Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 1 of 36



Open: 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- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 1- Dairy Queen Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Drought Monitor
- 3- SD Department of Veterans Affairs Column
- 3- Groton Property Manager Wanted
- 3- Agtegra Ad
- 4- State Parks Remind Visitors of Firewood Restrictions
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Today's Forecast
- 7- Yesterday's Weather
- 7- National Weather map
- 7- Today's Weather Almanac
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9-2018 Groton Community Events
- 10- News from the Associated Press





Several rounds of heavy thunderstorms moved along frontal boundaries on multiple days in the High Plains states. Two inches or more of rain was measured across the western two-thirds of Kansas, the eastern half of Nebraska, and in parts of South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming, with 5 inches or more indicated for southwestern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, and southeast South Dakota. The week was drier than normal for other parts of the High Plains, with western Colorado to southwestern Wyoming receiving little to no precipitation. The rains resulted in pullback of D0-D2 in Kansas, with some 2-category improvements in southwest Kansas, contraction of D0-D1 in Nebraska, and trimming of D0 in South Dakota. With the heavy rains missing eastern Kansas, the week ended drier than normal there, further increasing precipitation deficits for the last 1 to 3 months and, in northeast Kansas, out to 9 months, so D0-D2 were expanded in eastern Kansas. Some of the heavier rains crossed from Kansas into Colorado, but just barely. D2-D3 were pulled back a bit in far eastern Colorado, but the dry conditions further west resulted in D2-D3 expanding in central and west-central Colorado, and D4 expanding in west-central Colorado. June 25 USDA statistics indicated 53% of the pastures and rangeland in Colorado were in poor to very poor condition.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 3 of 36

SD Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Zimmerman July 2018 Column

Find the key, unlock the message

This past year we set out on a mission to find and recognize all of South Dakota's living World War II Veterans. We called it Operation Whirlwind. When we started on this venture there were over 2,200 living World War II Veterans in South Dakota. Six months later, this is not the case. The reality is in a few years there won't be any living World War II Veterans and many of their stories will not have been shared.

Documenting veteran's stories is a way to archive our history, but it is also a great way to develop an appreciation for their experiences. It shows how far we've come and how far we have yet to go.

Veterans memories are of great value to family and friends. Some veterans freely discuss their service. However, many are not comfortable discussing their past. It is important for us to document their stories

for future generations. There is nothing better than hearing first-hand what is was like to be there – the visuals, sounds, the smells, the fears, the feelings, the delay in communication. Our World War II, Vietnam and Korean Veterans didn't have Instagram, Facebook, Skype, FaceTime or Twitter. They may have gone months without communication from their families.

The past few years I have had the opportunity to be a part of the Korean War Legacy Foundation and the Korean

War Digital History Project. Their goal is to preserve stories and pictures from Korean War heroes, creating a permanent legacy for future generations. Their program instructs social studies teachers on collecting and preserving veteran's stories.

Unlocking the chest of wars and veteran's experiences can be very rewarding. If the key can be found and the chest opened, the stories will flow and history will be documented for future generations.

It is key for all of us to let veterans tell their stories. Listen, listen and listen. Our education and awareness of their stories is a key to their healing and an opportunity for us to hear first-hand the issues and struggles they faced.

As Americans celebrate Independence Day, flags will be raised, parades will stroll through the streets, patriotic music will be played and hopefully our heroes will share their war stories for us to welcome, appreciate, and treasure.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary

Groton Property Manager Wanted

Real Estate Rental property manager wanted. Must live in or near Groton. Potential income of up to \$5,000 a month. Experience a plus. For details, call Lee at 605-824-4888.



Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 4 of 36

State Parks Remind Visitors of Firewood Restrictions

PIERRE, S.D. - With the Fourth of July holiday approaching, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) wants to remind park visitors about firewood restrictions in South Dakota state parks. The restrictions aim to slow the spread of emerald ash borer into the state parks.

Do not bring out-of-state wood into South Dakota.

Do not bring wood that has been within the quarantine area into any South Dakota state park unless it has a label affixed certifying it as emerald ash borer treated and safe to move.

In parks located within the quarantine area, outside firewood must have a label affixed certifying it as emerald ash borer treated and safe to move.

Firewood is available for purchase in the parks or from local stores outside the quarantine area.

Smooth dimensional lumber scraps are acceptable if sized to fit within the firegrate. Wood containing nails, screws, or hardware - including rough and pallet lumber - cannot be brought into any state park area to be used as firewood.

If you purchase firewood from a state park within the quarantine area, do not remove it from the park. An infestation of emerald ash borer was confirmed in northern Sioux Falls in early May. While it is the first confirmed infestation in South Dakota, the invasive insect has killed tens of millions of ash trees in at least 32 states.

The quarantine area currently includes all of Minnehaha County, as well as portions of Turner and Lincoln counties. For more information about the quarantine and the emerald ash borer, visit http://emeraldash-borerinsouthdakota.sd.gov.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 5 of 36

Today in Weather History

June 29, 1927: This estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from near Claremont, passing along the northwestern edge of Britton. The Claremont area had a \$12,000 loss as a large silo was destroyed. A dozen homes had roof damage in Britton.

June 29, 2005: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in the early morning and again in the afternoon hours. One location measured five inches of rain in two hours. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the houses were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs. Some rainfall amounts include 5.04 inches in Britton, 3.34 at 8N of Columbia, and 2.08 in Aberdeen. Total June rainfall for some locations in Marshall and Day Counties was between 11 and 12 inches. The flooding continued into early July before receding by July 10th.

1826: Thomas Jefferson made his last entry in his weather observation log on this date, just six days before he died. The weather held a fascination for Jefferson as he made regular weather observations. He bought his first thermometer while working on the Declaration of Independence and his first barometer shortly after that.

1904: Tornado hits Karacharov Village area of Moscow killing about 24 people.

1931 - The temperature at Monticello FL hit 109 degrees to establish an all-time record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1954 - Hurricane Alice dumped as much as 27 inches of rain on the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The Rio Grande River at Laredo reached a level 12.6 feet above its previous highest mark, and the roadway of the U.S. 90 bridge was thirty feet below the high water. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes Region, with reports of large hail and damaging winds most numerous in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes in Michigan. A tornado near Clare MI was accompanied by softball size hail. In Colorado, an untimely winter-like storm blanketed Mount Evans with six inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Alpena, MI, reported a record low of 39 degrees while Jackson, MS, equalled their record for the month of June with an afternoon high of 105 degrees. Thunderstorms in the central U.S. soaked Springfield MO with 3.62 inches of rain, a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern and Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced softball size hail at Kit Carson, while pea to marble size hail caused ten million dollars damage to crops in Philips County, CO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: "The Corn Belt Derecho of 1998" in the following states NE, IA, IL, IN, KY. A derecho which originated in far southeast South Dakota moved across Illinois during the afternoon and evening and continued as far east as Ohio the next morning. Every county in central Illinois sustained some damage, as these severe thunderstorms passed. Winds gusted in the 60 to 80 mph range, with some localized microbursts producing winds more than 100 mph. Significant damage occurred in the microburst areas, including the towns of Morton, McLean, LeRoy, and Tolono. In Tolono, 22 cars of a southbound 101-car Illinois Central freight train were blown off the tracks. It was unknown how many vehicles were picked up by the wind, but 16 cars were turned over, and another six derailed but remained upright. The train was en route to Centralia from Chicago with a load of mixed freight, including plastic pellets and meal. The freight cars empty weighed about 60,000 pounds, while a full one weighs about 260,000 pounds. Overall, 12 people were injured, and damage was estimated at around \$16 million.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 6 of 36



Tonight

Saturday

Saturday Night

Low: 59 °F



Sunday

Monday



Hot

Partly Cloudy then Severe Thunderstorms

During Extreme Heat

Find air conditioning.

Wear light clothing.

Drink plenty of water.

Avoid strenuous activities.



Slight Chance

T-storms

20%







Night



Mostly Sunny

Partly Cloudy

Mostly Sunny

High: 90 °F

Low: 66 °F



High: 86 °F

Low: 61 °F

High: 89 °F



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 6/29/2018 6:15 AM Central

Published on: 06/29/2018 at 6:20AM

For our area, expect highs today to range from the 80s to the mid 90s. This heat, and added high humidity is resulting in potentially dangerous conditions to our south and east. Heat Advisories and Excessive Heat Warnings are in effect from eastern South Dakota and Minnesota down to Louisiana.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 7 of 36

Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 93.9 F at 4:25 PM

High Outside Temp: 93.9 F at 4:25 PM Low Outside Temp: 67.3 F at 6:03 AM High Gust: 24.0 Mph at 3:49 PM Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 107° in 1931

Record High: 107° in 1931 Record Low: 42° in 1900 Average High: 81°F Average Low: 57°F Average Precip in June: 3.59 Precip to date in June: 1.52 Average Precip to date: 10.73 Precip Year to Date: 5.82 Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart Valid Fri, Jun 29, 2018, issued 4:38 AM EDT DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 8 of 36



SUFFERING AND OBEDIENCE

A member of a tourist group noticed a shepherd carrying food to one of his sheep. He was very curious and asked, "What happened? Is one of your sheep having problems?"

"Yes," came the reply. "I have a sheep with a broken leg."

"What happened? Did he fall over a cliff? Did an animal bite him?" he asked.

"Oh, no," said the shepherd. "I broke it."

"My goodness," said the tourist. "You broke your sheep's leg on purpose? I thought that shepherds loved their sheep more than anything else. I've even heard stories about shepherds searching for a lost sheep all night long. How could you do such a thing? Were you angry? Don't you love your sheep?"

"Of course I love my sheep," replied the shepherd. "That's why I broke its leg. This was a 'wayward' sheep. When it strayed from the flock it led other sheep with it. Something had to be done to preserve the life of this sheep and to prevent it from leading other sheep astray. I broke its leg and reset it to teach it obedience. Now, it waits for me to feed it and eats out of my hand. It will never leave me again and will stay by my side. Finally, it is obedient."

There was a Psalmist who must have had an experience like the sheep in this story. In writing of his experience he said, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your voice." Suffering has a purpose.

Prayer: No one likes to hurt, Lord. Yet, we ask that You do whatever is necessary to keep us close to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 9 of 36

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

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 10 of 36

News from the Associated Press

Sentencing reset for pipeline protest shooting suspect

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Sentencing has been rescheduled for a Denver woman who pleaded guilty in a shooting during protests in North Dakota against the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland was unable to oversee the scheduled Monday sentencing for Red Fawn Fallis for reasons the court did not disclose. Court documents show the sentencing is now set for July 11 in Bismarck.

Authorities accused Fallis of firing a handgun three times while resisting arrest in October 2016 in southern North Dakota. No one was hurt. She pleaded guilty Jan. 22 to civil disorder and a weapons charge. Prosecutors are recommending seven years in prison, though Hovland can go as high as 15 years.

Closing arguments set for woman charged in embezzling scheme

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A jury will soon have the case of a former South Dakota educational cooperative employee accused in an embezzlement scheme uncovered after a family's death.

Closing arguments are Friday in the theft trial of Stephanie Hubers. She's a onetime Mid-Central Educational Cooperative staffer accused of receiving roughly \$55,000 to keep quiet about embezzlement by business manager Scott Westerhuis and his wife before they perished in murder-suicide.

Westerhuis shot his wife and four children, then set fire to their home and killed himself in 2015.

Hubers testified she didn't know the couple was stealing. She's pleaded not guilty to counts of grand theft and grand theft by deception and alternative receiving stolen property counts.

Attorney General Marty Jackley, a prosecutor, earlier told jurors Hubers knew about the couple's theft, participated in it and profited from it.

Deputy fired after winning election finds temporary job

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota sheriff's deputy who was fired by his boss after defeating him in a primary race has found a temporary job at a state prison until he takes office next year.

Former Bon Homme County Deputy Mark Maggs told the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan that he'll work at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, and part-time for the Avon and Scotland police departments.

Maggs was fired earlier this month after he beat out incumbent Sheriff Lenny Gramkow in the election. Maggs posted his termination notice signed by Gramkow on Facebook, which was time stamped one minute after polls closed on June 5. The sheriff's office was inundated with negative phone calls that hindered emergency responses after the firing.

Gramkow has said he has no regrets. He also has declined to list the reasons for the termination or comment on the timing.

Maggs won the four-year term in the primary election since no other candidates filed for November's general election. He'll become Bon Homme County's sheriff on Jan. 1.

Until then, the state prison will help cover Maggs' loss of insurance, a concern for him and his family. "My family and I are appreciative of the offers for employment I had not only from Bon Homme County"

and Scotland, but also for those offers we received from other counties and agencies in South Dakota and Nebraska," Maggs said.

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

Man accused in girlfriend's death loses evidence battle

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota man accused of plotting his ex-girlfriend's killing has lost a battle to have certain evidence thrown out in the murder-for-hire case.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 11 of 36

Jonathon Klinetobe, 28, asked a judge last year to exclude from trial items that police seized from his Sturgis home and notes found in his Pennington County Jail cell. He argued that officers lacked probable cause for their search warrant and exceeded its scope.

Judge Heidi Linngren of the 7th Circuit denied Klinetobe's requests earlier this month, the Rapid City Journal reported.

Klinetobe's lawyers declined to comment on the judge's decision at the June 12 hearing.

Klinetobe has pleaded not guilty to murder, kidnapping and conspiracy in the May 2015 stabbing death of Jessica Rehfeld. The 22-year-old's body was found in a remote grave near Rockerville a year later. Authorities allege Klinetobe devised his ex-girlfriend's killing and kept her body hidden until a witness contacted police about the plot.

['] Investigators allege the killing is linked to a report Rehfeld filed that said Klinetobe had assaulted her. Rehfeld also sought a protection order against him just days before she went missing, according to investigators.

The court will allow the items seized from Klinetobe's home to be presented at his trial, including a necklace that authorities allege Rehfeld was wearing when she was killed. Police said they also found other items that may have belonged to Rehfeld, such as a purse, a cellphone and keys to her apartment. Klinetobe's trial hasn't been scheduled yet.

Richard Hirth, 37, is accused of fatally stabbing Rehfeld and faces similar charges. He's also awaiting trial. Three other men have pleaded guilty in connection to the killing, including one who pleaded guilty to murder.

Klinetobe and Hirth are being held at the Pennington County Jail in lieu of \$2 million bond apiece.

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

Stephanie Hubers testifies she didn't know of boss's theft By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former South Dakota educational cooperative employee accused in an embezzlement scheme said Thursday she didn't know her boss and his wife were stealing money before their deaths in a 2015 murder-suicide.

Stephanie Hubers, a onetime Mid-Central Educational Cooperative assistant business manager, testified at her theft trial, saying of the embezzlement: "I still don't believe it." Hubers is accused of getting about \$55,000 to keep quiet about the misconduct by Mid-Central business manager Scott Westerhuis and his wife, Nicole.

Hubers became emotional on the witness stand, crying as she remembered Scott Westerhuis asking her to take care of his children and mother if anything happened to him and Nicole. Scott Westerhuis asked for the favor about five years before he shot his wife and their four children, then set fire to their home and killed himself in 2015.

"I said, 'Absolutely.' I still stand by that today," Hubers recalled in the courtroom. "I loved those kids as if they were my own."

Attorney General Marty Jackley, a prosecutor, emphasized in his questioning Hubers' close relationship to the Westerhuis family — going boating and spending time at their home — and her knowledge of Mid-Central, including that cooperative money was going to a separate nonprofit for payroll. Jackley earlier told jurors that Hubers knew about the couple's theft, participated in it and profited from it.

Authorities said she received the money she wasn't entitled to, or knew had been stolen, from the separate nonprofit from 2009 to 2014. Jackley earlier said Hubers invoiced the nonprofit for payment for work she didn't perform.

But Hubers said Scott Westerhuis presented the extra payments to her as a raise for her work at Mid-Central, and she reported the income for tax purposes. A different Mid-Central employee also testified Thursday Westerhuis paid her extra money from the nonprofit.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 12 of 36

Hubers was the last witness to testify before the defense rested its case. Closing arguments in the trial are scheduled for Friday.

Hubers, 45, has pleaded not guilty to one count of grand theft, two counts of grand theft by deception and three alternative receiving stolen property counts. She faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and fines for each count.

The trial comes more than two years after authorities launched a financial investigation because of the deaths. Investigators believe the total amount that Scott and Nicole Westerhuis stole before their deaths surpassed \$1 million.

The investigation spurred the felony charges in 2016 against Hubers and two others who allegedly helped in the couple's embezzlement scheme. The others charged in the case, former Mid-Central Director Dan Guericke and consultant Stacy Phelps, are to face trial later.

Supreme Court affirms use of electronic warrants

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court says the use of an electronic warrant is just as valid as one on paper.

The high court, in a unanimous decision, says a Pierre police officer complied with the warrants clause of the state constitution in obtaining a search warrant for a blood sample taken from Kelso Bowers, who was suspected of driving drunk.

Bowers argued the warrant obtained for a blood draw violated his constitutional rights. He said the electronic signature invalidated the affidavit used to obtain the warrant. Bowers also argued the officer lacked reasonable suspicion to pull him over.

Woman dies in Custer County crash involving car, fuel truck

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — A crash involving a car and a fuel truck in Custer County has killed the driver of the car.

The Highway Patrol says the car driven by a 73-year-old woman was in the wrong lane of U.S. Highway 16 when it was struck by the truck about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The woman was pronounced dead at the scene about 23 miles west of Custer. She wasn't immediately identified.

The truck driver suffered minor injuries.

This story has been corrected to show the crash happened Wednesday, not Thursday.

Gov. Burgum elected vice chairman of governors' group

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum has been elected vice chairman of the Western Governors' Association.

Burgum will hold the post for the next year. The vice chairman has traditionally served as chairman the following year.

The association includes the governors of 19 western states and three U.S. territories. Burgum was elected vice chairman during the group's annual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, this week. Topics discussed at the meeting included the opioid epidemic, wildfires and workforce development.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige was elected chairman for the coming year.

Daycare provider charged with harming child

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls woman is accused of physically abusing a child at her in-home daycare.

Thirty-one-year-old Stephanie Houston appeared in court Wednesday afternoon on charges of abuse or cruelty to a minor. She's being held on \$5,000 bond.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 13 of 36

Capt. Loren McManus says an investigation began June 22 after a mother brought her 1-year-old daughter to the hospital because of bruising and abrasions. The Argus Leader reports authorities say the doctor who examined the girl said the injuries were indicative of abuse.

McManus says four or five children were involved in the investigation, but the 1-year-old was the only child that showed signs of abuse.

It was not immediately clear of Houston has an attorney who could comment on her behalf.

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

South Dakota sunflower planting close to wrapping up

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sunflower planting in South Dakota is close to wrapping up after a week with about four days suitable for fieldwork.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 87 percent of the state's sunflower crop is seeded, near the average pace.

Planting of other major crops is complete, with all crops including corn, soybeans and wheat rated mostly in fair to good condition.

Topsoil moisture supplies statewide are rated 86 percent adequate to surplus, and subsoil moisture is 76 percent in those categories. Both percentages are up over the week.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are mostly rated fair or good.

Professionalism of slain newspaper employees recalled By DAVID McFADDEN and BEN FINLEY, Associated Press

Four journalists and a sales assistant were killed Thursday in a shooting at a Maryland newspaper. Authorities said the gunman entered the Capital Gazette in Annapolis and "looked for his victims." The employees killed were Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith and Wendi Winters, police said. GERALD FISCHMAN

Gerald Fischman, the editorial page editor at the Capital Gazette, was an "old-fashioned journalist," a former editor of the paper said.

Steve Gunn remembered Fischman as "the master of AP style" who "made sure everything was just right." "He was famous for working long days and being very precise in his language and always making sure the editorial page reflected the heart of the newspaper," Gunn said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Fischman had worked at the paper for 26 years.

ROB HIAASEN

Journalist Rob Hiaasen's family is "devastated" by his death, said his brother, author Carl Hiaasen.

Carl Hiaasen, a prolific novelist and a longtime columnist for the Miami Herald, confirmed that his brother, also a columnist and an editor, was one of the Annapolis victims.

In a brief phone call with The Associated Press, Carl Hiaasen said his family "was devastated beyond words" by the senseless killing of his brother at The Capital Gazette.

"He was the most remarkable person. So gifted and talented and dedicated to journalism," he said, his voice choked with emotion.

Saying he was too wracked with grief to speak further, Hiaasen referred an AP reporter to something he had just posted to his Facebook page, describing Rob as one of the most "gentle and funny people I've ever known."

Gunn, the former Capital Gazette editor, said Rob Hiaasen was a "gifted editor who had an aura of an artist around him who made people want to make journalism a beautiful craft."

JOHN McNAMARA

John McNamara was a longtime staff writer at the paper.

Gunn said McNamara was workmanlike — "classic come to work and tell me what I need to do." REBECCA SMITH

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 14 of 36

Rebecca Smith was a sales assistant at the Capital Gazette.

Her boss, Capital Gazette advertising director Marty Padden, described her as a thoughtful person who made sure the sales office ran smoothly.

"She was kind and considerate, and willing to help when needed. She seemed to really enjoy to be working in the media business," Padden told The Baltimore Sun .

WENDI WINTERS

Special publications editor Wendi Winters was "the heart of the newspaper," Gunn said.

Winters was passionate about serving the community and a role model for younger journalists, he recalled. "She was in many ways the best part of the newspaper in that she cared so much about the city," he said.

Suspect in Maryland newspaper to appear on 5 murder charges By BRIAN WITTE, Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — First-degree murder charges were filed Friday against a man who police said targeted Maryland's capital newspaper, shooting his way into the newsroom and killing four journalists and a staffer before officers swiftly arrested him.

Jarrod Warren Ramos was interrogated, charged and jailed pending a 10:30 a.m. hearing in Annapolis. No defense attorney was listed in online court records, but one note suggests he could be represented by a public defender. Another describes him as "recalcitrant." Investigators said earlier that he was uncooperative.

Thursday's attack on The Capital Gazette in Annapolis came amid months of verbal and online attacks on the "fake news media" from politicians and others from President Donald Trump on down. It prompted New York City police to immediately tighten security at news organizations in the nation's media capital.

Police described Ramos as a white man in his late 30s who lives in Maryland.

Acting Police Chief William Krampf of Anne Arundel County said the gunman "looked for his victims."

"This person was prepared today to come in, this person was prepared to shoot people," Krampf said. Journalists crawled under desks and sought other hiding places as he moved about the newswroom, describing agonizing minutes of terror as they heard the gunman's footsteps and the repeated blasts of the shotgun. Police said he also was armed with smoke grenades.

Those killed included Rob Hiaasen, 59, the paper's assistant managing editor and brother of novelist Carl Hiaasen. Carl Hiaasen said he was "devastated and heartsick" at losing his brother, "one of the most gentle and funny people I've ever known." Also slain were Gerald Fischman, editorial page editor; features reporter Wendi Winters; reporter John McNamara, and sales assistant Rebecca Smith. The newspaper said two other employees had non-life threatening injuries and were later released from a hospital.

Phil Davis, a courts and crime reporter for the paper, tweeted that the gunman shot out the glass door to the office and fired into the newsroom, sending people scrambling under desks.

"There is nothing more terrifying than hearing multiple people get shot while you're under your desk and then hear the gunman reload," he wrote in a tweet. In a later interview appearing on the paper's online site, Davis likened the newspaper office to a "war zone."

"I'm a police reporter. I write about this stuff — not necessarily to this extent, but shootings and death — all the time," he said. "But as much as I'm going to try to articulate how traumatizing it is to be hiding under your desk, you don't know until you're there and you feel helpless."

Reporter Selene San Felice told CNN she was at her desk but ran after hearing shots, only to find a back door locked. She then watched as a colleague was shot, adding she didn't glimpse the gunman.

"I heard footsteps a couple of times," she said. "I was breathing really loud and was trying not to, but I couldn't be quiet."

The reporter recalled a June 2016 mass shooting attack on Orlando's gay nightclub Pulse and how terrified people crouching inside had texted loved ones as dozens were killed. Said San Felice, "And there I was sitting under a desk, texting my parents and telling them I loved them."

Survivors said the shooting — though it seemed agonizingly long — lasted mere minutes.

Police spokesman Lt. Ryan Frashure said officers arrived within about 60 seconds and took the gunman

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 15 of 36

into custody without an exchange of gunfire. About 170 people were then evacuated from the building, which houses other offices, many leaving with their hands up as police and other emergency vehicles arrived. At the White House, spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said: "There is no room for violence, and we stick

by that. Violence is never tolerated in any form, no matter whom it is against."

The president tweeted: "My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. Thank you to all of the First Responders."

Press Secretary Sarah Sanders added in a tweet: "Strongly condemn the evil act of senseless violence in Annapolis, MD. A violent attack on innocent journalists doing their job is an attack on every American. Our prayers are with the victims and their friends and families."

First responders turned the site over to investigators, who remained on the site Friday as well as an apartment complex where the gunman lived in Laurel, Maryland, searching for clues to his motives.

"The shooter has not been very forthcoming, so we don't have any information yet on motive," Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh said.

Ramos sued the newspaper for defamation in 2012, alleging he was harmed by an article about his conviction in a criminal harassment case. A judge dismissed the suit, telling Ramos that he hadn't shown "anything that was published about you is, in fact, false." An appeals court later upheld the dismissal.

Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley said the community is grieving.

"These are the guys that come to city council meetings, have to listen to boring politicians and sit there," Buckley said. "They don't make a lot of money. It's just immoral that their lives should be in danger."

The newspaper is part of Capital Gazette Communications, which also publishes the Maryland Gazette and CapitalGazette.com. It is owned by The Baltimore Sun.

The Associated Press Media Editors promised to help Capital Gazette journalists as they recover. An APME statement called on newspapers nationwide to help the paper continue its community coverage and fight for freedom of the press.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Washington and Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

Thai prime minister to families of missing boys: Have faith By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — Thailand's prime minister on Friday visited a flooded cave complex where rescuers have been searching for 12 boys and their soccer coach missing for six days and urged their relatives not to give up hope.

"There has to be faith. Faith makes everything a success," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the country's military ruler, told families waiting outside the cave. "Faith in the actions of officials. Faith in our children who are strong and vigorous. Everything will go back to normal."

The boys, aged 11 to 16, and their coach entered the sprawling Tham Luang Nang Non cave after a soccer game on Saturday afternoon, but near-constant rains since then have thwarted the search for them. Authorities have nevertheless expressed hope the group has found a dry place within the cave to wait, and that they are healthy enough to stay alive.

Muddy floodwaters reached near the entrance of the cave Friday despite days of efforts to drain the water. Rescuers kept working outside the cave, trying to find hidden shafts in the green mountainside to access the cave complex.

Other crews were working to drill wells in hopes of draining the water, which could allow divers to advance into flooded passages. Despite the hard work, rescuers' progress has been fitful at best, with no guarantee the water will soon recede with months left in Thailand's rainy season.

Authorities have warned that the rising water is complicating efforts to supply electricity to the cave, raising the risk of an accident. There appeared to be a mishap Friday when workers ran out of the cave saying rescuers had been injured and to shut off the power. Several ambulances then rushed people from

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 16 of 36

the site.

At least one police official initially said men had been electrocuted, but medical workers at the site along with Chiang Rai provincial Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said that wasn't the case. Instead, they said a man had fainted while working on a water pump, prompting the scare, and another man had a stomach ailment.

Narongsak thanked people in Thailand and abroad for their support, including a U.S. military rescue team and U.K. cave divers.

"We will keep our effort up no matter how tired we are," he said.

He said Thai navy SEAL divers had been able to work underwater Thursday but would not elaborate on their progress. The divers have oxygen tanks but still must have enough space between the water and the cave ceiling to surface for air and to ensure their safety in the muddy waters that fill rocky passages, some so tight the divers must bend their bodies to advance through them.

Above ground, four shafts have been located that might allow access to the cave and rescuers were continuing to explore them on Friday, Narongsak said. He said one shaft had showed promise, leading to a chamber below, though it wasn't clear if it connected to the main cave.

Officials said they were also dropping "care packages" into the shafts in case they reach the cave. The packages contain food, beverages, a phone, a flashlight, candles and a lighter. They also include a map of the cave.

The team trying to find a way to drain the water dug until 1 a.m. to a depth of 30 meters (98 feet) but did not find any wells, said Ekchawin Longpinit from the Thai Underground Water Department. About a dozen workers were drilling at the same spot Friday morning. "We will continue to drill today, and more drill equipment is being sent" to explore more spots to drill, Ekchawin said.

Associated Press journalists Kaweewit Kaewjinda and Jason Corben in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Hosting World Cup makes Russia more gay-friendly _ for now By ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — While World Cup fans pack the St. Petersburg Stadium fantasizing of soccer victory, Pyotr Voskresensky and fellow gay rights activists follow the matches in a quiet gallery across town decorated with beanbags and astroturf. They relish a different dream.

Voskresensky, an anesthesiologist who lost one job because of his homosexuality and fears losing another because he refuses to keep it secret, hopes that hosting this global tournament proves to Russians "that openness and tolerance can be a positive experience," and forces them to rethink hard-line attitudes toward the LGBT community.

As long as the tournament is under way, Russia is looking almost gay-friendly. The international scrutiny that comes with hosting the World Cup has forced Russian authorities to put their crackdown on LGBT gay activism on hold.

A hotline for victims of anti-LGBT acts during the tournament hasn't received a single call so far. Russian authorities didn't bother prosecuting a British gay rights activist for protesting near the Kremlin , and have allowed rainbow banners at multiple World Cup matches.

This little resembles the Russia that outlaws gay "propaganda" and shrugs off reports of gays tortured in Chechnya. The Russia where anti-gay bullying at school is often condoned, and anti-gay violence rarely punished. The Russia where waving a rainbow flag can lead to arrest.

During the World Cup, "I can show myself even more publicly, because our city is hosting so many people — there is more information, more encounters, more possibilities," said Andrei, who performs as "Star Vasha" in the Fame nightclub in Yekaterinburg, a tournament host city 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) east of Moscow. He spoke on condition his last name not be used, fearing repercussions for those around him.

The big test comes after July 15, when the tournament ends and crowds fly home. Will the World Cup leave a changed nation in its wake?

Some fear Russian police and militant groups will unleash pent-up frustration on the LGBT community

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 17 of 36

as soon as the cameras turn away.

Voskresensky sees glimmers of hope, though, and disagrees with those who favored boycotting Russia's World Cup. "It's better to hold such events than to keep Russia ... cut off" from other cultures and ideas, he said.

He leads unofficial tours of Russia's "gay history," a five-kilometer (three-mile) walk through St. Petersburg that references homosexual figures like composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky and traces centuries of czarist, Soviet and post-Soviet policy toward same-sex relations.

Russia's 2013 law against gay "propaganda" toward minors makes it impossible to advertise his tours, because children might hear him talk. The law has been used to block gay rallies, limit funding and send a message to the larger public that it's ok to discriminate.

Voskresensky is a regular visitor to St. Petersburg's Diversity House, set up for the World Cup by a prominent group that campaigns against racism and anti-gay abuse in sports, the Fare Network. St. Petersburg's Diversity House was evicted from its original facility just as the tournament started, but the group complained — and within 24 hours a new site had been found.

Russian authorities seem to be playing a careful game.

British activist Peter Tatchell was arrested while protesting near Red Square on the opening day of the World Cup — but quickly released as images of the arrest spread online. A planned court hearing was quietly abandoned.

In Nizhny Novgorod's stadium, stewards removed a rainbow banner put up by Di Cunningham and other members of British activist group 3LionsPride for Sunday's England-Panama match. But after a call to FIFA, those same stewards put it back up.

Cunningham has found Russian fans friendlier and more curious than she expected, and she says even the banner incident could raise awareness.

Perhaps those stewards "will start to wonder why it's OK to put the banner inside the stadium but it's not OK to put it outside the stadium," she said.

When her group unfurled the banner at the England-Tunisia match in Volgograd last week, a Russian fan "saw the banner from afar and came to us," she said. "He suddenly realized it's OK to be gay and a football fan. ... Maybe it's raised his expectations of change."

Vitaly Milonov, a lawmaker who played a key role in passing the gay "propaganda" law, said "sodomites" flying the rainbow flag had no place at the tournament. While he's an extreme case, many ordinary Russians feel threatened by LGBT activism, seeing it as a form of Western depravity targeted at corrupting Russian youth.

Such anti-gay attitudes aren't unique to Russia. Yet things are changing. For the first time, FIFA is using anti-discrimination experts to monitor World Cup games, and the Mexican and Argentinian soccer federations have been fined for offensive behavior by fans including anti-gay chants and slurs.

What happens to Russia's LGBT community after the tournament will offer a lesson to FIFA as it looks ahead to the next World Cup in 2022 in Qatar, a country where gay sex is illegal.

In today's Russia, being gay is legal, but admitting it is fraught with professional and personal risk.

The 2013 law encourages rhetoric that has made "the LGBT community be afraid, be silent," said Jonny Dzhibladze, coordinator at St. Petersburg LGBT group Coming Out, which has tracked more than 300 incidents of anti-gay violence or abuse in the city in recent years. "The most dangerous part of this law is that it practically gives free rein to those who commit crimes, murders and physical violence motivated by homophobia and transphobia."

"On the one hand, it's strange that the World Cup is taking place in Russia," Dzhibladze said. "At the same time ... it gives an opportunity for the society to get in contact, to get informed."

A boycott, he said, "would only contribute to isolation."

Irina Titova in St. Petersburg and Vadim Ghirda in Yekaterinburg contributed.

More World Cup coverage at www.apnews.com/tag/WorldCup

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 18 of 36

Court confirmation process likely to follow Gorsuch playbook By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican game plan for selecting the next member of the Supreme Court was ready to go even before longtime Justice Anthony Kennedy made his retirement announcement this week.

Kennedy's news that he'll leave the court next month immediately activated a network of White House aides, congressional allies and outside advocates, all set for their second Supreme Court confirmation fight in two years. With the successful push for Justice Neil Gorsuch still fresh in their minds, their effort this time is expected to follow a similar playbook.

Trump has hit the ground running, meeting Thursday with key Republican and Democratic senators at the White House in the evening to discuss the vacancy. Trump welcomed Republicans Chuck Grassley, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Democrats Joe Manchin, Joe Donnelly and Heidi Heitkamp as part of the effort. The White House said Trump's team also spoke with more than a dozen additional senators.

Speaking earlier in the day in Wisconsin, Trump said: "We're going to pick ourselves one great United States Supreme Court justice to take the place of a great man."

White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said Trump had already begun the selection process, adding that it is "something that the president takes very seriously." Trump's wish list, she said, includes "tremendous intellect, judicial temperament and impeccable qualifications."

Leonard Leo, who is taking a leave of absence as executive vice president of the Federalist Society to serve as an outside adviser in the selection process, said Trump "wants to move swiftly and I think that probably means in the next two or three weeks." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has committed to confirming a nominee in the fall, which the Republican-controlled Senate should be able to do if McConnell can hold his razor-thin majority together.

Leo said Trump was "committed to a full-throttle process" that includes meeting with several top contenders. He said the president was pleased with the game plan that put Gorsuch on the bench, which involved a network of White House aides, congressional allies and outside advocates.

Once again, Trump will draw this time from a list of 25 prospective candidates that was first established during the campaign and updated last fall, with advice from Leo and other conservatives. Advisers within the administration include White House Counsel Don McGahn. Last time the pool of contenders narrowed from eight to six and then to a final three, Leo said.

Some possible nominees being eyed include Thomas Hardiman, who serves alongside Trump's sister on the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and Raymond Kethledge, a federal appeals court judge who clerked for Kennedy. Also of interest are Amul Thapar, who serves on the federal appeals court in Cincinnati, lives in Kentucky and is close to McConnell; Brett Kavanaugh, a former clerk for Kennedy who serves on the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C.; and Amy Coney Barrett, who serves on the federal appeals court in Chicago.

In the run-up to selecting Gorsuch, Trump met with three contenders and White House officials vetted several more. Leo said he expected that work to start before Trump leaves on July 10 for a trip to Europe, adding that it was "not outside the realm of possibility" that the search process could conclude by then.

While the White House begins its internal vetting process, outreach also has already begun to senators, said White House Legislative Director Marc Short. And outside supporters have already begun a public advocacy campaign, focusing their pressure on Democratic senators in states that supported Trump.

The Judicial Crisis Network, a conservative political campaign organization, launched a seven-figure ad buy Wednesday, aimed at vulnerable Democrats, said chief counsel and policy director Carrie Severino. She said the group spent \$10 million supporting the Gorsuch confirmation.

"We'd be very happy if he'd pick any name on that list," said Severino. "Judges, and particularly the Supreme Court, have been a resounding success of this administration. What we're seeing here is Gorsuch

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 19 of 36

2.0."

Steven Law, president of the Senate Leadership Fund, a campaign group aligned with McConnell, said the group began running ads Thursday in 10 states that Trump won in 2016 where Democratic senators are now up for re-election.

A sign that the White House is also focusing on these Democrats: Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat, was at the White House Thursday night for a meeting with Trump.

During the Gorsuch nomination, the White House took great pains to keep the public guessing on Trump's final choice, whisking Gorsuch to Washington on a military jet and having him stay quietly with friends, away from hotels. Trump relished the suspense of the final reveal, asking "So was that a surprise? Was it?" as he announced his pick on prime-time television.

Associated Press writer Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

House Republicans grill FBI, Justice leaders on Russia probe By MARY CLARE JALONICK and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans accused top federal law enforcement officials Thursday of withholding documents from them and demanded details about surveillance tactics during the Russia investigation in a contentious congressional hearing that capped days of mounting partisan complaints.

Underscoring their frustration, Republicans briefly put the hearing on hold so they could approve a resolution on the House floor demanding that the Justice Department turn over thousands of documents by next week.

The House Judiciary Committee hearing marked Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's first appearance before Congress since an internal DOJ report criticizing the FBI's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation revealed new disparaging text messages among FBI officials about Donald Trump during the 2016 election. FBI Director Christopher Wray also appeared at Thursday's hearing.

Republicans on the panel seized on the watchdog report to allege bias by the FBI and to discredit an investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign that is now led by special counsel Robert Mueller. They suggested the Justice Department had conspired against Trump by refusing to produce documents they believe would show improper FBI conduct.

"This country is being hurt by it. We are being divided," Rep. Trey Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, said of Mueller's investigation. Gowdy led a separate two-year investigation into the deadly 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya, and Clinton's role in those attacks as secretary of state.

"Whatever you got," Gowdy added, "finish it the hell up because this country is being torn apart."

Rosenstein, at times raising his voice and pointing his finger, strongly defended himself and the department, saying he was doing his best to balance congressional oversight with the need to preserve the integrity of ongoing investigations. He said despite Republican allegations, he was "not trying to hide anything."

"We are not in contempt of this Congress, and we are not going to be in contempt of this Congress," he said.

The hearing came amid Republican attacks on the Justice Department and allegations of FBI bias against Trump. On Wednesday, lawmakers spent 11 hours behind closed doors grilling Peter Strzok, the FBI agent who worked on both the Clinton and Russia investigations and traded anti-Trump text messages with an FBI lawyer. The inspector general criticized the officials for creating an appearance of impropriety but did not find evidence that bias had tainted prosecutors' decisions in the Clinton investigation.

His lawyer called Thursday night for the committee to release the entire transcript of the interview instead of "leaking selective excerpts designed to further a partisan agenda."

The resolution that passed along party lines Thursday demanded that the department turn over by July 6 documents on FBI investigations into Clinton's private email use and Trump campaign ties to Russia. Both investigations unfolded during the presidential election, causing the FBI — which prides itself on independence — to become entangled in presidential politics in ways that are continuing to shake out.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 20 of 36

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., one of the resolution's sponsors, did not deny Democratic assertions that the document requests were related to efforts to undercut Mueller's probe.

"Yes, when we get these documents, we believe that it will do away with this whole fiasco of what they call the Russian Trump collusion because there wasn't any," he said on the House floor.

The House judiciary and intelligence panels, which have subpoenaed the documents, want to use the records for congressional investigations into the FBI's decision to clear Clinton in the email probe and its opening of an investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia.

The Justice Department has already turned over more than 800,000 documents to congressional committees, but the subpoenas seek additional materials, including records about any surveillance of Trump campaign associates. Lawmakers have threatened to hold top DOJ officials in contempt or vote to impeach them if the documents aren't turned over.

On the floor, lawmakers hurled insults as Republicans said Congress is entitled to whatever it wants.

"We have a petulant Department of Justice defended by a petulant Democratic Party," said Rep. Tom Garrett, R-Va.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., shot back: "We're caught up in this nonsense because they can't get over Hillary Clinton's emails. Get over it!"

Wray and Rosenstein said law enforcement officials have been working diligently to provide the records, though Republicans made clear their dissatisfaction at the pace.

"We have caught you hiding information from Congress," Republican Rep. Jim Jordan said at the hearing, an accusation Rosenstein strongly denied.

"I am the deputy attorney general of the United States, OK?" he said. "I'm not the person doing the redacting. I am responsible for responding to your concerns, as I have.

"Whenever you have brought issues to my attention, I have taken appropriate steps to remedy them," he added.

He also dismissed media reports that he had threatened to subpoen staff members of the House Intelligence Committee, saying to laughter, "There's no way to subpoen phone calls."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Robert Goodlatte, R-Va., signaled the hearing's tone in his opening remarks when he complained about the Justice Department's failure to produce all the requested documents.

"The Department of Justice and the FBI are not mentioned in the U.S. Constitution. The president and Congress are," Goodlatte said.

Rep. Ron DeSantis, R-Fla., demanded to know why Rosenstein had not recused himself from overseeing Mueller's investigation into whether Trump had obstructed justice given Rosenstein's role in laying the groundwork for the firing of FBI Director James Comey. Rosenstein's memo criticizing Comey's handling of the Clinton investigation was initially cited by the White House as justification for his firing.

"I can assure you that if it were appropriate for me to recuse," Rosenstein said with a smile, "I'd be more than happy to do so and let somebody else handle this."

Brazilian boy, 9, released to mom after US judge's order By MICHAEL TARM and MARTHA IRVINE, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A Brazilian mother and 9-year-old son separated at the U.S.-Mexico border were together again Thursday after a federal judge in Chicago ordered the U.S. government to release the boy, in one of the first examples of an urgent petition for court intervention successfully reuniting parent and child.

Facing reporters together just hours after the reunion, Lidia Karine Souza and her son, Diogo, wrapped their arms around each other. Diogo frequently looked up at his mom and smiled.

Asked if she had a message for President Donald Trump about her ordeal and his zero-tolerance policy that separated hundreds of children from their parents, the mother responded through a translator, "Don't do this to the children."

Under Trump's policy, the government has begun prosecuting all migrants caught entering the country without authorization. Trump has halted his policy of taking children from their detained parents under

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 21 of 36

public pressure but around 2,000 of them are still being held, with many families saying they've not known how to locate them.

Jesse Bless, an attorney for Souza and her son who stood with them at their news conference, described the ruling by U.S. District Judge Manish Shah as unique, adding he hoped it would "open the door" for others to do the same and help hasten a resolution to the crisis.

When asked about advice she'd give to others facing similar challenges in getting their kids back, Souza said: "Don't give up, be persistent."

She turned herself and her son into U.S. authorities at the Texas border and requested asylum, arguing her life was in danger in her native Brazil. She hasn't said how. U.S. officials detained her in Texas and took her son on May 30 without telling her where he would be.

When she was released June 9, she said, another detained mother who had also been separated from her child told her to check a Chicago shelter, and there she found Diogo. They were allowed no more than weekly 20-minute phone calls, in which he begged her to get them reunited.

Shah, the son of immigrants from India, mulled his decision for just four hours before ordering the government to immediately turn the boy over to his mom. Diogo had spent four weeks at the governmentcontracted shelter.

The boy appeared relaxed fielding questions before dozens of TV cameras and reporters at their lawyers' office in a Chicago high-rise building. But he said the days and weeks after he was separated from his mom were difficult.

"I cried almost every day I wasn't with my mother," he said, also speaking through a translator.

The reunion occurred as the White House is under increasing pressure to bring families back together after another judge's order this week ordered federal officials to do so in 30 days for many parents and children. Critics say the government has no clear plan to reunite them.

White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters told reporters on Air Force One that various federal agencies "are continuing to work through ensuring that remaining children are reunified with their parents." When asked if the Health and Human Services Department —the agency that's in charge of reuniting families— will be able to comply with the 30-day deadline, she called on Congress to reform the nation's immigration system.

Police arrested nearly 600 people Thursday in Washington, D.C., after hundreds of loudly chanting women demonstrated inside a Senate office building against Trump's immigration policy. Among those arrested was Rep. Pramila Jayapal, the Democrat from Washington state said on Twitter.

Meanwhile, first lady Melania Trump spent time with children at a complex in Phoenix where dozens of migrant children separated from their parents at the border are being held.

After her release from an immigrant detention facility in Texas early this month, Souza lived with relatives outside Boston, where she planned to return with Diogo.

Shah, who heard arguments Thursday morning, wrote in his ruling: "Continued separation of ... (the) nine year-old child, and Souza irreparably harms them both."

The fitness of the mother in this case isn't questioned, Shah said, so dragging out processing "only serves to interfere in the family's integrity with little to no benefit to the government's interests."

During much of his time at the shelter, Souza's son was alone in a room, quarantined with chickenpox. He spent his ninth birthday on Monday without his mom.

Souza has said Diogo would beg her through tears to do everything in her power to get him back to her. The 27-year-old woman searched for weeks to find Diogo after their separation in May. When she was released, she filled out nearly 40 pages of documents that U.S. officials told her were required to regain custody.

Then they told her that the rules had changed and that she needed any family members living with her in the United States to be fingerprinted and still more documents.

Shah wrote in his three-page ruling that he understood that the paperwork, filings and forms normally required before the government can release a child in its custody are intended to ensure the child's wellbeing. But, he said, "the government's interests in completing certain procedures to be sure that (Souza's

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 22 of 36

child) is placed in a safe environment and in managing the response to ongoing class litigation do not outweigh the family's interest in reuniting."

Government attorney Craig Oswald told Shah that U.S. officials have been "raked over the coals ... before" for not being thorough about such background checks, which he said are meant to ensure a child's safety.

Souza was seeking safety by coming to the U.S. but she told The Associated Press in an interview on Wednesday that "this ... is a nightmare." On Thursday, though, she told reporters the court ruling restored her faith that the welfare of children was important to many Americans.

For days and weeks now, some of the hundreds of parents separated from their children at the Mexican border by the Trump administration have been battling one of the world's most complex immigration systems to find their youngsters and get them back.

For many, it has been a lopsided battle, and a frustrating and heartbreaking one. Most do not speak English. Many know nothing about their children's whereabouts. And some say their calls to the government's 1-800 information hotline have gone unanswered.

Children have been sent to shelters all over the United States, thousands of miles from the border. And perhaps hundreds of parents have already been deported from the U.S. without their children.

After tracking down her son, Souza was told the soonest he could be released would be in late July. She visited Diogo for the first time since May on Tuesday and they embraced.

She kissed him several times on the head and face, then grabbed his cheeks gently with her hands as they both cried.

"I missed you so much," she said in Portuguese.

Their visit lasted an hour. Then he returned to U.S. government custody.

On Thursday, Souza said she had reason to worry her son wasn't eating well and could lose weight.

"But he's good," she said. "At first, he said the food was really bad — but it doesn't look like it."

Associated Press writers Julie Watson in San Diego; Morgan Lee in El Paso, Texas; Sonia Perez in Guatemala City; and Will Weissert in McAllen, Texas, contributed to this report.

For the latest developments on immigrant parents and children separated at the U.S. border: https:// bit.ly/2KuhCTX

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration

Spotlight turns to GOP women in Supreme Court fight By LISA MASCARO and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A spotlight quickly focused on two Republican senators Thursday in the fight to come over President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nomination — Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski, whose support for abortion access will reverberate throughout the debate.

Every vote matters in the narrowly divided chamber, and the two women are already facing enormous pressure. Activist groups, particularly those aligned with Democrats, want them to rule out voting for a conservative nominee who might make precedent-shattering court decisions on abortion, gay marriage and other social issues.

The two senators were among about a half dozen who met with Trump on Thursday to discuss the Supreme Court vacancy.

Murkowski, of Alaska, vowed a careful vetting of President Donald Trump's pick, saying she has "extremely high" standards for the court and the person who will replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

"There is no doubt that the president's nominee to succeed Justice Kennedy can expect exacting scrutiny from the Senate and that is the standard I will apply in evaluating the nominee," she said.

Collins, meanwhile, declared that the landmark Roe v. Wade decision that codified abortion rights is "settled law."

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 23 of 36

"I always look for judges who respect precedent," the Maine senator said.

Trump is expected to announce his nominee within a few weeks. In the meantime, advocacy groups are wasting no time jumping into the emerging campaign for Kennedy's replacement, who could tip the court's balance toward conservatives for years to come.

In general, conservatives are pushing for speedy confirmation before the November congressional elections. But some in the GOP are looking to the political impact of a prolonged confirmation battle to drive up voter turnout.

Trump said Kennedy's decision to retire at this point "showed confidence in us" to make a good choice for his successor.

Democrats argue that confirmation action should be put on hold until after the elections. They are citing Republican leader Mitch McConnell's successful block of President Barack Obama's nominee to the court, Merrick Garland, in 2016.

McConnell says the situations are not the same.

"This is not 2016. There aren't the final months of a second-term constitutionally lame-duck presidency with a presidential election fast approaching. We're right in the middle of this president's very first term," McConnell said.

Whatever the timing, the confirmation fight is likely to consume the Senate and become a defining issue for the midterms.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the second-ranking Republican, noted the pressure.

"On the outside there's going to be World War III," he said.

Cornyn, the Senate GOP's chief vote counter, said he was confident in holding the Republican majority behind Trump's eventual nominee. He suggested several Democratic senators would cross over for bipartisan support.

"Every senator's got to make up their own mind," he said.

Republican colleagues of Collins and Murkowski did not doubt their resolve to vote as they see fit.

"Listen, Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins can handle pressure," said Marco Rubio of Florida. "They're going to do what they believe is right."

Republicans hold a narrow 51-49 majority in the Senate, and it's even closer because of the absence of ailing Sen. John McCain of Arizona. Even though McConnell changed Senate rules last year to allow confirmation by simple majority, if Democrats hold together he cannot afford defections. Vice President Mike Pence can be called on to break a tie.

Last year, Trump's first nominee to the court, Neil Gorsuch, was confirmed 54-45, with three Democrats voting in favor.

Those Democrats — Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Joe Donnelly of Indiana and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota_are facing difficult re-election races and could find it difficult to oppose the president's second pick.

Manchin, Donnelly and Heitkamp also met with Trump on Thursday to talk about the Supreme Court, according to White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Manchin indicated he was keeping an open mind.

"I just think you have to go through a process," he said. "I want qualifications. Somebody that's well qualified, understands the Constitution and the rule of law."

Donnelly said he had a "good conversation" with Trump and "will thoroughly review the record and qualifications" of the nominee. Manchin called his meeting "productive."

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, a leading evangelical and conservative advocate, was among those suggesting it might make sense to put off a vote on the nominee. He said a vacancy on the court in 2016 helped boost enthusiasm among evangelicals for Trump.

"Part of me says I would like to see it after the election because I think it will just fuel the turnout and have more participation in the election," Perkins said.

Several Democratic senators considering 2020 presidential runs jumped into the debate Thursday, rallying from the steps of the Supreme Court. Sen. Cory Booker pledged a long-term battle to prevent Trump from rushing a conservative judge onto the court.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 24 of 36

"We now must fight," the New Jersey Democrat said.

New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said Kennedy's retirement sets up a situation where "women's lives are at risk."

Trump has said he would start the effort to replace Kennedy "immediately" and would pick from a list of 25 names that he updated last year.

McConnell declared that the Senate "will vote to confirm Justice Kennedy's successor this fall." But that left the timing open for debate.

Possible nominees being eyed include Thomas Hardiman, who has served with Trump's sister, now on senior inactive status, on the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, and Raymond Kethledge, a federal appeals court judge who clerked for Kennedy. Also of interest are Amul Thapar, who serves on the federal appeals court in Cincinnati, lives in Kentucky and is close to McConnell; Brett Kavanaugh, a former clerk for Kennedy who serves on the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C.; and Amy Coney Barrett, who serves on the federal appeals court in Chicago.

Associated Press writer Steve Peoples in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Mascaro on Twitter at http://twitter.com/LisaMascaro and Lucey and https://twitter.com/Catherine_Lucey

Trump-Putin meeting to follow NATO gathering at tense moment By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin firmed up plans Thursday to meet in Helsinki next month for a closely watching sit-down that will play out just days after what is likely to be a tense meeting between Trump and some of the United States' closest allies.

Trump and Putin will meet July 16 against the backdrop of an ongoing special counsel probe into possible ties between the president's campaign and Russian officials. The investigation into Russian election meddling has raised tensions between Moscow and Washington at a time when Trump has repeatedly said he wants to build a strong personal relationship with Putin.

"We're looking forward to it. If we could all get along, it would be great. The world has to start getting along," Trump said during a visit to Wisconsin on Thursday. The day before, he said they would discuss Syria, Ukraine and "many other subjects."

The summit location and date were announced in synchronized statements from Moscow and Washington, with the White House saying the two presidents will "discuss relations between the United States and Russia and a range of national security issues."

Trump's relationship with Putin has long been the source of intrigue, both at home and in world capitals. He has repeatedly praised his authoritarian peer while straining ties with many of the United States' closest allies.

The timing of Trump's meeting with Putin will likely do little to ease concerns across Europe. It come at the end of Trump's weeklong trip to Europe, which begins in Belgium at NATO, an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries that has countering possible Russian aggression at its heart. At a NATO summit last year, Trump scolded leaders for the cost of the gleaming new Brussels headquarters and for not paying enough to support NATO's defense.

From Brussels, Trump will make his first visit to the United Kingdom since taking office. He will meet with Prime Minister Theresa May but not receive the lavish state welcome he has enjoyed at stops in other foreign capitals. Instead, he is expected to be greeted with significant protests.

Earlier this month, Trump called for Russia to be reinstated in the Group of Seven industrialized democracies, which expelled Moscow four years earlier as punishment for Putin's annexation of Crimea and its support for pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine. The idea of reinstating Russia was roundly rejected by most fellow G-7 nations.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 25 of 36

Trump also rattled his G-7 allies with blistering rhetoric about their trading relationships with the United States and a series of scathing remarks about Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Trump has met with Putin twice before, on the sidelines of international summits in Germany and Vietnam last year. But the president was drawn to the pageantry of a formal summit, particularly after seeing round-the-clock news coverage generated by his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore earlier this month.

Trump will be under renewed pressure in Finland to upbraid Putin for 2016 election interference, all while special counsel Robert Mueller investigates whether the president's campaign colluded with Russia in a bid to sway the 2016 presidential election in his favor. In the hours before the Helsinki summit was announced, Trump again cast doubt on the probe, tweeting: "Russia continues to say they had nothing to do with Meddling in our Election!"

His repetition of the Kremlin's denials of election interference has put him out of step with the findings of the U.S. intelligence community, a bipartisan consensus in Congress and Trump's own appointees, who say there is clear evidence of Russian efforts to influence the 2016 presidential campaign and reason to believe it could happen again.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., jumped on Trump's tweet, saying: "Why do you trust Putin more than your own Republican DOJ officials and the Republican special counsel that was appointed by a Republican?"

For Putin, the summit will cap off two days in which he will occupy the center of the global stage; the day before he meets Trump, he will preside over the World Cup final in Moscow.

Finland, which tries to maintain friendly ties with its huge eastern neighbor, has been a favored location for U.S.-Russian and Soviet summits since Cold War times.

It was the site of a 1975 meeting between President Gerald Ford and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and hosted a summit between President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1990. In 1997, President Bill Clinton met his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin in Helsinki.

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee in Washington and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

Shot in the back: When can police fire on fleeing suspects? By MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — In decades past, police officers who shot suspects as they ran away were more likely to expect praise than criminal charges. And while the legal landscape and public opinion have shifted in recent years, it's never a certainty that such shootings will result in officer indictments.

Prosecutors moved quickly to charge a white officer with criminal homicide Wednesday in last week's death of an unarmed black teenager who was shot in the back while fleeing a traffic stop near Pittsburgh. In Georgia, another white police officer accused of fatally shooting a black man who was running away was fired and jailed .

In two other fatal police shootings — on Monday in Galveston, Texas , and on Saturday in Minneapolis — it remains to be seen whether charges will come. Those shootings also involved people who were running away.

A look at some of the history and legal principles behind such cases:

OLD LAWS AUTHORIZED SHOOTINGS

The Allegheny County district attorney was direct when he announced charges against East Pittsburgh officer Michael Rosfeld.

"You do not shoot someone in the back if they are not a threat to you," Stephen Zappala told reporters. But in the 1970s, officers were often authorized under state law to shoot a person in the back to keep the suspect from evading arrest even if the individual clearly posed no threat. The killing of Edward Garner

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 26 of 36

in 1974 changed that.

Memphis police officer Elton Hymon was responding to a report of a prowler one night that year when he saw the 15-year-old sprint across the backyard of a home that had just been broken into.

The officer later told investigators that he was quite sure Garner wasn't armed. But on grounds that Garner was about to elude capture, he shouted, "Police! Halt!" And as the burglary suspect hopped a fence, the officer opened fire, striking Garner in the back of the head. The shooting was deemed justified.

LEGAL THINKING EVOLVES

After winding through lower courts for a decade, Garner's case eventually led to a landmark decision by the Supreme Court in 1985.

The justices ruled 6-3 that shooting fleeing suspects who are not an imminent threat violates the person's constitutional rights. They said officers can use lethal force to stop a fleeing felon only if they have reasonable grounds to think the suspect is a danger to police or bystanders. And they added that officers should, if possible, shout out a warning before firing.

Prosecutors in the East Pittsburgh case did not believe Rosfeld had reasonable grounds to consider 17-year-old Antwon Rose Jr. a threat. The teen was a passenger in a car that was suspected of involvement in a drive-by shooting. Witnesses say Rose put out his hand to emphasize to the officer that he did not have a gun before jumping out of the car and running away.

AN OFFICER'S STATE OF MIND

A key issue in police shootings is whether a suspect was a threat or whether an officer assessed that threat properly. Legally speaking, the answer is complicated.

Among the Supreme Court cases that offered guidance was Graham v. Connor . In the 1989 decision, the justices said that an officer's fear in the heat of the moment, not just the actual threat, was relevant. Officers, they said, "are often forced to make split-second judgments." And the justices concluded that the reasonableness of an officer's use of force should be judged "from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight."

That could mean an officer who shoots a fleeing suspect could be off the hook legally if he or she truly believed the suspect had a gun, say, in a pocket or waistband, but turned out to be wrong.

The need to somehow demonstrate what was inside an officer's head when he fired and to prove that an officer committed a crime beyond a reasonable doubt leaves little hope that an officer will get charged, said Chicago-based civil rights attorney Andrew M. Stroth. He said he often tells that to families he represents. And even if an officer is charged, he braces them for the difficulty of obtaining a conviction.

"There's also just an inherent bias in favor of police by prosecutors," Stroth said.

STATES MAKE OWN JUDGMENTS

Each state fashions its own laws spelling out when officers can use deadly force. There is no federal lethal-force law. The Supreme Court has helped guide many states in the development of their laws, but states still have tremendous leeway over what types of standards to adopt, or whether to adopt them at all.

A 2015 Amnesty International report on the use of lethal force by U.S. law enforcement found that nine states had no lethal-force laws and that more than a dozen had laws so weak they fell short of Supreme Court standards. Prosecutors in many of those states ended up relying heavily on use-of-force procedures drawn up by police departments to help them assess if officers could be charged criminally, the report said.

Many international human-rights organizations have long urged countries, states and municipalities to craft use-of-force laws with a clear, stark provision that police should use lethal force "only as an absolute last resort."

No state in the U.S. has a use-of-force law with such wording, according to the report.

Even when officers are charged, convictions are rare. Officers were acquitted in the 2016 shootings of Philando Castile in Minnesota and Terence Crutcher in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In Cincinnati, two juries failed to reach a verdict in the case of a University of Cincinnati officer who was tried twice for murder after killing

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 27 of 36

Samuel DuBose in 2015.

Faster delivery of nearly everything is the next big thing By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Waiting is so yesterday.

Shoppers increasingly want their orders to arrive at their doorsteps as soon as they click a button, whether it's a hot meal, groceries or a sofa. In response, retailers are betting big on delivery services to drop off packages faster.

In the latest development, online leader Amazon, which played a crucial role in raising shoppers' expectations for near-instant gratification in recent years, announced plans Thursday to assemble its own fleet of delivery vans that would be operated by independent contractors.

Other companies are also thinking of radical new initiatives to get their products into customers' hands more easily, helping to transform shopping as we know it.

Here's a look at the shifting environment for deliveries:

WHAT ARE RETAILERS DOING TO DELIVER PRODUCTS FASTER TO SHOPPERS' HOMES?

Many have been expanding services that let online shoppers pick up their orders at the store. But the latest strategy? Delivering products to customers' homes on the same day.

Walmart plans to expand same-day grocery delivery to more than 40 percent of U.S. households, or 100 metro areas by year's end. It will continue to use ride-hailing services but is also testing the use of store employees to drop off merchandise at homes at the end of their work shifts.

With its \$550 million acquisition of logistics startup Shipt, Target plans to roll out same-day delivery nationwide this year.

Walmart is testing smart-lock technology that allows delivery people to enter a shopper's home and restock the refrigerator. And some Amazon Prime members can have packages dropped inside their homes or car.

Meanwhile, startups like Deliv are working with retailers such as Best Buy and Macy's to deliver products to homes on the same day.

WHAT KIND OF A CHALLENGE DOES THIS POSE TO THE LIKES OF FEDEX and UPS?

Amazon uses the big parcel delivery services, along with smaller firms and the post office. But it has also started its own air fleet of 40 planes, rolled out a convoy of trucks and built its own distribution centers.

UPS and FedEx leaders have long scoffed at the idea that Amazon could turn from a customer to a competitor, and most analysts have agreed — and still do so.

Losing more of Amazon's business would hurt the delivery giants but not crush them. Analysts estimate UPS gets up to 6 percent of its revenue from Amazon deliveries, and FedEx about 3 percent.

UPS, for example, uses about 117,000 trucks and 500 planes and employs 2,700 pilots to deliver 20 million packages a day on average worldwide.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS FOR AMAZON?

Right now, when parcels are delivered late or not at all, or when they are left out in the rain or otherwise damaged, Amazon can blame the delivery companies. If the company switches to its own delivery vans, customers will have no one to blame but Amazon.

WILL THIS HURT THE POST OFFICE?

It's unclear if Amazon will cut back on its postal deliveries in favor of its own and how quickly that could happen. But it's no secret that the U.S. Postal Service is struggling financially because of high pension and health care costs and a slump in revenue from first-class letters and other mail, and that one bright spot has been packages.

The post office's revenue from shipping and package services, which includes boxes from Amazon and other e-commerce companies, rose 12 percent to \$19.5 billion in fiscal year 2017 from the year before. ARE THERE ENOUGH DELIVERY DRIVERS OUT THERE TO MEET THE DEMAND?

Courier and delivery jobs in the U.S. have jumped by one-third in the past two decades, to 737,300 in May. In the broader category of transportation and warehousing, which also includes trucking and other

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 28 of 36

industries as well as delivery workers, more jobs were posted than were filled in April. That suggest companies can't find the workers they need.

BUT WON'T ROBOTS TAKE OVÉR FOR HUMANS IN DELIVERING PRODUCTS TO HOMES?

Not yet, at least. Only a few retailers and restaurants are testing driverless cars for deliveries, among them Domino's Pizza and Pizza Hut.

Kroger says it plans to start a self-driving delivery service by the end of the year, becoming the first U.S. grocer to make deliveries without a human riding along in case something goes wrong.

AP Economics Writer Chris Rugaber in Washington contributed to this report.

Melania Trump returns to border state amid separation outcry By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — First lady Melania Trump made a second visit to a border state Thursday, meeting face to face with people directly affected by her husband's hard-line immigration policies. This time, she chose less controversial apparel than her last trip, which was overshadowed by a jacket.

"I'm here to support you and give my help, whatever I can" on "behalf of children and the families," Mrs. Trump said as she sat down with officials at a U.S. Border Patrol facility in Tucson, Arizona, the first stop of her trip. She later traveled to Phoenix, where she visited a complex that is housing dozens of migrant children separated from their parents.

It was the first lady's second trip to a border state amid an ongoing outcry over President Donald Trump's now-suspended policy of separating migrant children from their families when they cross the border illegally. Many were placed hundreds of miles away from one another and have been struggling to be reunited.

"She cares about children deeply and when the news started to hit, I think she was very concerned and wanted to make sure the kids are being well taken care of," Mrs. Trump's spokeswoman, Stephanie Grisham, said on the flight to Arizona. "She doesn't like to see parents and kids separated."

Mrs. Trump made the trip in a risk-averse ensemble of a black sweater and white slacks.

The first lady's first trip to the region, a week ago Thursday, had been overshadowed by a jacket she wore to and from the border town of McAllen, Texas, that had a baffling message on the back: "I really don't care, do u?"

The choice ignited the internet and spawned a slew of memes about what the first lady, a former model, may have meant. Her spokeswoman said it was just a jacket, with no hidden message. But the first lady's husband undercut the no-message message by tweeting that she was saying she really doesn't care about the "fake news" media.

On Thursday, Mrs. Trump visited what officials described as a short-term holding center for migrant children in Tucson and then traveled to Phoenix, where she visited Southwest Key Campbell, which receives grant money from the Department of Health and Human Services. A total of 121 children are being held at the facility, including 81 who had been separated from their parents.

Mrs. Trump visited three classrooms, including one day care room with nine babies or toddlers. Another classroom had five cribs lined up against a wall.

A staffer at the facility said the children had been there, on average, 48 days.

Grisham said the first lady wanted to learn about the border processes making news around the world. Asked whether the first lady agrees with her husband's polices, Grisham said, "She definitely believes in strong border laws," and wants Congress to strengthen immigration policies. But she also believes in "governing with heart," Grisham said.

Protesters spent Thursday morning outside a facility for detained children in Tucson that's operated by the nonprofit Southwest Key. But Mrs. Trump instead met with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the agency that oversees the Border Patrol and customs officers.

Anticipating a trip to Phoenix, protesters also gathered outside the Southwest Key facility in the city's west side. A few dozen protesters ran along the first lady's motorcade as it departed.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 29 of 36

Maria Castro, a community organizer with Puente Arizona, an advocacy group, said Mrs. Trump was not welcome in Phoenix and accused the first lady of having made a mockery of the situation with her jacket last week.

Castro said her group was pushing for the immediate reunification of separated families, for an end to Trump's immigration policies and for the abolishing of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency in charge of deportations.

"Migration is a human right. We are here to defend those rights," Castro said

More than 2,300 children have been separated from their parents at the border in recent weeks, and some were placed in government-contracted shelters hundreds of miles away from their parents.

The president last week signed an executive order to halt the separation of families at the border, at least for a few weeks, but the order did not address the reunification of families already separated.

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered that thousands of migrant children and parents be reunited within 30 days — and sooner if the youngster is under 5. The order poses logistical problems for the administration, and it was unclear how it would meet the deadline.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin in Washington and Astrid Galvan in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman

Amid Harley feud, Trump hails economy at future factory site By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

MT. PLEASANT, Wis. (AP) — President Donald Trump highlighted his economic policies Thursday at the groundbreaking for a massive \$10 billion Foxconn factory complex that may bring thousands of jobs to Wisconsin, a state he barely carried in the 2016 presidential election. At the same time, Trump kept up his running feud with an iconic American company based in the state.

"America is open for business more than it has ever been open for business. Made in the USA: It's all happening and it's happening very, very quickly," Trump thundered after visiting the future Foxconn factory in Wisconsin. "Today we're seeing the results of the pro-America agenda. America First, Make America Great Again. Greatest phrase ever used in politics, I suspect."

Trump's celebration came against a backdrop of less-rosy economic news: Harley-Davidson recently announced it is moving some motorcycle production overseas to avoid European Union tariffs that are a product of Trump's escalating trade dispute with long-standing U.S. allies.

The president was irked by the Milwaukee-based company's announcement this week and tweeted about it for three days, writing that any shift in production "will be the beginning of the end" for the American manufacturer and even threatening retaliatory taxes.

Trump diverted from his upbeat message Thursday to work in a message to the motorcycle manufacturer. "Harley-Davidson, please build those beautiful motorcycles in the U.S. Build them in the USA. Don't get cute with us. Don't get cute," Trump said. "I spent a lot of time with them. Build them in the USA. Your customers won't be happy if you don't."

Earlier, in a local television interview, Trump said he was "disappointed" in the iconic motorcycle manufacturer.

Trump highlighted Foxconn's investment in the U.S. as statistics show an overall decline in the purchase or construction of factories and facilities in America by foreign companies.

Such investment fell 40 percent last year after hitting record levels in 2015 and 2016, according to U.S. government data analyzed by the Organization for International Investment. The organization represents large overseas companies such as Toyota, Nestle and Sony. Foreign investment remained weak in the first three months of 2018.

Trump's speech — as his speeches often do — meandered from topic to topic, including riffs about his

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 30 of 36

responsibility to pick a new Supreme Court justice, his close relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping and talk that his 2020 campaign hats will bear the slogan "Keep America Great!" and perhaps be colored green, "representing cash," instead of 2016's trademark red.

He also boasted that he was the first Republican to capture Wisconsin since 1952. In fact, the GOP had since won the state with Ronald Reagan, Richard Nixon and Dwight Eisenhower.

Trump's presence in Wisconsin was the subject of protests both in Milwaukee, where he spent a rare weeknight away from the White House, and in Mount Pleasant.

Chants of "Hey, hey, ho, ho. Donald Trump has got to go" were heard near the Pfister Hotel, where Trump overnighted and attended a pair of closed-door campaign events before heading to the groundbreaking and tour of an existing Foxconn facility. Republican Gov. Scott Walker and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., were among those joining the president at the fundraisers and Foxconn event.

About 50 people walked from a downtown park to the roped-off hotel, hoping Trump heard their calls to reunite migrant families separated at the U.S.-Mexico border.

As the president hobnobbed with supporters, his wife, Melania, was making her second trip in a week to the southern border to visit detention centers housing migrant children.

Trump, for his part, defended his decision to put tariffs on steel and aluminum and showcased his business-friendly agenda.

"I'm pleased to report that Foxconn intends to build 100 percent of the factory with beautiful American concrete and beautiful American steel, made right here," Trump said.

Foxconn is the world's largest electronics contract manufacturer and assembles Apple iPhones and other products for tech companies. Based in Taiwan, it chose Wisconsin after being prodded by Trump and others, including Ryan, whose district will include the plant.

The project could employ up to 13,000 people, though opponents say it is costing Wisconsin taxpayers too much.

The ceremonial groundbreaking was supposed to be evidence that a manufacturing revival fueled by Trump's "America First" policy is well underway. But Harley-Davidson's announcement, spurred by the trans-Atlantic tariff fight, sent a conflicting message.

Trump carried Wisconsin by less than 1 point — just under 23,000 votes — in 2016. He's underwater in popularity now, with 44 percent of respondents in last week's Marquette University Law School poll approving of the job he's doing, while 50 percent disapproved.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Chris Rugaber and Jill Colvin in Washington, Gretchen Ehlke in Milwaukee and Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

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House backs \$675 billion spending bill for Pentagon By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Thursday approved a \$675 billion spending bill for the Defense Department that includes a 2.6 percent raise for the military.

The 359-49 vote sends the bill to the Senate, where the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a similar measure this week.

The House bill provides \$146 billion for equipment and upgrades, including \$22.7 billion for 12 Navy ships, two Virginia-class submarines and three fast-moving littoral combat ships. The relatively small ships are intended to operate in congested areas near the shore against small boats and mines.

The bill also includes \$9.4 billion for 93 F-35 aircraft and more than \$4 billion for Black Hawk, Apache and other helicopters.

Rep. Kay Granger, a Texas Republican who chairs the defense appropriations subcommittee, said the bill

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 31 of 36

provides the military with needed resources "to respond to and deter threats from countries like Russia, China, Iran and North Korea, and also counter violent extremists throughout the world."

The bill includes an amendment by Arizona Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego to bar the Pentagon from buying goods or services from Chinese telecommunications giants ZTE and Huawei. ZTE is accused of violating trade laws by selling sensitive technologies to North Korea and Iran. Huawei has ties to the Chinese government and is considered a security risk.

"Broad majorities of Democrats and Republicans in Congress know that China has led a dedicated and long-term campaign to steal American secrets, techniques and know-how," Gallego said in a statement. He called his amendment "a small step in a larger fight to build a comprehensive strategy to defeat and deter Chinese attacks on our national and economic security."

President Donald Trump met with Republican lawmakers last week after the Senate moved to block a White House plan to allow ZTE to buy component parts from the U.S.

Scrutiny over the ZTE agreement comes as the Trump administration has been engaged in a sweeping trade dispute with China. Trump has ordered tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods in response to Beijing's forced transfer of U.S. technology and intellectual property theft.

House Speaker Paul Ryan called the funding bill crucial to the nation's defense and said it provides the biggest pay raise for service members in nine years.

The bill also addresses what Ryan, R-Wis., called a "military readiness crisis."

Over the last five years, aviation accidents have led to the deaths of 133 Americans, Ryan said — a "grave trend" that the bill seeks to reverse. The bill includes nearly \$246 billion to boost training, maintenance and other military readiness programs.

"We're taking steps to make sure more lives aren't lost because of outdated, subpar equipment," Ryan said, adding that lawmakers were "keeping our promise to build a 21st century military worthy of the sacrifices made by the men and women who serve."

Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va., chairman of a House Armed Services subcommittee on seapower and projection forces, also cited a "readiness crisis." A total of 80 military casualties occurred last year during peace-time training and operations, compared with 21 deaths in combat operations, according to a report by the Armed Services panel.

"This is a direct result of the lack of resources available for training, maintenance, modernization and other essential readiness programs," Wittman said, calling the numbers of deaths unacceptable.

"We are finally getting our readiness back on track and providing our service members with the resources they desperately need. We can't afford to stop now," he said.

The White House said it generally supports the House bill, but said the plan to buy three littoral combat ships was unnecessary. In a statement, the White House urged Congress to buy just one of the nimble ships at an expected cost of \$647 million, saving at least \$950 million.

Construction of one littoral combat ship in the next fiscal year, combined with three ships funded this year and three more approved in 2017, would keep U.S. shipyards "supplied with ample work to remain viable for the U.S. Navy Next Generation Frigate FFG(X) Program," the White House said.

The White House also objected to a proposed \$3 billion cut in the military's operations and maintenance accounts, and \$245 million in cuts to advanced munitions.

This version of the story corrects number of 2017 combat deaths to 21.

More conservative court may weaken, not kill abortion rights By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is Roe v. Wade really in peril? The worst fears — and highest hopes — excited by the prospect of a new Supreme Court justice may well be overblown.

Democrats and liberal interest groups, gearing up for President Donald Trump's choice for the seat opened up by Justice Anthony Kennedy's retirement, are treating the moment as one of utmost danger

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 32 of 36

for abortion rights in the United States.

More quietly, abortion opponents are confident the next justice will be a vote to uphold additional restrictions on abortion, if not to actually jettison the landmark Roe decision.

Just one member of the current court, Clarence Thomas, is on record in support of overturning the 45-year-old high court ruling. And justices often are cautious about blowing up precedents. Still, a more conservative court may be more willing to chip away at abortion rights by upholding state restrictions that Kennedy and the four liberal justices would have been likely to strike down.

The issue is at the forefront of the emerging nomination fight because the nine-member court has been so closely divided on abortion, and Kennedy has been a crucial fifth vote.

At present, lawmakers in several Republican-led states have passed aggressive regulations. They could be emboldened by the prospect of a friendlier court. Among the issues currently in the courts are Arkansas' regulation of abortion pills and a Kentucky law that would ban a common procedure for second-trimester abortions.

Trump himself has predicted Roe would be overturned because "I am putting pro-life justices on the court."

At a rally in front of the court Thursday, speaker after speaker pointed to abortion as a way to rally opposition to the eventual nominee, who Trump has said will come from among 25 people he previously identified as candidates.

"He is going to put someone on the court who will be the fifth vote to criminalize abortion, punish women and throw them in jail," declared Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., a potential presidential candidate in 2020 said, "President Trump has told you he's going to nominate someone who will get rid of Roe v. Wade."

A onetime supporter of abortion rights, Trump attracted support from social conservatives during the presidential campaign in large part because of his strong opposition to abortion.

But now, with a seat open and a golden opportunity to cinch conservative control of the high court, Trump's supporters are downplaying the issue.

Leonard Leo, a Trump adviser on judicial nominations, said liberal groups bring out the abortion issue every time a Republican president gets to make a Supreme Court nomination, including when Ronald Reagan nominated Kennedy in 1987.

"You see this over and over again and it's the usual rank speculation," Leo said.

Whatever Trump said during his campaign, Leo said abortion did not come up in the president's interviews with prospective nominees when he chose Justice Neil Gorsuch last year.

"The president has never asked a prospective nominee about Roe v. Wade or abortion in any way shape or form. He's never discussed the issue with me. Period," Leo said.

On the current court, in addition to Thomas' outright opposition to Roe, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito have voted consistently to sustain abortion restrictions.

Gorsuch's record on abortion is sparse. But abortion opponents were thrilled to see him join the court, and they have high hopes for Kennedy's replacement.

"I think the president's list is a very strong list. I'm convinced the people on this list are Gorsuch-like," said Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life.

Steve Aden, general counsel of Americans United for Life, said he expects the nominee will be "somebody who reveres the Constitution like Gorsuch and Antonin Scalia."

Aden described Kennedy as having been "all over the map" when it came to abortion. In the court's most recent major abortion ruling, Kennedy was in the majority to strike down regulations on Texas abortion clinics. Roberts, Thomas and Alito dissented.

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 33 of 36

Hundreds of Syrians leave Lebanon for long-awaited reunions By BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

ARSAL, Lebanon (AP) — Hundreds of displaced Syrians left Lebanon for their war-torn homeland Thursday in a repatriation that will reunite them with relatives they have not seen for years. But many of them also are leaving behind loved ones who are staying in the tiny Arab nation that has become home to the highest percentage of refugees in the world.

Mohammed Suleiman Darwish, 76, was among those who left this border town for Syria with his 9-yearold granddaughter, Israa, who has not seen her parents since 2013 and will meet younger siblings who were born at home while she sought safety in Lebanon.

Darwish and his granddaughter were among a batch of about 300 Syrians crammed into trucks, tractors and other vehicles piled with mattresses and blankets. They began crossing the border for an uncertain future.

When Syrian government forces and their allies launched a wide offensive on Syria's Qalamoun region in 2013, young Israa was staying with her paternal grandparents, who decided to take her with them to Lebanon. Israa's parents were in the same village of Suhul but stayed at home as Syrian troops marched in. Now Darwish and Israa are heading back to Suhul.

But he is leaving his 63-year-old wife, Baseema, in Lebanon while he repairs their badly damaged home before she can rejoin him. She will stay in Lebanon with her other son and his family.

"I missed my parents a lot when I lived here," said Israa, who wore blue jeans, a white-and-blue sweater and flip-flops as she sat on the ground next to her grandparents before heading to Syria. "I spoke with them regularly by telephone, but now I even forgot how they look."

When Israa left Syria in 2013, her younger sister, Aya, was 2. Since then, two other sisters and a brother, Youssef, were born, she said.

"I want to see them today," said the green-eyed girl who seemed excited about the trip.

Darwish's wife said her other son has a job in Lebanon.

"I hope that the war that splits us ends, and we can all gather again in Syria," she said as she put her 9-month-old granddaughter Fatima in her lap.

The small exodus is part of a repatriation program that the Lebanese government says is voluntary — the first batch of refugees to return to Syria from the border town of Arsal this year.

Khaled Abdul-Aziz, a Syrian who heads a committee for the returnees, said 472 Syrians were expected to make the crossing Thursday after requesting permission from the Lebanese and Syrian governments. They are part of a total of 3,194 Syrians who have registered to return, he said, adding that the rest will head back in batches in the coming weeks.

The General Security Directorate, which is in charge of foreigners in Lebanon, said in a statement later Thursday that 294 Syrians had headed back. It did not give an explanation but apparently not all those who were registered had departed.

The repatriations come amid a dispute between the government of Lebanon and the U.N.'s refugee agency, which Beirut accuses of trying to discourage refugees from going home. UNHCR rejects the charges.

Lebanon hosts around 1 million registered Syrians — roughly a quarter of Lebanon's population — and officials have said that the country can no longer afford the strain on its fragile economy.

U.N. officials and rights groups have expressed concern over the organized repatriations, calling them premature as violence and a government crackdown continue in Syria.

Lama Fakih, deputy director of the Middle East region for Human Rights Watch, said Syrians are often driven to leave by "oppressive" living conditions in Lebanon, including a lack of residency rights, restrictions on their movement and inability to enroll children in school.

In Arsal, the refugees gathered in the town's Wadi Hmeid area, where a Lebanese security officer checked their IDs against a list before allowing them to cross into Syria.

Most are farmers and their families, and some of them rode pickup trucks and tractors.

The Syrian army, backed by its allies Russia and Iran, has regained more territory from the rebels, Leba-

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 34 of 36

non's government has argued that many areas in Syria have become stable enough for refugees to return. But the U.N. is more cautious, saying Syria is not yet safe.

Lebanon's general security chief Abbas Ibrahim said Wednesday the UNHCR has been notified about the return of the Syrians "so they can bear their responsibility."

But Lisa Abou Khaled, a spokeswoman for UNHCR in Beirut, said the agency is not organizing the returns. She said the agency's representatives are only present at the border crossings to answer questions. She confirmed that authorities informed them of the repatriations.

"UNHCR, as in previous movements ... will be present at the departure point to attend to any query or any needs the refugees may have as they prepare to leave to Syria," she said.

Human Rights Watch's Fakih said research on Syrians in Arsal revealed "oppressive conditions" that led many to return. A similar convoy left Arsal last year for areas held by insurgents in Syria. It was not immediately clear what happened to those who returned.

Arsal Mayor Basil al-Hujeiry said more than 3,000 Syrians have registered to return home from the border town. Syria has asked that the repatriations take place in phases, he added.

The U.N. refugee agency "is fully respectful of the decision of the Lebanese government and we fully respect the decision of the families to return. We don't interfere," said Josep Zapater, head of the UNHCR office in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

Some young men have said they don't want to return to Syria for fear of being drafted into the military. Those going back Thursday said they were promised they won't be drafted for six months after their return.

"I am really scared about being drafted to the army, but the situation in Syria now is more safe," said Salah-Eddine Abdul-Aziz, 26, who is heading to his hometown of Fleeta with his wife and son. "All I want is to return to Syria and not leave it again. Enough of being a refugee."

Associated Press writer Sarah El Deeb contributed from Beirut.

Asian shares higher as trade conflict uncertainty persists By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were higher but trading in a narrow range Friday as investors weighed how trade tensions between the U.S. and other nations might escalate.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 edged 0.1 percent higher to 22,296.69, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was virtually unchanged at 6,217.00. South Korea's Kospi advanced 0.3 percent to 2,320.58. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.1 percent to 28,821.90, while the Shanghai Composite index rose 1.2 percent to 2,820.33.

WALL STREET: The S&P 500 index added 0.6 percent to 2,716.31. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.4 percent to 24,216.05 and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.8 percent to 7,503.68. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 0.3 percent to 1,645.02.

TRADE WORRIES: President Donald Trump's threat of tariff hikes on up to \$450 billion of Chinese products reflects fears Beijing's plans are a threat to American technological leadership and prosperity. That has triggered global worries about how the curtailing of free trade might hurt economies and industrial sectors, but markets are still unsure of what the impact might be.

THE QUOTE: "Risk sentiment has firmed noticeably on the dearth of new headlines surrounding trade tensions," says Chang Wei Liang at Mizuho Bank in Singapore.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude fell 27 cents to \$73.17. It gained 0.9 percent to \$73.45 a barrel in New York overnight. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 15 cents to \$77.46 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.70 yen from 110.50 yen late Thursday. The euro climbed to \$ 1.1648 from \$1.1567.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at https://twitter.com/yurikageyama Her work can be found at https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 35 of 36

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 29, the 180th day of 2018. There are 185 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On June 29, 1927, the first trans-Pacific airplane flight was completed as U.S. Army Air Corps Lt. Lester J. Maitland and Lt. Albert F. Hegenberger arrived at Wheeler Field in Hawaii aboard the Bird of Paradise, an Atlantic-Fokker C-2, after flying 2,400 miles from Oakland, California, in 25 hours, 50 minutes. On this date:

In 1520, Montezuma II, the ninth and last emperor of the Aztecs, died in Tenochtitlan (tay-nohch-TEET'lahn) under unclear circumstances (some say he was killed by his own subjects; others, by the Spanish).

In 1613, London's original Globe Theatre, where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed, was destroyed by a fire sparked by a cannon shot during a performance of "Henry VIII."

In 1767, Britain approved the Townshend Revenue Act, which imposed import duties on glass, paint, oil, lead, paper and tea shipped to the American colonies. (Colonists bitterly protested, prompting Parliament to repeal the duties — except for tea.)

In 1880, France annexed Tahiti, which became a French colony on December 30, 1880.

In 1936, entertainer and songwriter George M. Cohan was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his contributions to building American morale during World War I.

In 1941, Polish statesman, pianist and composer Ignacy Jan Paderewski (een-YAHS' yahn pah-dayr-EF'-skee) died in New York at age 80.

In 1956, actress Marilyn Monroe married playwright Arthur Miller in a civil ceremony in White Plains, New York. (The couple also wed in a Jewish ceremony on July 1; the marriage lasted 4 1/2 years).

In 1967, actress Jayne Mansfield, 34, was killed along with her boyfriend, Sam Brody, and their driver, Ronnie Harrison, when their car slammed into the rear of a tractor-trailer on a highway in Slidell, Louisiana; three children riding in the back, including Mansfield's 3-year-old daughter, Mariska Hargitay, survived. Jerusalem was re-unified as Israel removed barricades separating the Old City from the Israeli sector.

In 1978, actor Bob Crane of "Hogan's Heroes" fame was found bludgeoned to death in an apartment in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he was appearing in a play; he was 49.

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Morrison v. Olson, upheld the independent counsel law in a 7-1 decision (the sole dissenter was Justice Antonin Scalia).

In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian Mir space station linked in orbit, beginning a historic five-day voyage as a single ship. A department store in Seoul (sohl), South Korea, collapsed, killing at least 500 people. Actress Lana Turner died in Century City, California, at age 74.

In 2003, actress Katharine Hepburn died in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at age 96.

Ten years ago: Zimbabwe's longtime ruler Robert Mugabe was sworn in as president for a sixth term after a widely discredited runoff in which he was the only candidate. Two weeks away from her 20th birthday, Inbee Park became the youngest winner of the U.S. Women's Open by closing with a 2-under 71 at Interlachen in Edina, Minnesota. Spain won the European Championship 1-0 over Germany for its first major title in 44 years.

Five years ago: Paying tribute to his personal hero, President Barack Obama met privately in Johannesburg, South Africa, with Nelson Mandela's family as the world anxiously awaited news on the condition of the hospitalized 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader. (Mandela was discharged from the hospital on September 1, 2013; he died the following December.)

One year ago: A scaled-back version of President Donald Trump's travel ban took effect, stripped of provisions that brought protests and chaos at airports worldwide in January. South Korea's new leader, Moon Jae-in, dined with President Trump at the White House as part of an effort to reassure Washington that he would coordinate closely on dealing with the North Korean threat. President Trump nominated

Friday, June 29, 2018 ~ Vol. 25 - No. 350 ~ 36 of 36

Indiana's health commissioner, Dr. Jerome Adams, to serve as the next U.S. surgeon general.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Robert Evans is 88. Songwriter L. Russell Brown is 78. Singer-songwriter Garland Jeffreys is 75. Actor Gary Busey is 74. Comedian Richard Lewis is 71. Actor-turned-politican-turned-radio personality Fred Grandy is 70. Rock musician Ian Paice (Deep Purple) is 70. Singer Don Dokken (Dokken) is 65. Rock singer Colin Hay (Men At Work) is 65. Actress Maria Conchita Alonso is 63. Actress Kimberlin Brown (TV: "The Bold and the Beautiful") is 57. Actress Sharon Lawrence is 57. Actress Amanda Donohoe is 56. Actress Judith Hoag is 55. Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter is 55. Rhythm and blues singer Stedman Pearson (Five Star) is 54. Actress Kathleen Wilhoite is 54. Producer-writer Matthew Weiner is 53. Musician Dale Baker is 52. Actress Melora Hardin is 51. Actor Brian D'Arcy James is 50. Actress Christina Chang is 47. Rap DJ Shadow is 46. Actor-dancer Will Kemp is 41. Actress Zuleikha Robinson is 41. Country musician Todd Sansom (Marshall Dyllon) is 40. Singer Nicole Scherzinger is 40. Comedian-writer Colin Jost (johst) is 36. Actress Lily Rabe is 36. Rhythm and blues singer Aundrea Fimbres is 35. Actress Camila Mendes (TV: "Riverdale") is 24.

Thought for Today: "A hypocrite is a person who — but who isn't?" — Don Marquis, American journalistauthor (1878-1937).