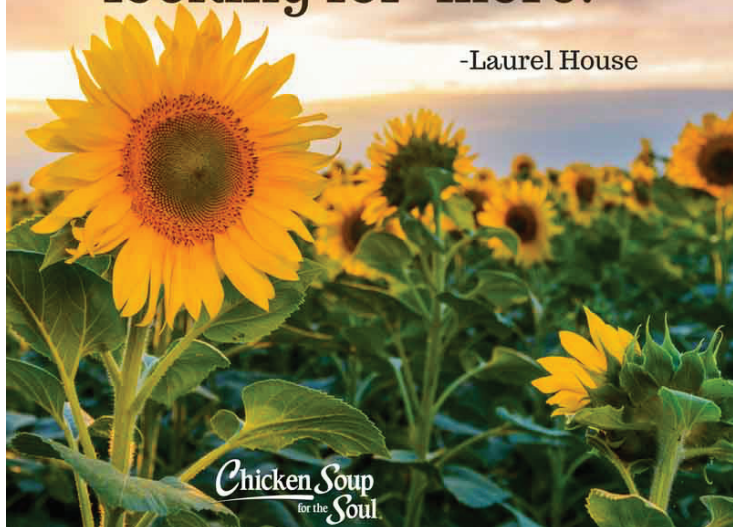


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- 4- Today in Weather History
- 5- Today's Forecast
- 6- Yesterday's Weather
- 6- National Weather map
- 6- Today's Weather Almanac
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 9- News from the Associated Press

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The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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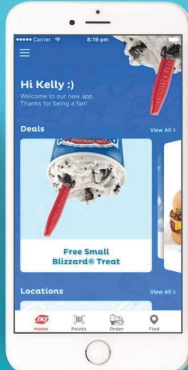
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The Groton Dairy Queen is in the process of getting a make-over.

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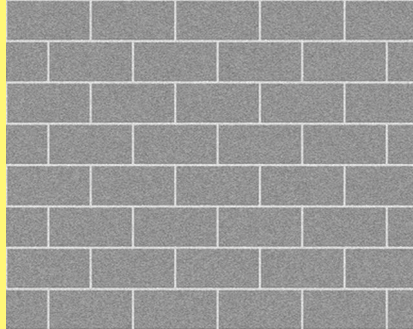
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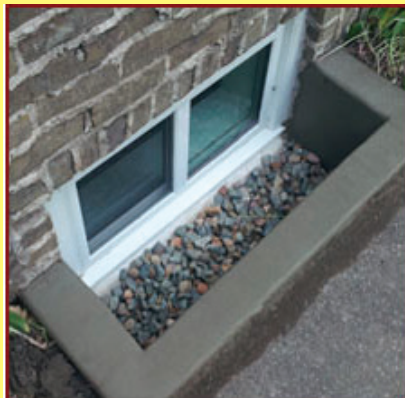
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Today in Weather History

July 3, 1959: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast after destroying a farm building at the western edge of Java, Walworth County. Elsewhere in the area, high straight line winds caused property damage while hail damaged crops. The largest hail was 2.75 inches in diameter and was observed 9 miles NNW of Timber Lake.

July 3, 2003: A supercell thunderstorm moved southeastward across western Jackson County and Bennett County. The storm dropped up to golf ball sized hail and produced an F2 tornado north of Tuthill in Bennett County. The tornado touched down about a mile north of the junction of highways 18 and 73, where it destroyed a garage. The tornado moved south-southeast and destroyed a mobile home just to the southeast of the highway intersection and then dissipated just north of Tuthill. No one was injured.

Also on this day, a line of severe thunderstorms with hail up to the size of golf balls and winds over 80 mph at times brought widespread property and crop damage to far northeast Brown, across Marshall and Roberts counties. The wind and hail caused the most damage to crops in a 20 mile to a 70-mile long area from north of Britton over to Sisseton and into west central Minnesota. Much of the crops were shredded to the ground. In fact, approximately 30 percent (70,000 acres) of Marshall County's 227,000 acres of crops were damaged or destroyed. Cities receiving the most damage from the line of storms were, Hecla, Andover, Britton, Kidder, Veblen, Roslyn, Langford, Lake City, Claire City, Sisseton, Waubay, Rosholt, and Wilmot. Storm damage mostly included trees and branches down, power lines and poles down, roof and siding damage from hail and fallen trees, some farm outbuildings damaged or destroyed, and many windows broke out of homes and vehicles. Also, many boats, docks, and campers received some damage in the path of the storms. Specifically, an aerial crop spraying plane at the Sisseton airport was picked up and thrown 450 feet and landed upside down. In Claire City, a 55,000-bushel grain bin was blown off of its foundation and flattened. On a farm five miles north of Amherst, three large grain bins were blown over and damaged.

July 3, 2010: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds to parts of central South Dakota, especially to Lyman County. Eighty mph winds moved a building off the foundation at the Presho Municipal Airport. Eighty mph winds also destroyed or damaged many grain bins and caused damage to several other buildings in and around Presho. A large sign, twenty power poles, along with many trees were downed in Presho. There were also several broken houses and car windows from hail and high winds. Seventy mph winds tore a garage door loose, bent a flagpole over, and downed many large tree branches in Kennebec. The winds also caused some damage to homes, sheds, and grain bins in Kennebec.

1873: A tornado in Hancock County, in far west central Illinois, destroyed several farms. From a distance, witnesses initially thought the tornado was smoke from a fire. A child was killed after being carried 500 yards; 10 other people were injured. Click [HERE](#) for more information from Illinois Genealogy Trails.

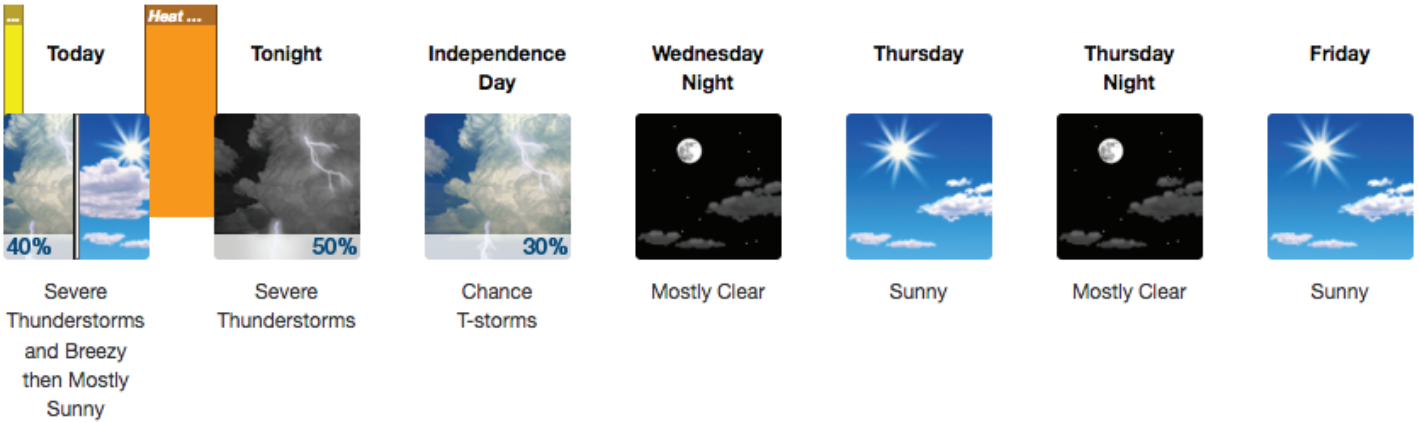
1975: Up to 3 inches of rain caused flash flooding throughout Las Vegas, NV. The main damage occurred to vehicles at Caesars Palace with approximately 700 damaged or destroyed with several cars found miles away. North Las Vegas was hardest hit with \$3.5 million in damage. Two people drowned in the flood waters.

2000: There is a certain irony about one of the driest places getting the greatest rainfall, and yet that is what happened at usually rain-sparse Vanguard, Saskatchewan on July 3 when a carwash-like downpour flooded the community of 200 people, some 65 km southeast of Swift Current. As much as 375 mm (14.76") of rain fell in eight hours, the greatest storm for that duration on the Canadian Prairies and one of the largest rainfall intensities ever recorded in Canada.

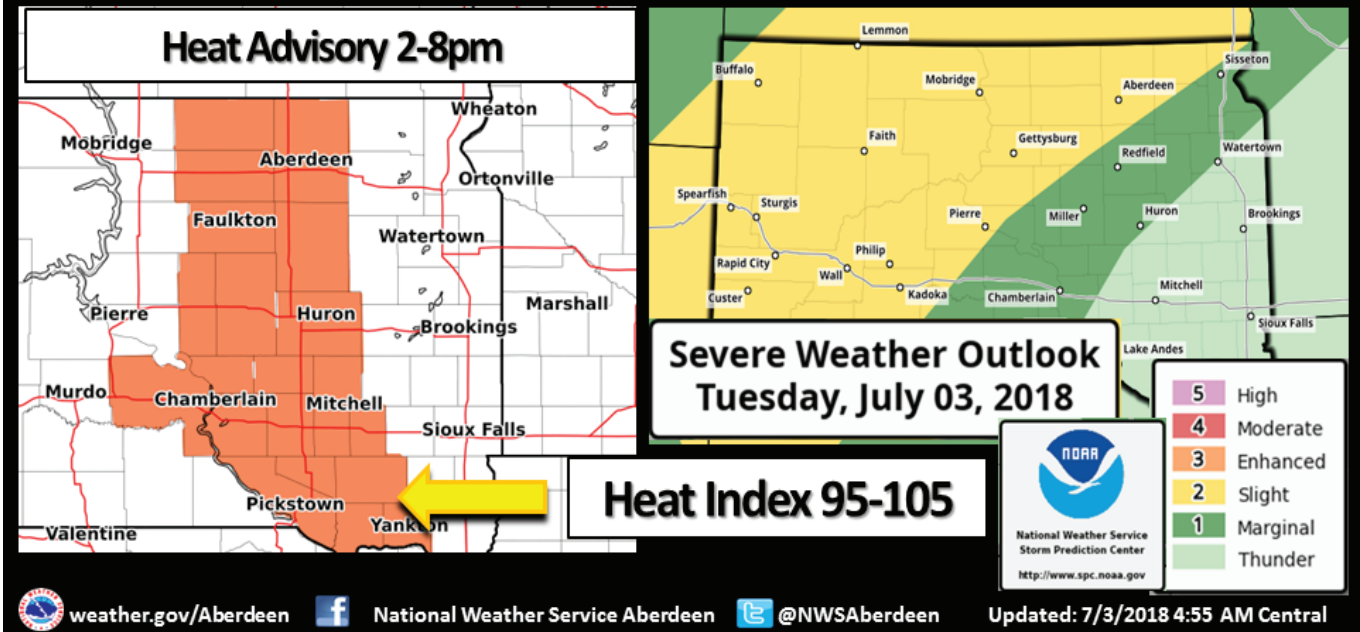
The spectacular thunderstorm produced more cloud-to-ground lightning strikes than that part of southern Saskatchewan would expect in two years. A year's amount of rain left crops in the field drowning and rotting, and roads and rail lines under water. The force of the water crushed cars and farm implements swept away grain bins and soaked large bales. Stranded residents had to be rescued by boat, which rapidly became the carrier of choice on the main street in Vanguard. The flash flood also carried away herds of cattle and drowned dozens of deer and antelope. Some further irony, when millions of liters of contaminated water submerged the water-treatment plant and backed up into homes and businesses, officials had to ship in bottled water from Swift Current.

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High Heat This Afternoon Severe Weather Risk Late Afternoon Through Overnight



After this morning's storms pass, the heat and humidity will combine to bring heat index values into the 90s to over 100 this afternoon. Additional thunderstorm activity can also be anticipated late this afternoon/evening and into the overnight hours with the risk for large hail and high winds. Drier more seasonal air is in the works for the latter half of the work week.

Published on: 07/03/2018 at 4:59AM

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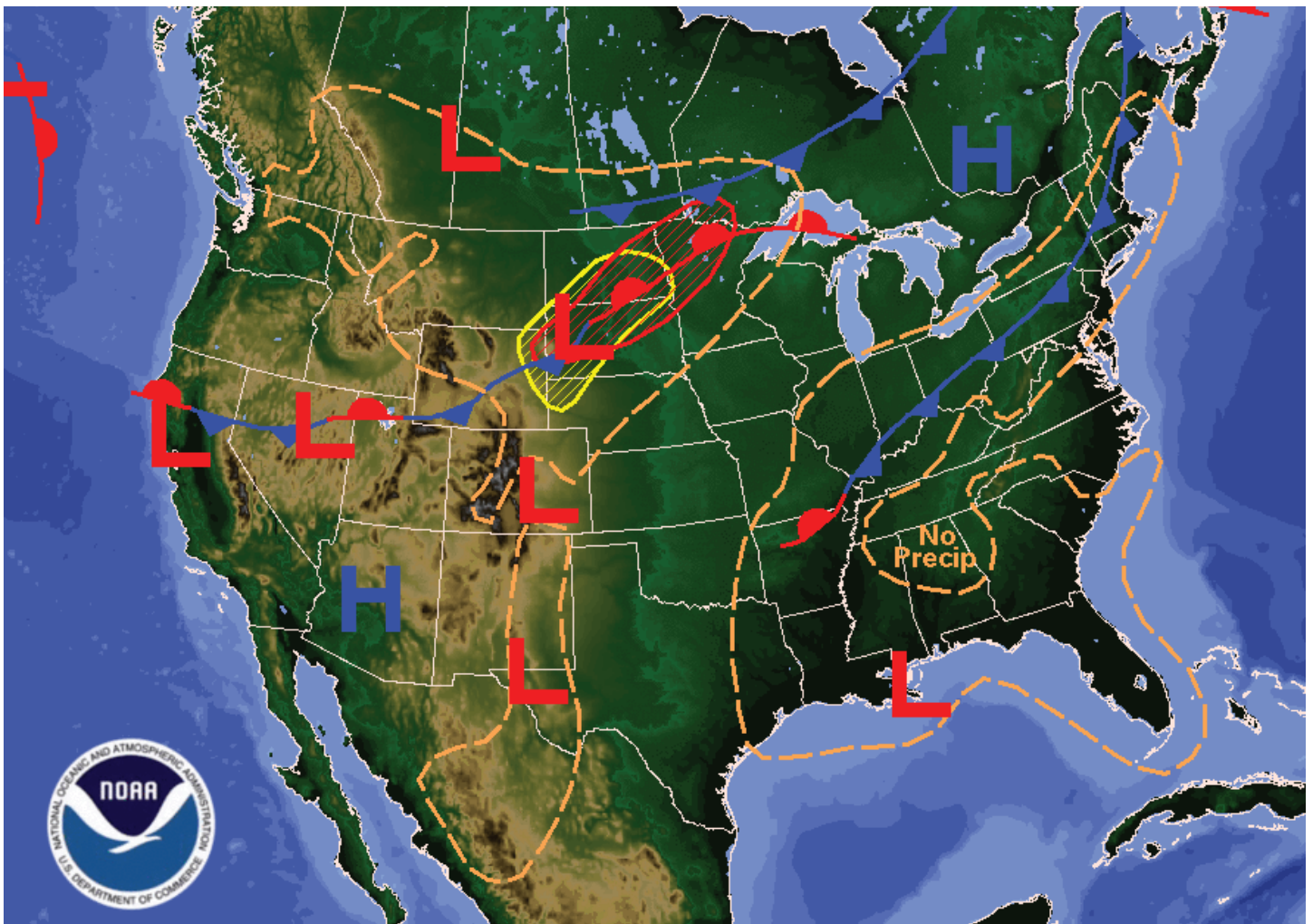
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 89.1 F at 5:19 PM
Low Outside Temp: 57.6 F at 3:24 AM
High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 8:39 PM
Precip: 0.15

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1949
Record Low: 39° in 1917
Average High: 82°F
Average Low: 58°F
Average Precip in July: 0.22
Precip to date in July: 0.15
Average Precip to date: 11.07
Precip Year to Date: 5.97
Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jul 03, 2018, issued 4:53 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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UNFAILING LOVE

In today's world "unfailing" and "love" are two words that, for most individuals, are left to one's imagination or personal interpretation. "Unfailing" for some would be interpreted as meaning "until I get bored," or "find something more interesting," or "I've taken my turn, now it's up to someone else," or "let's try something more exciting!"

And the meaning of "love" for many is interpreted by the personal attractiveness of another and only lasts until someone more glamorous or interesting or challenging comes along. More often than not there is no personal cost involved in loving another or a willingness to be bothered or inconvenienced by another's needs. It does not have an enduring or eternal quality attached to it. It's for "this moment only" and "not to be counted on for the long haul."

With God it's different. The Psalmist wrote, "May Your unfailing love be my comfort, according to Your promise to Your servant." The little prefix "un" means "never giving out" or "inexhaustible" and makes a very powerful statement about the nature of His love.

We have no difficulty in believing that God loves us when everything in our world is "perfect" - every problem solved, every bill paid, everyone in the family is smiling at one another. Life's good!

But then, tragedy strikes. Is life still good and is His love still unfailing and will He now provide His comfort?

The answer is locked-up in the word "promise." We can search every verse until our eyes grow dim and hearts stop beating: if God said it, He did it and we can believe it.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the promise of Your unfailing love. Though others may fail us, You will not! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:76 May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

Hail damages 500 vehicles in South Dakota RV lot

PIEDMONT, S.D. (AP) — A recent hail storm in western South Dakota dented about 500 trailers and motorhomes at an RV lot, resulting in millions of dollars in damages, according to an employee at the RV dealer.

Hailstones ranging in size from a quarter to a grapefruit hit an area spanning from eastern Wyoming into South Dakota and across the Black Hills on Friday, the Rapid City Journal reported. The downpour started with heavy rain and winds of 50 mph (80 kph).

The first hail began in the size of a pea but left rows of aluminum-sided RVs damaged, said Keith Ness, who works at Jack's Campers RV lot in Piedmont. He said nearly every trailer on the outdoor lot suffered significant damage.

"It's Mother Nature. You can't do nothing about it," Ness said.

Ness said he and other employees worked Saturday to replace broken roof vents and cover cracked RV windows with tape and plastic sheeting. Fiberglass panels and some tempered glass windows appeared to have better fared the storm. Ness estimates that half of the inventory was new, and that many will be a total loss.

Nearby Interstate 90 also saw hail smash windshields and windows on about two dozen cars and trucks.

The Rapid City National Weather Service office said reports identified 1.75-inch (4-centimeter) diameter hail in Fall River County and 4.5-inch (11-centimeter) hailstones in Butte County. The Piedmont-Tilford area of Meade County experienced 2- to 3-inch (5- to 8-centimeter) diameter hail.

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

Authorities identify woman killed in Custer Country crash

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a woman who was killed in a crash between a car and a fuel truck in Custer County.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 73-year-old Lumeda Huber, of Edgemont, was killed in the accident that happened about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday. The patrol says she was in the wrong lane of U.S. Highway 16 when it was struck by the truck about 23 miles west of Custer.

Huber was pronounced dead at the scene. The truck driver suffered minor injuries.

Honeybees finding it harder to eat at America's bee hot spot

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bees are having a much harder time finding food in the region known as America's last honeybee refuge, a new federal study found.

The country's hot spot for commercial beekeeping is the Northern Great Plains of the Dakotas and neighboring areas, where more 1 million colonies spend their summer feasting on pollen and nectar from nearby wildflowers and other plants.

But from 2006 to 2016, more than half the conservation land within a mile of bee colonies was converted into agriculture, usually row crops such as soybeans and corn, said the study's lead author Clint Otto of the U.S. Geological Survey. Those crops hold no food for bees.

For more than a decade, bees and other pollinators in America have been dwindling in numbers because of a variety of problems, including poor nutrition, pesticides, parasites and disease. And outside experts said this study highlights another problem that affects the health of bees.

This area — which Otto called "America's last honeybee refuge" — lost about 629 square miles (1,630 square kilometers) of prime bee habitat, according to the study published Monday in the Proceedings of

the National Academy of Sciences.

And bees that have a hard time finding food are less likely to survive the winter, Otto said. They may not be hungry, he said, but they aren't healthy either.

John Miller, in his 49th year as a North Dakota commercial beekeeper, said the Dakotas and Minnesota were once the last best place for bees.

"Now they are the least worst," he said.

Miller, whose business was started in 1894 by his great-grandfather, has watched the average colony honey production drop from 120 pounds per hive 30 years ago to about 50 pounds now. But the price has gone up five-fold, and beekeepers like Miller are getting paid to truck their bees to California to pollinate crops there, mostly almonds.

The federal government pays farmers to keep some land wild and that benefits bees that feast on grasslands, flowers and weeds, Otto said. But the conservation program has a cap on how much land it will pay for — and during the ethanol boom, farmers found they could make more money in corn and soybeans.

"Commercial beekeepers are scrambling to try to find places to take their bees when they are not in a crop requiring pollination," U.S. Department of Agriculture bee researcher Diana Cox-Foster, who was not part of the study, said in an email.

"The conservation lands of the Northern Great Plains were a go-to spot," she wrote.

More than one-third of America's commercial colonies spend summer in the Northern Great Plains. The area east of the Dakotas is too developed, and the weather to the west is too dry, Otto said.

Bees are crucial pollinators for more than 90 percent of the nation's flowering crops, including apples, nuts, avocados, broccoli, peaches, blueberries and cherries.

"Without honeybees," Otto said, "our dinner plate looks a lot less colorful."

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears . His work can be found here .

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

Winnebago Tribe takes over troubled hospital on reservation

WINNEBAGO, Neb. (AP) — The Winnebago Tribe has taken over the management of a troubled hospital on its reservation in northeastern Nebraska.

The Tribal Council officially took control of the embattled Winnebago hospital from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Services division on Sunday, the Sioux City Journal reported. It will be renamed Twelve Clans Unity Hospital and operate under the newly established Winnebago Comprehensive Healthcare System, which oversees all the tribes' health clinics and services.

The 13-bed hospital provides free health care to about 10,000 Native Americans enrolled as members of the Winnebago, Omaha, Santee Sioux and Ponca tribes, as well as others. It offers inpatient hospital care, a clinic, emergency services, a pharmacy, radiology and other services.

The Winnebago Tribe will now be responsible for allocating the hospital's federal funding, hiring staff and selecting providers, said Tribal Councilwoman Victoria Kitcheyan.

"The beauty of it is being able to redesign and reprogram those dollars to best fit the needs of the patients," she said.

Kitcheyan called the transition a new beginning for the hospital.

The change comes more than two years after the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services terminated the hospital's Medicare contract after Indian Health Service, along with hospital officials, failed to correct serious quality-of-care deficiencies the agency had found.

The hospital found in August 2017 that it may have inadvertently infected up to 35 podiatry patients with diseases, including HIV and hepatitis. Critics have also blamed hospital issues for multiple misdiagnoses and preventable deaths.

Danelle Smith, the tribe's legal counsel, said the tribe was working to fully staff the facility and eventually add services.

"The tribe's vision is to provide high-quality comprehensive health care for our patients, and it's not going to happen overnight," she said. "But we are going to work hard every day toward that goal."

Information from: Sioux City Journal, <http://www.siouxcityjournal.com>

Midwest economy: June state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

Here are the state-by-state results for June:

Arkansas: The overall June index for Arkansas fell to 62.5 from May's 66.2. The components were new orders at 65.2, production or sales at 66, delivery lead time at 60, inventories at 59.2, and employment at 62.1. Over the past 12 months, the Arkansas economy has added 1,500 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 2.0 percent, and 2,600 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of 3.2 percent.

Iowa: The June index for Iowa rose slightly to a very healthy 62.6 from 62.5 in May. Components were new orders at 63.3, production or sales at 69.9, delivery lead time at 64.4, employment at 59.3, and inventories at 56.2. Over the past 12 months, the Iowa economy has added 7,200 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 5.8 percent, and 2,400 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of 2.6 percent.

Kansas: The overall Kansas index for June declined to 62.5 from May's 68.7. Components were new orders at 65.6, production or sales at 64.3, delivery lead time at 60.4, employment at 62.5, and inventories at 59.7. Over the past 12 months, the Kansas economy has added 2,300 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 2.4 percent, and 2,400 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of 3.6 percent, Goss said.

Minnesota: The overall Minnesota index decreased to a still solid 58.8 from May's 64.2. Components were new orders at 61.2, production or sales at 61.4, delivery lead time at 55.9, inventories at 55.2, and employment at 60.1. Over the past 12 months, the Minnesota economy added 4,600 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 2.3 percent, and 1,300 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of 1.1 percent.

Missouri: The June index for Missouri sank to 62.6 from 69.6 in May. Components were new orders at 64.9 production or sales at 65.6, delivery lead time at 59.7, inventories at 61.1, and employment at 61.8. Over the past 12 months, the Missouri economy added 2,000 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 1.3 percent, but lost 700 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of minus 0.7 percent.

Nebraska: The June index for Nebraska fell to 66.1 from May's regional high of 70.1. Components were new orders at 69.1, production or sales at 70.4, delivery lead time at 62.1, inventories at 63.2, and employment at 65.8. Over the past 12 months, the Nebraska economy added 1,800 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 4.1 percent, and 1,700 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of 3.2 percent.

North Dakota: The North Dakota index climbed to 66.4 from May's 62.4. Components were new orders at 68.9, production or sales at 70.3, delivery lead time at 63.9, employment at 65.7, and inventories at 63.1. Over the past 12 months, the North Dakota economy added 600 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 3.6 percent, but lost 300 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of minus 3.6 percent.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma's overall index has now remained above 50 for the last 11 months, but the index declined to 61.1 in June from May's 68.5. Components were new orders at 63.8, production or sales at 64.4, delivery lead time at 58.6, inventories at 57.8, and employment at 60.8. Over the past 12 months, the Oklahoma economy added 5,000 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 5.7 percent, but lost 1,500 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of minus 3.3 percent.

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South Dakota: The June South Dakota index fell to a still healthy 58 from May's 66.8. Components were new orders at 60.8, production or sales at 61.0, delivery lead time at 55.4, inventories at 54.7, and employment at 57.9. Over the past 12 months, the South Dakota economy added 1,400 durable goods manufacturing jobs for a growth of 5.0 percent, and 500 nondurable manufacturing jobs for a growth of 3.3 percent.

Economic growth slows in Midwest states as trade fears mount

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Business remains strong in nine Midwest and Plains states, but a new monthly survey suggests growth is slowing as concerns about trade and tariffs increase.

The region's overall economic index decreased to 61.8 in June from May's 67.3, but any score above 50 indicates growth.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss said the trade concerns and more interest rate increases are likely to slow the region's economy.

"I expect expanding tariffs, trade restrictions and rising oil prices to slow growth and push inflation into a range leading to more aggressive Federal Reserve rate hikes," Goss said.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The employment index dipped to 61.9 in June from May's 66.3.

"Overall employment growth in the region over the past 12 months has been healthy but expanding at a rate below that of the nation," Goss said.

But business leaders remain optimistic about their prospects over the next six months. The region's confidence index declined to 59.8 in June from May's 66.3.

The wholesale inflation index registered 86.9 in June, down slightly from May's 88.9. That reflects the increase in products that steel and aluminum and increases in shipping costs.

Rapid City priest investigated for theft at church

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors are considering charges against a Rapid City priest who acknowledged he was responsible for stealing from the weekly donations at a church.

KOTA-TV reports that the Rapid City Diocese read a letter at all of its churches Sunday to inform parishioners of the investigation involving Marcin Garbacz. Rapid City police say Garbacz told investigators he had been taking money from the collection at St. Therese.

The Rapid City Diocese says Garbacz has been suspended and is undergoing a psychiatric evaluation.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

South Dakota gymnast strives to be elite athlete

By REBEKAH TUCHSCHERER, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — With a spring floor beneath her feet, Danielle Sievers calculates her next run before performing a set that only one gymnast before has ever successfully landed in competition.

A double flip with a half twist. Better known as "The Biles."

Named after 2016 Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles, the skill is officially known as a double layout with a half twist, and it's a difficult one to master.

At 14 years old, Sievers has done it, putting the Deuel High School student on a fast track to success in a demanding sport, the Argus Leader reported.

Sievers, who trains at the All American Gymnastics Academy in Sioux Falls, has quite a few titles to her name, including two-time floor exercise champion and fourth place all-around gymnast in her age division at the Junior Olympic National Championships, most recently last month in Cincinnati.

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Before even starting high school, Sievers had already verbally committed to the University of Nebraska on a full-ride scholarship offer to compete in college.

"She knows what she wants, and she knows how to get there," says Karen Sievers of her daughter, who participates in club rather than high school gymnastics. "It's not just hanging at the ice cream stand with her friends. She knows that she has to practice and put in the time."

To turn her ambitions into trophies, Sievers dedicates four hours each day to stretching, conditioning and practicing skills in each of the four gymnastic events: balance beam, uneven bars, vault and her favorite — floor exercise.

She spends a total of 20-30 hours each week during both the summer and school year at practice, making the sport a major commitment for the resident of Gary, a town of 230 residents located 40 miles southeast of Watertown.

With a 210-mile round trip to Sioux Falls, the travel for gymnastics adds up to more than 65,000 miles a year.

Between time spent at practice and on the road, Sievers did most of her schooling online her freshman year of high school. She plans to fulfill half her classes in school for her upcoming sophomore year and hopes to maintain her No. 1 class ranking.

Despite her success, Sievers has faced setbacks and injury. She has battled back from a broken hand and fractured wrist, in addition to a hamstring injury this past season that slowed her progress and added a few learning curves.

Those obstacles didn't stop her from defending her title as a national floor champion and landing invitations to join the Junior Olympic national team and attend the national training camp, honors given to only the top four gymnasts in each division at the national championships.

Sievers will be traveling to the National Team Camp at Flip Fest in Crossville, Tennessee, in September to work with Olympic-level coaches and hone in on new skills.

"I've just done it for so long," said Sievers of the sport. "All the friends that I've met along the way make it better."

Surrounded by teammates, Sievers' ears often ring with cheers of 'Go Dani!' before tumbling along with her floor routine or approaching a dismount off the beam.

Currently, she's one of seven Level 10 competitors at the All American Academy and hopes to join the Elite training program sometime soon.

Don Otis, her coach at the academy, said that Sievers is a great teammate and has the personal drive to attempt skills that other competitors might be reluctant to try.

"She picks up on a lot of things really quickly, which is fun," Otis said. "You can ask her to throw some of these big skills, and she'll just get it."

Sievers has been competing in gymnastics for 11 years, beginning with a promising cartwheel at age 3. After starting in the Dakota Gold program in Watertown, she began traveling to Sioux Falls in 2012 to train in the Junior Olympics program after her sister, Meaghan, decided to switch gyms for a higher competition level.

Her parents are just as committed to the sport, driving Sievers to practice and travelling to competitions and camps across the country. The family has a streak of athleticism, with Meaghan competing in gymnastics for Iowa State and brother Devon wrestling for South Dakota State.

"It's just fun to watch them work hard and achieve goals," said father Dan Sievers. "They just work so hard, and they're so committed."

Even after hours of work, Danielle said that her teammates are what make the sport worth the time and physical commitment.

"They're just fun and make me laugh all the time," she said.

Thai official: Boys may have to dive from cave despite peril

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — A top Thai official said Tuesday that heavy rains forecast for the coming days could worsen floods in the mountain cave where 12 boys and their soccer coach were located after being missing for more than a week, forcing authorities to speed up their extraction.

The 13 were located by rescue divers late Monday night in the cave in northern Chiang Rai province during a desperate search that drew international help and captivated the nation. Officials said Tuesday that the boys, aged 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach were mostly in stable medical condition and have received high-protein liquid food.

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda, a member of the country's ruling military junta, said Tuesday that the boys may need to swim out using diving equipment ahead of bad weather forecast for later in the week. He said the boys would be brought out via the same complicated route through which their rescuers entered.

While efforts to pump out the floodwaters would continue, Anupong said it's clear some areas of the sprawling cave cannot be drained and that in order to get out, the boys may need to use diving gear while being guided by two professional divers each. He conceded that if something went awry, it could be disastrous.

"Diving is not easy. For people who have never done it, it will be difficult, unlike diving in a swimming pool, because the cave's features have small channels," he said. "If something happens midway, it could be life-threatening."

Video released early Tuesday by the Thai navy showed the boys in their soccer uniforms sitting on a dry area inside the Tham Luang Nang Non cave above the water as a spotlight from a rescuer illuminated their faces.

Chiang Rai provincial Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said the health of the boys and coach were checked using a field assessment in which red is critical condition, yellow is serious and green is stable.

"We found that most of the boys are in green condition," he said. "Maybe some of the boys have injuries or light injuries and would be categorized as yellow condition. But no one is in red condition."

Cave rescue experts have said it could be safer to simply supply them where they are for now, rather than attempting to have the boys dive out. That could take as long as months, however, given that Thailand's rainy season typically lasts through October.

Family members who have kept vigil at the mouth of the cave since their ordeal began June 23 rejoiced at the news that their boys and their coach had been found.

"I want to give him a hug. I miss him very much," said Tham Chanthawong, an aunt of the coach. "In these 10 days, how many million seconds have there been? I've missed him every second."

Rescue divers had spent much of Monday making preparations for a final push to locate the missing, efforts that had been hampered much of the week by flooding that made moving through tight passageways filled with muddy water difficult.

A pair of expert cave divers from Britain found the group about 300-400 meters (yards) past a section of the cave on higher ground that was thought to be where they might have taken shelter.

In the five-minute navy video, the boys are seen wearing their soccer uniforms and are calm, curious and polite. They are also keen to get some food.

After an initial exchange in which a rescuer ascertains that all 13 are present, one of the boys asks what day it is, and a rescuer replies: "Monday. Monday. You have been here — 10 days."

The rescuer tells them "you are very strong," but soon the traditional reserve of Thai children toward adults breaks a bit, and one tells another in Thai, "Tell them we are hungry."

"We haven't eaten," a boy says in Thai, then breaks into English: "We have to eat, eat, eat!" A fellow boy tells him they already said this, and then the rescuer assures them that "Navy SEALs will come tomorrow, with food and doctors and everything." At the end of the video a boy asks in English, "Where do you come from?" The rescue diver replies, "England, UK."

Narongsak said Tuesday that the missing were given high-protein liquid food, painkillers and antibiotics. He said doctors had advised giving the medicine as a preventative measure.

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He said officials had met and agreed on the need to "ensure 100 percent safety for the boys when we bring them out."

"We worked so hard to find them and we will not lose them," he said.

Anmar Mirza, a leading American cave rescue expert, said many challenges remain for the rescuers. He said the primary decision is whether to try to evacuate the boys and their coach or to supply them in place.

"Supplying them on site may face challenges depending on how difficult the dives are," Mirza, coordinator of the U.S. National Cave Rescue Commission, said in an email. "Trying to take non-divers through a cave is one of the most dangerous situations possible, even if the dives are relatively easy."

The British Cave Rescue Council, which has members taking part in the operation, said in a statement that "although water levels have dropped, the diving conditions remain difficult and any attempt to dive the boys and their coach out will not be taken lightly because there are significant technical challenges and risks to consider."

Joining the British are other cave experts from around the world and teams from the U.S., Australia, China and elsewhere.

Authorities said efforts would also continue outside the cave, where teams have been scouring the mountainside in search of other entrances to the caverns below. Several fissures have been found and teams have explored some, though so far none have led to the trapped boys.

Associated Press journalists Grant Peck, Kawewit Kaewjinda and Jason Corben in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Trump interviews with possible Supreme Court nominees begin

By CATHERINE LUCEY and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has interviewed four prospective Supreme Court justices and had plans to meet with a few more as his White House aggressively mobilizes to select a replacement for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Eager to build suspense, Trump wouldn't divulge whom he's talking to in advance of his big announcement, set for July 9. But he promised that "they are outstanding people. They are really incredible people in so many different ways, academically and in every other way. I had a very, very interesting morning."

Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump met with four people for 45 minutes each Monday and will continue meetings through the rest of the week.

The interviews were with federal appeals judges Raymond Kethledge, Amul Thapar, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett, said a person with knowledge of the meetings who was not authorized to speak publicly about them. The Washington Post first reported the identities of the candidates Trump spoke with.

The president spent the weekend at his Bedminster golf club, consulting with advisers, including White House counsel Don McGahn, as he considers his options to fill the vacancy with a justice who has the potential to be part of precedent-shattering court decisions on abortion, health care, gay marriage and other issues.

McGahn will lead the overall selection and confirmation process, the White House said Monday, repeating the role he played in the successful confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch last year.

McGahn will be supported by a White House team that includes spokesman Raj Shah, taking a leave from the press office to work full time on "communications, strategy and messaging coordination with Capitol Hill allies." Justin Clark, director of the Office of Public Liaison, will oversee White House coordination with outside groups.

Trump's push came as the Senate's top Democrat tried to rally public opposition to any Supreme Court pick who would oppose abortion rights. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer issued a campaign-season call to action for voters to prevent such a nominee by putting "pressure on the Senate," which confirms judicial nominees.

With Trump committed to picking from a list of 25 potential nominees that he compiled with guidance

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from conservatives, Schumer said any of them would be “virtually certain” to favor overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 case that affirmed women’s right to abortion. They would also be “very likely” to back weakening President Barack Obama’s 2010 law that expanded health care coverage to millions of Americans, he said.

Schumer said that while Democrats don’t control the Senate — Republicans have a 51-49 edge — most senators back abortion rights. In an unusually direct appeal to voters, he said that to block “an ideological nominee,” people should “tell your senators” to oppose anyone from Trump’s list.

“It will not happen on its own,” the *New Yorker* wrote in an opinion column in Monday’s *New York Times*. “It requires the public’s focus on these issues, and its pressure on the Senate.”

Schumer’s column appeared a day after Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she would oppose any nominee she believed would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Collins, who appeared on ABC’s “*This Week*” and CNN’s “*State of the Union*,” said she would only back a judge who would show respect for settled law such as the *Roe* decision, which has long been anathema to conservatives.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters in Ashland, Kentucky, on Monday that “it’s probably going to be close; I think there will be a big, national campaign rage. But in the end, I’m confident we’ll get the judge confirmed.”

During his 2016 campaign and presidency, Trump has embraced anti-abortion groups and vowed to appoint federal judges who will favor efforts to roll back abortion rights. But he told reporters on Friday that he would not question potential high-court nominees about their views on abortion, saying it was “inappropriate to discuss.”

Without Kennedy, the high court will have four justices picked by Democratic presidents and four picked by Republicans, giving Trump the chance to shift the ideological balance toward conservatives for years to come. Both Chief Justice John Roberts and Gorsuch, Trump’s first pick to the high court, have indicated more broadly that they respect legal precedent.

Trump has said he is focusing on up to seven potential candidates, including two women, to fill the vacancy being left by Kennedy, a swing vote on the nine-member court.

Currently the court has three women justices, all appointed by Democrats. Court watchers have been discussing the prospect of a conservative woman on the bench.

Carrie Severino, chief counsel and policy director of the Judicial Crisis Network, said she did not think picking a woman was “the top concern” of Trump, stressing judicial philosophy and experience. But she added, “If he does end up nominating a woman, she can stand on her own accomplishments.”

Anna Chu, vice president for strategy and policy at the National Women’s Law Center, said she was concerned that a female pick could be a kind of “Trojan horse.”

“What’s important in addition to increasing diversity is how that person would actually interpret law,” Chu said. “There are real stakes here. You could be a woman and not be fair minded.”

Associated Press reporters Mark Sherman, Hope Yen and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

Hundreds celebrate the life of slain Maryland journalist

By DAVID McFADDEN, Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) — Days after journalist Rob Hiaasen and four colleagues were shot to death by a gunman who blasted his way into the *Capital Gazette*’s newsroom, an overflow crowd gathered on Monday evening to remember the man they loved in stories, poems, and songs.

Attendees at the “celebration of life” held at a Maryland nature center said they would remember Hiaasen for how he lived, rather than the way he died senselessly at the hands of a gunman twisted by hate and festering rage. They sought solace with laughter and funny memories, but sobs occasionally punctuated the ceremony.

“I want to just remember what a wonderful person Rob was and what a great, wonderful, selfless life he led,” said Kevin Cowherd, one of several speakers who addressed the crowd of roughly 500 people assembled beneath a large white tent.

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Cowherd, an author who worked with Hiaasen for years at The Baltimore Sun, described him as an open, fun-loving man who found humor in everything. As a writer, Hiaasen was versatile and drawn to the quirky, he said. As a colleague, he was kind and encouraging.

Hannah Hiaasen, his youngest daughter, said the family called him "Big Rob" — a nickname that perfectly fit the assistant managing editor who stood 6-foot-5. But it wasn't just his height that made the nickname ring true to those who knew him best.

"He had a really, really big heart," she said, before reading a poem in her dad's honor.

Meanwhile, Maryland police investigating America's latest mass murder said Monday that Jarrod Ramos, the man charged with the slayings, sent three threatening letters on the day of the attack. Sgt. Jacklyn Davis, a spokeswoman for Anne Arundel County police, said the letters were received Monday.

Ramos, 38, has a well-documented history of harassing the paper's journalists. He filed a defamation suit in 2012 that was thrown out as groundless and often railed against them in profanity-laced tweets. Ramos was arrested by police after the attack Thursday. He is in custody and faces five counts of first-degree murder.

Tom Marquardt, the onetime publisher of the Capital Gazette, told The Associated Press at Hiaasen's memorial that Ramos sent one letter to a company lawyer saying he was on his way to the Annapolis newspaper "to kill as many people" as he could. The letter dated June 28 — the day of the deadly attack — was sent to Robert C. Douglas, a lawyer for the newspaper, Marquardt said.

"In that letter, he was talking to the appeals court judge and suggesting that he didn't do a very good job on the case and as a result he was going to have to take out his vengeance in a different way," Marquardt told AP.

Letters were also sent to a Baltimore judge, as well as a judge at the Maryland Court of Special Appeals.

At the heartrending gathering for Hiaasen, friends and colleagues lauded him as a dedicated professional who was committed to the craft of journalism and loved mentoring the next generation of reporters. He was remembered for his love of family and enduring pride in his job. He made friends easily and had a bunch of them.

The Baltimore-based novelist Anne Tyler, whose works include "The Accidental Tourist" and the Pulitzer-prize-winning "Breathing Lessons," joined Hiaasen's family and colleagues to honor the friend she says she already misses.

"I loved him dearly. I thought he was smart and funny and wise," Tyler said before the gathering began.

The slain journalist's brother, Carl Hiaasen, a prolific novelist and a longtime Miami Herald columnist, on Friday described his younger sibling as "a person of phenomenal grace."

Hiaasen had just celebrated his 33rd wedding anniversary with his wife, Maria, whose birthday was on the day of the newsroom attack. His widow, displaying great strength along with the couple's three children, said Rob was her best friend and a loving, generous partner.

"I'm going to try and hold him here," she said, clasping her hands to her heart.

Associated Press Writer Brian Witte contributed to this report in Annapolis.

What's new for Amazon's Prime Day? Deals at Whole Foods

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon's Prime Day deals are coming to the aisles of Whole Foods as the online retailer seeks to lure more people to its Prime membership after a recent price hike.

This year's sales event, which starts July 16, will be six hours longer than last year's and will launch new products. Amazon hopes to keep Prime attractive for current and would-be subscribers after raising the annual membership fee by 20 percent to \$119 and to \$12.99 for the month-to-month option. Outside of Prime Day, Amazon has added special discounts for Prime members at its more than 460 Whole Foods U.S. stores and has been adding new TV shows and movies on its video streaming service.

"They want Prime to be a must-have membership," says Suzanne Tager, who heads Bain & Co.'s retail and consumer products practices.

Prime Day, created by Amazon in 2015 to mark its 20th anniversary, has inspired other e-commerce companies to invent their own shopping holidays. Online furniture seller Wayfair introduced Way Day in April, becoming its biggest revenue day ever. While Prime Day brings in more revenue for Amazon, too, it also helps boost its Prime memberships. It had more sign-ups during 2017's event than any other day in the company's history, Amazon said at the time, without providing specific numbers.

Here's a look at what's new for this year's Prime Day:

WHOLE FOODS IN THE MIX: Expect discounts on groceries as well as in-store events, such as cooking demonstrations, says Jamil Ghani, the global vice president of Amazon Prime. And at its more than a dozen Amazon Books stores, discounts will expand beyond devices.

IT'S LONGER: After extending the daylong event to 30 hours in 2017, this year's Prime Day will be 36 hours long, starting the afternoon of July 16 and running through July 17.

NEW PRODUCT LAUNCHES: Several companies have agreed to launch new products on Prime Day, Amazon says. Among them, a Fingerlings unicorn doll whose horn lights up and a Delta kitchen faucet that can be turned on through Amazon's Alexa voice assistant.

PRIVATE LABEL PUSH: Amazon has been increasing its line of store brands, and it'll be offering deals such as 25 percent off its Rivet furniture brand, which didn't exist a year ago. Other deals include 30 percent off its Mama Bear diapers and baby products.

MORE COUNTRIES: Amazon has been expanding its Prime membership around the world, and four new countries will be a part of Prime Day this year: Australia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Singapore. Amazon disclosed for the first time this year that it had more than 100 million paid Prime members worldwide.

Contact Joseph Pisani at <http://twitter.com/josephpisani>

Hundreds mourn at vigil for victims of birthday party attack

By **REBECCA BOONE, Associated Press**

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A 3-year-old Idaho girl who was stabbed at her birthday party died Monday, two days after a man invaded the celebration and attacked nine people with a knife, authorities said.

Timmy Kinner is accused of stabbing a group of children and the adults who tried to protect them at the party at an apartment complex that is home to many refugee families.

Word of the child's death came at Kinner's first court appearance, where Ada County Magistrate Judge Russell Comstock told him that he was charged with first-degree murder and other felonies in connection with the Saturday night attack.

Comstock told Kinner he was "an extreme danger to the community" and ordered him held without bond.

Kinner is American, and the victims are members of refugee families from Syria, Iraq and Ethiopia. Boise Police Chief William Bones said the evidence does not suggest the attack was a hate crime.

The suspect had recently stayed at the apartment complex but was asked to leave Friday over bad behavior, Bones said.

The 30-year-old appeared in court through closed-circuit video, a common practice for first appearances in Idaho. Wearing a tattered off-white sweatshirt with his arms shackled to his waist, Kinner told the judge he didn't understand the charges or proceedings. He also said he wanted to represent himself.

The judge ordered that he be appointed a public defender anyway.

"I can't explain the charges any more clearly than I just did," he told Kinner.

Three of the stabbing victims were adults, the others children: the 3-year-old girl who died, two 4-year-olds, a 6-year-old, an 8-year-old and a 12-year-old.

If convicted, Kinner could be eligible for execution under Idaho law. Ada County Prosecutor Jan Bennetts said her office has not yet decided whether to seek the death penalty, saying those "high-level decisions" are made only after all the facts are in.

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Monday evening roughly 1,500 people turned out at a vigil honoring members of refugee families targeted in the stabbing.

People wept, sang and shouted their support for the refugee community, and many brought bouquets of white flowers intended to symbolize peace. By the end of the rally, hundreds of bouquets filled dozens of baskets on the steps of Boise's City Hall.

But community leaders told the crowd that what the survivors really need is money to cover rapidly growing medical bills and space at home to try to overcome the constant sense of unease they've experienced since the attack. Boise Mayor Dave Bieter and others urged community members to do what they can to help.

Signs were dotted throughout the crowd, some reading "love wins" and "we are all immigrants."

Younis Kamel, a 16-year-old who moved to Boise from Iraq, and his 23-year-old sister Zuzu Kamel held up a more poignant sign:

"I will never forget seeing my friend getting stabbed in front of me," the sign read. Younis Kamel was at the apartment complex the night of the attack.

Another woman held a sign reading "Justice for Teeba," with a photo of a young child in a hospital bed, a breathing tube obscuring part of his face with half a dozen other tubes and medical devices connected to his body.

Louai Nasri, who also lives in the apartment complex, held up a large poster of a young girl dressed in an ornately embroidered shirt and hat. In the photo she is standing in front of a Disney Princess-themed banner and gesturing to a pink, doll-shaped birthday cake.

The picture is of Ruya Kadir, the 3-year-old girl whose birthday party was attacked. Nasri said she was a friend of his son's.

This story has been corrected to reflect the correct spelling of Ruya Kadir's first name based on new information from the International Rescue Committee in Boise.

Boys, coach in stable health after 10 days lost in Thai cave

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — The 12 boys and soccer coach found in a partially flooded cave in northern Thailand after 10 days are mostly in stable medical condition and have received high-protein liquid food, officials said Tuesday, though it is not known when they will be able to go home.

Video released early Tuesday by the Thai navy showed the boys in their soccer uniforms sitting on a dry area inside the cave above the water as a spotlight, apparently from a rescuer, illuminated their faces. The boys were found late Monday night during a desperate search that drew international help and captivated the nation.

Chiang Rai provincial Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said the health of the boys and coach were checked using a field assessment in which red is critical condition, yellow is serious and green is stable.

"We found that most of the boys are in green condition," he said. "Maybe some of the boys have injuries or light injuries and would be categorized as yellow condition. But no one is in red condition."

When the group will be able to leave the cave isn't known due to flooding and other factors that could make their extraction dangerous. Experts have said it could be safer to simply supply them where they are for now. Thailand's rainy season typically lasts through October.

Family members of the missing hugged each other and cheered as they heard they had been found.

Aisha Wiboonrungrueng, the mother of 11-year-old Chanin Wiboonrungrueng, smiled and hugged her family as news of their discovery spread. She said she would cook her son a Thai omelet, his favorite food, when he returns home.

Rescue divers had spent much of Monday making preparations for a final push to locate the lost soccer players, aged 11 to 16, and their 25-year-old coach. Flooding trapped them after they entered the Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Chiang Rai on June 23.

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Divers found the group about 300-400 meters (yards) past a section of the cave on higher ground that was thought to be where they might have taken shelter.

In the 5-minute navy video, the boys are quiet as they sit on their haunches, legs bent in front of them. "You are very strong," one of the rescuers says in English. Someone asks what day it is, and the rescuer responds, "Monday. Monday. You have been here — 10 days."

One boy, noticing the camera and hearing unfamiliar words, says in Thai, "Oh, they want to take a picture; tell him we're hungry. I haven't had anything to eat."

Then the boy breaks into simple English, saying, "Eat, eat, eat," to which another voice responds in Thai that he already told that to the rescuer.

Narongsak said Tuesday that the missing were given high-protein liquid food, painkillers and antibiotics. He said doctors had advised giving the medicine as a preventative measure.

Anmar Mirza, a leading American cave rescue expert, said many challenges remain for the rescuers. He said the primary decision is whether to try to evacuate the boys and their coach or to supply them in place.

"Supplying them on site may face challenges depending on how difficult the dives are," Mirza, coordinator of the U.S. National Cave Rescue Commission, said in an email. "Trying to take non-divers through a cave is one of the most dangerous situations possible, even if the dives are relatively easy. That also begets the question: If the dives are difficult then supply will be difficult, but the risk of trying to dive them out is also exponentially greater."

Narongsak said officials had met and agreed on the need to "ensure 100 percent safety for the boys when we bring them out."

"We worked so hard to find them and we will not lose them," he said.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha thanked the international experts and rescuers who helped locate the missing for their "tremendous efforts."

"The Royal Thai Government and the Thai people are grateful for this support and cooperation, and we all wish the team a safe and speedy recovery," Prayuth's office said in a statement.

The rescuers had been stymied repeatedly by rising water that forced divers to withdraw for safety reasons. When water levels fell Sunday, the divers went forward with a more methodical approach, deploying a rope line and extra oxygen supplies along the way.

Teams have also been working to pump water out of the cave and divert groundwater, while other rescuers focused on exploring shafts above ground that might lead into the cave. Several fissures were found and teams have explored some, though none led to the missing group.

Experts in cave rescues from around the world had gathered at the site. An official Australian group has followed a U.S. military team, British cave experts, Chinese lifesaving responders and several other volunteer groups from various countries.

"These are challenging conditions and there's a lot of consideration for safety as well as, the environment outside is contributing to the environment inside," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Jessica Tait, part of a 30-member U.S. military team assisting in the search, referring to the rain that has been flooding the cave. "So I'd say, yeah, it's an accurate statement that it's challenging."

Down town: Cleveland hurting after LeBron chooses LA, Lakers

By TOM WITHERS, AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James jerseys in assorted colors hung inside the Cavaliers team shop, their retail price slashed by 40 percent.

Eight years ago, some of them were still smoldering in the streets.

The day after James announced he is leaving Cleveland as a free agent for the second time since 2010, anger gave way to acceptance. There was still deep disappointment that the world's best player — Akron, Ohio, born and raised — is leaving again, this time for the brighter lights of Los Angeles and a chance to play with the storied Lakers.

The pain is real. Cleveland is just handling it a lot better.

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"It hurts at first, but we'll be OK," said Dave Howes, who manages Harry Buffalo, a sports bar and restaurant directly across the street from Quicken Loans Arena. "We'll rebound from it."

If any city knows how to mount a comeback, it's this one. Once a national punchline for jokes, Cleveland is thriving with new hotels, shops, condominiums and trendy microbreweries popping up on both sides of the Cuyahoga River. Millennials have flocked to live in once-neglected areas transformed into flourishing neighborhoods with hip food and arts scenes.

A skyline once dotted with factory smokestacks now features gleaming high-rise apartment buildings. There's new construction everywhere, including at the Cavs' Quicken Loans Arena, currently undergoing a \$140 million renovation.

Nothing looks as it did a few years ago.

James made it happen. The LeBron Effect. He put Cleveland on the map, changing the city's collective psyche and delivering on his promise by winning a championship in 2016 — the city's first since 1964.

No wonder some are having a hard time saying goodbye. But the criticism of James was more muted this time around.

Two other prominent Cleveland sports figures understood his reasons for going.

"If someone gave me \$154 million I'd probably go somewhere too," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "I will miss him, because I loved going to games when he played. It's hard to begrudge somebody. He earned it."

UFC heavyweight champion Stipe Miocic was confident his hometown would fight back.

"We'll be all right," Miocic said while preparing for his bout with Daniel Cormier at UFC 226. "The city is alive now. We have food, good bars, good places to go to, and I think it's going to stay that way for a long time now. The Browns are making moves. The Indians are playing well. ... It's not only about the Cavs anymore."

On Monday, as news of James' departure was still sinking in on another scorching-hot summer day, Sherwin-Williams announced that Nike plans to remove the 10-story banner of James on the side of the paint company's global headquarters that had become a landmark and symbol of renewal.

The massive mural, which shows James in his No. 23 jersey with his head titled back and arms extended wide as if to welcome one and all, was also taken down in 2010 when he bolted for Miami.

Standing on the sidewalk across from the billboard, Tom Valentino of Painesville, Ohio, snapped some final photographs for posterity.

"I found out it was coming down, and it's kind of an iconic image here in Cleveland so I wanted to make sure I got a good look at it and got some pictures before it goes away," he said.

Like many Cleveland sports fans, Valentino was initially disappointed to hear James wouldn't be re-signing with the Cavs. But as he digested this new reality, Valentino chose to reflect on James' lasting legacy.

"Oh, man. Where do you even begin?" he said. "The phrase that you hear from LeBron is that it's bigger than basketball. I really took that to heart as a lifelong Clevelander and just a Northeast Ohioan, and just everything that he has brought to our city and our community and our region.

"And let's just be honest, the basketball was a lot of fun. Every game you would turn on, you would never know what you were going to see from him, an amazing play, the buzzer-beaters and just everything else that he has brought to the city.

"It's just been something else."

And it will never be the same.

Without James, the Cavs instantly went from title contenders to a team that will struggle just to make the playoffs. They've dropped on the city's three-team ladder behind the AL Central-leading Indians who haven't won a World Series since 1948 but ahead of the woeful Browns, who went 0-16 last season but are optimistic about their future.

Without James, those bars and restaurants brimming with fans on game nights have to hope Cleveland will stick with the Cavs.

"It might drop off, but we'll be all right," Howes said, looking around at his lunch-time crowd. "Cleveland

sports fans love their teams — thick and thin. I mean look at the Browns. We still mostly sell out the games.”

After James’ choice of L.A. was announced, Valentino’s phone filled with texts from friends weighing in on the decision. There wasn’t hatred toward James, but gratitude.

“I can’t speak for everybody, but know that’s how I feel,” he said. “It was so crushing when he left in 2010 because it just felt like as a town we were so close to getting that title. And the thing that I’ve come back to over and over the past couple years is June 19, 2016 (Game 7 of the Finals) was the most perfect sports moment I’ll ever get in my lifetime.

“I knew in the moment that it happened that it was never going to be any better than this. And getting to experience that, I don’t know what more you could ask for.”

AP Sports Writer Greg Beacham in Los Angeles and freelance reporter Alan Eskew in Kansas City contributed to this report.

More AP NBA: www.apnews.com/tags/NBAbasketball

Seattle bans plastic straws, utensils at restaurants, bars

By PHUONG LE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Looking for a plastic straw to sip your soda? It’s no longer allowed in Seattle bars and restaurants.

Neither are plastic utensils in the latest push to reduce waste and prevent marine plastic pollution. Businesses that sell food or drinks won’t be allowed to offer the plastic items under a rule that went into effect Sunday.

Seattle is believed to be the first major U.S. city to ban single-use plastic straws and utensils in food service, according to Seattle Public Utilities. The eco-conscious city has been an environmental leader in the U.S., working to aggressively curb the amount of trash that goes into landfills by requiring more options that can be recycled or composted.

The city’s 5,000 restaurants - including Seattle-based Starbucks outlets - will now have to use reusable or compostable utensils, straws and cocktail picks, though the city is encouraging businesses to consider not providing straws altogether or switch to paper rather than compostable plastic straws.

“Plastic pollution is surpassing crisis levels in the world’s oceans, and I’m proud Seattle is leading the way and setting an example for the nation by enacting a plastic straw ban,” Seattle Public Utilities General Manager Mami Hara said in a statement last month.

Proposals to ban plastic straws are being considered in other cities, including New York and San Francisco.

California’s Legislature is considering statewide restrictions, but not an outright ban, on single-use plastic straws. It would block restaurants from providing straws as a default but would still allow a customer to request one. It’s passed the state Assembly and now awaits action in the Senate.

In the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Theresa May announced in April a plan to ban the sale of plastic straws, drink stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. She called plastic waste “one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the world.”

Smaller cities in California, including Malibu and San Luis Obispo, have restricted the use of plastic straws. San Luis Obispo requires single-use straws only be provided in restaurants, bars and cafes when customers ask for them. City officials said most customers will say “no” if asked if they want a straw.

Business groups have opposed the idea in Hawaii, where legislation to ban plastic straws died this year, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Sunday, with the Hawaii Restaurant Association and Hawaii Food Industry Association testifying against the measure.

Seattle’s ban is part of a 2008 ordinance that requires restaurants and other food-service businesses to find recyclable or compostable alternatives to disposable containers, cups, straws, utensils and other products.

Businesses had time to work toward complying with the ban, said Jillian Henze, a spokeswoman for the

Seattle Restaurant Alliance, an industry trade group.

"We've almost had a year to seek out products to protect the environment and give customers a good experience (with alternatives)," she said.

The city had allowed exemptions for some products until alternatives could be found. With multiple manufacturers offering alternatives, the city let the exemption for plastic utensils and straws run out over the weekend.

Environmental advocates have been pushing for restaurants and other businesses to ditch single-use straws, saying they can't be recycled and end up in the ocean, polluting the water and harming sea life.

A "Strawless in Seattle" campaign last fall by the Lonely Whale involving more than 100 businesses voluntarily helped remove 2.3 million single-use plastic straws.

Supporters say it will take more than banning plastic straws to curb ocean pollution but that ditching them is a good first step and a way to start a conversation about waste and ocean conservation.

Seattle urged businesses to use up their existing inventory of plastic utensils and straws before Sunday. Those who weren't able to use up their supply have been told to work with the city on a compliance schedule.

Businesses that don't comply may face a fine of up to \$250, but city officials say they will work with businesses to make the changes.

Associated Press writer Kathleen Ronayne in Sacramento contributed to this report.

Compromise reached in German government migration standoff

By GEIR MOULSON and DAVID RISING, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel and her rebellious political allies broke an impasse over immigration that threatened to bring down Germany's coalition government by agreeing on a compromise late Monday that both sides said addressed their concerns.

Merkel has been at odds for more than three weeks with Interior Minister Horst Seehofer over his insistence that migrants who have sought asylum elsewhere in the European Union should be turned away at Germany's borders. Seehofer leads the Christian Social Union, the sister party to the chancellor's Christian Democratic Union.

Merkel was equally steadfast in arguing that such a unilateral action would cause other countries to close their borders and jeopardize the passport-free movement that is a hallmark of Europe's Schengen zone.

But the two emerged from about five hours of talks saying they agreed to establish "transit centers" on Germany's border with Austria where asylum-seekers would be evaluated and, if it turned out they already had applied for protection in another EU country, sent back to that country.

Individuals who are rejected by those countries will be pointed back into Austria "upon agreement" with Vienna, according to the deal that Merkel called a "very good compromise."

"The spirit of partnership within the European Union is protected, and at the same time it's a decisive step to regulate and organize secondary migration," she told reporters without taking questions.

It was not immediately clear whether Austria had already agreed to the provision. Whether the two conservative parties would be able to get Merkel's junior coalition partner, the center-left Social Democratic Party, to agree also was an open question. The Social Democrats previously rejected the idea of transit centers.

While the deal sounded very similar to one offered by Merkel and rejected by Seehofer last week, the interior minister said he was happy with it, saying the compromise would have a "very clear lasting effect on the future."

Seehofer offered his resignation both as interior minister and leader of the Bavaria-only CSU at a party meeting Sunday. He agreed to put it off until after one more round of talks with Merkel and said Monday he would remain in both posts.

"I'm happy we were able to achieve this compromise, and it shows that it pays off to fight for your

convictions," Seehofer said.

Seehofer and Merkel have long had a difficult relationship and sparred over Germany's approach to managing immigration on and off since 2015, when the chancellor welcomed refugees into the country.

However, the current dispute arose as far fewer newcomers have sought to enter Germany. It came ahead of a difficult Bavarian state election set for October that has the CSU determined to show that it is tough on migration.

In recent days, speculation focused on the possibility that Merkel would fire Seehofer if he went ahead with his plan. That would likely have ended the seven-decade partnership of the CDU and CSU, which have a joint parliamentary group, and would leave the government just short of a majority.

In comments to the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper ahead of Monday's renewed talks with Merkel, Seehofer complained he was in an "inconceivable" situation.

"I won't let myself be fired by a chancellor who is only chancellor because of me," he was quoted as saying, an apparent reference to the CSU's traditionally strong election results in Bavaria.

Before the sides met, CDU leaders and lawmakers stressed the importance of maintaining the conservative alliance, Germany's strongest political force for much of its post-war history.

Merkel had argued a plan to regulate immigration that EU leaders approved Friday and bilateral agreements in principle that she hashed out with some EU countries for them to take back migrants would accomplish what Seehofer seeks.

But the more conservative CSU worried its credibility was at stake as it tries to curb support for the rival anti-migration Alternative for Germany party, known as the AfD, in the Bavarian election.

So far, however, the gambit has played poorly in polls and Germans seem to be losing their patience.

"I think it's caused by the atmosphere with the AfD," said Joerg Hauvede, 47, as he left Berlin's main train station. "I hope that the CSU will receive their just deserts for their actions."

The Social Democrats, who have largely been bystanders so far, demanded that their coalition partners get their act together, and planned a meeting with the conservative leaders. Party leader Andrea Nahles said "the CSU is on a dangerous ego trip that is paralyzing Germany and Europe."

"The blame game between CDU and CSU must end, because it is irresponsible," she said.

Miriam Karout contributed to this story.

Trump's ex-lawyer fires what could be a warning shot

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After once boasting he would "take a bullet" for Donald Trump, the president's longtime personal lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen fired a possible warning shot toward the White House, saying he now puts "family and country first."

In his first interview since federal agents raided his home and hotel room three months ago as part of an investigation into his business dealings, Cohen made clear that protecting Trump is not his priority.

"My wife, my daughter and my son have my first loyalty and always will," Cohen told ABC's George Stephanopoulos in an off-camera interview that was reported on Monday's "Good Morning America." "I put family and country first."

Cohen, who hasn't been charged, wouldn't say if he would cooperate with prosecutors in the probe. But he also did nothing to dampen such speculation, taking issue with some of Trump's criticisms of the special counsel's Russia investigation and even going out of his way to praise the FBI.

"I don't agree with those who demonize or vilify the FBI," Cohen was quoted as saying. The raid, he added, "was obviously upsetting to me and my family. Nonetheless, the agents were respectful, courteous and professional."

Robert Mintz, a former federal prosecutor now in private practice, said that Cohen "has sent every signal he possibly can to prosecutors that he will put his own interests first and will jump at any deal that may save him from going to jail."

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"By putting distance between himself and the president on issues both large and small," Mintz added, "he's telegraphing to prosecutors that he intends to be his own man and in the end will do exactly what he thinks is best for himself and his family."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders would not comment on whether the president was concerned about the possibility Cohen would strike a deal with prosecutors.

"I'm not going to weigh in to this issue and I refer you to outside counsel," she said.

The Cohen interview was released on the same day that a former federal judge vetting material seized from him said in a court filing that over a million items were turned over to prosecutors after she determined they weren't protected by attorney-client privilege.

Cohen was Trump's self-described fixer and a key player in the Trump Organization for more than a decade, regularly berating reporters and threatening lawsuits against anyone who posed a challenge to his boss.

In a Fox News interview last year, Mr. Cohen declared: "I will do anything to protect Mr. Trump." He also told Vanity Fair, "I'm the guy who would take a bullet for the president," adding, "I'd never walk away."

A day after he tweeted "I will always protect my POTUS" in April, the FBI raided his home, office and hotel room as part of a probe by federal prosecutors in New York into his business dealings.

Among other things, investigators are looking into a \$130,000 payment he handled as part of a confidentiality agreement with porn star Stormy Daniels, who says she had an affair with Trump in 2006. Trump denies that.

Cohen in the past has said that the payment was made on his own initiative. But in the ABC interview, he said he couldn't comment on advice of his lawyer.

"I want to answer. One day I will answer," he said.

Stephanopoulos said he asked Cohen repeatedly if he was considering cooperating with prosecutors in their investigation. Cohen responded that if he is charged with anything, he would defer to his new lawyer in the case, Guy Petrillo, for advice.

Petrillo did not immediately respond to a request for comment. There's been no indication that he's been in contact with prosecutors about his client cooperating.

Cohen repeated previous denials that he had any involvement with Russian attempts to interfere with the 2016 presidential election, but he refused to criticize the investigation led by former FBI Director Robert Mueller.

"I don't like the term 'witch hunt,'" Cohen was quoted as saying.

He was asked how he might respond if the president or his legal team came after him and tried to discredit the work he did for Trump over the last decade.

"I will not be a punching bag as part of anyone's defense strategy," Cohen said. "I am not a villain of this story, and I will not allow others to try to depict me that way."

He also told ABC he did not agree with Trump's recent tweet repeating Vladimir Putin's claim that Russia did not interfere in the election.

"Simply accepting the denial of Mr. Putin is unsustainable," Cohen said. "I respect our nation's intelligence agencies' ... unanimous conclusions."

Mexico's victor pledges to 'reach understanding' with Trump

By PETER ORSI and MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Fresh off a landslide victory, Mexico's newly elected leftist president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador pledged Monday to "reach an understanding" with Donald Trump amid uncertain times for two countries that must seek consensus on everything from contentious trade talks to cooperation on security and migration.

During a half-hour telephone conversation, Trump said the two leaders discussed topics including border security, trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement, adding that "I think the relationship will be a very good one."

In an interview with the Televisa news network, Lopez Obrador did not provide specifics on what an

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"understanding" with the Trump administration might look like, except to emphasize the need for mutual respect and cooperation between the two neighbors.

"We are conscious of the need to maintain good relations with the United States. We have a border of more than 3,000 kilometers, more than 12 million Mexicans live in the United States. It is our main economic-commercial partner," he said.

"We are not going to fight. We are always going to seek for there to be an agreement. ... We are going to extend our frank hand to seek a relation of friendship, I repeat, of cooperation with the United States."

Meanwhile, members of the business and political elite who fiercely opposed Lopez Obrador's populist candidacy pledged to support his presidency in a loyal opposition, and the largely orderly vote in which his rivals conceded defeat gracefully — and quickly — was hailed as a win for democracy in the country.

With nearly three-quarters of the ballots counted, Lopez Obrador had about 53 percent of the vote — the most for any presidential candidate since 1982, a time when the Institutional Revolutionary Party was in its 71-year domination of Mexican politics and ruling party victories were a given.

Rivals Ricardo Anaya and Jose Antonio Meade acknowledged Lopez Obrador's win even before official results were announced, in a break from past elections. Lopez Obrador himself refused to accept his two previous presidential losses, and in 2006 his supporters set up a protest camp that caused months of chaos in downtown Mexico City.

Lopez Obrador, who rode a wave of popular anger over government corruption to become the first self-described leftist elected to the Mexican presidency in four decades, has pointedly sought to reassure his respect for the constitution, private property and individual rights, vowing there will be no expropriations even as he pushes to "eradicate" endemic corruption.

He announced a team of advisers that includes prominent businessman Alfonso Romo — a friend of telecom magnate Carlos Slim, one of the world's wealthiest people — and widely respected politician Tariana Clouthier, formerly a member of Anaya's conservative party, apparently seeking to signal that nobody should fear his promise of "profound change."

Business leaders who have openly warred with Lopez Obrador for years vowed to work with him and said fighting graft is an area where they see eye-to-eye.

"We have a lot in common as well as profound differences," said Gustavo de Hoyos, president of the Mexican Employer's Confederation, Coparmex. He added the private sector would defend recent initiatives, such as an energy reform bill that opened the sector to private investors under President Enrique Pena Nieto, "that have benefited competitiveness."

Lopez Obrador previously vowed to throw the energy reform out but now says contracts merely will be reviewed for any illegalities. While his allies are forecast to likely dominate both houses of congress, he may not enjoy the two-thirds majority needed for outright reversal.

Mexico's main stock index and the peso were both down Monday, but analysts at Banco Base attributed the currency's drop to broader global movement in favor of the U.S. dollar and speculation about U.S. interest rates. Investors have long been expecting a victory by Lopez Obrador, who held double-digit leads in polls for months.

Prominent intellectual Enrique Krauze, who famously labeled Lopez Obrador a "tropical messiah" during his first presidential run in 2006, said via Twitter that he wishes "for his government to become an emblem of ethics for the world."

The next president is unlike most of his predecessors in many ways: Devoutly religious, he is a career activist instead of a lawyer, military officer or businessman, and the first president in a century to speak in a marked regional accent, from his native Tabasco state in Mexico's tropical lowlands.

Lopez Obrador plans to eschew the presidential mansion tucked into Mexico City's verdant Chapultepec park, preferring to remain at his modest home on the capital's south side and working from offices in the colonial National Palace downtown.

He also plans to tour the country without secret service protection, and to dissolve the guard corps that has protected presidents since 1926.

Lopez Obrador arrived at a hotel in downtown Mexico City for the first of two victory speeches Sunday

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night in a bland white sedan befitting the “man of the people” image he has projected for over a decade.

He left in a decidedly more presidential luxury SUV — though he rolled down the windows to wave to adoring supporters — underscoring that the man who spent the last 12 years as a persistent government critic from outside the halls of power must now govern amid considerable challenges for the country, and deliver on ambitious but vaguely outlined campaign promises.

Voters will expect him to put into concrete action his anti-corruption agenda, reign in rising killings and cartel violence that have stubbornly resisted the efforts of his two predecessors, and revive a sluggish economy that grew just 2.1 percent last year.

Commonly known by his initials, “AMLO,” Lopez Obrador has proposed measures like a huge increase in infrastructure spending, but it’s not clear how he can do that if he fulfills a promise not to raise taxes.

Lopez Obrador won thanks to overwhelming anger at the status quo and his success at presenting himself as an agent of change. But he’s been frustratingly vague on how he’ll go about it.

“I think what happens now is Mexico begins to look for signs of what an AMLO presidency means, because we don’t know right now,” said Shannon O’Neil, senior fellow for Latin America studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. “What are the signals that he sends out to markets, to his political opponents, to Mexican society generally, of what he’ll actually do when he comes into office?”

Lopez Obrador has been compared to Trump for his populist, nationalist rhetoric and sometimes touchy personality — as well as his past skepticism about NAFTA. But he now supports reaching an agreement with the United States and Canada, though talks have been stalled over Trump administration demands for higher U.S. content and a “sunset clause” in the 1994 trade agreement.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross told CNBC that Mexico “needs some sort of an arrangement” given its dependence on American consumers and businesses, having shipped \$314 billion in goods to the United States last year. Beyond that, Ross said it was unclear whether Mexico’s incoming president would either bring in new negotiators or set a different agenda.

“It’s really a question of when the talks resume,” Ross said.

Compared with his predecessors, Lopez Obrador is likely to be more focused on domestic economic issues than on settling trade issues with the United States, O’Neil said. This may mean that any future negotiations are unlikely to shift the focus.

“They will inherit the talks where they are — currently at a standstill, largely given U.S. recalcitrance to compromise with its neighbors,” she said, noting that Mexico has imposed its own retaliatory tariffs and the new administration would likely follow the same approach.

Lopez Obrador said he will propose that his own experts be included in the talks, but will respect Mexico’s current negotiating team as they continue to represent Mexico until he takes office Dec. 1.

Associated Press writer Amy Guthrie in Mexico City and AP Economics Writer Josh Boak in Washington contributed to this report.

As US, NK resume talks, experts say speedy denuclearization unlikely

By DEB RIECHMANN and MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepares to travel this week to North Korea, experts cautioned that the Trump administration’s plan to dismantle the North’s nuclear weapons and missiles in a year is both unrealistic and risky.

The State Department said Pompeo would arrive Friday on his third visit to Pyongyang in three months. It will be the first visit by a senior U.S. official since President Donald Trump’s historic meeting with Kim Jong Un on June 12 in Singapore, where the North Korean leader committed to “complete denuclearization” of the Korean Peninsula.

Trump’s questionable claim afterward that the North was no longer a nuclear threat was soon displaced by doubts about how to achieve denuclearization, a goal that has eluded U.S. administrations for the past quarter-century since Pyongyang began producing fissile material for bombs.

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Less than three weeks ago, Pompeo said the United States wanted North Korea to take “major” nuclear disarmament steps within the next two years — before the end of Trump’s first term in January 2021. Even that was viewed as bullish by nonproliferation experts considering the scale of North Korea’s weapons program and its history of evasion and reluctance to allow verification of disarmament agreements.

But on Sunday, Trump’s national security adviser, John Bolton, publicized the more ambitious one-year plan that he said Pompeo will be discussing with the North Koreans. Bolton, who has expressed hard-line views on North Korea, said that if Pyongyang has decided to give up its nuclear weapons program and is cooperative, then “we can move very quickly” and they can win sanctions relief and aid from South Korea and Japan.

The rapid timeline he proposed contrasts with more measured, methodical strategies that most North Korea experts insist are needed to produce a lasting denuclearization agreement. They say any solid deal will require Kim to be completely transparent about his program — at a time when intelligence reports suggest he will try to deceive the United States about the extent of his covert weapons or facilities.

The one-year plan is predicated on the North Koreans “rolling over and playing dead,” said Joel Wit, a former State Department official who helped negotiate a 1994 agreement that temporarily froze Pyongyang’s nuclear program. “If it’s our going-in position, it’s fine. We should give it a try and see where it goes. If it’s our bottom line, it’s dead on arrival and then provides a pretext for John Bolton to make mischief.”

To date, Kim has halted nuclear and missile tests and has destroyed tunnels at the North’s nuclear test site, but the authoritarian nation has yet to take concrete steps toward abandoning its weapons programs. Recent think tank analyses using satellite imagery suggest that Pyongyang may even be expanding some facilities linked to its missile and nuclear programs.

The Washington Post on Saturday cited unnamed U.S. intelligence officials as concluding that North Korea does not intend to fully surrender its nuclear stockpile. Evidence collected since the summit points to preparations to deceive the U.S. about the number of nuclear warheads in North Korea’s arsenal as well as the existence of undisclosed facilities used to make fissile material for nuclear bombs, according to the report. Some aspects of the updated intelligence were reported Friday by NBC News.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press that the Post’s report was accurate and that the assessment reflected the consistent view across U.S. government agencies for the past several weeks. The official was not authorized to comment publicly on the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

North Korea and Washington have yet to negotiate the terms under which the North would relinquish its weapons, so Pyongyang can be expected to seek leverage in those discussions. But those reported activities could add to misgivings in the United States, which has seen agreements with the North flounder before, often amid allegations of evasion or cheating. Pyongyang has often had its own complaints about Washington over slow delivery of aid and imposition of sanctions.

“Denuclearization is no simple task. There is no precedent for a country that has openly tested nuclear weapons and developed a nuclear arsenal and infrastructure as substantial as the one in North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons,” Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, wrote in a commentary published Monday.

A strategy by David Albright at the Institute for Science and International Security suggests the U.S. needs to get Kim to disclose a complete list of all his nuclear program sites and materials, including uranium and plutonium. He also said Trump and Kim should decide whether to move the nuclear weapons out of North Korea to dismantle them or do it inside the country.

Even if North Korea is cooperative, the magnitude of dismantling its weapons of mass destruction programs, believed to encompass dozens of sites, will be tough, according to Stanford University academics, including nuclear physicist Siegfried Hecker, a leading expert on the North’s nuclear program.

The Stanford team has proposed a 10-year roadmap, based on its belief that “North Korea will not give up its weapons and its weapons program until its security can be assured.”

And they say such assurance cannot be achieved by a hasty promise or written agreement.

“The suggestion of shipping the North’s nuclear weapons out of the country is naive and dangerous.

The weapons must be disassembled by the people who assembled them," Hecker's group said. "Although the U.S. should be prepared to accept all concessions Kim is willing to make early on, such as closing the nuclear test site, it must be prepared for a phased approach."

Harvey Weinstein charged with sex crime against a 3rd woman

By KAREN MATTHEWS

NEW YORK (AP) — Harvey Weinstein was charged Monday with a sex crime against a third woman, as New York prosecutors continue building cases against the former Hollywood studio boss whose downfall ushered in the #MeToo movement.

Manhattan's district attorney announced the charges in an updated indictment, saying Weinstein performed a forcible sex act on the woman in 2006.

"A Manhattan grand jury has now indicted Harvey Weinstein on some of the most serious sexual offenses that exist under New York's penal law," District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said in a statement. "Our investigation continues. If you are a survivor of the predatory abuse with which Mr. Weinstein is charged, there is still time to pursue justice."

Vance said Weinstein was charged with another count of criminal sexual act and two counts of predatory sexual assault. The latter carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Weinstein is scheduled for arraignment on the new charges July 9. A lawyer for Weinstein said the 66-year-old former movie mogul will plead not guilty.

"Mr. Weinstein maintains that all of these allegations are false and he expects to be fully vindicated," lawyer Ben Brafman said.

A grand jury previously indicted Weinstein on charges involving two women. One of the alleged victims in the criminal case, who has not been identified publicly, told investigators that Weinstein cornered her in a hotel room and raped her in 2013. The other accuser, former actress Lucia Evans, has gone public with her account of Weinstein forcing her to perform oral sex at his office in 2004.

The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sexual assaults unless they come forward publicly.

More than 75 women have accused Weinstein of wrongdoing. Several actresses and models accused him of criminal sexual assaults, including film actress Rose McGowan, who said Weinstein raped her in 1997 in Utah, "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra, who said he raped her in her New York apartment in 1992, and the Norwegian actress Natassia Malthe, who said he attacked her in a London hotel room in 2008.

The New York Times and The New Yorker jointly won a 2018 Pulitzer Prize for their reporting on Weinstein, which toppled a once untouchable star maker and helped prod women in other industries from technology to academia to factory work to tell their stories of sexual harassment by powerful men.

Mimi Haley, a former Weinstein Co. production assistant, made allegations against Weinstein last October that align with the charges in the updated indictment.

Haley said Weinstein forcibly performed oral sex on her in 2006 in what appeared to be a child's bedroom in his Manhattan apartment. Neither the district attorney's office nor Haley's attorney, Gloria Allred, would confirm that Haley is the accuser in the new charges.

New York City police detectives said in early November that they were investigating allegations by another Weinstein accuser, "Boardwalk Empire" actress Paz de la Huerta, who told police in October that he raped her twice in 2010.

Weinstein has denied all allegations of nonconsensual sex, with his attorney challenging the credibility of his alleged victims.

Judges thrust into debate over Trump's immigration policies

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Inside a small courtroom, a half-dozen immigrant teens and their families sat anxiously on wooden benches awaiting their immigration court hearing.

An attorney for a nonprofit gave a quick overview in Spanish of U.S. immigration law and what they needed to do: Speak loudly. Ask for clarification if you don't understand something. Be honest with the judge about what drove you to travel to the United States.

Moments later, Judge Lori Bass peered at the crowd through red-rimmed eyeglasses and in a gentle voice asked the children their names, ages and if they were attending school, which many answered with a resounding "yes" in English. She then turned her attention to the moms, dads and uncles sitting beside them.

"The purpose of these proceedings is to see whether the children can stay in the United States or whether they have to leave the United States," she said. "This is extremely important, and you really need to understand everything."

The same scene that played out in a Los Angeles courtroom is encountered each year by thousands of Central American children who travel through Mexico and get caught trying to cross the U.S. border. In most cases, they are sent to live with relatives already in the United States. But the U.S. government still tries to deport them, and many of their fates are decided by the country's 335 immigration judges.

In recent weeks, the judges have been thrust into the center of the political controversy over President Donald Trump's immigration policy that separated more than 2,000 immigrant children from their parents.

The administration has announced production quotas for the judges, who are lawyers hired by the Department of Justice. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has narrowed the conditions they can consider for asylum, which could affect many Central American cases. And last week, Trump questioned on Twitter the need for judges for these cases at all by posting: "When somebody comes in, we must immediately, with no Judges or Court Cases, bring them back from where they came."

He also recently lashed out at a proposal in Congress to hire more immigration judges to address a chronic backlog of cases, saying an expansion of the bench would lead to "graft."

The National Association of Immigration Judges issued a statement stressing the importance of their jobs, especially when considering asylum cases that can be life-or-death decisions for immigrants facing persecution in their homeland.

"This is not traffic court. A mistake on an asylum case can result in jail, torture or a death sentence," Judge A. Ashley Tabaddor, the association's president, said in a statement.

The group opposes the quotas, fearing judges will rush through hearings to try to protect their government jobs.

The judges have long wished to be removed from the Department of Justice to achieve greater independence from the immigration politics of each administration, and now, even more so, Tabaddor said.

"Unfortunately, we just feel this administration has put it on steroids," she said in a phone interview. "There is no other time than now that has just completely compelled us to have to be removed from the Department as soon as possible."

James McHenry, director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, has said the Justice Department ensures the courts have access to resources. He believes judges can be fair and handle cases quickly as they strive to work through the backlog.

"To my mind, there's no tension, and there's no reason that the judges cannot be both efficient and maintain due process," he said during a Senate subcommittee hearing earlier this year.

The immigration courts had nearly 700,000 cases in March, including 76,000 cases for children caught on the border alone. It can take months to get a hearing and years to get a decision.

The result is immigrants who are desperate to win asylum so they can bring their families to join them in the United States may find themselves waiting years, while others who have little chance of gaining legal status end up staying longer than they otherwise could.

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There has long been a clamor for more immigration judges to keep up with the caseload. The Justice Department plans to hire 100 by the end of the year, and the courts are planning to add more law clerks and to move to an electronic filing system to improve efficiency.

Sessions also wants judges to decide cases more quickly. He isn't letting them temporarily shelve cases as they once did.

Many immigrant advocates said they believe Sessions is trying to limit the number of immigrants who can even get to court, pointing to his recent decision limiting asylum claims for gang and domestic violence.

Currently, adult immigrants who pass initial asylum screenings after arriving on the U.S. border are allowed a hearing before an immigration judge. If fewer pass the screenings, fewer could make it to court.

In Judge Bass' courtroom in Los Angeles, it wasn't clear how the children might try to stay in the United States legally. They were told to look for attorneys and return to court next spring.

One of them, 13-year-old Alfred, was brought to the border from Guatemala by his grandmother four years ago after gang members threatened to kill them if they stayed, said his mother, Karin, who asked that her full name not be used because of threats to her family.

The grandmother was deported and the boy sent to live with his mother. His immigration case was sent to Los Angeles after she moved to California two years ago.

Now, she said, she is focused on finding her son a lawyer to see how he can stay, "with all this from the president, since he wants to kick everyone out of here."

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> .

Asian markets tumble as China-US trade tensions rise

ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets tumbled on Tuesday as back-and-forth exchanges over possible higher U.S. tariffs for the auto sector deepened concerns that a trade war is brewing. The U.S. and China, the world's two largest economies, are set to impose tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's products starting Friday.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng, reopening after a market holiday on Monday, plunged 3.0 percent to 28,091.91 as investors reacted to weaker than expected economic data. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.8 percent to 21,631.27 and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.3 percent to 2,264.86. The Shanghai Composite index sank 1.3 percent to 2,740.26. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 bucked the regional trend, adding 0.4 percent to 6,205.10, ahead of an interest rate decision by the Reserve Bank of Australia later Tuesday. The rate is expected to remain unchanged at 1.5 percent. Taiwan's benchmark fell and Southeast Asian indexes were mixed.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks closed higher Monday, buoyed by a last-minute rally from technology companies. The S&P 500 index rose 0.3 percent to 2,726.71 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.2 percent to 24,307.18. The Nasdaq composite jumped 0.8 percent to 7,567.69. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks rose 0.7 percent to 1,655.09.

TRADE TENSIONS: The European Union on Monday slammed the Trump administration for considering higher tariffs on auto imports, saying they could lead to global retaliation against some \$300 billion in U.S. goods. European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said the U.S. investigation into the possibility of auto tariffs "lacks legitimacy, factual basis and violates international trade rules," like last month's U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. The EU has retaliated against those tariffs with measures of its own, which hit around 2.8 billion euros (\$3.26 billion) worth of American-made products. President Donald Trump cited national security concerns for the previous tariffs. On Monday, Trump said the World Trade Organization has treated the U.S. "very badly" and the country will be "doing something" if the organization doesn't change its ways. But he denied reports he plans to pull out of the WTO.

TARIFFS LOOM: The U.S. will start imposing a 25 percent tariff on \$34 billion in Chinese imports this

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Friday. It won't target 284 additions, worth \$16 billion, until it gathers further public comments. China is expected to strike back with tariffs on a like amount of U.S. exports. The Trump administration is also identifying an additional \$200 billion in Chinese goods for 10 percent tariffs, which could take effect if Beijing retaliates.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "In the lead up to the July 6 tariffs implementation date, uncertainties continue to loom and with that, Asian equity markets look set to be braced for another day of lackluster trading," said Jingyi Pan of IG. She added that investors, bracing themselves for U.S-China tariffs, may turn to defensive stocks in industries like utilities, telecommunications and real estate.

ENERGY: Oil futures recovered from the previous day's downtick, after Trump claimed that Saudi Arabia could produce up to double of the 1 million barrels-a-day increase agreed by OPEC countries. Benchmark U.S. crude added 65 cents to \$74.58 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It fell 21 cents to settle at \$73.94 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 52 cents to \$77.82. The contract lost \$1.93 to close at \$77.30 in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar eased to 110.84 yen from 110.87 yen in late trading Monday. The euro slipped to \$1.1631 from \$1.1639.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 3, the 184th day of 2018. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.

On this date:

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state of the Union.

In 1913, during a 50th anniversary reunion at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Civil War veterans re-enacted Pickett's Charge, which ended with embraces and handshakes between the former enemies.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg by dedicating the Eternal Light Peace Memorial.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1962, French President Charles de Gaulle signed an agreement recognizing Algeria as an independent state after 132 years of French rule.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1976, Israel launched its daring mission to rescue 106 passengers and Air France crew members being held at Entebbe (en-TEH'-bee) Airport in Uganda (yoo-GAHN'-dah) by pro-Palestinian hijackers; the commandos succeeded in rescuing all but four of the hostages.

In 1987, British millionaire Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand became the first hot-air balloon travelers to cross the Atlantic, parachuting into the sea as their craft went down off the Scottish coast.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

In 1992, the first U.S. Air Force C-130 transport planes from Operation Provide Promise arrived in the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

Ten years ago: The Pentagon announced it had extended the tour of 2,200 Marines in Afghanistan, after insisting for months the unit would come home on time. Venus and Serena Williams won in straight sets to set up their third all-sister Wimbledon final and seventh Grand Slam championship matchup. Larry

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Harmon, who turned Bozo the Clown into a show business staple, died in Los Angeles at age 83.

Five years ago: Egypt's first democratically elected president, Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by the military after just one year by the same kind of Arab Spring uprising that had brought the Islamist leader to power.

One year ago: A federal appeals court ruled that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt overstepped his authority in trying to delay implementation of an Obama administration rule requiring oil and gas companies to monitor and reduce methane leaks. The three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the EPA to move forward with the new requirement aimed at reducing planet-warming emissions from oil and gas operations.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Tom Stoppard is 81. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 79. Actor Michael Cole (TV: "The Mod Squad") is 78. Attorney Gloria Allred is 77. Folk singer Judith Durham (The Seekers) is 75. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 75. Country singer Johnny Lee is 72. Humorist Dave Barry is 71. Actress Betty Buckley is 71. Rock singer-musician Paul Barrere (bah-RAYR') (Little Feat) is 70. Actress Jan Smithers is 69. Actor Bruce Altman is 63. Talk show host Montel Williams is 62. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 60. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Erasure) is 58. Actor Tom Cruise is 56. Actor Thomas Gibson is 56. Actress Hunter Tylo is 56. Actress Connie Nielsen is 54. Actress Yearldley Smith is 54. TV chef Sandra Lee is 52. Singer Ishmael Butler is 49. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 49. Actress-singer Shawnee Smith is 49. Actress-singer Audra McDonald is 48. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 47. Actor Patrick Wilson is 45. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 43. Actress Andrea Barber is 42. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 42. Actor Ian Anthony Dale is 40. Actress Elizabeth Hendrickson is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tonia Tash (Divine) is 39. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 38. Actress Olivia Munn is 38. Actress Shoshannah Stern is 38. Rock singer-songwriter Elle King is 29. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 27. Actress Kelsey Batelaan is 23.

Thought for Today: "The trouble with life isn't that there is no answer, it's that there are so many answers." — Ruth Benedict, American anthropologist (1887-1948).