapsed in a dispute over verification. Hill said there was little personal banter during the protracted negotiations, but he recounted occasional flashes of humor from the North Koreans. Once when Hill had to take a phone call from then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, he explained to his North Korean counterpart that he had to take a break from the negotiations and answer "to a higher calling." The North Korean replied, "Well, that's a good opportunity for me to do the same," whereupon he went to the bathroom.

## PULLING OUT FINGERNAILS

Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Clinton, has been a frequent interlocutor with North Korea since the 1990s, visiting eight times, often to seek the release of American detainees and acting in an independent capacity. He believes the North may agree to curbs on its nuclear program but won't abandon it.

"North Koreans are very tough to deal with," said Richardson. "They don't think like we do. We think in

terms of a compromise, quid pro quo. You do this, we do that. Their idea of negotiating is they'll give you more time for you to get to their position."

He said the best way to get results is to let them vent at formal talks, and then try to negotiate at a meal or in a walk outside the meeting, but he worried that Trump's hip-shooting style could jar with North Koreans.

Richardson himself has used some unconventional tactics, such as when he was in Pyongyang in 1996 negotiating for the release of an American who had been arrested after swimming across the river border from China into North Korea.

"I made a joke. I said, 'Well, are you treating this man properly? Does he still have his fingernails? And the North Koreans looked at me for about 10 seconds. I thought they were going to shoot me,'" Richardson said.

But he said they did get that he was joking, and the man was soon released.

## In pro-Trump ND, Democrat Heitkamp has no time for resisting

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

MANDAN, North Dakota (AP) — Heidi Heitkamp has no time for resisting.

That's what the North Dakota Democrat in one of the most Donald Trump-friendly states says, though it would seem she also doesn't have that luxury.

The first-term U.S. senator, among the most vulnerable in her party seeking re-election this year, is maneuvering herself at once as an ally of the Republican president on policy, and a polite opponent at other times.

"If you simply focus on resistance, if that's your sole motivation and purpose, I don't know how you'd ever get anything done," Heitkamp said during an Associated Press interview at a coffee shop in Mandan, her hometown. "When we agree, we work together."

Heitkamp's record of championing some of Trump's proudest deregulation moves has frustrated Republicans, who would like nothing more than to paint her as obstructing the president, as Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., has promised to do. Instead, Heitkamp's Republican opponent, U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer is competing with the incumbent to stand out as the better friend to Trump.

It's a tack that Heitkamp says overstates Trump's popularity.

Heitkamp is among 10 Democratic senators seeking re-election this year in states Trump carried in 2016. Their fate will go a long way to deciding whether Democrats stand a chance at capturing the majority in November. Republicans now hold a 51-49 edge.

On the surface, Heitkamp's challenge may appear greater than those faced by her peers: In 2016, Trump won North Dakota by 36 percentage points, a margin exceeded only in West Virginia.

But Heitkamp, 62, is a near-40-year political veteran of this deeply conservative state. She comes to this moment with a background of statewide political success, heartbreaking defeat and deep insight about the issues of agriculture, energy and trade which drive this lightly populated but pivotal state.

"I've won elections by big margins, by little margins. And I've lost elections," said Heitkamp, a former state attorney general and failed candidate for governor who won her Senate seat by 3,000 votes in 2012. "And that's not what motivates me to do this work — winning and losing elections. It's the work."

Heitkamp has championed Trump's move to loosen federal rules that she has called onerous for North Dakota's farmers and mining industry. Last month, she stood gleefully alongside Trump as he signed a measure easing regulations on community banks and credit unions, on which many farmers and rural businesses rely.

Heitkamp also has voted to confirm 21 of Trump's 26 Cabinet-level nominations. Only West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, another Democrat facing re-election in a conservative state, has voted for more. Heitkamp has voted for the vast majority of Trump's judicial nominees, including Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Cramer, whose chief campaign claim is his devotion to the president, has criticized Heitkamp for voting in December against Trump's tax cuts, his chief domestic achievement.

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Heitkamp also voted against move forward on a bill that would make nearly all abortions illegal after 20 weeks of pregnancy, and that's a sore spot with North Dakota's active evangelical conservatives.

She did lead a bipartisan effort to lift the 40-year ban on U.S. oil exports in 2015, against the wishes of Democratic President Barack. But she faced a backlash from the petroleum industry this year for voting to keep in place limits on burning excess natural gas released from oil drilling sites. Heitkamp, a former natural gas company director, argued that the excess could be captured and sold.

Cramer said Heitkamp is in a bind.

"She has a big dilemma," he told the AP. "On one hand, she wants to portray herself in North Dakota as a Trump supporter. On the other hand, she wants to be a Democrat and not torque off her big-money, liberal friends. People aren't falling for it."

But Heitkamp is a known entity in North Dakota, recognizable to many with her unruly red hair, barn coat and booming laugh.

She visited a grain cooperative and ethanol processing plant in the high, green plains west of Bismarck during the Senate's Memorial Day recess. Republican Mike Appert, a farmer who met Heitkamp for the first time last week at Red Trail Energy, said she gets high marks from conservatives for her support of the ethanol industry.

Appert, disappointed by her tax-cut and abortion bill opposition, said he appreciates her willingness to work with Trump.

"From a lot of people I've talked to, people who voted for Trump for president are going to vote for Heidi," said Appert, who is undecided in the Senate race, but said Heitkamp "deserves a close look."

Heitkamp's up-front spot at Trump's banking bill signing recalled the time when she joined him on stage for a rally in North Dakota last fall, a symbol of their uncommon bond.

She flew aboard Air Force One from Washington to Bismarck for a September rally. That was nine months after Trump invited her during the presidential transition to Trump Tower, where she rejected his offer of a Cabinet-level position.

Cramer, who initially turned down challenging Heitkamp early this year, changed his mind after a multiple attempts by Trump, including a White House dinner with Cramer and his wife, to recruit him. "He begged me," Cramer told the AP last week.

Cramer has used the sales job to portray himself as close to the president in a state where Trump's approval runs well ahead of his national rating.

"She can't use my support for the Trump agenda against me," he said. "She's essentially saying 'vote for me because I'm going to be like Kevin.' I'm telling voters to vote for me because I am Kevin."

But Heitkamp said no one agrees with Trump all of the time, even in North Dakota.

"Do I want to have a relationship so I can pick up the phone and talk about things like farm policy, trade policy? Yeah. I think that's in the best interest of North Dakota," she said. "I say if you want someone who is going to vote with the president 100 percent of the time, that's not going to be me. Because I don't think he's 100 percent right."

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Associated Press writer James MacPherson in Bismarck, North Dakota, contributed to this report.

## Trump trades easy banter with allies but differences persist

By CATHERINE LUCEY and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

LA MALBAIE, Quebec (AP) — President Donald Trump charged into the Group of Seven summit at odds with key allies over U.S. tariffs, then set out to defuse tension with friendly banter and offered vague claims of progress in trade talks. But details were scant and clear differences remained at the summit's midpoint.

After days of verbal sparring over new U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, Trump joined the leaders of major industrialized nations in an idyllic Canadian resort town. On his way to the annual gathering, Trump laid out his fundamental grievance, saying that other countries "have been taking advantage of the United States on trade."

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He injected additional controversy by suggesting that the G-7 offer a seat at the table to Russia, which was ousted from the group after it annexed Crimea.

On Saturday, Trump attended a breakfast focused on gender equality, arriving after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau opened the session. He planned to leave Canada several hours early, heading to Singapore for his summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, missing G-7 sessions on climate change, clean energy and ocean protection.

Trump's recent moves, building on 18 months of nationalist policy-making, leave him out of step with the globally-minded organization and have prompted speculation that the group could fracture into something more like the "G-6 plus one."

But in meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron, Trump stressed his friendships with the allies while continuing to insist he wanted to see changes on trade.

Trump bantered easily with Trudeau, joking that the neighboring leader had "agreed to cut all tariffs and all trade barriers." And he emphasized a "good relationship" with Macron, saying they sometimes have a "little test" on trade, but predicting a positive outcome.

Still, the fundamental differences remained clear. Trump again railed against trade deficits with other countries and repeated that he may pursue separate trade deals with Canada and Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, while Canada would prefer to renegotiate the three-way deal.

Asked if Trudeau was upset that Trump would be leaving the summit in Canada early on Saturday, Trump joked, "He's happy."

Macron said he and Trump held "open and direct" discussions, adding that he thought there was a way to get a "win-win" outcome on trade, though details remained unclear.

Both sides suggested some progress in NAFTA talks. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said they were "close to a deal," but added that there was also discussion of shifting to a bilateral deal. A Canadian official said the leaders discussed accelerating the pace of the talks.

Trump spent Friday participating in the rituals of the G-7, including the formal greeting by host Trudeau, a group photo in front of the sparkling St. Lawrence River and a working lunch of Arctic char and buckwheat salad.

Other members of the Group of Seven are Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Germany and Britain. The European Union also attends.

Trump's relations with the others have hit such a low point that a key question was whether the seven countries can agree on a joint statement of priorities at the conclusion of the meeting. Macron said Thursday on Twitter, "The American President may not mind being isolated, but neither do we mind signing a 6 country agreement if need be."

Trump said Friday he thinks the group will produce a joint statement.

Before arriving at the Quebec summit, Trump injected fresh drama by asking why Russia wasn't included in the group.

"They should let Russia come back in because we should have Russia at the negotiating table," he said.

Russia was ousted from the elite group in 2014 as punishment for President Vladimir Putin's annexation of Crimea and support for pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine. In the U.S., special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in a bid to sway the 2016 presidential election in his favor.

The comments drew a mixed response.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said the issue "hasn't been raised around the G-7 table," though she said there have been "some direct conversations in bilateral meetings." She added "there are no grounds whatsoever for bringing Russia with its current behavior back into the G-7."

In Paris, Macron's office said such a move wouldn't make sense and pointed out that the latest country to impose economic sanctions on Russia was the U.S. Italy's new premier, Giuseppe Conte, tweeted that he agreed with Trump, saying: "Russia should go back into the G-8. In the interest of all."

Russia seemed unconcerned. State news agencies quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying,

"We are putting the emphasis on other formats."

Over the course of his presidency, Trump has inflamed allies with his isolationist policies, including withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate accord and the international Iran-nuclear agreement.

"The rules-based international order is being challenged, not by the usual suspects but by its main architect and guarantor: the United States," said European Council President Donald Tusk.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin and Darlene Superville in Washington, Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

## Many have their doubts about Trump-Kim summit

By JOSH LEDERMAN and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The self-proclaimed master dealmaker is facing doubts from multiple corners as he prepares to negotiate with Kim Jong Un.

Ahead of President Donald Trump's landmark summit next week with the North Korean leader, U.S. allies and many Republicans are raising concerns that he may impulsively give in on issues they say should be deal-breakers for the United States. Ambiguity about exactly what "denuclearization" must look like has left some wringing their hands, while others fear he may yield on a longtime North Korean wish that the U.S. withdraw some or all of its military presence on the Korean Peninsula.

There are worries from some quarters about Kim's intentions and his willingness to actually follow through on any commitment he might make in Singapore.

"My suspicion remains that he is going to try to get as much sanctions relief as possible without having to give up his weapons," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

Rubio, who applauded Trump's now-reversed decision to cancel the summit, said at the time that it was apparent that Kim's goal "was either to gain sanctions relief in exchange for nothing or to collapse international sanctions by making the U.S. appear to be the unreasonable party."

The concerns have been voiced on both sides of the aisle in Congress, where top Senate Democrats have sent Trump a letter insisting any deal will be a bad one unless it forces North Korea to comply with a long list of onerous demands. Even Sen. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, generally averse to publicly criticizing fellow Republican leaders, warned the president last week that "you could get snookered."

In their letter, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Robert Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called for any agreement with North Korea to meet five key points: that all weapons of mass destruction be removed or dismantled; that there be no uranium enrichment or plutonium reprocessing; that it end all ballistic missile testing; that it allow "anytime, anywhere" inspections of its facilities; and that a deal be permanent.

"The president has talked tough when it comes to North Korea, but more important than any tweet, more important than any comment about the size of the big red button will be the president's willingness to stand strong and secure a strong and enduring deal," Schumer said. "We hope that he'll be successful and strongly encourage him to reach an agreement that meets the five principles that we've laid out."

Trump, clearly eager for a summit he can sell as a success, has played into the concerns that he may find himself outmatched at the negotiating table by Kim. Kim's detailed command of the issues central to his country's nuclear conflict has impressed U.S. officials who have interacted with him since Trump's diplomacy with the North began.

"I don't think I have to prepare very much. It's about attitude," Trump said of the summit before meeting Thursday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. "It's about willingness to get things done."

Although the Trump administration has said that America's 28,500 troops in South Korea aren't bargaining chips in Singapore, there are persistent concerns — fueled by Trump's own comments — that he may waver. For years Trump has complained about the U.S. bearing too much of the burden for other countries' security, and as president he's sought to pull troops from Syria and other locations. He's also specifically questioned the need for so many troops in South Korea, asking in 2016, "What are we getting for this?"

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Agreeing to a troop withdrawal from South Korea would be the worst possible outcome for the summit, said Christopher Hill, a former U.S. ambassador who ran negotiations with North Korea in the George W. Bush administration.

"Even if he tried to couch it in terms of South Korea not paying the bills, which is nonsense, I just think it would make him look weak," Hill said.

Another North Korea expert from the Bush administration, Victor Cha, noted that only Trump has raised troop presence as a possible negotiating point.

"We are the ones who have been talking about putting it on the table," he said. "This should be a matter between U.S. and South Korea."

Trump's diplomacy with North Korea has been cheered on by South Korea, whose new leadership is more supportive of engagement with the North than any South Korean government in years. The level of concern is higher, though, in Japan, another U.S. treaty ally in Asia with much at stake.

Japan's government is worried that Trump, with his "America First" focus, may accept a deal that eliminates the threat from North Korean intercontinental ballistic missiles that could strike the U.S. mainland, without dealing sufficiently with medium-range missiles that could strike Tokyo. Japan also been pressing Trump to force the North to release Japanese abductees seized years ago, Japanese officials have said, although Trump has given little indication that's a high priority for his summit.

Associated Press writer Gillian Wong in Beijing contributed to this report.

## **For Bourdain, food was a storytelling tool \_ and a passport**

**By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer**

Many people thought Anthony Bourdain had the most enviable career in existence. He didn't deny it.

"I have the best job in the world," the globe-trotting food-taster and culinary storyteller once told the New Yorker magazine, stating the rather obvious. "If I'm unhappy, it's a failure of imagination."

Bourdain's stunned fans were mourning the loss of that singular imagination on Friday following his death from an apparent suicide, recalling everything from his fearless consumption of a beating cobra's heart or a sheep testicle — "like any other testicle," he remarked — to his outspoken support of the #MeToo movement, to his blissful paean to syrup-soaked pecan waffles at Waffle House.

"I want it all," he wrote in his breakthrough 2000 memoir, "Kitchen Confidential." "I want to try everything once." And it seemed that he pretty much accomplished that, traveling the globe some 200 days a year for his TV shows, reveling not in fancy tasting menus — which he scorned — but in simple pleasures like a cold beer and spicy noodles in Hanoi, which he once shared with former President Barack Obama. For him, food, though a huge pleasure, was more importantly a storytelling tool, and a passport to the world at large.

It was a lifestyle that, while undeniably glamorous, took a toll, he suggested in a 2017 New Yorker profile. "I change location every two weeks," he said. "I'm not going to remember your birthday. I'm not going to be there for the important moments in your life."

Not surprisingly, it was on the road, in eastern France, that Bourdain, 61, was found unresponsive Friday morning by good friend and chef Eric Ripert. He'd been working on an episode for the 12th season of his CNN show, "Parts Unknown." A prosecutor said he had apparently killed himself in a luxury hotel in the ancient village of Kayserberg. He left behind an 11-year-old daughter, Ariane, from his second marriage. In a 2008 interview with The Associated Press, Bourdain had said his daughter's birth had changed his outlook on life: "I feel obliged to at least do the best I can and not do anything really stupidly self-destructive if I can avoid it."

At the time of his death, his girlfriend was Asia Argento, the Italian actress who has accused Harvey Weinstein of rape. In an essay written after fellow chef Mario Batali was accused of sexual assault, Bourdain wrote that "one must pick a side ... I stand unhesitatingly and unwaveringly with the women." Argento wrote on Twitter Friday that Bourdain "was my love, my rock, my protector."



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Traversing the globe meant visiting areas of conflict and also intense poverty, and Bourdain didn't shy away from either. In "No Reservations" on the Travel Channel, he went to Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2011, and reflected on his ambivalence at being there. "I'm there talking about local cuisine, and that means I'm shoveling food into my face ... that a lot of those people can't afford," he said. And he described how his well-meaning efforts to feed locals around him led to chaos and "hungry kids being beaten with a stick."

There was, of course, a more lighthearted side to his travels, including some wild and bizarre eating experiences. In Morocco, it was that roasted sheep's testicle. In Canada, it was a raw seal's eyeball. In Namibia, it was the wrong end of a warthog (he wound up with a parasite.) In Vietnam, it was the still-beating heart of a cobra that had just been sliced open.

Much closer to home — Bourdain lived in New York, when he wasn't traveling — was a late-night visit to Waffle House in Charleston, South Carolina, described in poetic terms by Bourdain as "an irony-free zone where everything is beautiful and nothing hurts; where everybody regardless of race, creed, color or degree of inebriation is welcomed." Sampling the pecan waffle drowning in butter and maple syrup, he exclaimed, "This is BETTER than French Laundry, man," referring to the Napa Valley temple of high cuisine.

That clip was being widely shared on Friday, and fans were also flocking to Amazon, where at mid-afternoon, four of the six top-selling books were by Bourdain. "Kitchen Confidential" was No. 1.

In that acclaimed book, Bourdain, who born in New York City and raised in Leonia, New Jersey, candidly described his personal struggles, including drug use that led to his dropping out of Vassar College.

But he thrived in restaurant kitchens, and that work led him to the Culinary Institute of America, where he graduated in 1978. He eventually became executive chef at Brasserie Les Halles in 1998. In the preface to the latest edition of "Kitchen Confidential," Bourdain wrote of his shock at the success of his book, which he managed to write by getting up at 5 a.m. before his kitchen shifts.

"The new celebrity chef culture is a remarkable and admittedly annoying phenomenon," he wrote. "While it's been nothing but good for business ... few people are less suited to be suddenly thrown into the public eye than chefs."

Fellow celebrity chefs didn't always gain Bourdain's respect or praise. Many earned his unfettered scorn. Among them: Alice Waters, whose insistence on organic food he once described as "very Khmer Rouge." He called Sandra Lee "pure evil," and worse. He called New Orleans chef Emeril Lagasse "Ewok-like," and Guy Fieri's Times Square eatery, Guy's American Kitchen & Bar, a "terror-dome."

But Lagasse became his friend, and he tweeted Friday: "Tony was a great soul, a mentor, a friend, a father, and an incredible chef." His friend Ripert, the famed chef of Le Bernardin, called him "an exceptional human being, so inspiring and generous, one of the great storytellers of our time who connected with so many." Saul Montiel, executive chef at the Mexican restaurant Cantina Roof Top in Manhattan, called Bourdain "one of the few chefs that valued the work of Latinos in the kitchen."

Countless more wrote of their shock and sadness. Some noted that Bourdain's death came just days after the suicide of fashion designer Kate Spade, also a great shock to those who knew her. Bourdain's own mother, Gladys Bourdain, a longtime editor at The New York Times, said she had no indication that her son might have been thinking of suicide.

"He is absolutely the last person in the world I would have ever dreamed would do something like this," she told the Times. "He had everything. Success beyond his wildest dreams. Money beyond his wildest dreams."

AP Writers Sylvie Corbet and Elaine Ganley in Paris, Hillel Italie and David Bauder in New York contributed to this report.

## Taliban announce cease-fire over Eid holiday for 1st time

By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Afghan Taliban announced a three-day cease-fire over the Eid al-Fitr holiday at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, a first for the group, following an earlier cease-fire announcement by the government.

A statement released Saturday by the Taliban said that they would defend themselves in case of any attack. They say foreign forces are excluded from the cease-fire and Taliban operations would continue against them.

The statement added that the leadership of the Taliban may also consider releasing prisoners of war, if they promise not to return to the battlefield.

Mohammad Haroon Chakhansuri, spokesman for the Afghan president, welcomed the cease-fire announcement during a news conference in Kabul.

"We hope that (the Taliban) will be committed to implementing their announcement of the cease-fire," he said. "The Afghan government will take all steps needed to make sure that there is no bloodshed in Afghanistan."

"The government of Afghanistan is hopeful that this process will become a long term process and will result in a sustainable peace," Chakhansuri added.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday announced a weeklong cease-fire with the Taliban to coincide with the holiday.

A statement sent from the president's office on Thursday said the government's cease-fire will begin on 27 Ramadan, or June 12 on the Western calendar, and last through the Eid al-Fitr holiday, until around June 19, adding the cease-fire does not include al-Qaida or the Islamic State group.

The palace statement referred to a gathering of Afghanistan's top clerics last week in which they issued a decree against suicide attacks and called for peace talks. A suicide bomber struck just outside the gathering as it was dispersing, killing at least seven people and wounding 20 in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

The Taliban had denounced the gathering, insisting that its jihad, or holy war, against foreign invaders was justified. It instead urged the clerics to side with it against the "occupation."

NATO has led international security efforts in Afghanistan since 2003. It wound down its combat mission in 2014 but its Resolute Support mission comprises almost 16,000 troops from around 40 countries.

The conflict has been at a stalemate for several years, and NATO's best chances of leaving lie in the Taliban agreeing to peace talks and eventually joining the government. The Trump administration has sent additional troops to try to change the course of America's longest war.

On Friday, senior U.S. officials said they will intensify combat against the Islamic State affiliate in the country during the Kabul government's temporary halt to attacks on the Taliban.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said this could, for example, allow the U.S. to partially shift the focus of aerial surveillance from the Taliban to IS fighters as well as al-Qaida extremists, who remain a threat 17 years after the U.S. invaded. Mattis spoke to reporters during a break in a NATO defense ministers meeting.

In the meantime, Taliban insurgents have continued to carry out attacks.

Just hours before the Taliban's announcement, at least 17 soldiers were killed when their checkpoint came under attack by Taliban fighters in western Herat province, said Gelani Farhad, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Farhad said one soldier was wounded. He added that eight insurgents were killed and more than a dozen others were wounded in the gun battle in Zewal district.

In northern Kunduz province, at least 13 local policemen were killed early Saturday when their checkpoint came under an attack by Taliban fighters, said Nematullah Temori, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Temori said seven others were wounded in Qala-e Zal district. Around 10 insurgents were also killed and nine others wounded during the battle, he said.

In eastern Nangarhar province, a possible candidate for a district council seat was killed when his vehicle

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was destroyed by a sticky bomb Saturday, said Mohammad Nasim, Rodat district governor.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on its news agency Aamaq website.

Nasim said that Ghulam Mohiadin was a district level official for the education department and planned to run for the district council later this year.

Both the Taliban and Islamic state group are active in eastern Afghanistan, especially in Nangarhar.

In northern Sari Pul, at least six public protection forces were killed after a checkpoint came under an attack by Taliban fighters, said Zabi Amani, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Amani said that seven other forces were wounded in the attack late Friday night near Sari Pul city. "Insurgents have set fire to two military Humvees as well as the checkpoint," he said.

He said there was a report of a single Taliban casualty but the group has not commented.

## Report: Downed power lines sparked deadly California fires

By JULIET WILLIAMS and DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A dozen wildfires that burned thousands of homes in California's wine country and killed at least 15 people last October were started by Pacific Gas & Electric power lines and utility poles, state fire officials said.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection released its investigation Friday for some of the wind-driven fires that ravaged Mendocino, Humboldt, Butte, Sonoma, Lake and Napa counties.

Falling trees and tree limbs hitting power lines were the most common cause, but one fire erupted after PG&E tried to re-energize a downed line, investigators found.

In eight fires there was "evidence of alleged violations of state law" by the utility and those cases have been referred to county prosecutors for review, according to the forestry department.

"PG&E has been trying to duck responsibility for the fires, blaming everything from climate change to local fire departments and the state's liability laws," Patrick McCallum, co-chair of a coalition of people affected by the wildfires, said in a statement.

He said Cal Fire's report "puts the blame where it belongs — squarely on PG&E, confirming it was responsible for many of the fires that devastated so many lives."

"As victims, we see the report as an important step toward rebuilding and recovery," McCallum said.

The dozen blazes were part of the deadliest series of wildfires in California history, which killed 44 people, destroyed 8,800 structures and forced more than 100,000 people to evacuate. About 11,000 firefighters from 17 states and Australia helped battle the blazes.

Nearly \$1.5 billion was spent fighting fires and on recovery north of San Francisco in October, including debris removal and infrastructure repair.

The destruction prompted \$10 billion in insurance claims.

Hundreds of homeowners and relatives of those killed have sued PG&E, which has sought to raise rates to cover possible judgments.

PG&E said in a statement that the company believes its "overall programs met our state's high standards" for maintaining electrical equipment. The utility said it inspects its 2 million power poles regularly and prunes about 1.4 million trees a year.

But "years of drought, extreme heat and 129 million dead trees have created a 'new normal' for our state" that has increased the number of large wildfires and the length of the wildfire season, the utility said.

"Climate change and the so-called new normal do not ignite fires. The Cal Fire findings today show that suspected negligence by PG&E did," said state Sen. Jerry Hill, a Redwood City Democrat, a longtime critic of the utility.

In March, PG&E announced it would start switching off power to minimize sparks in vulnerable areas during times of extreme fire danger. PG&E and some other state utilities previously have resisted such a measure, arguing that cutting off power carries its own risks, including to patients dependent on electrical equipment.

In one fire in Mendocino County last fall, investigators said Potter Valley experienced wind speeds up to 67 mph, causing many tree branches to fall, triggering numerous 911 calls reporting fires, according to Cal Fire's report.

"An arc from a conductor was witnessed along with the start of a vegetation fire," the report said. A second fire also was "from an overhead conductor." The two sparked a third, merged, and burned 10 miles (16 kilometers), the report said.

A responding firefighter said the smoke was blowing sideways and he had to veer around numerous tree branches to get to the fire.

Another property owner told Fire Captain Specialist Eric Bettger that "he saw a flash to the east and saw the conductors come down.

"He said the fire crossed the road within seconds," Bettger said.

Sen. Bill Dodd, a Democrat who represents the Napa area, called the report's findings "disappointing and deeply concerning." He has introduced legislation that would require electric utilities to update wildfire plans to determine when they need to cut power to lines during harsh weather and boost infrastructure.

Cal Fire investigators are still probing other fires in October and December, including the deadliest blaze in Napa and Sonoma Counties, which PG&E has argued was started by wires belonging to a private homeowner.

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Associated Press writer Amanda Lee Myers contributed to this report from Los Angeles and Thompson contributed from Sacramento.

## **Grim task as forensic experts ID Guatemala volcano victims**

**By SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press**

ESCUINTLA, Guatemala (AP) — Forensic experts worked Friday on the grim task of identifying dozens of bodies charred beyond recognition by the eruption of Guatemala's Volcano of Fire, a disaster that has left at least 110 confirmed dead and nearly 200 still missing.

Even as search and recovery efforts were suspended for a second day amid dangerous new volcanic flows and dwindling hopes of finding survivors, about 15 forensic experts worked at a makeshift morgue in a warehouse in the southern city of Escuintla.

The corpses arrive wrapped in sheets and plastic, blackened and often missing extremities, filling the cavernous, metal-roofed warehouse with the unmistakable stench of death. Some still had hair; others did not.

First, the experts check for anything that could help identify the bodies, such as clothing that hasn't been burned off by flows said to have reached temperatures as high as 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit (700 C).

Later, they will take genetic material from the bones — the only option available — and compare it to blood drawn from people with missing relatives. The bones can also yield information to help determine age and gender.

"We are extracting the samples from bones to do DNA tests," forensic expert Miguel Morales told The Associated Press, which was allowed access to the morgue to witness the work. "The tissues are in very bad shape."

Morales said the bodies were essentially mummified, cooked by the extreme heat.

On one table lay the body of someone frozen statue-like in death, the stomach distended and a hand jutting stiffly outward. A woman took notes, and another worker took photographs.

Dozens more bodies were shrouded in white plastic on wooden pallets, and workers used fans and dry ice to cool the space. In all, there were about 40 corpses.

At one end of the cinderblock warehouse, dozens of coffins lay waiting to receive identified bodies that would be handed over to relatives and quickly buried as mandated by health authorities.

National Institute of Forensic Sciences director Fanuel Garcia Morales said the process can take several days and workers are trying to get the dead to their families as quickly as possible.

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"The (bodies) are essentially petrified. It's really a question of that in touching and extracting them (during the recovery), they can fall apart easily," Garcia said.

Dr. Carlos Rodas, head of operations at the temporary morgue, said workers were employing a variety of techniques including examination of fingerprints, when available, dentistry and individual characteristics such as birthmarks, scars, tattoos and previously broken bones.

Authorities ordered new evacuations Friday, warning of activity at the Volcano of Fire and saying dangerous flows of volcanic material, water and sediment were coursing through four canyons. Late Friday, authorities raised the death toll by one to 110.

Residents of the town of El Rodeo, who had recently returned to their homes, were told to leave once again, and people were warned to avoid canyons and areas close to the volcano.

Disaster agency Conred said more than 3,000 workers were attending to families affected by the eruption, and about 3,700 displaced people were being housed in shelters.

Officials say on-and-off downpours have destabilized the terrain and made it too dangerous to work.

But people with missing loved ones have been upset by the suspension of search and recovery efforts. Some criticized the government's response and traveled into the disaster zones to search for loved ones themselves, digging with their hands or whatever tools they could get ahold of.

Estuardo Hernandez, 19, was talking by phone to his father, Margarito Hernandez, when millions of tons of ash tore through the village of San Miguel Los Lotes on the volcano's slope.

"He called me at 3:13 p.m. Sunday," said Hernandez, who was working in the nearby city of Antigua that day and escaped the deadly flow. "The last thing he told me was to go far from here. ... The last thing I could hear was him saying: 'Get inside! There's a lot of fire out there.' I say they stayed in the house."

Peering into the ash-filled home, Hernandez pointed at the back wall where he believes his parents tried to seek refuge.

In the days since the disaster, he said, no government official had come by to take down information or lend a hand, even as crews used earth-moving equipment not far away to clear a stretch of blocked highway.

"Without help we can't do anything ... the only thing that matters to the government is the highway," Hernandez said. "Why not bring machinery in here?"

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Associated Press writer Mark Stevenson contributed to this report from San Miguel Los Lotes.

## Authorities: Evidence shows gator bit, probably killed woman

By KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — A woman who disappeared while walking her dogs near a Florida lake Friday was bitten and likely killed by an alligator that was later captured, wildlife officials said.

A necropsy confirmed the gator bit Shizuka Matsuki, 47, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officials said in a statement. The statement said officials believe Matsuki was killed and were searching for her body. Commission spokesman Rob Klepper said they were able to positively identify the woman from evidence collected from the necropsy of the alligator, but he wouldn't specifically say what that evidence was.

A witness told authorities he saw the woman walking two dogs and then noticed the dogs alone, barking near the water. One of the dogs had a fresh injury, a gash on its side, said Davie Police Detective Viviana Gallinal.

The witness called police when he couldn't find the woman, Gallinal said. Earlier news media reports indicated the witness reported seeing the gator drag the woman into the water. Police did not immediately clarify the discrepancy.

Trappers have spotted a 12-foot (3.5-meter) alligator in the pond in Silver Lakes Rotary Nature Park, she said.

Jim Borrelli, a friend of Matsuki, said she and her husband have walked their dogs in the park previously.

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The couple did not live in the neighborhood, but he said she liked to find different places to walk the dogs. Residents said they often saw her walking them in the area.

Borrelli said Matsuki's husband, who is out of town and trying to fly home, sent him to the park to get more information after being contacted by Davie Police. Borrelli said he was also asked to break the news to the couple's son, who is in his 20s and lives in New York.

"I'm praying that nothing happened to her," Borrelli said.

A man who identified himself as Matsuki's brother and several other family friends gathered at the scene. He declined to talk but friends described the missing woman as a great friend who loved to cook.

Alligators are opportunistic feeders that will eat what is readily available and easily overpowered. Feeding wild alligators is illegal because they could lose their fear of humans.

Fatal attacks on humans remain rare, however. According to the wildlife commission, the likelihood of a Florida resident being seriously injured during an unprovoked alligator incident in Florida is roughly only 1 in 3.2 million.

From 1948 to 2017, the commission has documented 401 people bitten by alligators, including 24 fatalities. The most recent death occurred in 2016, when a 2-year-old boy playing near the water's edge at a Walt Disney World resort was killed.

The park where Matsuki disappeared Friday is near the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, a major Miami-area tourist and entertainment attraction.

Authorities closed the park Friday, but passers-by said they were not surprised to hear about an alligator lurking in the water.

"Any body of water in Florida, you've got to know at some point or another there's an alligator," said Heather Porrata, who lives nearby.

Sharon Estupinan said a park ranger warned her to walk her dogs farther away from the water's edge after she saw a 10-foot (3-meter) gator in the pond three days ago.

"I was afraid," she said. "Every time I walked the dogs during the day, I was like, 'Oh, my God, I've gotta keep away from there. I have to call my dogs,' so they wouldn't get close to the water or any of the trees near there because he could be hiding. Although, he's really big. I don't think he could really hide."

Alligators and humans frequently cross paths in Florida, as people increasingly seek waterfront homes and recreation.

The large reptiles can be found in fresh and brackish bodies of water — including lakes, rivers, canals and golf course ponds — and there is roughly 6.7 million acres of suitable habitat statewide. They are particularly active during their mating season in May and June.

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Associated Press writers Jennifer Kay and Freida Frisaro in Miami contributed to this report.

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This story has been edited to correct the spelling of Borrelli throughout.

## **New charges filed against Manafort in Russia probe**

**By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Special counsel Robert Mueller has brought new obstruction charges against President Donald Trump's campaign chairman and a longtime associate who prosecutors have said has ties to Russian intelligence.

The indictment was unsealed Friday against Paul Manafort and Konstantin Kilimnik just days after prosecutors accused the two men of attempting to tamper with witnesses as Manafort awaits trial on charges related to his foreign lobbying work.

The latest charges increase Manafort's legal jeopardy if he continues an aggressive battle with prosecutors, and could be an effort by Mueller to induce a guilty plea and secure the testimony of a critical campaign adviser to Trump. They also come as Trump and his attorney, Rudy Giuliani, have heaped public criticism on the Mueller investigation in an attempt to undermine it.

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The charges do not relate to Manafort's work on the Trump campaign or involve allegations of Russian election interference, a fact that the president has routinely noted as he tried to distance himself from his former top campaign adviser.

On Friday, Trump also dismissed any talk of pardoning Manafort or his longtime personal attorney, Michael Cohen, who is under investigation by federal prosecutors in New York.

"They haven't been convicted of anything. There's nothing to pardon. It is far too early to be thinking about it," Trump told reporters.

The new indictment charges Manafort and Kilimnik with obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice related to contacts they had with two witnesses earlier this year. The witnesses, who had worked with Manafort as he represented a pro-Russian political party in Ukraine, have told the FBI that they believed Manafort and Kilimnik were trying to get them to lie about the nature of their work.

The charges mark the second time since his October indictment that Manafort has faced additional criminal charges.

Through a spokesman, Manafort, 69, has maintained his innocence. The spokesman, Jason Maloni, said Friday that Manafort and his attorneys were reviewing the new charges.

Kilimnik, 48, has previously declined to comment on the allegations and denied being connected to Russian intelligence agencies. Kilimnik, who prosecutors say lives in Moscow, was not in U.S. custody Friday.

The new charges will factor heavily into whether U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson allows Manafort to remain on house arrest. Citing the allegations, prosecutors have asked Jackson to consider jailing Manafort.

In a filing Friday night, Manafort's lawyers called the allegations "dubious." They said prosecutors had conjured a "sinister plot" in accusing him of witness tampering and said most of the communication cited by Mueller's team are "irrelevant, innocuous and unresponsive" of the government's accusation. They also suggested he couldn't have tampered with witnesses since he doesn't even know whom prosecutors will call to testify at trial.

"Mr. Manafort's Sixth Amendment right to trial by an impartial jury in this district may have been irreparably damaged by the Special Counsel's latest, very public and very specious, filing of this motion," the defense lawyers wrote.

A hearing is set for next week.

Jackson previously gave Manafort a pass after federal agents found he had ghostwritten an opinion piece in Ukraine even though he was under a gag order in the case. Kilimnik was also involved in that episode.

In the latest charges, prosecutors say the contacts with the witnesses via phone and encrypted messaging applications first occurred in February, shortly after Manafort's co-defendant, Rick Gates, pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors. Kilimnik also reached out to witnesses in April.

Court papers show the witnesses told investigators they believed Manafort and Kilimnik were trying to get them to lie about their work with a group of former European politicians known as the Hapsburg group.

The Hapsburg group's work is one of several operations prosecutors say Manafort directed as part of a covert lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukraine, its then-president, Viktor Yanukovich, and the pro-Russian Party of Regions. The work is the basis for the criminal case in Washington where Manafort faces charges of acting as an unregistered foreign agent, money-laundering conspiracy and false statements.

According to the witnesses, Manafort and Kilimnik appeared to be pressuring them to say the Hapsburg group only worked in Europe, when they knew that they had been secretly paid to lobby in the U.S. Several of the politicians involved have denied any wrongdoing.

A close protege who worked alongside Manafort for years in Ukraine, Kilimnik is the 20th person charged so far in Mueller's investigation. Others include 13 Russians accused in a hidden social media effort to sway public opinion, former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn and former campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos.

Kilimnik has also drawn the scrutiny of congressional committees investigating Russian interference in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Emails show that during the middle of the campaign, Manafort told Kilimnik he was willing to provide

"private briefings" about Trump's presidential run to a billionaire close to Russian President Vladimir Putin. The July 2016 offer referred to Oleg Deripaska, who has accused Manafort of defrauding him as part of a multimillion dollar deal several years ago.

Through a spokesman, Manafort has confirmed the authenticity of the emails but said no briefings occurred.

In addition to the case in Washington, Manafort also faces bank fraud and tax evasion charges in Virginia.

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Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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Read the indictment: <http://apne.ws/UH3h5tl>

## Ex-Senate aide appears in federal court after indictment

By ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and BRIAN WITTE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former employee of the Senate intelligence committee appeared before a federal court Friday on charges that he lied about his contacts with reporters, a case President Donald Trump said could be a "terrific thing" as his administration tries to crack down on classified leaks.

James A. Wolfe, the longtime director of security for the committee, was charged Thursday evening with three counts of lying to investigators. The committee is one of multiple congressional panels investigating potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

Though Wolfe is not charged with actually disclosing classified information, prosecutors say he was in regular contact with multiple journalists who covered the committee, including meeting them at restaurants, in bars, private residences and in a Senate office building.

Wolfe, 57, made a brief appearance in federal court in Baltimore on Friday. U.S. Magistrate Judge J. Mark Coulson released him from custody and ordered him to appear at the federal courthouse in Washington next week. He did not enter a plea.

Wolfe, of Ellicott City, Maryland, did not answer questions from reporters.

On Friday morning, Trump said the Justice Department had caught "a very important leaker" and said it could be a "terrific thing." He said he was still getting details on the case.

"I'm a big, big believer in freedom of the press," Trump told reporters before departing for a trip to Canada. "But I'm also a believer in classified information. Has to remain classified."

Wolfe's indictment was announced soon after The New York Times revealed that the Justice Department had secretly seized the phone records and emails of one of its journalists, Ali Watkins, as part of the leak investigation involving Wolfe. The newspaper said Watkins was approached by the FBI about a three-year relationship she had had with Wolfe when she worked at other publications. The newspaper also said that Watkins said Wolfe was not a source of classified information for her during their relationship.

In a statement Thursday night, Watkins' attorney, Mark MacDougall, said: "It's always disconcerting when a journalist's telephone records are obtained by the Justice Department — through a grand jury subpoena or other legal process. Whether it was really necessary here will depend on the nature of the investigation and the scope of any charges."

Each false statement count is punishable by up to five years in prison, though if convicted, Wolfe would almost certainly face only a fraction of that time.

The criminal case arises from a December 2017 FBI interview with Wolfe in which he denied having official contacts with journalists or discussing committee business with them. Phone and text records showed otherwise.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and the top Democrat on the committee, Sen. Mark Warner, said in a joint statement that they were troubled by the charges. Wolfe had worked for the committee for roughly 30 years, and his position as security director meant that he was in charge of most of the classified information provided to the panel by the executive branch.

In addition to this week's indictments, electronic court records show that Wolfe was charged with second-



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degree assault, a misdemeanor, in June 2004, but prosecutors later dismissed the charge. His wife was listed as the complainant.

A spokesperson for the intelligence panel confirmed Wolfe's charges were dropped in 2004 and said his security clearance was reissued in 2008. The clearances are reviewed every five years. A government employee's security clearance can be denied if they have a criminal record of any sort.

"We cannot speak for the committee's leadership at the time, but they likely would have been aware and the incident would have been looked at as part of the subsequent review by the FBI," said the spokesperson, who declined to be identified because personnel matters are confidential.

The prosecution comes amid a Trump administration crackdown on leaks of classified information. Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions have decried such disclosures, with Sessions saying in August that the number of leaks of criminal leak probes had more than tripled in the early months of the Trump administration.

The Obama administration had its own repeated tangles with journalists, including secretly subpoenaing phone records of Associated Press reporters and editors during a leak investigation into a 2012 article about a bomb plot. The Justice Department amended its media guidelines in 2015 to make it more onerous for prosecutors to subpoena journalists for their sources, though officials in the past year have said they are reviewing those policies.

Lauren Easton, director of media relations for the AP, said Friday: "The Associated Press opposes any government overreach that jeopardizes the ability of journalists to freely and safely do their jobs and undermines the vital distinction between the government and the press."

Witte reported from Baltimore, Maryland. Associated Press writers Chad Day and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

## Trump barrels into G-7 summit, ready to fight US allies

By CATHERINE LUCEY and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

LA MALBAIE, Quebec (AP) — Bruising for a fight, President Donald Trump barreled into the Group of Seven summit Friday, confronting longtime U.S. allies over a burgeoning trade dispute and insisting Russia should be brought back into the fold.

Trump joined the leaders of major industrialized nations in an idyllic Canadian resort town after days of escalating conflict over new U.S. tariffs he slapped on imports of steel and aluminum. Facing pointed criticism from increasingly disillusioned allies, he punched back, uncowed by the growing global outcry.

"Look, all of these countries have been taking advantage of the United States on trade," Trump told reporters as he left the White House, repeating his longstanding complaints about trade deficits and tariffs. He declared, "We have to straighten it out."

However, Trump did seek to lower the temperature after his arrival. He bantered easily with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, joking that the neighboring leader had "agreed to cut all tariffs and all trade barriers." And he emphasized a "good relationship" with French President Emmanuel Macron, saying they sometimes have a "little test" on trade, but predicting a positive outcome.

Still, the fundamental differences remained clear. Trump again railed against trade deficits with other countries and repeated that he may pursue separate negotiations with Canada and Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Both sides suggested some progress in NAFTA talks, with White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders saying they were "close to a deal," though adding there was also discussion of a bilateral deal. A Canadian official said the leaders discussed accelerating the talks.

Macron said there had been "open and direct" discussions on trade, adding that he thought there was a way to get a "win-win" outcome, though details remained unclear.

Before arriving at the meeting of the group, which some suggest Trump is pushing from the Group of

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Seven into "G-6 plus one," he further stirred the pot by asking why Russia was excluded.

"They should let Russia come back in because we should have Russia at the negotiating table," he said.

Russia was ousted from the elite group in 2014 as punishment for President Vladimir Putin's annexation of Crimea and support for pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine. In the U.S., special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia in a bid to sway the 2016 presidential election in his favor.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said the Russia issue "hasn't been raised around the G-7 table," though she said there have been "some direct conversations in bilateral meetings." She added "there are no grounds whatsoever for bringing Russia with its current behavior back into the G-7."

Despite the tension, the president was greeted cordially by Trudeau as he arrived at the annual gathering, held this year at a picturesque Quebec resort. Other members of the Group of Seven are France, Italy, Japan, Germany and Britain. The European Union also attends.

Trump showed up late and will leave early on Saturday, heading to Singapore for his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. He spent Friday participating in the rituals of the G-7, including the formal greeting by host Trudeau, a group photo in front of the sparkling St. Lawrence River and a working lunch of Arctic char and buckwheat salad.

Over the course of his presidency, Trump has inflamed allies with his isolationist policies, including withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate accord and the international Iran nuclear agreement. Under Trump, the United States has abandoned its traditional role in the G-7 as an advocate for freer global trade, instead pushing more protectionist policies.

"The rules-based international order is being challenged, not by the usual suspects but by its main architect and guarantor: the United States," said European Council President Donald Tusk.

Relations have hit such a low point that a key question now is whether the seven countries can agree on a joint statement of priorities at the conclusion of the meeting. Macron said Thursday on Twitter, "The American President may not mind being isolated, but neither do we mind signing a 6 country agreement if need be." Trump said he thinks the group will produce a joint statement.

In the days leading up to the summit, Trudeau and Macron have severely criticized Trump's new tariffs, which critics say threaten to drive up prices for American consumers and companies and heighten uncertainty for businesses and investors around the globe.

But Trump, who frames his trade moves as a fulfillment of his campaign promises, is vowing to hold firm, tweeting Thursday: "Take down your tariffs & barriers or we will more than match you!"

The French president did have some private time with Trump before the summit officially started. Macron tweeted a short video of the two together, saying: "Sharing, reaching out, always, to promote the interests of the French people, and all those who believe in a world we can build together."

Prior to leaving Washington, Trump appeared unenthusiastic about the summit, complaining to aides about having to attend, particularly with his Singapore sit-down with Kim right around the corner. On Friday morning, he appeared in no hurry to leave for Canada, walking out of the White House more than half an hour late and answering questions from reporters for nearly 20 minutes.

To Trump's suggestion that Russia be welcomed back to the group, allies had mixed responses.

In Paris, Macron's office said it wouldn't make sense and pointed out that the latest country to impose economic sanctions on Russia was the U.S. Italy's new premier, Giuseppe Conte, tweeted that he agreed with Trump, saying: "Russia should go back into the G-8. In the interest of all."

Tusk was not convinced.

"Let's leave seven as it is," Tusk said. "It's a lucky number."

Russia seemed unconcerned. State news agencies quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying, "We are putting the emphasis on other formats."

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Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin and Darlene Superville in Washington, Sylvie Corbet in Paris and Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

## Florida stopped doing gun permit checks for more than a year

By GARY FINEOUT, Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — For more than a year, Florida failed to do national background checks that could have disqualified people from gaining a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

The lapse, revealed in an internal report that was not widely known about until Friday, occurred during a time period when there was a significant surge in the number of people seeking permission to legally carry a concealed weapon. Florida does not allow the open carry of weapons, but more than 1.9 million have permits to carry guns and weapons in public if they are concealed.

The state ultimately revoked 291 permits and fired an employee blamed for the lapse after an inspector general's report detailing the problem was sent in June 2017 to top officials in the department who oversee the program. The Tampa Bay Times was the first to publish information about the report, which pointed out that the state failed to check the National Instant Criminal Background Check System from February 2016 to March 2017.

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, a Republican running for governor who has touted his efforts to make it easier for people to obtain concealed-weapons permits, said the state did conduct its own criminal background checks on those applying for permits during that time period.

Putnam blamed the problem on the negligence of a department employee.

"The former employee was both deceitful and negligent, and we immediately launched an investigation and implemented safeguards to ensure this never happens again," Putnam said in a statement.

McKinley Lewis, a spokesman for Republican Gov. Rick Scott, said the governor's office was never provided a copy of the inspector general's report.

Democrats and gun control advocates quickly criticized Putnam over the incident and said he should resign. Putnam has raised the ire of gun control advocates for his proclamation last year that he was a "proud NRA sellout" who supports the National Rifle Association. He also said that he would not have signed the new gun and school safety law enacted by the Florida Legislature in the aftermath of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

"Career politicians like Mr. Putnam think this is just another bad day at the office — but when you conceal a level of negligence that endangers every resident, and every child, in Florida, you forfeit any moral right to lead," said former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine, one of the Democratic candidates running for governor.

The state used the national system to see if there were reasons such as mental illness or drug addictions that should prevent someone from being issued a concealed-weapons permit. But in March 2017 an investigation was triggered after a state employee noted that the state was not getting any correspondence from people whose applications had been rejected due to information gleaned from the national database.

The final report issued in June 2017 states that an employee in the Division of Licensing did not run applications through the national system because she couldn't log into the database. The employee is quoted in the report as saying that she "dropped the ball."

The Times interviewed the employee, Lisa Wilde, who told them she was working in the mailroom when she was given oversight of the database in 2013.

"I didn't understand why I was put in charge of it," Wilde told the newspaper.

Statistics compiled by the department show that from the summer of 2015 to the summer of 2017, the number of new applications for concealed-weapon permits jumped dramatically, to its highest level in 25 years.

## Critics blast Trump for sending border detainees to prison

By GENE JOHNSON, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration has already led to overrun detention facilities, long lines of asylum seekers camping out at the U.S.-Mexico border and a decision to separate young children from their parents indefinitely.

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Now, the administration is sending more than 1,600 immigrants — including some of those parents — to federal prisons amid a lack of space in other jails. The decision brought immediate denunciation from immigrant rights activists who were already enraged over the policy of separating parents from children.

The move comes as an increasing number of families and children have been coming to the border, further straining an immigration system that's already at capacity. Despite hard-line rhetoric from the White House, more than 50,000 people were apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border in May alone — many of them families and children — and courts, asylum officers and jails are struggling to keep up with the influx.

Historically, immigrants without serious criminal records were released from custody while they pursued asylum or refugee status. The Trump administration has moved to detain more people, including asylum seekers.

Under a new zero tolerance policy, parents who are criminally charged with illegal entering the country are separated from their children while in custody. The children are usually released to other family.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions insists the policy of separating families is necessary to deter illegal border-crossings, and authorities say the decision to send people to prisons is a temporary one amid a shortage of beds.

"If you bring a child, it is still an unlawful act," Sessions said in a speech in Montana this week. "You don't get immunity if you bring a child with you. We cannot have open borders for adults with children."

Critics noted that many of those transferred to federal prison appeared to have already been convicted of the misdemeanor of unlawful entry and sentenced to time served.

"Even if you accept that draconian argument, what is completely flawed is that they've already completed the criminal prosecution," said Matt Adams, legal director of the Seattle-based Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. "What is the rationale for continuing to separate them from their children and sending them to federal prison when they are just waiting for asylum?"

As Trump has ramped up enforcement, Congress continues to have little appetite for buying additional detention space — hence the crunch. In March, Congress agreed to fund 40,520 beds in immigration detention centers, an increase of 3 percent but a far cry from the administration's roughly 40 percent surge in deportation arrests. The White House had sought money for more than 51,000 beds.

In a statement Thursday, Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Carissa Cutrell said the agency needed to acquire more than 1,600 beds in Bureau of Prisons facilities. Those include 1,000 beds in Victorville, California and 600 more in the Seattle area, Texas, Oregon and Phoenix.

"The use of BOP facilities is intended to be a temporary measure until ICE can obtain additional long-term contracts for new detention facilities or until the surge in illegal border crossings subsides," the statement said.

It's not clear how much different the conditions for the detainees will be at the prisons. Advocates have long complained about the conditions inside traditional immigration detention facilities.

But Katharina Obser, a senior policy adviser with the Women's Refugee Commission, a New York-based nonprofit, called it reckless and inappropriate to house asylum seekers in federal prisons.

"This new move is due to a self-manufactured crisis that stems directly from this administration cruelly separating families at the border and locking up parents, many of whom are lawfully seeking asylum," she said.

It's also unclear if the prisons are ready for the inmates. In a statement this week, John Kostelnik, president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 3969, which represents workers at the prison in Victorville, said staffing was a major concern and that it wasn't clear how the detainees should be handled.

In a statement Friday, the Bureau of Prisons said it will house the detainees in a manner similar to inmates awaiting trial.

"The BOP has bedspace available due to the decline in the inmate population over the past several years, and will use existing staff to accomplish this mission," the statement said.

Whether it's legal to house immigration detainees who aren't facing criminal charges in federal prisons

is an unsettled legal question and the practice could be challenged, Adams said.

But activists are primarily concerned with waiting to see whether a judge in California will issue a nationwide injunction to stop immigration authorities from separating parents from their young children, which Adams described as a much more pressing and egregious issue.

On Wednesday, the judge said that if the policy was being carried out as described, it is "brutal, offensive, and fails to comport with traditional notions of fair play and decency."

Washington state officials have also expressed alarm. Gov. Jay Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson issued a letter Thursday seeking more information from the federal government after learning ICE had transferred dozens of mothers who had been separated from their children to the Federal Detention Center at SeaTac.

"The Trump Administration's new family separation policy is inflicting intentional, gratuitous, and permanent trauma on young children who have done nothing wrong and on parents who often have valid claims for refugee or asylum status," they wrote.

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Associated Press reporters Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Nicholas Riccardi in Denver contributed.

## Trump considers pardon for Ali, wants athletes' advice

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reveling in his pardon powers, President Donald Trump said Friday he's thinking "very seriously" about pardoning former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, whose conviction was already overturned by the Supreme Court in 1971.

It's one of "thousands" of cases the president's team is reviewing, he told reporters as he left the White House en route to a world leaders' summit in Canada. And Trump said he's thinking about soliciting recommendations about other cases to consider from pro football players and other athletes who have protested racial injustice by kneeling during the national anthem — a tactic Trump has fiercely denounced.

Trump said that, "instead of talk," he's "going to ask all of those people to recommend to me — because that's what they're protesting — people that they think were unfairly treated by the justice system."

"I'm going to ask them to recommend to me people that were unfairly treated, friends of theirs or people that they know about and I'm going to take a look at those applications," he said.

Trump has been on a clemency kick of late, using his near-limitless power to pardon a growing list that includes a former White House aide, a conservative commentator and a former sheriff convicted of violating a judge's orders who campaigned with Trump in 2016.

Earlier this week, he commuted the life sentence of a woman whose cause was championed by reality television star Kim Kardashian West. Last month he granted a posthumous pardon to boxing's first black heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson. Actor Sylvester Stallone alerted him to that case.

Trump told reporters Friday his team is now "looking at literally thousands" of people who have come to their attention because they've been treated unfairly or their sentences are too long.

"We have 3,000 names. We're looking at them," Trump said, calling the power to pardon "a beautiful thing."

Among them is Ali, who died in 2016.

Born Cassius Clay, Ali changed his name after converting to Islam in the 1960s. He refused to serve in the Vietnam War because of his religious beliefs, declaring himself a conscientious objector. He was stripped of his heavyweight crown in 1967, but his legal fight ended in 1971 when the Supreme Court ruled in his favor and overturned his conviction. He regained the boxing title in 1974.

"I'm thinking about somebody that you all know very well. And he went through a lot. And he wasn't very popular then," Trump said. "He certainly, his memory is very popular now."

Ron Tweel, Ali's lawyer, pointed out that Ali has no criminal record.

"We appreciate President Trump's sentiment, but a pardon is unnecessary," he said.

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about why the president feels one is needed.

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Trump said last week also said he's considering commuting the sentence of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who is serving 14 years in prison for corruption, and pardoning celebrity lifestyle guru Martha Stewart, who served about five months on charges connected to an insider trading case. O.J. Simpson, he said in response to a reporter's question, is not on his list.

The president has been operating outside the usual Justice Department clemency protocol, in which submitted cases are carefully considered based on their merits, and recommendations made. Instead, White House officials say, Trump has focused on individual cases that have caught his attention or been brought to him by friends or celebrities. He's been especially drawn to cases in which he feels a person's prosecution has been politically motivated — a situation that may remind him of his own predicament at the center of the special counsel investigation into Russian election meddling.

Trump insisted Friday that he was also interested in clemency for regular people and those without high-profile backers.

He said that, "it's easier and people find it fascinating" to see him pardon the famous, but that he "would get more thrill out of pardoning people that nobody knows."

Yet Trump's suggestion that professional athletes help him identify cases only seemed to fuel concerns that those without star advocates will be ignored.

"Well, you know, if you think about it, that's really -- that becomes celebrity advocates. But they know a lot of things that we're not going to know. They've seen a lot of abuse and they've seen a lot of unfairness," he said.

The idea also sparked backlash from the American Civil Liberties Union.

"President Trump has spent much of his first 18 months in office degrading NFL players who protest police brutality and racial injustice. Today, he has tried once again to change the narrative about the work of those and other activists, betraying a fundamental misunderstanding of the cause behind these protests — and using racist dog whistles to do it," said Jeff Robinson, the group's deputy legal director.

The players have been protesting racial injustice and the high numbers of African Americans killed by police.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

## Justify ready for run at Triple Crown history in Belmont

By BETH HARRIS, AP Racing Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bob Baffert has done everything he can with Justify. Now, it's up to the undefeated colt and some racing luck to add his name to a revered list of Triple Crown winners.

The chestnut colt with the blaze running down his face appears to have rebounded well after victories in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, with the most exhausting still to come. He'll run 1 1/2 miles around Belmont's sweeping oval Saturday with nine rivals gunning to keep history from happening.

Having failed with horses three times before American Pharoah ended a 37-year Triple Crown drought in 2015, Baffert knows how tough it can be to get it done. A combination of factors can help or hurt a horse, including a poor start, bad racing luck or jockey error.

In 2002, War Emblem nearly fell to his knees when the starting gate sprang open, and Baffert knew the ornery colt was done. He straggled home in eighth place, beaten 19 1/2 lengths by a 70-1 shot.

In 2004, Smarty Jones put away two rivals early and was ahead by four lengths in his bid for Triple Crown immortality. Then came the final furlong of the fastest Belmont since the advent of modern timing. Birdstone, a 36-1 shot, reeled in Smarty Jones, who lost by a length.

"I knew on the first turn that it wasn't good because the way the horse was running, he was not relaxed and we still had a mile and a half to go almost," jockey Stewart Elliott recalled recently. "I knew unless he settled it wasn't going to work and he still almost won."

Besides the grueling distance, the track itself can be tricky. Horses and riders aren't used to 11/2-mile races in the U.S., where the focus is on sprinting. Some have mistakenly moved too early and gotten

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burned out before the long stretch run. Others have moved too late and let the leaders get away.

Historically, deep closers have not fared well in the Belmont, so riders will seek to put their horses within a few lengths at the quarter pole.

Justify has to overcome the No. 1 post position and Baffert will be watching closely to see if the colt breaks cleanly from the gate. Once he does, jockey Mike Smith will settle Justify much like Elliott tried with Smarty Jones, a similarly speedy colt.

"It's just about getting the horse in a good, happy, comfortable place, wherever that may be," Smith said. "He's got such a natural high cruising speed and he can just kind of keep on going."

If Justify wins on Saturday, he will have faced the largest field (nine) of any of the previous 12 Triple Crown winners.

He is bidding to join Seattle Slew in 1977 as the only undefeated Triple Crown champions. After not racing as a 2-year-old, Justify has made up for lost time. He's 5-0, having raced for the first time on Feb. 18.

"I couldn't be happier with the way he looks," Baffert said. "He looks no different than the way American Pharoah did coming in here."

Justify won the Kentucky Derby by 2 1/2 lengths and the Preakness by a half-length on sloppy tracks, putting him in position to deliver a second Triple Crown in four years to the struggling sport. A crowd capped at 90,000 is expected at Belmont Park. The forecast calls for 80 degrees and a 20 percent chance of rain.

"I was just surprised on how well he handled the atmosphere at the Derby with the crowd, how he handled it at the Preakness because every time he shows up people start yelling and screaming and he just looks at them like, 'Thank you,'" Baffert said. "Once he enters the building, it'll be like Elvis."

For more Belmont coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/Horseracing>

## Celebrity suicides highlight troubling trend in midlife

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The deaths of celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain and fashion designer Kate Spade highlight a troubling trend — rising suicides among middle-aged Americans.

Mental health problems, often undiagnosed, are usually involved and experts say knowing warning signs and who is at risk can help stop a crisis from becoming a tragedy.

Bourdain, 61, and Spade, 55, died three days and a continent apart this week amid a new U.S. report showing an uptick in suicides rates in nearly every state since 1999. Middle-aged adults — ages 45 to 64 — had the largest rate increase, according to the report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Previous studies have suggested economic downturns and the nation's opioid crisis contributed to the rise in middle-aged suicides.

Dr. Christine Moutier, a psychiatrist and chief medical officer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said Friday it's important for everyone to know the warning signs and to intervene when family members, friends or co-workers appear troubled. Asking if they've had suicidal thoughts is not harmful and lets them know you care, she said.

Behavior that may indicate someone is suicidal includes:

- Talking about feeling hopeless, trapped, a burden to others or wanting to die.
- Unusual mood swings or withdrawing from family, friends and usual activities.
- Giving away important possessions.
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs.

This week's report found that many suicides were in people with no known mental illness. But Dr. Joshua Gordon, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, said that contradicts years of data, suggesting many have "gone undiagnosed and untreated. It's very troubling."

Gordon said doctors need to ask patients at every opportunity about their mental health and evaluate their risk for suicide.

"When you ask everybody and not just people you might suspect, you double the number you detect,"

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he said.

Gordon noted that psychotherapy and certain psychiatric drugs have been shown to reduce suicidal tendencies.

Moutier of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said that suicides can be “contagious” — hearing about one may make others who are already at risk turn to self-harm. She said celebrity suicides also typically prompt an increase in calls to suicide help lines.

“People should know that suicide is preventable. Anyone contemplating suicide should know that help is available, and that there is no shame in seeking care for your mental health,” Dr. Altha Stewart of the American Psychiatric Association said in a statement.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner on Twitter: @LindseyTanner . Her work can be found here .

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## House Republican factions hunt for immigration deal

By ALAN FRAM and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans failed to produce an immigration compromise Friday as the standoff between opposing conservative and moderate factions heads toward a showdown over an issue that has long divided the party.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy convened a closed-door meeting as party leadership faces mounting pressure to produce an immigration bill by a Tuesday deadline.

But lawmakers emerged without a deal. With Speaker Paul Ryan away at a fundraiser, the negotiations are seen as a test for McCarthy, a potential speaker-in-waiting, to pull together the often unruly GOP majority and prevent a showdown. Talks are expected to continue.

“There’s no agreement right now,” said Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., the GOP Whip, another vying to move up the leadership ladder. Ryan is retiring after this term.

It was the second time this week leaders drew the GOP factions together to huddle privately and wade through the complexity of the immigration issue. Lawmakers were upbeat at the prospect of being presented with an outline — a pen-to-paper framework — after days of talks.

But without resolution, the centrists warn they will have enough petition signatures by Tuesday to force House votes later this month, including on their preferred bill which provides young “Dreamer” immigrants protection from deportation and a chance to apply for citizenship.

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., a leader of the moderates, exiting the meeting saying he was “disappointed” that new demands were being made. Moderates believe they have compromised a lot.

“We’re trying to close items out, not add new ones,” he said. He vowed that by Tuesday it was “extremely likely” they would have the signatures needed to push the roll calls.

The groups said they made progress toward a resolution for the young immigrants who have been living in the U.S. illegally since childhood, with a plan to protect them from deportation and provide them a bridge to legal status and eventual citizenship.

But new questions emerged over how far the package should go to clamp down on immigration enforcement in the U.S., beyond the \$25 billion both sides have largely agreed to for President Donald Trump’s border wall with Mexico.

Many conservatives have opposed a pathway to citizenship for the young immigrants and want more enforcement of illegal immigration, including an end to so-called sanctuary cities.

“If there’s going to be concessions made on one side, you have to get everything that you need on the security side,” said Rep. Scott Perry, R-Pa.

The flurry underscored the escalating pressure Republicans face to address immigration, an issue pitting centrists representing Hispanic and moderate voters against conservatives with deep-red constituents



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sympathetic to Trump's anti-immigrant outbursts.

Painfully aware of those divisions, leaders had seemed happy to sidestep the issue as they head into campaign season for the fall midterm elections until the moderates' rebellion forced their hand. If enough signatures are collected Tuesday, the House would be on track to have roll call votes on various proposals on June 25.

Ryan and GOP leaders are trying desperately to stop the moderates' preferred bill from coming to the floor. It would draw widespread Democratic support and leaders say passage would damage the party's electoral prospects by souring GOP voters.

McCarthy has taken a leading role in forging a compromise in what in many ways is an audition in his campaign to become speaker once Ryan retires, if Republicans keep majority control in the fall midterm election.

"There's a whole lot more that we agree on than we disagree on," said Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., a leader of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, "and yet there's still not a deal."

Lawmakers said they were focusing on one of two options outlined for the young immigrants.

It would create a new visa category that combines permits for the "Dreamer" immigrants with those for immigrants who now use other programs, including the diversity lottery and family visas. There would be a new merit system to assess some of the new immigrants.

Details on the new visa system remain unclear, and lawmakers declined to disclose more as negotiations continued.

There's uncertainty over what would happen after the end of the eight-year visa program, but Denham said participants have characterized the proposal as a bridge to the legal immigration system — which suggests a pathway to remaining in the U.S. permanently.

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., another leader of the moderates, said the young immigrants would have immediate protection, "meaning you never again have to worry about deportation as long as you follow this country's laws."

Lawmakers are rushing to fix the situation for the young immigrants after Trump ended the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, called DACA, though it largely continues running pending a legal challenge. It gave nearly 700,000 of the young immigrants temporary permission to live and work in the U.S. The affected population of young immigrants is much larger.

Conservatives have been adamant about not providing a "special" process carving out a unique way for those young immigrants to gain legal status.

Trump has said that in exchange for providing possible citizenship for them, he wants full financing for his wall with Mexico. He's also wanted to end a lottery that distributes about 50,000 visas annually to countries with few U.S. immigrants and to limit the relatives legal immigrants can bring to this country.

Democrats and many moderate Republicans have opposed curbs in legal immigration. Such a plan would seem to have no chance in the Senate, where Democrats have enough votes to block it.

AP reporters Andrew Taylor, Kevin Freking and Padmananda Rama contributed.

## Some like it not: Marilyn Monroe statue has church venting

By DAVE COLLINS, Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Marilyn Monroe's rear is getting some leers in Connecticut.

A 26-foot statue of the actress has been placed in a Stamford park across the street from a church, which is getting a full view of her behind. It depicts the famous scene from 1955's "The Seven Year Itch" where Monroe holds down her white dress as air blows up from a subway grate.

The back of the statue showing her underwear is clearly visible from the front of the First Congregational Church of Stamford. Some passersby this week said it was disrespectful to the church.

Most church members have yet to see the statue because it was put up Monday as part of a citywide art display. But it is sure to spark conversation when they return for Sunday worship, said church member

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Maureen Matthews.

"I think some people will be offended," said Matthews, who is not bothered by the statue. "It is silly. There are bigger issues to worry about. But I'll be interested to see how people talk about it on Sunday."

"Forever Marilyn" is one of 36 statues by artist Seward Johnson that are on loan and on display in the downtown area through the summer. They're part of the city's annual "Art in Public Spaces" program. All the statues except Marilyn are life-size and depict people doing everyday activities.

City resident Lorri Tamburro told The Advocate newspaper that she found it disturbing to see children climbing on the statue's leg and looking up the skirt.

"I just find the position to be offensive," she said. "It was, in my eyes, very disrespectful. I looked at it and I think because of what I saw with all these little kids looking up, the height is ruining it. It's ruining beautiful Marilyn."

The response to Marilyn and the other statues has been overwhelmingly positive, said Sandy Goldstein, president of the Stamford Downtown Special Services District, which is hosting the exhibit along with sponsors including real estate finance firm UC Funds.

Goldstein noted there are many nude statues outdoors in Europe — and near churches — that are accepted by the public.

"It is art and we don't believe it is offensive," she said. "We absolutely mean no disrespect to the church."

The Rev. Dr. Todd Grant Yonkman, pastor of the First Congregational Church, has a sense of humor about the statue, but said it was an odd artistic choice.

"The issue is, Why that statue," he said in an email to The Associated Press. "Marilyn Monroe was an artist deserving our respect. Why appropriate her image in this way. Is this the best we can do?"

He said he heard Monroe's husband at the time of "The Seven Year Itch," baseball star Joe DiMaggio, was uncomfortable with her shooting the subway vent scene.

"Maybe the city would let us give her some pants?" Yonkman said.



**This Thursday, June 7, 2018 photo shows Seward Johnson's "Forever Marilyn" sculpture in Latham Park in Stamford, Conn. The 26-foot statue that was newly installed in the park is scandalizing some because her rear end is facing the entrance of the First Congregational Church.** (Michael Cummo/Hearst Connecticut Media via AP)



**This Thursday, June 7, 2018 photo shows Seward Johnson's "Forever Marilyn" sculpture in Latham Park in Stamford, Conn. The 26-foot statue that was newly installed in the park is scandalizing some because her rear end is facing the entrance of the First Congregational Church.** (Matthew Brown/Hearst Connecticut Media via AP)

## Dem lawmakers seek criminal corruption probe of EPA's Pruitt

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats on Friday formally requested that the Justice Department investigate Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt for potential criminal conduct.

In a letter to FBI Director Chris Wray and Justice criminal division chief John Cronan, six Democratic lawmakers with oversight of Pruitt's agency allege he repeatedly violated federal anti-corruption laws by seeking to leverage his government position for personal gain.

As evidence, the Democrats cite Pruitt's \$50-a-night lease of a Capitol Hill condo tied to a lobbyist seeking to influence his agency, directing an EPA aide to contact a senior Chick-fil-A executive as part of an effort to land his family a franchise, and a \$2,000 payment to his wife from organizers of a conference the administrator then attended at taxpayer expense.

Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle confirmed officials there were aware of the request to investigate Pruitt. He declined further comment.

EPA spokesman Jahan Wilcox referred questions to Pruitt's outside legal counsel, though he did not respond to requests to provide the name of the administrator's defense lawyer.

Pruitt acknowledged last month that friends and supporters had established a legal defense fund, which Democrats and ethics watchdogs quickly derided as a potential "tip jar" for polluters seeking favorable treatment from his agency.

Friday's letter was signed by Democratic Reps. Gerald Connolly and Donald Beyer of Virginia, Jamie Raskin of Maryland, Ruben Gallego of Arizona, Pramila Jayapal of Washington and Ted Lieu of California. Connolly is a senior member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and serves as the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Government Operations.

President Donald Trump signaled Friday he is still standing by his embattled EPA chief, even as Pruitt's support among other Republicans has started to erode.

"Scott Pruitt is doing a great job within the walls of the EPA," Trump told reporters at the White House. "I mean, we're setting records. Outside he's being attacked very viciously by the press. And I'm not saying that he's blameless. But we'll see what happens."

There are now at least a dozen ongoing investigations related to Pruitt by EPA's Office of Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office and congressional oversight committees. But if the Justice Department acts on Friday's request from House Democrats, it would be the first criminal probe into Pruitt's ethical conduct.

For his part, Pruitt sought to laugh off the controversy this week over his using government resources to seek a "business opportunity" with the fast-food fried chicken chain whose owners are known for supporting conservative Christian causes, including outspoken opposition to same-sex marriage.

"I mean, look, my wife is an entrepreneur herself. I love, she loves, we love Chick-fil-A as a franchise of faith," Pruitt said in a TV interview on Wednesday.

Pruitt last year directed his EPA scheduler to reach out to a top executive at Chick-fil-A to inquire about a "business opportunity." That business opportunity turned out to be Pruitt's desire to acquire a fast-food franchise for his wife.

Federal ethics codes prohibit having staffers conduct personal errands and bar officials from using their position for private gain.

EPA travel vouchers also show Pruitt charged taxpayers last September for a \$1,210 one-way flight and \$669 in hotel costs to appear at a conference of a New York City-based nonprofit, Concordia.

At Pruitt's overture, the group hired his wife, Marlyn Pruitt, to help arrange logistics for the conference, Concordia chief executive Matthew Swift told The Washington Post. She was paid \$2,000 plus travel expenses. Concordia did not return emails from the AP seeking comment, and the group's website lists a non-working phone number.

Democratic senators this week accused Pruitt of withholding records of the trip, where Pruitt also met with U.S. and international business leaders and former government officials. The senators asked EPA Inspec-

tor General Arthur Elkins Jr. to investigate the agency's compliance with open-records laws in the matter.

Virginia Canter, an ethics counsel for the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, said there were a "number of criminal conflict of interest statutes and regulations" that could be brought into play by Pruitt speaking at events that he or his family had received payment for.

In their letter, the lawmakers make the case that Pruitt's behavior rises to the level of criminal activity. "At the very least, we know that federal ethics laws bar public officials from using their position or staff for private gain," the Democrats wrote to Wray and Cronan. "Administrator Pruitt has certainly done just that. Further, his actions related to his wife's employment and the quid-pro-quo condo situation with industry lobbyists may have crossed a line into criminal conduct punishable by fines or even by time in prison."

Follow Associated Press investigative reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck> and environmental writer Ellen Knickmeyer at <http://twitter.com/KnickmeyerEllen>

## **Palestinians killed in protest near Gaza-Israeli border**

**By FARES AKRAM, Associated Press**

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops fired live rounds and tear gas as thousands of Palestinians protested near the Gaza border fence Friday, and at least four demonstrators were killed, including a teenage boy, with over 600 wounded, Gaza health officials said.

More than 100 of the wounded, including a photographer for the French news agency Agence Press France, were hit by live fire, the officials added, as the demonstrators burned tires, threw stones and flew flaming kites in the latest in a series of mass protests to call attention to a decade-old blockade of Gaza by Israel and Egypt. Israel says Gaza's Hamas leaders are using the protests as cover to carry out attacks.

Late Friday, Israel said Gaza militants opened fire and struck an Israeli military post. No injuries were reported.

The march coincided with the annual "Jerusalem Day," instituted by Iran to protest Israeli rule of the holy city. Israel and Iran have been archenemies since Tehran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In the capitals of Iran and Iraq, thousands of Shiite Muslims marked Jerusalem Day with protests, with some chanting "Death to Israel" or burning Israeli flags and effigies of President Donald Trump.

Since the near-weekly protests began on March 30, more than 120 Palestinians have been killed and over 3,800 wounded by Israeli army fire. The overwhelming majority of the dead and wounded have been unarmed, according to Gaza health officials.

Among the dead Friday was 15-year-old Haitham al-Jamal. His family said he was taking part in a protest in Rafah, in southern Gaza, when he was shot. A total of 12 children under age 16 have been killed in the protests.

French news agency Agence France-Presse said one of its photographers, Mohammed Abed al-Baba, was wounded at a mass rally after Israeli forces opened fire. AFP said al-Baba was wearing a press vest and helmet about 200 meters (yards) from the border when hurt.

It said he was wounded below the knee while trying to take a photo of a wounded protester after Israeli troops opened fire. The photographer's injury was not life-threatening, but he was to undergo surgery.

Israel's military had no comment on the incident.

After Muslim prayers at noon Friday, thousands of Gaza residents streamed toward five protest tent camps that were erected more than two months ago, each several hundred meters (yards) from the fence. From there, smaller groups walked closer to it.

In a camp east of Gaza City, activists burned tires, releasing black smoke. Others threw stones or flew kites with burning rags attached, aiming to send them over the border and set Israeli fields on fire.

Israeli troops fired volleys of tear gas, including from drones, that sent protesters running for cover.

One man with a bullhorn shouted, "America is the biggest evil."

At one point, seven activists in black-and-white striped shirts meant to resemble concentration camp uniforms from World War II approached the fence.

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"We want to remind the world that the Israeli occupation is committing the same massacres that the Nazis committed," said activist Ahmed Abu Artima.

The attempt to draw a parallel between Gaza's suffering and the Holocaust was bound to draw angry reactions. Israel was established in the wake of the Holocaust, marks an annual remembrance day for the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis and is home to the world's largest population of Holocaust survivors.

In a statement, the Israeli military said protesters had launched dozens of kites and balloons with explosives toward Israel. It also said a number of "explosive devices and a grenade" were hurled during the protests and later said the military post had been struck by gunfire.

"At the expense of the people of Gaza, the Hamas terrorist organization continues using terror in order to damage security infrastructure and harm security forces," it said, adding that troops had been reinforced along the border.

The military escorted journalists to a sniper position along the fence along Gaza's northeast border.

Crowds of several dozen Palestinians could be seen approaching the fence constantly, as soldiers fired tear gas to scatter them. Some Palestinians launched kites rigged with incendiary devices, which were intercepted by small military drones. Snipers, perched about 50 meters (yards) from the fence and protected by sandbags and concrete barriers, frequently fired warning shots into the air.

The mass protests have been aimed at a border blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt in 2007, after the Islamic militant group Hamas overran the territory. The marchers have also pressed demands for a "right of return" for descendants of Palestinian refugees to ancestral homes in what is now Israel.

More than 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled in the 1948 Mideast war over Israel's creation. Two-thirds of Gaza's 2 million residents are descendants of refugees.

Protester Fadi Saleh said the frequent marches have helped revive sympathies in the Arab world for the Palestinians, but that more could be done.

"We need real Arab support and solidarity with our cause," said Saleh, a student of Arabic literature who wore a medical mask against the tear gas.

Israel's use of potentially lethal force against the protesters has drawn international criticism. Rights groups have said Israel's open-fire rules are unlawful.

Israel has accused Hamas of trying to carry out attacks and damage the fence under the guise of the protests, and that it only targets instigators. Hamas leaders have threatened possible mass border breaches, raising concern in Israel that communities near Gaza might be at risk.

The protests have largely been organized by Hamas and to some extent by the smaller Islamic Jihad militant group. Both have received political and financial support from Iran, but they also pursue their own agendas. Growing despair in Gaza over blockade-linked hardships, including daily power cuts and rising poverty, have driven turnout.

Israel and Egypt argue that they must maintain the blockade to contain Hamas and other militant groups, which have built up arsenals over the years, including short-range rockets. Israel and Hamas, which seeks Israel's destruction, have fought three cross-border wars since 2008.

The Jerusalem Day protests are being held each year on the last Friday of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. The day is known in Arabic as "Al Quds Day," a reference to the city's historic Arabic name.

Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it to its capital, a move not recognized by most of the international community. Israel's current government has said it will not accept a partition of the city as part of a peace deal with the Palestinians.

Tensions were further heightened last month after the U.S. moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in a step seen by both Israel and the Palestinians as siding with Israel on the most sensitive issue in the conflict.

East Jerusalem houses major shrines revered by Muslims, Christians and Jews. The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in east Jerusalem, the third holiest site in Islam, is built on the spot where tradition says the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven. The compound sits on the ruins of biblical temples and is revered by Jews as the holiest site of their religion.

In Iran's capital of Tehran, thousands joined a Jerusalem Day march, chanting "Death to Israel" and burning a Trump effigy.

In Iraq, thousands of Iran-backed Shiite militiamen in uniform marched through the streets of the capital of Baghdad, burning an Israeli flag and carrying posters of the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and Supreme Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Associated Press writers Ian Deitch in Jerusalem, Ariel Schalit in Kibbutz Nahal Oz and Amir Vahdat in Tehran contributed.

## #MeToo crisis jolts Southern Baptists ahead of key gathering

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

The Southern Baptists are facing their own #MeToo crisis as the biggest Protestant denomination in the U.S. heads into its annual meeting next week.

A series of sexual misconduct cases has prompted the Southern Baptist Convention's socially conservative, all-male leadership to seek forgiveness for the ill treatment of women and vow to combat it. Hoping for more than rhetoric, women and some male allies plan a protest rally in Dallas when the two-day meeting opens on Tuesday.

"The past two months have been tough for our convention," SBC President Steve Gaines wrote this week. "I believe God has allowed all of this to happen to drive us to our knees."

Illustrating the SBC's predicament, the central figure in the most prominent of the #MeToo cases, Paige Patterson, had been scheduled to deliver the featured sermon at the gathering. However, Patterson withdrew from that role Friday, heeding a request from Gaines and other leaders.

Patterson was recently dismissed as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas because of his response to two rape allegations made years apart by students.

In a 2015 case, according to the seminary's board chairman, Patterson told a campus security official that he wanted to meet alone with a student who had reported being raped, to "break her down."

Patterson also was accused of making improper remarks about a teenage girl's body and contending that abused women should almost always stay with their husbands.

Baptist Press, the SBC's official news service, has reported on other cases, including the resignations of one seminary professor who acknowledged "a personal moral failing" and another who cited "personal and spiritual issues."

SBC leaders say there are many more cases — adding up to a humiliating debacle for the 15.2-million-member denomination.

"The avalanche of sexual misconduct that has come to light in recent weeks is almost too much to bear," wrote the Rev. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in a recent blog post. "These grievous revelations of sin have occurred in churches, in denominational ministries, and even in our seminaries."

Mohler acknowledged that the crisis might raise questions about the SBC's doctrine of "complementarianism" — which espouses male leadership in the home and in the church and says a wife "is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband."

Mohler said the SBC will not abandon the doctrine. But "we need to realize there are unbiblical and toxic forms of complementarianism," he said. "We should be honoring women, not abusing them."

The Rev. Russell Moore, president of the SBC's public policy arm, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the #MeToo moment would not trigger a move to ordain women as ministers.

"There is, though, a great deal of conversation about how women can have a greater voice in decision-making," he said, suggesting that more women could serve as trustees of seminaries and other institutions.

Moore and Mohler are among dozens of SBC leaders who have co-signed a resolution that will be submitted for approval in Dallas. It calls on the SBC to repudiate any rhetoric or behavior that dishonors women, and denounces those who commit or cover up such actions. It also urges congregations and ministers to

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abide by all reporting laws.

The resolution's author, Midwestern Seminary president Jason Allen, bristled at the notion that wives should endure abuse to save their marriages.

"We can work against our matrimony-shattering 'no-fault' divorce culture and shore up marriages," he wrote. "But this needed work never means asking women to suffer abuse."

The draft resolution received a mixed review from Ashley Easter, a writer and speaker from Raleigh, North Carolina, who is an advocate for victims of abuse and an organizer of Tuesday's planned protest rally.

She and the others want the SBC to create a database of clergy sex offenders and require all pastors and seminarians to undergo training on how to address domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Easter said she wishes the SBC would change its doctrine about gender roles but doubts that is imminent.

"When you have a patriarchal theology, with one person in power and control of the other, some will use that theology to abuse," she said. "It's unsafe for women not to be in an equal place."

A rally organizer, Texas-based author and speaker Mary DeMuth, commended the draft resolution but expressed dismay that women were given minimal speaking time at the two-day SBC meeting. She said she wishes for an SBC in which women "are no longer dismissed, stereotyped or relegated to subcommittees."

At least one of the scheduled speakers at the rally is a man. Wade Bureson, an author and lead pastor of Emmanuel Enid church in Enid, Oklahoma, is critical of the way many of his fellow ministers restrict women's roles in the church.

"I believe they are misinterpreting the Scriptures big time," he tweeted recently. "I also believe change is coming soon in the SBC to reflect a more biblical approach toward women. The Southern Baptist Convention may even have a female President sooner rather than later."

## How big is gig economy? Gov't study shows how little we know

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Look around, and it seems more Americans are working outside traditional full-time jobs — whether as freelance graphic designers or independent contractors or Uber drivers.

Or maybe not. A government report this week suggested that the proportion of such jobs hasn't budged in the past decade. Yet the data carries limitations that indicate there's still plenty we don't know about the evolving U.S. job market.

The Labor Department's report concluded that more than 15 million Americans were working as independent contractors, on-call workers, temporary workers and for contract companies as of May 2017. That's equal to about 10.1 percent of the American workforce, down slightly from 10.8 percent when the government last conducted the survey, in 2005.

That conclusion contradicts a body of academic research that has found a significant increase in what economists call "alternative work arrangements." Two leading economists, Lawrence Katz and Alan Krueger, found in a 2016 study that the number of people in alternative work had risen by more than 50 percent in 2015 from a decade earlier, to 23.6 million.

And the Federal Reserve released a report last month that said nearly one-third of Americans rely on side jobs or so-called "gig" work to supplement their incomes.

So what might explain the disparities between the government's report and other research?

Here are areas where economists agree with the report's conclusions, where they found it lacking and why it all matters:

### GIG ECONOMY HYPE IS OVERDONE

You may be able to grab an Uber in every big city. But that doesn't mean the nation as a whole is engulfed by people finding work through mobile apps. The government's report appears to put the "gig economy" in proper perspective: Such jobs hardly seem to represent the future of work in America. Katz and Krueger's study found that just 0.5 percent of workers engaged in online gig work in 2015. The growth they found had occurred mostly among independent contractors and workers for companies that provide

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contract services, such as cleaning services or security guards.

A separate study by JPMorgan Chase Institute estimated that gig workers were leveling off at about 1 percent of the workforce in 2016.

Still, Katz said he was surprised by the government report's overall conclusions. The improving economy — and an unemployment rate at an 18-year low of 3.8 percent — could have pulled some people into traditional full-time jobs in the 2½ years since their report, Katz said.

## MORE DRIVERS, FEWER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

There are more independent workers in some industries, but they were offset in the government data by declines elsewhere, says Lucas Puente, chief economist at Thumbtack, an online marketplace for photographers, plumbers and other contractors.

The number of independent contractors rose by about 200,000 in transportation from 2005 to 2017, the government's report found. That likely reflects the growth of ride-hailing services. But the number of independent contractors in construction fell by about 225,000 over the same period, probably because of the housing bust, Puente said.

## DRIVE FOR UBER PART TIME? YOU WEREN'T COUNTED

Puentes and some other analysts said the government's report probably undercounted the number of people in alternative jobs. In considering whether to include someone as part of the alternative workforce, it considered only a worker's primary job. So anyone who worked at a retailer for, say, 20 hours a week and drove for Uber 10 hours a week wasn't counted in the government's calculation of alternative workers. In most surveys, the Labor Department focuses on primary jobs and collects little information on secondary work.

Yet roughly one-third of the contractors on Thumbtack use it only for secondary sources of income, Puentes said. And for some gig economy apps, that figure can reach 80 percent.

In addition, the government asked people only whether they'd worked independently in the past week. Given the erratic work schedules of many gig workers — most prize the flexibility it affords — that narrowly phrased question might also have contributed to an undercount.

## TAX RECORDS POINT TO MORE INDEPENDENT WORK

Another puzzle is that tax data suggests that more Americans are self-employed as freelancers or independent contractors, Katz said. The proportion of Americans filing Schedule C forms, used for business income, has risen steadily in the past decade, even while the Labor Department's surveys have found that self-employment has declined.

"It looks like it is increasingly difficult to measure self-employment," Katz said.

## CONTRACTED OUT? YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN COUNTED, EITHER

Katz and Krueger's 2016 study found a sizable increase in Americans working for contracting firms — companies that provide, for example, janitorial or security services.

Many economists regard that as a bigger concern than gig workers: When a company contracts out its services, it typically does so to cut costs through lower wages or skimpier benefits. Successful companies typically pay even their lower-skilled employees above-average wages; they're much less likely to do so for contractors.

Yet the government counted only a subset of contract workers — those who work for just one customer, like security guards at a specific building. It didn't include people who work for multiple customers, such as employees at a commercial laundry cleaning linen for a hotel that once did it in-house. The government wanted to avoid also counting higher-end consultants and others who serve multiple companies.

"A much more important phenomenon (than gig workers) is this domestic outsourcing, and we don't measure that very well," Eileen Appelbaum, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.



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"They show up in the data as standard employees."

## SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER?

The government's report was the subject of intense interest in part because of the impact it might have on the policy debates surrounding independent work.

Freelance advocates say their ranks are growing steadily. Many say policymakers should consider ways to help them, such as by making health and retirement benefits more portable from job to job. But if independent work isn't growing much, then such changes aren't as urgent.

"If we don't understand the labor market in the United States, we won't have policies that reflect how it works," said Stephane Kasriel, CEO of Upwork, an online freelance marketplace.

## After an early stumble, US stock indexes end modestly higher

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market shook off a bumpy start and ended modestly higher Friday, led by gains in consumer products companies like Monster Beverage and Procter & Gamble. Health care companies also rose. Energy companies slipped along with the price of oil.

Trading has been muted ahead of the Group of Seven summit in Quebec, which began Friday. The meeting is expected to be tense as other leaders confront President Donald Trump over his protectionist trade policies.

Consumer products companies, which have been out of favor the last few months, rose for the second day in a row. Overall, major indexes were mostly higher after posting small losses the day before.

The G-7 meeting was set to be unusually contentious, as leaders of France and Canada in particular have expressed in tough terms their disapproval of the tariffs President Donald Trump recently imposed on steel and aluminum imports. Trump is expected to leave the summit on Saturday before it officially concludes as he heads to Singapore ahead of his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trade tensions have been rattling markets for the last three months, and the G-7 summit isn't expected to deliver much relief. That said, there could be a silver lining to the ongoing talks between the U.S. and its trading partners over the highly unpopular U.S. tariffs, according to Scott Wren, senior global equity strategist for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

"The end result probably is going to be lower tariffs across the board," Wren said. Wren said that ultimately a large number of older tariffs that are currently levied on U.S. imports and exports could be reduced or eliminated.

The S&P 500 index added 8.66 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,779.03. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 75.12 points, or 0.3 percent, to 25,316.53. The Nasdaq composite gained 10.44 points, or 0.1 percent, to 7,645.51.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks rose 4.72 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,672.49. Smaller and more U.S.-focused stocks have fared better than the rest of the market in recent months as investors worry that trade frictions could impact large multinational companies. The Russell is on a six-week winning streak.

Wall Street appeared to get ever so slightly less worried about the trade situation this week. The Dow has taken a bigger hit from the trade disputes than other U.S. indexes, but this week was its best in three months. The Nasdaq and Russell 2000 reached all-time highs on Wednesday.

Among consumer products makers, Monster Beverage climbed 5 percent to \$55.48 after its annual shareholder meeting. Stifel analyst Mark Astrachan said the company's sales growth is solid. He said the company plans to raise its U.S. prices later this year in response to higher aluminum prices.

Tide maker Procter & Gamble gained 1.9 percent to \$77.18. Cigarette maker Philip Morris International rose 2.6 percent to \$79.42 after it raised its quarterly dividend, while Reuters said the company plans to start selling its tobacco-heating Iqos device in India.

U.S. crude slid 0.3 percent to \$65.74 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils,

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fell 0.6 percent to \$76.82 per barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline stayed at \$2.12 a gallon. Heating oil shed 0.7 percent to \$2.16 a gallon. Natural gas fell 1.4 percent to \$2.89 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Energy companies followed suit. Halliburton slumped 1.7 percent to \$48.10 and Noble Energy lost 2.3 percent to \$34.06.

Wall Street will be focused on central banks even more than usual next week as the European Central Bank and Federal Reserve both hold major meetings. Wren, of Wells Fargo, said the ECB will probably start to pare back its economic stimulus even though the European economy slowed in the first quarter.

Investors are nearly certain the Fed will raise interest rates for the second time this year, out of three the Fed says it's planning. If the Fed hints it's considering a fourth increase later in the year, it might jolt the stock market.

"Any more than three hikes this year is a headwind for equities," said Wren.

Online clothing retailer Stitch Fix jumped 26.5 percent to \$24.88 after it beat Wall Street's expectations in its fiscal third quarter.

Toymaker Funko continued to rally, climbing 6.1 percent to \$11.99. The company went public in November and its stock fell 50 percent through the end of 2017. It's up 80 percent this year and virtually back to its IPO price of \$12.

Bond prices edged lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.94 percent from 2.93 percent.

Gold was little changed at \$1,302.70 an ounce. Silver declined 0.4 percent to \$16.74 an ounce. Copper rose 0.8 percent to \$3.30 a pound, its highest price this year.

The dollar dipped to 109.47 yen from 109.71 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1769 from \$1.1809.

Germany's DAX was down 0.3 percent and so was the FTSE 100 index in Britain. The CAC 40 in France rose less than 0.1 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 shed 0.6 percent and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.8 percent. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng slipped 1.9 percent.

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AP Business Writer Yuri Kageyama contributed from Tokyo.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 9, the 160th day of 2018. There are 205 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 9, A.D. 68, Roman Emperor Nero committed suicide, ending a 13-year reign.

On this date:

In 1588, construction began on the present-day Rialto Bridge in Venice, Italy, with the laying of the first stone; the structure was completed in 1591.

In 1732, James Oglethorpe received a charter from Britain's King George II to found the colony of Georgia.

In 1870, author Charles Dickens died in Gad's Hill Place, England.

In 1934, the first Walt Disney animated cartoon featuring Donald Duck, "The Wise Little Hen," was released.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Current Tax Payment Act of 1943, which reintroduced federal income tax withholding from paychecks.

In 1953, 94 people died when a tornado struck Worcester (WU'-stur), Massachusetts.

In 1954, during the Senate Army-McCarthy hearings, Army special counsel Joseph N. Welch berated Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., asking: "Have you no sense of decency, sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?"

In 1969, the Senate confirmed Warren Burger to be the new chief justice of the United States, succeed-

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ing Earl Warren.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner in 25 years.

In 1978, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints struck down a 148-year-old policy of excluding black men from the Mormon priesthood.

In 1986, the Rogers Commission released its report on the Challenger disaster, criticizing NASA and rocket-builder Morton Thiokol for management problems leading to the explosion that claimed the lives of seven astronauts.

In 1993, as millions of Japanese watched on television, Crown Prince Naruhito (nah-ROOSH'-doh) wed commoner Masako Owada in an elaborate Shinto religious ceremony. The science-fiction film "Jurassic Park," directed by Steven Spielberg, had its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

Ten years ago: Scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico unveiled an IBM supercomputer named Roadrunner, a \$100 million machine capable of performing 1,000 trillion calculations per second in a sustained exercise. A growing number of supermarkets and restaurants yanked three varieties of tomatoes from their shelves and dishes amid concerns about a 17-state salmonella outbreak. Ken Griffey Jr. became the sixth player in baseball history to reach 600 homers in the first inning of the Cincinnati Reds' 9-4 victory over the Florida Marlins.

Five years ago: Risking prosecution by the U.S. government, 29-year-old intelligence analyst Edward Snowden was revealed as the source of The Guardian and The Washington Post disclosures about secret American surveillance programs. Rafael Nadal (rah-fay-ehl nah-DAHL') became the first man to win eight titles at the same Grand Slam tournament after beating fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the French Open final, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3. Inbee Park birdied the third hole of a sudden-death playoff with Catriona Matthew to win the rain-delayed LPGA Championship. "Kinky Boots" was named best musical at the Tony Awards; "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" won best play.

One year ago: Punching back a day after his fired FBI director's damaging testimony, President Donald Trump accused James Comey of lying to Congress and said he was "100 percent" willing to testify under oath about their conversations. Tennis star Venus Williams' SUV was struck by a car at an intersection near her home in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; the collision fatally injured the car's passenger, 78-year-old Jerome Barson. Actor Adam West, TV's "Batman," died in Los Angeles at age 88.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Jackie Mason is 90. Media analyst Marvin Kalb is 88. Former baseball manager and player Bill Virdon is 87. Sports commentator Dick Vitale is 79. Author Letty Cottin Pogrebin is 79. Rock musician Mick Box (Uriah Heep) is 71. Retired MLB All-Star Dave Parker is 67. Film composer James Newton Howard is 67. Mystery author Patricia Cornwell is 62. Actor Michael J. Fox is 57. Writer-producer Aaron Sorkin is 57. Actor Johnny Depp is 55. Actress Gloria Reuben is 54. Gospel singer-actress Tamela Mann is 52. Rock musician Dean Felber (Hootie & the Blowfish) is 51. Rock musician Dean Dinning is 51. Musician Ed Simons is 48. Actress Keesha Sharp is 45. Country musician Shade Deggs (Cole Deggs and the Lonesome) is 44. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent) is 43. Actress Michaela Conlin is 40. Actress Natalie Portman is 37. Actress Mae Whitman is 30. Actor Lucien Laviscount is 26.

Thought for Today: "The public! the public! How many fools does it take to make up a public?" — Nicolas Chamfort (nee-koh-LAH' shahm-FOHR'), French writer (1740-1794).