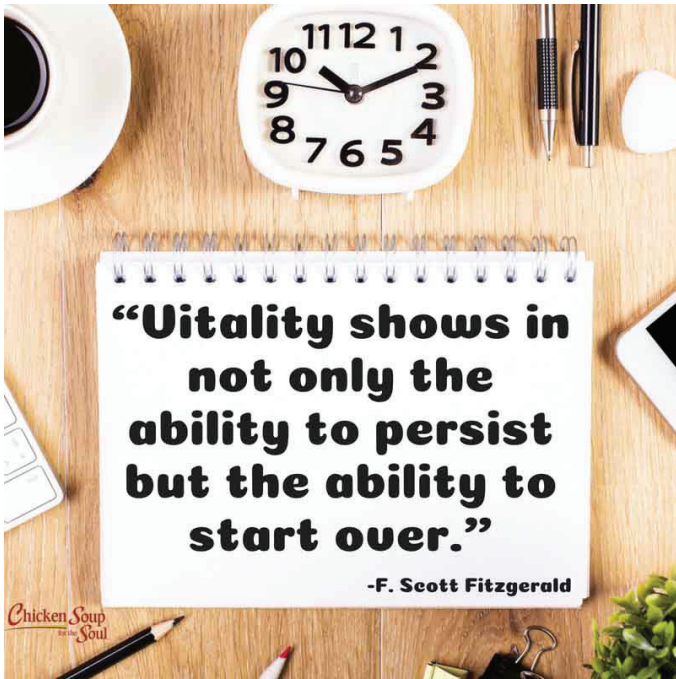


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- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping Ad
- 1- Death Notice: Doug Bahr
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Tower lights back on
- 3- Mosquito Control last night
- 4- SunDial Manor ad
- 5- Hot and Humid Saturday coming up
- 6- Drought Monitor
- 7- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 8- Midwest Masonry ad
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 10- Today's Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Weather
- 11- National Weather map
- 11- Today's Weather Almanac
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 14- News from the Associated Press

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

Death Notice: Doug Bahr

Groton: Douglas Bahr, 68, of Groton passed away Thursday, July 5th at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Kristi Peterson Bookkeeping
Simple Solutions for YOU
605/216-4474 ~ peterson4@nvc.net

Tower lights are back on

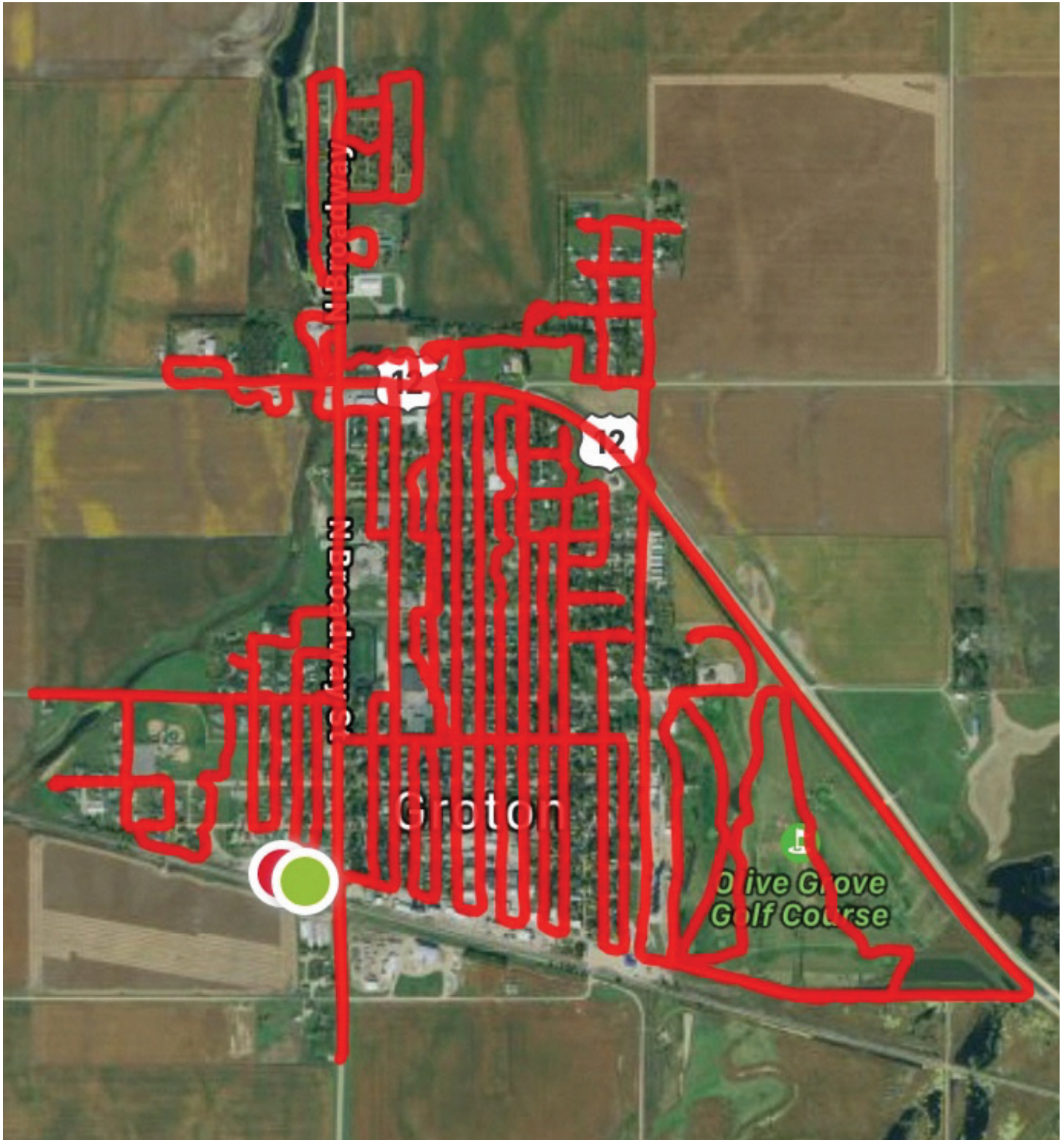


What seems like at least two years, the water tower has been dark at night. Yesterday, a new wire was pulled through the conduit for the show lights and the two red bulbs on top were replaced as the tower lights are back on. (Photos by Paul Kosel)

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Mosquito control was done Thursday evening. The temperature was between 66 and 71 degrees, the wind was east from 1-5 mph and 8.5 gallons Evolver was used in the 29.81 miles driven.





**Sun Dial Manor in Bristol
is accepting applications for
full time and part time CNA's.
12 hr. shifts - days and nights
(SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)**

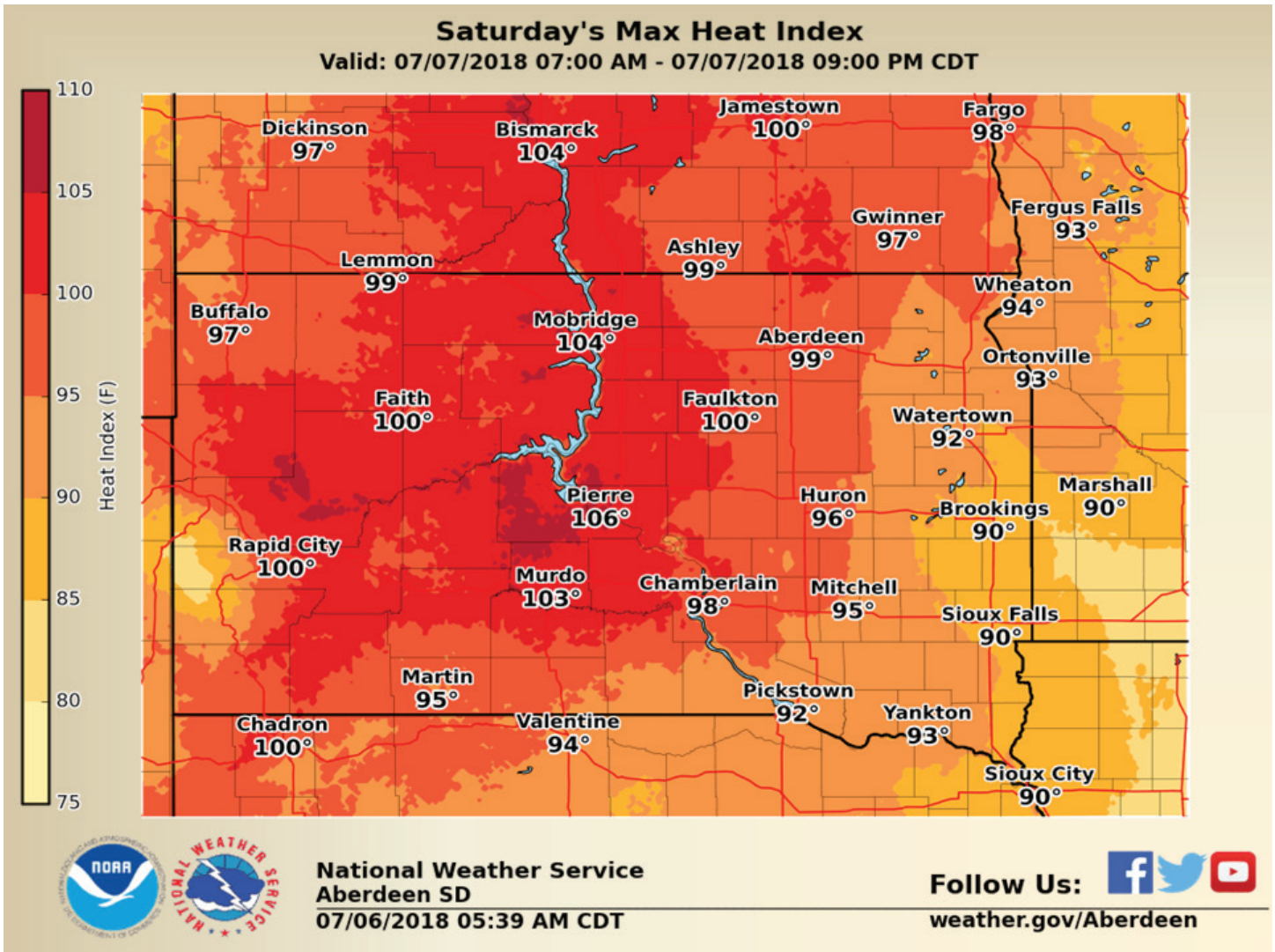
DIETARY OPENINGS

**Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts
(WITH SIGN ON BONUS)**

**For more information,
Call 605/492-3615**

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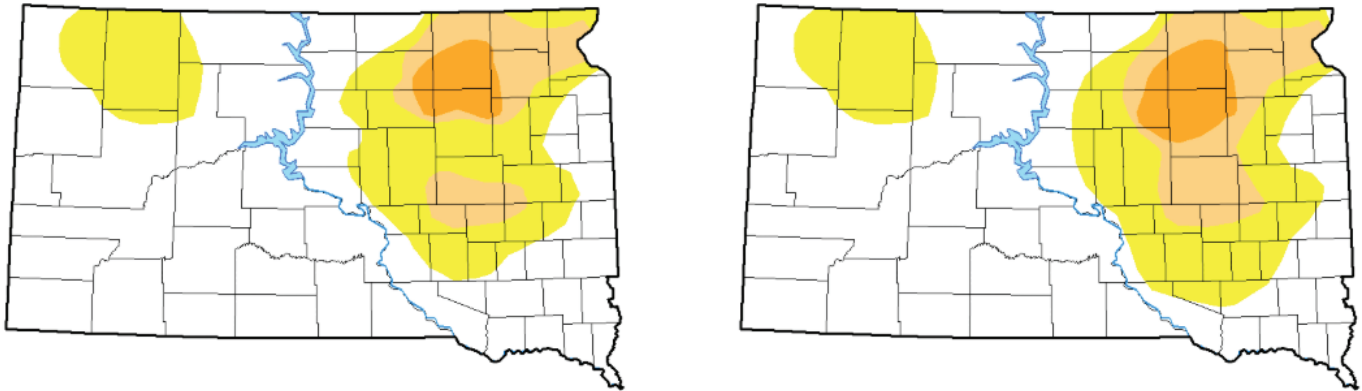
Published on: 07/06/2018 at 5:45AM

It will be hot and humid on Saturday, with heat indices pushing 105F in some areas.

Drought Monitor

Drought Classification

None D0 (Abnormally Dry) D1 (Moderate Drought) D2 (Severe Drought) D3 (Extreme Drought) D4 (Exceptional Drought)



In Colorado and Wyoming, most areas remained unchanged; most of Wyoming remained out of dryness, and conditions worsened progressively moving south, with extreme to exceptional drought covering southern Colorado. Deficient precipitation and enhanced evaporative loss over the past few months led to limited expansion of D0 and D1 in areas near the central part of the border. Farther east, dryness led to some deterioration in Kansas. D3 pushed into part of south-central Kansas while extreme drought expanded into a larger part of northeastern Kansas. In the Dakotas, very heavy rains and flooding late in the period covered a swath across east-central South Dakota, leading to a band of 1- to 2-category improvement, with southern reaches of the old D2 area climbing to D0. This area will have to be assessed next week to get a better sense of how this intense rainfall episode changed the drought situation there. Moderate to heavy rains (but only isolated minor flooding) pelted western North Dakota as well, prompting the removal of abnormal dryness over much of the western part of the state. Small-scale improvements were made in a few other dry areas where rain was heaviest.

Thank You

Groton Care and Rehab would like to sincerely thank the community for your unending support!

We remain to be a strong and caring facility, focusing on quality of life.

We will continue to be an integral part of the Groton Community.

Our staff continues to provide the greatest care to our residents.

Come visit us to learn about the new opportunities!!

We Are Hiring!



GROTON
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

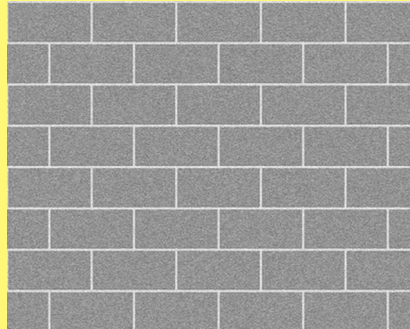
1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.

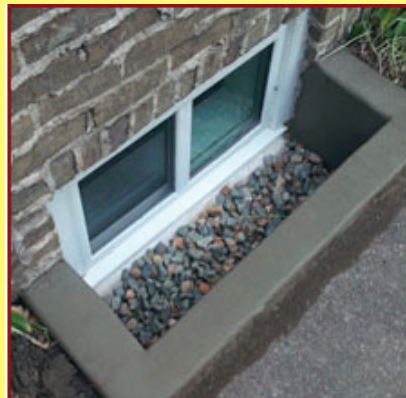
MIDWEST MASONRY & CONCRETE PUMPING



**NEW OR REPLACED
SIDEWALK**



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DRIVEWAY

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WORK



GARAGE FLOORS

Call for a free quote

605/397-8383

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Today in Weather History

July 6, 1963: A farmer was fatally injured near Waubay, in Day County, when the barn was destroyed while he was inside. Winds of 110 mph were recorded at FAA in Watertown before the roof and wind instruments were blown away.

July 6, 1982: A severe thunderstorm produced a series of five microbursts over Sioux Falls. The microbursts caused extensive damage. Winds were estimated to have reached 125 mph, and the Airport recorded a peak gust of 82 mph. Damage, which was heaviest in the south central and northeast sections of the city, included thousands of trees uprooted or damaged. Several semi-trailers were blown over, critically injuring one man and slightly injuring two others. Several other minor injuries occurred mainly from flying glass. Five cars were rolled over by the high winds, and several others damaged flying debris. Damage at the airport included a portion of a hangar roof blown off and three light aircraft flipped over.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some total storm amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1893 - A violent tornado killed 71 persons on its forty-mile track across northwestern Iowa. Forty-nine persons were killed around Pomeroy, where eighty percent of the buildings were destroyed, with most leveled to the ground. Photos showed most of the town without a wall or tree left standing. (The Weather Channel)

1928 - A hailstorm at Potter, NE, produced a stone which was 5.5 inches in diameter, and seventeen inches in circumference, weighing a pound and a half. (David Ludlum)

1985 - Lightning struck a large transformer in Salt Lake County sending a 200 foot fireball into the air and blacking out almost the entire state for up to five hours. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorm rains during the mid morning hours, and again during the evening, produced major flash-flooding at Leavenworth, KS. The official rainfall total was 10.37 inches, but unofficial totals exceeded twelve inches. At nearby Kansas City, the rainfall total of 5.08 inches was a daily record for July. (Storm Data)






1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in twenty-one states east of the Rockies, with severe weather reported in Kentucky and Indiana for the second day in a row. A thunderstorm produced more than five inches of rain in one hour near Reynolds, IL. Rochester, NY, was soaked with 3.25 inches, a record 24 hour total for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at International Falls, MN, and 101 degrees at Flint, MI, equalled all-time records. Highs of 96 degrees at Muskegon, MI, and 97 degrees at Buffalo, NY, were records for July. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Las Vegas, NV, with a reading of 115 degrees. Hanksville, UT, reached 112 degrees, Bullhead City, AZ, hit 120 degrees, and Death Valley, CA, soared to 126 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

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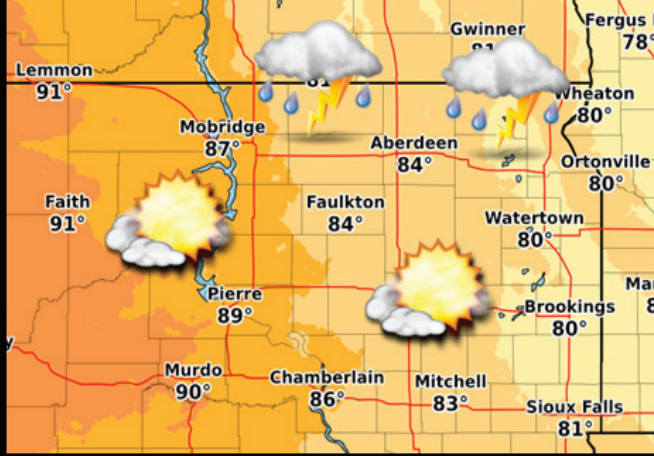
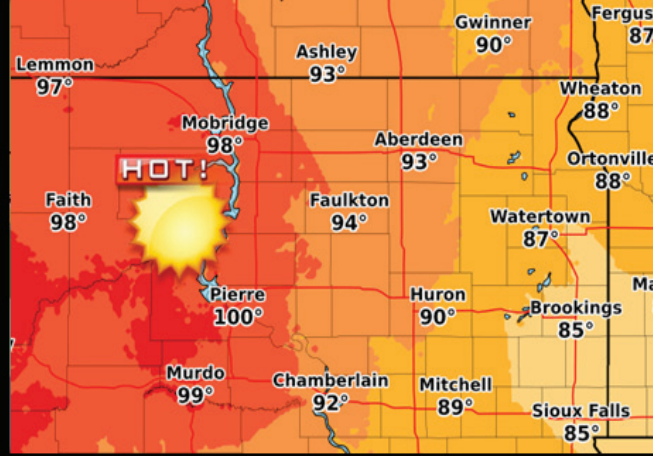
Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Chance Showers then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Breezy then Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Sunny
High: 84 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 93 °F	Low: 72 °F	High: 91 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 88 °F




Today *Morning Storms*

- Isolated storms ending around midday
- Seasonal temperatures in the afternoon

Warm Temperatures on Saturday

- Heat index of 95 to 105 degrees
- Highest values along the Missouri River

 weather.gov/Aberdeen
 National Weather Service Aberdeen
 @NWSAberdeen
Updated: 7/6/2018 5:48 AM Central

Published on: 07/06/2018 at 5:54AM

Isolated showers and thunderstorms are possible this morning, mainly for locations along the North Dakota, South Dakota border. These storms should dissipate around midday with dry conditions this afternoon through Saturday. It will be hot on Saturday with highs in the upper 80s, to around 100 degrees.

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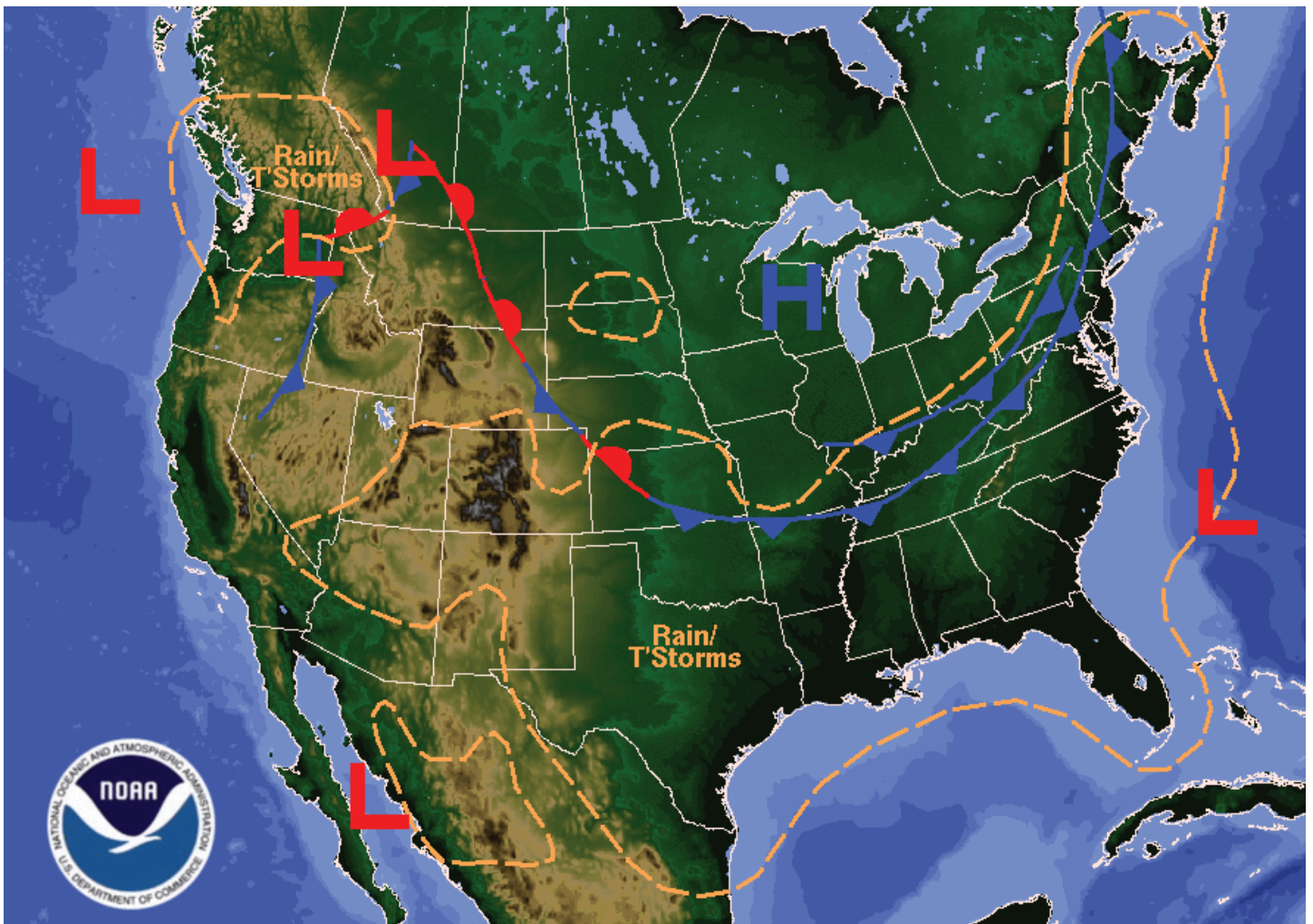
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.9 F at 5:51 PM
Low Outside Temp: 56.7 F at 6:11 AM
High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 2:38 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 115° in 1936
Record Low: 42° in 1942
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 58°F
Average Precip in July: 0.53
Precip to date in July: 1.50
Average Precip to date: 11.37
Precip Year to Date: 7.32
Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:53 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Jul 06, 2018, issued 4:32 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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THE LASTING LEGACY OF THE LORD

Voltaire, a famous French philosopher, was also a brilliant atheist. He wrote a number of articles deriding the Bible. On one occasion he declared, "One hundred years from today the Bible will be a forgotten book!"

Most people have never heard that quote, yet most people have heard of the Bible. After Voltaire died, for nearly 100 years, his home was used as the depository for the French Bible Society. How ironic that Bibles were sold from what once was the place where he lived and wrote his materials proclaiming that God's Word would not last. Yet, it is he who is nearly forgotten while the Bible has become a "bestseller" year after year. That home, by the way, is now a museum.

Others have also attempted to destroy the meaning and the message of the Bible. No one has been successful. It has survived every assault and weathered every storm. It has been banned from continents and burned in public bonfires. It has been ridiculed and rejected, but it is still honored and held in esteem by those who seek the way, the truth and the life. It has been despised and disputed, debated and denied having relevance in today's world, yet sought for when eternal questions need truthful answers.

The Bible is still the most read, the most published and the most translated book ever written. It continues to change lives and provide directions for those who seek a lamp for their feet and a light for their paths.

"Your Word, Lord, is eternal, it stands firm in the heavens," wrote the Psalmist. His truth will last forever!

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the promises that Your love, mercy, grace and salvation will last forever. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:89 Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

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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

Agriculture Department to hold emerald ash borer forum

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture is set to hold an informational forum on emerald ash borer in Rapid City.

The department says the Thursday event will show attendees how to identify affected ash trees and the treatments around to protect trees. John Ball, a forest health specialist for the department, will give information and take questions.

The invasive insect has led to the loss of tens of millions of ash trees in over 30 states.

Emerald ash borer has been confirmed in Sioux Falls. The Agriculture Department says it's time now for people to start planning what do to with their ash trees when the insect is eventually confirmed in Rapid City or nearby communities.

NTSB: Damage during installation led to oil pipeline crack

AMHERST, S.D. (AP) — The National Transportation Safety Board says a fatigue crack caused last year's rupture of the Keystone oil pipeline in South Dakota.

The NTSB said in a report released Thursday that the crack likely originated from mechanical damage to the pipe exterior caused by a metal-tracked vehicle during installation. Investigators say the crack grew to a "critical size" and resulted in the Nov. 16 rupture near Amherst.

An estimated 210,000 gallons of oil spilled from the TransCanada Corp. pipeline between the Ludden, North Dakota, and Ferney, South Dakota, pump stations. There were no injuries associated with the incident.

TransCanada spokesman Matthew John says the impacted property has been cleaned up and the pipeline has returned to service. John says the company is committed to achieving its goal of "zero incidents."

Wisconsin models sales tax collection off South Dakota

By SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Small businesses not located in Wisconsin won't have to collect sales tax on internet purchases made by consumers in the state, but larger companies will have to charge the tax beginning in October.

The state Department of Revenue said Thursday that its enforcement of the law will be consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last week. The court upheld a South Dakota law requiring the collection of the tax but that also exempted businesses with less than \$100,000 in sales or less than 200 transactions a year.

All other larger businesses will have to start collecting Wisconsin's 5.6 percent sales tax in October. The Revenue Department said Thursday it is in the process of notifying businesses about the change.

Prior to the court's ruling, the court had held that states could only require retailers to collect tax for online sales if they also had a physical presence in the state.

"Wisconsin businesses, especially Wisconsin small businesses, will no longer be operating at a competitive disadvantage to out-of-state competitors that will now be required to collect the tax," the department said.

Collection of the sales tax is expected to bring in about \$120 million a year to Wisconsin.

A 2013 state law currently calls for the income tax to be lowered by an equal amount as the new sales tax, which the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau said would result in tax cut of \$52 for the average taxpayer.

The income tax reduction would range from a low of \$3 for filers at the lowest 4 percent bracket to a high of \$592 for those subject to the highest 7.65 percent rate, based on the Fiscal Bureau analysis.

Gov. Scott Walker has said he's open to looking at other tax reductions instead of the income tax. That alternative tax cut would be a part of Walker's state budget he'd propose in 2019 if he wins re-election in

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November.

Follow Scott Bauer on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP>

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <http://apne.ws/3Gzcraw>

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, July 5

Online sales tax legislation becomes critical

It's safe to assume not everyone was pleased when the U.S. Supreme Court voted 5-4 to uphold a South Dakota law requiring big retailers to collect sales tax on purchases made by state residents.

For them, it was simply another tax even if it did level the playing field for stores that are essential to a healthy local economy and community while collecting revenue for a state that lacks an income tax.

That narrative, however, should be re-evaluated after the Journal reported last week that court documents show the Rushmore Mall is defaulting on \$100 million in loans on property valued at between \$36 and \$42 million.

The digital revolution had claimed another victim.

The Rushmore Mall — like communities and malls across America — has lost some of its biggest clients in the past year. Anchor tenants like Sears and Herberger's have closed their doors, costing Rapid City jobs and sales tax revenue. The corporation that owns the mall, SM Rushmore Mall, also has adjacent property that was home to Toys 'R' Us, which closed 181 stores earlier this year, including the one in Rapid City.

The loss of these large retail chain stores certainly contributed to the startling debt. The property now will be managed by Wells Fargo until a new buyer is found. But new ownership won't pump new life into retail stores that have been so important to local economies but are now either going out of business or going strictly online.

It's a trend that if left unaddressed will have a big impact on essential services and public safety. Half of Rapid City's 2 percent municipal general sales tax accounts for 47 percent of its general fund, which provides revenue for police, firefighters, parks, street maintenance and repair, economic development and the administration of the city. The other 1 percent goes to capital projects and the Vision Fund.

How soon could the loss of these big-box retailers be felt? Actually, it may already be occurring. April's sales tax collections in Rapid City were down 5.2 percent compared to a year ago.

Fortunately, the Legislature passed the online sales tax legislation, and Attorney General Marty Jackley successfully made a case for it before the Supreme Court. While it initially appeared the city and state would see their cash flow grow, it now looks like the additional sales tax revenue will be needed to maintain a status quo that seems to be ever-changing.

It is not only fair that shoppers pay sales tax for all items they purchase, it is essential they do so or our community will suffer the consequences. That's the bottom line.

American News, Aberdeen, July 5

USD, South Dakota were lucky to have a Coyote like Abbott

When choosing a leader, organizations usually have two hiring choices.

Insider or outsider.

Jim Abbott was an insider who turned out to be a great choice for the University of South Dakota, education and the state.

He recently retired as USD president. Abbott, 70, started the job 21 years ago on July 1, 1997.

That is a lifetime for college presidents.

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In that same time period, Northern State has had seven presidents (including three interims, one who stayed on).

The good news with insiders: They know faces; don't have to ask where the bathrooms are; and come equipped with historical perspective.

Even though they have to ask where the bathrooms are, outsiders come equipped with a fresh perspective. Plus, they are easier to fire than insiders if things don't work out.

The bad news with insiders is they may have established favorites; they may favor keeping the bathrooms where they are even if it doesn't make sense; and they sometimes come equipped with historical baggage.

Abbott, a 1970 USD graduate who grew up near Vermillion in Yankton, often seemed to be able to display the best traits of an insider and outsider during his time as Head Coyote.

Yes, the South Dakota Board of Regents were his bosses, but the USD president was around long enough that he helped train some of them. He knew their tendencies, how the system worked and how to make it work.

In 1997, a visitor could get an almost full view of the USD campus on a trip down Cherry Street in Vermillion.

Under Abbott, that campus has now expanded, excelled and eclipsed expectations. Millions of dollars are being poured into the university and its students each year.

The old is now new.

Abbott and the rest of the state has seen USD's numbers grow wildly. He has helped take the school from enrollments of less than 7,500 to more than 10,000, from endowments of less than \$50 million to more than \$250 million, and from a 156-year-old school that showed its age to a campus prepared for the decades ahead.

Abbott the non-athlete also helped oversee the school's transition to Division I athletics. And he did it as many people of tradition were screaming against it, dragging their feet and digging in their heels.

Meanwhile, Abbott has spent his life fighting for and digging in for USD. He pulled others along into his vision of what he saw the place could become.

At his core, Abbott was a guy whose actions showed that he always cared about his students. He spent his last months as president living in a USD dorm, for goodness sakes.

Abbott's love for them made it easy for them to love him. They often showed him rock-star treatment when he was greeted at USD functions.

Many of his staff felt that love as well. Abbott donated one of his kidneys to an employee, for goodness sake.

Abbott spent a lifetime showing his love not only to USD, but to education and South Dakota.

We were lucky to have him as one of our leaders.

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, July 2

Week in review: the best, worst

HISSES are certainly in order after Thursday's shooting at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland. Every mass shooting is tragic but it hits particularly home for those in the journalism and newspaper business. By all accounts, the Capital Gazette values what so many local newspapers in this country are about, writing about important matters to its readers and keeping them informed. It is a critical part of the community in which they live and serve and their hard work and commitment has only been bolstered by this heartbreaking tragedy. The commitment of our fellow journalists in Annapolis and in communities across the country makes us proud.

CHEERS to the efforts in Redfield, where Spink County law enforcement did a great job of spearheading the apprehension of a man in a hostage situation at the local hospital. Considering a high speed car chase and hostage situation with a 10-year-old boy were involved, we're thankful there were no serious injuries. The incident sparked a large law enforcement response but the local law enforcement did a great job in a scenario they likely train for but don't often see in a small town. The response is likely easier said than

done and they did a great job.

HISSES to the news of anthrax making an appearance in the state's cattle herds, including in Bon Homme County. Anthrax can survive in contaminated alkaline soils and all parts of South Dakota have the potential to experience an outbreak if the climate is right, which can include quick changes. Many livestock producers are already a number of precautions to limit the onset or spread of the disease, including vaccinations and moving animal carcasses, so let's hope this is as an isolated set of outbreaks.

CHEERS regarding the proposed format for the NAIA basketball national tournaments starting in 2020-21. We know that Dakota Wesleyan and the local conference's contingent of schools opposed making the changes to the two-division format, as NAIA moves to one division starting in the aforementioned season. But the same amount of teams will qualify in 2021 — 64 teams — as the 32 teams in each division now. And from a local standpoint, DWU could take advantage of a definite home-court advantage in the first two rounds of the national tournament by hosting games at the Corn Palace before the national finals. If the Tiger programs continue to play well, that's a real possibility.

5 people dead, 1 seriously injured in South Dakota car crash

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota authorities are investigating after a driver failed to stop for police and hit another vehicle, leaving five people dead.

The Highway Patrol says a 12-year-old girl was also hurt in the crash about 1:20 a.m. Wednesday near Yankton, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) southwest of Sioux Falls.

A Yankton officer tried to stop an Acura on the highway when its headlights shut off and it crossed into oncoming lanes, hitting a Nissan. Yankton interim chief John Harris says one officer attempted the stop. Two others quickly arrived on scene.

The 27-year-old man driving the Acura and a passenger died. A 40-year-old woman, a 43-year-old man and a 10-year-old girl who were in the Nissan also died. A 12-year-old passenger was airlifted to a hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Officials haven't released their names.

South Dakota district, teachers at negotiation impasse

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A school district and its teachers in a western South Dakota county are headed for state-backed mediation after reaching an impasse over contract negotiations.

The Meade County School Board and the Meade Education Association are set to go into mediation next month, the Rapid City Journal reported.

The district has offered teachers with at least five years of experience a \$550 raise, and remaining teachers a \$350 raise. The increase meets the state's requirement of a 1 percent raise.

"The School Board has carefully reviewed budget projections for 2018-19 and believes that its offer to Meade Education Association is fair, prudent and consistent with South Dakota statutes for teacher compensation," the district said in a statement.

The proposal isn't enough, said Eric Johnson, the head negotiator for the Meade Education Association.

"Under the board proposal average salaries would actually drop from 2017-18 to 2018-19," Johnson wrote in a statement. "The salaries would 'just' stay above the state-imposed accountability rate for teacher's salaries."

Johnson said the union initially proposed giving experienced teachers a \$1,900 raise, but the district rejected that offer.

District officials said some funds must go toward operating a new middle school in Summerset. The district has also asked the union to take into consideration two building projects that could change enrollment numbers and staffing needs, said the district's attorney Lester Nies and business manager Brett Burditt.

The negotiation process will move to an administrative judge under the Labor Department if an agreement can't be reached.

The district serves 2,800 students at 15 facilities.

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

South Dakota authorities find woman who escaped custody

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota authorities have apprehended a woman who escaped from custody while at a Sioux Falls hospital.

The Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office tweeted Thursday that a fugitive task force had located Leighlonnie Goodsell, who had escaped while she was at Avera McKennan Hospital. Goodsell was in custody on several drug possession warrants.

Thais fight water and oxygen levels in cave as diver dies

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA and KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — Authorities overseeing the rescue operation for 12 boys and their soccer coach from a flooded cave in northern Thailand said they have a "limited amount of time" to get them out, as they raced against worsening weather and lessening oxygen underground.

The massive operation inside and around Tham Luang Nang Non cave suffered its first death Friday when a former Thai navy SEAL passed out underwater and could not be revived.

"We can no longer wait for all conditions (to be ready) because circumstances are pressuring us," Thai SEAL commander Arpakorn Yookongkaew told a news conference. "We originally thought the boys can stay safe inside the cave for quite some time, but circumstances have changed. We have limited amount of time."

Oxygen levels are decreasing because of the amount of workers inside the cave and workers were trying to run an oxygen line into the chambers in addition to the oxygen canisters used by divers, Chiang Rai province Gov. Narongsak Osatanakorn said late Thursday.

A senior army commander, Maj. Gen. Chalongchai Chaiyakam, said the most pressing mission is the oxygen line. It is tied to a telephone line to provide a channel of communication for the kids, who are stuck deep in the complex but are being looked after by four SEALs, including a medic.

The boys, aged 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach went exploring in the cave after a soccer game June 23. Monsoon flooding cut off their escape and prevented rescuers from finding them for almost 10 days as the only way to reach them was by navigating dark and tight passageways filled with muddy water and strong currents.

Authorities have been racing to pump out water from the cave before more storms in the coming days raise the water levels again. At this time though, diving is the only possible method of escape, even though cave rescue experts warn it is extremely dangerous even for those with experience.

Friday's death of the former SEAL underscores those risks. The diver was working in a volunteer capacity and died during an overnight mission in which he was placing oxygen canisters along the route divers use to get to the children, Arpakorn said.

The strategically placed canisters allow divers to stay underwater for longer during what is about a five-hour trip to reach the stranded team.

While underwater, the rescuer passed out and efforts to resuscitate him failed, Arpakorn said. Another navy official said he didn't believe the man's oxygen tank ran out.

"Despite this, we will continue until we accomplish our mission," Arpakorn said.

The governor has said the 13 may not be extracted at the same time, depending on their condition. They boys are weak but for the most part physically healthy. They've practiced wearing diving masks and breathing, in preparation for the diving possibility.

Officials prefer to get the boys out as soon as possible because heavy rain is expected by Saturday.

They are hoping that an upgraded draining effort can lower the water in an area where it is still at or near the ceiling. The idea is to get some headroom so the boys would not be reliant on scuba apparatus

for a long stretch and could keep their heads above water.

Cave rescue experts have said it could be safest to simply supply the boys where they are, and wait for the flooding to subside. That could take months, however, given that Thailand's rainy season typically lasts through October. And without proper oxygen levels, staying put could also prove deadly.

Deadline to reunite immigrant families rapidly approaching

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — This spring, the Trump administration began a "zero tolerance" policy to criminally prosecute anyone caught crossing the border illegally. Because children can't be in jail with their parents, more than 2,300 families caught by Border Patrol were separated. The move prompted mass outrage in the United States and internationally. After first blaming the practice on the Democrats, Trump on June 20 signed an executive order that stopped the separation of families. A June 26 court order by a federal judge set a hard deadline to reunite the families, and that deadline is fast approaching.

Here's where things stand:

THE NUMBERS

It's still not clear how many children have been separated from families under the zero-tolerance policy, or how many remain separated. Trump administration officials have said 2,342 children were separated from 2,206 parents between May 5 through June 9. Trump's order stopped separations on June 20.

About 520 children were reunited with their families within days because the improper-entry prosecutions were finished before the minors were turned over to the custody of Health and Human Services, which is responsible for caring for unaccompanied children. HHS Secretary Alex Azar told a congressional committee on June 26 there were 2,047 such children in his agency's care.

On Thursday, he said there are somewhere "under 3,000" children who were believed to have been separated, but that includes kids who may have lost parents along the journey, not just parents who were detained at the border. He said none had been transferred to Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody yet.

REUNITING FAMILIES

A federal judge in San Diego who had been hearing the case of a woman separated from her child ruled on June 26 that the families must be reunited within 30 days of his order, and by July 10 if the children are younger than 5.

But it's still not clear yet how that will work. Homeland Security has set up a staging area at the Port Isabel detention center in Texas where the parents can be detained until their children arrive. But it's not clear where they will go afterward — the three operational family detention centers are near capacity.

It's also possible not all parents will be reunited with their children; HHS has a strict set of guidelines the agency must follow to determine a suitable sponsor, including a home visit and a criminal background check.

Health and Human Services deployed more than 200 workers to review the cases of separated children. Azar said parents and children are being swabbed for DNA to match paternity and checks are being done as rapidly as possible to make the court deadline. He suggested the children would be transferred to ICE custody at Port Isabel shortly before the deadline. But he signaled they'd ask a judge for more time.

Azar said about 100 of the separated children are younger than 5 and subject to the rapidly approaching July 10 deadline. Officials there say they know the locations of all the children — some were sent hundreds of miles away to shelters around the country operated by nonprofits that care for them until a parent or other sponsor is identified.

A court hearing was scheduled Friday.

FAMILY DETENTION

It's also unclear if the families, once reunited, will be detained together or released on bond to wait out

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their cases. Trump administration officials have signaled they want to detain families indefinitely if they cross the border illegally, regardless of whether they are claiming asylum, in part because they say the cases move much quicker. But a court agreement on how children are treated in immigration custody generally prevents the government from holding children in detention longer than 20 days.

Justice Department officials have asked that the agreement, known as the Flores agreement, be modified to allow for longer detentions. Homeland Security requested up to 12,000 more beds for a family detention center at a military base, though it asked for 2,000 to be made available quickly and the rest as needed.

The facilities would have to comply with the standards set by the agreement that governs how children are treated in custody, which include access to medical care, entertainment, counseling and air conditioning; though many who have been detained say the accommodations still feel like prison. Congress would have to approve funding to operate the facility.

ASYLUM

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who oversees immigration courts, has narrowed the parameters for those seeking asylum, arguing that domestic violence or gang violence is not grounds to grant it — a blow to people arriving from Central American countries like El Salvador that have been ravaged by violent street gangs.

Despite the limits, Homeland Security officials say if someone comes to a port of entry legally and claims asylum, then they won't face criminal prosecution for improper entry. They generally aren't detained while their cases are heard. Administration officials say only about 20 percent of asylum claims are granted, though people often spend years exhausting appeals before they are deported.

Some asylum seekers have been turned away at border crossings. Administration officials said it was a temporary measure only to free up space in processing centers. They say that the migrants were told to come back and that it was not an effort to push them into illegally crossing between borders, where they would be more likely to be detained and face criminal prosecution.

ZERO TOLERANCE

Meanwhile, the zero-tolerance policy remains in effect for those who illegally cross the border alone: About half of the illegal crossings are single adults.

The charge of improper entry is a misdemeanor and the practice is usually for those caught to plead guilty and be sentenced to time served, or a brief jail sentence.

Right now, adults who arrive with children are no longer being referred for prosecution because there is not enough space to detain families together. It's unclear if or whether families will again face criminal prosecution should space become available.

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>

US tariffs take effect, China announces retaliation

By **JOE McDONALD, PAUL WISEMAN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — The United States and China hiked tariffs Friday on billions of dollars of each other's goods, launching what Beijing called the "biggest trade war in economic history" in a spiraling dispute over technology.

The Trump administration is confronting Beijing over development tactics it says include stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology. American officials worry Chinese plans to create tech champions in fields including robotics, biotech and artificial intelligence will erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Washington imposed 25 percent duties on \$34 billion of imports from China in the first in a possible series of increases that President Donald Trump says could affect up to \$550 billion of Chinese goods.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said "retaliatory tariffs" took effect. The Communist Party newspaper

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People's Daily said they were imposed on a \$34 billion list of goods issued last month that included soybeans, pork and electric vehicles.

Washington has "ignited the biggest trade war in economic history," said a Commerce Ministry statement.

China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang, said "no one will win by fighting a trade war, yet China will take countermeasures in the face of unilateral moves," the official Xinhua News reported. It said he spoke during an official visit to Bulgaria.

Companies worry the spiraling dispute could chill global economic growth, but Asian financial markets took Friday's developments in stride.

Japan's main stock index, the Nikkei 225, gained 1.1 percent while the Shanghai Composite Index added 0.5 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng also rose 0.5 percent.

The conflict between the world's two biggest economies reflects chronic tension in their relationship as customers, business partners and increasingly as competitors. It also is rooted in the clash between American notions of free trade and Beijing's state-led development model.

China's ruling Communist Party has insisted on making changes at its own pace while sticking to state-directed technology development seen as the path to prosperity and global influence. Beijing has announced reforms this year including ending limits on foreign ownership in its auto industry, but none directly addresses complaints that are fueling its conflict with Washington.

On Thursday, Trump said higher tariffs on an additional \$16 billion in Chinese goods were set to take effect in two weeks.

After that, the hostilities could intensify: Trump said Washington is ready to target an additional \$200 billion in Chinese imports — and then \$300 billion more — if Beijing does not yield.

That would bring the total of targeted Chinese goods to \$550 billion — more than the \$506 billion in goods that China shipped to the United States last year.

Chinese officials reject accusations they steal or force foreign companies to hand over technology. But rules on auto manufacturing and other industries do require companies to work through state-owned partners, obliging them to share know-how with potential competitors.

Other governments express similar complaints toward Beijing, but Washington has alienated potential allies by raising import duties on steel, aluminum and autos from Europe, Canada, Mexico and Japan. Some have responded by hiking their own tariffs on U.S. goods.

Trump's confrontational outlook applies to other trading partners as well as China, said Tai Hui, chief strategist for JP Morgan Asset Management, in a report.

"This is a potential concern for the outlook of corporate investment and consumption around world," Hui said.

The official China Daily newspaper accused the Trump administration of "behaving like a gang of hoodlums." It said they would damage the global economy unless other countries stop them.

"There should be no doubting Beijing's resolve," the newspaper said.

Forecasters say global economic growth could be reduced by up to 0.5 percentage points in 2019-20 if both sides wind up raising tariffs on \$250 billion of imports.

The American Chamber of Commerce in China appealed to both sides to negotiate.

"There are no winners in a trade war," the chamber's chairman, William Zarit, said in a statement. Companies want fairer treatment but will be hurt by U.S.-Chinese tensions, Zarit said. "We urge the two governments to come back to the negotiation table."

Wiseman and Superville reported from Washington. AP Writer Catherine Lucey on Air Force One contributed.

Pruitt is out, handing EPA reins to former coal lobbyist

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, ZEKE MILLER and MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bowing out after months of scandals, Scott Pruitt is turning the Environmental Protection Agency over to a far less flashy deputy who is expected to continue Pruitt's rule-cutting, business-friendly ways as steward of the country's environment.

With Pruitt's departure, President Donald Trump lost an administrator many conservatives regarded as one of the more effective members of his Cabinet. But Pruitt had also been dogged for months by scandals that spawned more than a dozen federal and congressional investigations.

EPA Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a former coal industry lobbyist, will take the helm as acting administrator starting Monday.

"I have no doubt that Andy will continue on with our great and lasting EPA agenda," Trump tweeted Thursday in announcing Pruitt's resignation.

Republicans say Wheeler is well-qualified to lead the EPA, having worked at the agency early in his career. He also was a top aide at the Senate Environment Committee before becoming a lobbyist nine years ago.

Democrats and environmental groups decried Wheeler as an apologist for the coal industry. He's also a former top aide to GOP Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, who rejects mainstream climate science.

Sen. Tom Udall of New Mexico, one of the most relentless and vocal of Pruitt's Democratic critics in Congress, said he expects more of the same with Wheeler as chief.

"Somebody that destructive, I think it's good to have them go, no doubt about it," Udall said of Pruitt in an interview. "But let's not forget he was carrying out President Trump's policies."

The prospect of more EPA rollbacks even after Pruitt is gone is "really, really worrisome to me," he said. "The head of the agency's changed, but I don't think there's any indication that the acting administrator will do anything any different."

Talking to reporters on Air Force One, Trump continued to praise his scandal-plagued EPA chief, saying there was "no final straw" and he had not asked for Pruitt's resignation.

"Scott is a terrific guy," Trump said. "He came to me and said I have such great confidence in the administration I don't want to be a distraction. ... He'll go and do great things and have a wonderful life, I hope."

In his resignation letter to Trump, obtained by The Associated Press, Pruitt expressed no regrets.

"It is extremely difficult for me to cease serving you in this role first because I count it a blessing to be serving you in any capacity, but also, because of the transformative work that is occurring," Pruitt wrote. "However, the unrelenting attacks on me personally, my family, are unprecedented and have taken a sizable toll on all of us."

Pruitt, a Republican, had appeared Wednesday at a White House picnic for Independence Day, wearing a red-checked shirt and loafers with gold trim. Trump gave him and other officials a brief shout-out, offering no sign of any immediate change in his job.

Pruitt's resignation came days after two of his closest advisers spoke to House oversight committee investigators and revealed new, embarrassing details in ethics scandals involving Pruitt.

Samantha Dravis, who recently resigned as Pruitt's policy chief, told investigators last week that Pruitt had made clear to her before and after he became EPA administrator that he would like the attorney general's job, held then and now by Jeff Sessions.

Pruitt "had hinted at that (sic) some sort of conversation had taken place between he and the president," Dravis told congressional investigators, according to a transcript obtained Thursday by the AP. "That was the position he was originally interested in."

A former Oklahoma attorney general close to the oil and gas industry, Pruitt had filed more than a dozen lawsuits against the agency he was picked to lead. Arriving in Washington, he worked relentlessly to dismantle Obama-era environmental regulations that aimed to reduce toxic pollution and planet-warming carbon emissions.

During his less than two-year tenure, Pruitt crisscrossed the country at taxpayer expense to speak with industry groups and hobnob with GOP donors, but he showed little interest in listening to advocates he

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derided as "the environmental left." Those groups quickly applauded his departure.

"Despite his brief tenure, Pruitt was the worst EPA chief in history," said Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity. "His corruption was his downfall, but his pro-polluter policies will have our kids breathing dirtier air long after his many scandals are forgotten."

Like Trump, Pruitt voiced skepticism about mainstream climate science and was a fierce critic of the Paris climate agreement. The president cheered his EPA chief's moves to boost fossil fuel production and roll back regulations opposed by corporate interests.

But despite boasts of slashing red tape and promoting job creation, Pruitt had a mixed record of producing real-world results. Many of the EPA regulations Pruitt scraped or delayed had not yet taken effect, and the tens of thousands of lost coal mining jobs the president pledged to bring back never materialized.

Pruitt quit following a series of revelations involving pricey trips with first-class airline seats and unusual security spending, including a \$43,000 soundproof booth for making private phone calls. He also demanded 24-hour-a-day protection from armed officers, resulting in a swollen 20-member security detail that blew through overtime budgets and racked up expenses of more than \$3 million.

Pruitt routinely ordered his EPA staff to do personal chores for him, including picking up his dry cleaning and trying to obtain a used Trump hotel mattress for his apartment. He had also enlisted his staff to contact conservative groups and companies to find a lucrative job for his unemployed wife, including emails seeking a Chick-fil-A franchise from a senior executive at the fast-food chain.

Pruitt's job had appeared in jeopardy since the end of March, when ABC News first reported that he leased a Capitol Hill condo last year for just \$50 a night. It was co-owned by the wife of a veteran fossil fuels lobbyist whose firm had sought regulatory rollbacks from EPA.

The slew of damaging revelations, many of which came to light through media reports and public records lawsuits filed by environmental groups, triggered more than a dozen investigations related to Pruitt's conduct by EPA's Office of Inspector General, the House Oversight Committee and other federal watchdogs.

It was not immediately clear how Pruitt's resignation might affect those ongoing probes. No longer a federal employee, Pruitt can't be compelled to speak or otherwise cooperate with the inspector general's investigation. As a private citizen, he could still be subpoenaed to testify before Congress, but Republican-led committees have thus far shown little appetite in forcing him to do so.

Jennifer Kaplan, a spokeswoman for EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins, said Thursday that the office was "assessing and evaluating" its ongoing audits and investigations in the wake of Pruitt's departure.

People in Pruitt's home state differed on whether the ethics scandals in Washington left him with any prospects of a political second life in Oklahoma.

Ethical charges aside, many Republicans in oil-and-gas dependent Oklahoma are focused more on what they consider his regulation-trimming accomplishments at the EPA, said Oklahoma Republican Party Chairman Pam Pollard.

"We're proud of him for that," Pollard said. "I think Oklahomans still love him, support him and trust him. We'll give him the opportunity to tell his side of the story."

Sen. John Barrasso, the Republican chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and until Thursday a strong defender of Pruitt, said Trump made the right decision to accept the resignation.

"It has become increasingly challenging for the EPA to carry out its mission with the administrator under investigation," said Barrasso, who is from Wyoming.

Pruitt is the latest Trump Cabinet official to lose his job over ethics issues. Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin was fired in March amid questionable travel charges and a growing rebellion in his agency about the privatization of medical care. Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price was fired last year after it was disclosed he took costly charter flights instead of commercial planes.

Matthew Daly in Washington contributed to this report.

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APNewsBreak: US Army quietly discharging immigrant recruits

By MARTHA MENDOZA and GARANCE BURKE, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Some immigrant U.S. Army reservists and recruits who enlisted in the military with a promised path to citizenship are being abruptly discharged, the Associated Press has learned.

The AP was unable to quantify how many men and women who enlisted through the special recruitment program have been booted from the Army, but immigration attorneys say they know of more than 40 who have been discharged or whose status has become questionable, jeopardizing their futures.

"It was my dream to serve in the military," said reservist Lucas Calixto, a Brazilian immigrant who filed a lawsuit against the Army last week. "Since this country has been so good to me, I thought it was the least I could do to give back to my adopted country and serve in the United States military."

Some of the service members say they were not told why they were being discharged. Others who pressed for answers said the Army informed them they'd been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them.

Spokespeople for the Pentagon and the Army said that, due to the pending litigation, they were unable to explain the discharges or respond to questions about whether there have been policy changes in any of the military branches.

Eligible recruits are required to have legal status in the U.S., such as a student visa, before enlisting. More than 5,000 immigrants were recruited into the program in 2016, and an estimated 10,000 are currently serving. Most go to the Army, but some also go to the other military branches.

To become citizens, the service members need an honorable service designation, which can come after even just a few days at boot camp. But the recently discharged service members have had their basic training delayed, so they can't be naturalized.

Margaret Stock, an Alaska-based immigration attorney and a retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel who helped create the immigrant recruitment program, said she's been inundated over the past several days by recruits who have been abruptly discharged.

All had signed enlistment contracts and taken an Army oath, Stock said. Many were reservists who had been attending unit drills, receiving pay and undergoing training, while others had been in a "delayed entry" program, she said.

"Immigrants have been serving in the Army since 1775," Stock said. "We wouldn't have won the revolution without immigrants. And we're not going to win the global war on terrorism today without immigrants."

Stock said the service members she's heard from had been told the Defense Department had not managed to put them through extensive background checks, which include CIA, FBI and National Intelligence Agency screenings and counterintelligence interviews. Therefore, by default, they do not meet the background check requirement.

"It's a vicious cycle," she said.

The AP interviewed Calixto and recruits from Pakistan and Iran, all of whom said they were devastated by their unexpected discharges.

"Now the great feeling I had when I enlisted is going down the drain," said Calixto, 28. "I don't understand why this is happening."

In hopes of undoing the discharge, he filed a lawsuit in Washington, D.C., last week alleging the Defense Department hadn't given him a chance to defend himself or appeal. He said he was given no specific grounds other than "personnel security."

Calixto, who lives in Massachusetts and came to the U.S. when he was 12, said in an email interview arranged through his attorney that he joined the Army out of patriotism.

In the suit, Calixto said he learned he was being kicked out soon after he was promoted to private second class.

The Pakistani service member who spoke to the AP said he learned in a phone call a few weeks ago that his military career was over.

"There were so many tears in my eyes that my hands couldn't move fast enough to wipe them away," he

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said. "I was devastated, because I love the U.S. and was so honored to be able to serve this great country."

He asked that his name be withheld because he fears he might be forced to return to Pakistan, where he could face danger as a former U.S. Army enlistee.

Portions of the 22-year-old's military file reviewed by the AP said he was so deeply loyal to the U.S. that his relationships with his family and fiancée in Pakistan would not make him a security threat. Nonetheless, the documents show the Army cited those foreign ties as a concern.

The man had enlisted in April 2016 anticipating he'd be a citizen within months, but faced a series of delays. He had been slated to ship out to basic training in January 2017, but that also was delayed.

An Iranian citizen who came to the U.S. for a graduate degree in engineering told the AP that he enlisted in the program hoping to gain medical training. He said he had felt proud that he was "pursuing everything legally and living an honorable life."

In recent weeks, he said, he learned that he'd been discharged.

"It's terrible because I put my life in the line for this country, but I feel like I'm being treated like trash," he said. "If I am not eligible to become a U.S. citizen, I am really scared to return to my country."

He spoke on condition of anonymity because of those fears.

It's unclear how the service members' discharges could affect their status as legal immigrants.

In a statement, the Defense Department said: "All service members (i.e. contracted recruits, active duty, Guard and Reserve) and those with an honorable discharge are protected from deportation."

However, immigration attorneys told the AP that many immigrants let go in recent weeks were an "uncharacterized discharge," neither dishonorable nor honorable.

The service members affected by the recent discharges all enlisted in recent years under a special program aimed at bringing medical specialists and fluent speakers of 44 sought-after languages into the military. The idea, according to the Defense Department, was to "recognize their contribution and sacrifice."

President George W. Bush ordered "expedited naturalization" for immigrant soldiers in 2002 in an effort to swell military ranks. Seven years later the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, known as MAVNI, became an official recruiting program.

It came under fire from conservatives when President Barack Obama added DACA recipients — young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally — to the list of eligible enlistees. In response, the military layered on additional security clearances for recruits to pass before heading to boot camp.

The Trump Administration added even more hurdles, creating a backlog within the Defense Department. Last fall, hundreds of recruits still in the enlistment process had their contracts canceled. A few months later, the military suspended MAVNI.

Republican Congressman Andy Harris of Maryland, who has supported legislation to limit the program, told the AP that MAVNI was established by executive order and never properly authorized by Congress.

"Our military must prioritize enlisting American citizens, and restore the MAVNI program to its specialized, limited scope," he said.

Non-U.S. citizens have served in the military since the Revolutionary War, when Continental soldiers included Irish, French and Germans. The U.S. recruited Filipino nationals to serve in the Navy in the 1940s, and worked to enlist Eastern Europeans in the military over the next decade, according to the Defense Department.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 110,000 members of the Armed Forces have gained citizenship by serving in the U.S. military, according to the Defense Department.

Many service members recruited through the program have proven to be exemplary. In 2012, then-Sgt. Saral K. Shrestha, originally from Nepal, was named U.S. Army Soldier of the Year.

In general, the immigrant recruits have been more cost-effective, outperforming their fellow soldiers in the areas of attrition, performance, education and promotions, according to a recently released review by the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit research institution.

The AP spoke with a 26-year-old woman from Dominica who said she proudly enlisted in the immigrant recruitment program in 2016 while earning her nursing degree. She said she drilled each month with her reserve unit, which gave her an award, and had been awaiting a date to start basic training.

But in March, she said she looked up her profile on an Army portal and saw that the section about her security eligibility was marked "loss of jurisdiction," with no further explanation. The next month, her attorney said she found the reservist's name listed as "unsuitable" on a spreadsheet created by the Defense Department.

The reservist, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of concerns about her legal standing, said she received additional paperwork last month that indicated her case is awaiting a final decision.

"I have always been a good soldier and have always done what they ask me to do," she said. "I got into debt when I joined the Army because I can't work legally but, financially, I can't survive anymore. I don't want to give up because I genuinely like being in the Army. But I don't know who to turn to."

In recent years, a group of attorneys have been fighting to keep their recruited immigrant clients eligible for naturalization as delays have mounted. Some have been successful, including nearly 50 recruits granted a type of temporary status while their background investigations are being completed.

"Some of our clients have finally emerged through the system and at least are doing basic training," said Donald Friedman, a Washington attorney with Perkins Coie.

Burke reported from San Francisco.

Japan cult leader's hanging closes chapter on shocking crime

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The executions Friday of a doomsday cult leader and six of his followers closed a chapter on one of Japan's most shocking crimes, the poison gas attack on rush-hour commuters in Tokyo's subway that killed 13 people and sickened more than 6,000.

The attack in 1995 woke up a relatively safe country to the risk of urban terrorism. The ensuing raid on the cult's compound near Mount Fuji riveted Japan, as 2,000 police officers approached with a canary in a bird cage. Shoko Asahara, the bearded, self-proclaimed guru who had recruited scientists and others to his cult, was found two months later, hiding in a compartment in a building ceiling.

The executions of the 63-year-old Asahara and the six cult members were announced by the Justice Ministry after they had been hanged, as is the practice in Japan. Two major newspapers issued extra editions and handed them out at train stations.

"This gave me peace of mind," Kiyoe Iwata, who lost her daughter in the subway attack, told broadcaster NHK. "I have always been wondering why it had to be my daughter and why she had to be killed. Now, I can pay a visit to her grave and tell her of this."

The executions were a long time coming, but they were expected as the last trial in the case had been completed and some of the condemned convicts had been transferred to other prisons earlier this year. Six other cult members remain on death row.

The subway attack was the most notorious of the cult's crimes, which was blamed for 27 deaths in all. Named Aum Shinrikyo, or Supreme Truth, it amassed an arsenal of chemical, biological and conventional weapons to carry out Asahara's escalating criminal orders in anticipation of an apocalyptic showdown with the government.

Japan's justice minister, who approved the hangings Tuesday, said she doesn't take executions lightly but felt these were justified because of the unprecedented seriousness of the crimes the seven committed.

"The fear, pain and sorrow of the victims, survivors and their families — because of the heinous cult crimes — must have been so severe, and that is beyond my imagination," Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa told a news conference.

She said the crime affected not only Japan but also sowed fear abroad.

The seven executions in one day were the most since Japan began releasing information on executions in 1998. They were hanged in four prisons in Tokyo and three other places, spread out so the executions could be done at once.

Six of the seven, including Asahara, had been implicated in the subway attack. They included three

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scientists who led the production of the sarin gas and a man who drove a getaway vehicle.

Their other crimes include the 1989 murders of an anti-Aum lawyer and his wife and 1-year-old baby and a 1994 sarin attack in the city of Matsumoto in central Japan, which killed seven people and injured more than 140. An eighth person died after being in a coma for a decade.

On March 20, 1995, cult members used umbrellas to puncture plastic bags, releasing sarin nerve gas inside subway cars. Commuters poured out of subway stations in downtown Tokyo, and the streets were soon filled with troops in Hazmat suits and people being treated in first-aid tents set up outside.

The convicted also assaulted and murdered wayward followers and people who helped members leave the cult.

Asahara, whose original name was Chizuo Matsumoto, founded Aum Shinrikyo in 1984. The cult attracted many young people, including graduates of top universities.

During his eight-year trial, Asahara talked incoherently, occasionally babbling in broken English, and never acknowledged his responsibility or offered meaningful explanations.

He was on death row for about 14 years. His family has said he was a broken man, constantly wetting and soiling the floor of his prison cell and not communicating with his family or lawyers.

Some survivors of the cult's crimes opposed the executions, saying they would end hopes for a fuller explanation of the crimes.

Shizue Takahashi, whose husband was a subway deputy station master who died in the attack, also expressed regret that six of Asahara's followers had been killed.

"I wanted the others to talk more about what they did as lessons for anti-terrorism measures in this country, and I wanted the authorities and experts to learn more from them," she told a televised news conference. "I regret that is no longer possible."

The cult claimed 10,000 members in Japan and 30,000 in Russia. It has disbanded, though nearly 2,000 people follow its rituals in three splinter groups, monitored by authorities.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Suga said authorities are taking precautionary measures in case of any retaliation by his followers.

Associated Press journalists Kaori Hitomi and Haruka Nuga contributed to this story.

Trump says he's narrowed Supreme Court nominees to 2 or 3

By CATHERINE LUCEY and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The list of contenders to fill a Supreme Court vacancy by retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy is narrowing, with President Donald Trump telling reporters that he's focused on two or three people ahead of his Monday announcement.

"I think I have it down to four people. And I think of the four people I have it down to three or two," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.

The president, who was traveling to a campaign rally in Montana, has wrapped up the interview process and is moving closer to picking his court nominee amid intense jockeying from various factions seeking to influence the choice.

Trump's current top contenders are federal appeals court judges Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh and Raymond Kethledge, said a person familiar with Trump's thinking who was not authorized to speak publicly.

With customary fanfare, Trump plans to announce his selection Monday night. The administration is preparing roll-out plans for the leading contenders, and hopes to have a decision on the top one or two names in the next couple of days, so staff can conduct a deep-dive background ahead of the possible prime-time event, according to a senior administration official granted anonymity to discuss the plans.

But as the president builds suspense for his second court pick in two years — a nominee who could tip the balance toward conservatives and revisit landmark rulings on abortion access, gay marriage and other issues — momentum is also growing among GOP supporters and detractors of the top contenders.

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Conservatives and some libertarian-leaning Republicans, including Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, have raised concerns about Kavanaugh, warning he could disappoint Republicans if his past decisions are a guide.

Paul and another Republican, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, are supporting fellow Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, who is not said to be under serious consideration by the White House but is the only lawmaker Trump has considered for the position.

To counter that, Kavanaugh's allies have begun pushing back, reaching out to influential Republicans to ward off potential criticisms, according to one conservative who was the recipient of such outreach and spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday to discuss the situation.

The senior administration official, though, said the administration is feeling less heat than earlier in this week over the choices, particularly Kavanaugh, and believes the jockeying in general has calmed somewhat.

With the Senate narrowly divided, 51-49, in favor of Republicans, Trump's announcement will launch a contentious confirmation process as Republicans seek to shift the court to the right and Democrats strive to block the effort. Any GOP defections could begin to doom a nominee.

Tapping into Trump's understanding of the importance of the choice, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., told the president this week that nominating someone hostile to abortion access, or the 2010 health care law, would tarnish his legacy.

Schumer told Trump that such a choice would be "cataclysmic" and create more division than the country has seen in years, according to a person familiar with the conversation who said Trump called Schumer on Tuesday.

The senator also told the president he could unify the country by nominating Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's choice for the Supreme Court who was blocked by Republicans in 2016.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Thursday at an event in Louisville that he, too, has been talking to the president about the search and believes "the president will make a very high-quality appointment."

McConnell acknowledged that his fellow Kentuckian, Judge Amul Thapar, is a finalist, but noted, "The competition at this level is pretty intense."

Working closely with a White House team and consulting with lawmakers and outside advisers, Trump has spent the week deliberating on the choice. He conducted interviews Monday and Tuesday. He could still consider others in the mix. He's still taking input, making calls to Capitol Hill, the official said.

Vice President Mike Pence also met with some of Trump's contenders in recent days, according to a person familiar with the search process. The person did not specify which candidates Pence met with and spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday to describe the private search process.

Trump is choosing his nominee from a list of 25 candidates vetted by conservative groups. Earlier in the week, he spoke with seven of them.

The president also spoke by phone with Lee, the senator from Utah, on Monday. The White House did not characterize that call as an interview, and Lee is not viewed as a top prospect.

But Lee has consistent support among conservative and libertarian activists, including some Republicans who worry about a nominee not upholding their principles and who say the Utah senator could bring more certainty.

More than two dozen conservatives, including Paul, wealthy GOP donor Rebekah Mercer and several tea party leaders, signed a letter backing Lee as having a "proven record."

Cruz advocated for Lee on Thursday in a Fox News op-ed warning Trump not to repeat "mistakes" of past Republican presidents by picking a Supreme Court nominee who turns out to be insufficiently conservative.

Cruz said President George H.W. Bush's selection of liberal David Souter was "one of the most consequential errors of his presidency." He also pointed to former justices William Brennan, John Paul Stevens and Harry Blackmun, the latter of whom wrote the Roe v. Wade decision that established a woman's right to abortion. All three were nominated by Republican presidents.

Lee, he said, would be a "sure thing."

Paul, the Kentucky senator, has told colleagues he may not vote for Kavanaugh if the judge is nominated,

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citing Kavanaugh's role during President George W. Bush's administration on cases involving executive privilege and the disclosure of documents to Congress, said a person familiar with Paul's conversations who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some conservatives have pointed to Kethledge as a potential justice in the mold of Neil Gorsuch, Trump's first Supreme Court nominee last year. Both Kethledge and Gorsuch once served Kennedy as law clerks, as did Kavanaugh. Kethledge, a Michigan Law graduate, would add academic diversity to a court steeped in the Ivy League.

Since Trump said his short list includes at least two women, speculation has focused on Barrett, a former law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia and a longtime Notre Dame Law School professor who serves on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Conservative groups rallied around Barrett after her confirmation hearing last year featured questioning from Democrats over how her Roman Catholic faith would affect her decisions.

Trump's choice to replace Kennedy — a swing vote on the nine-member court — has the potential to remake the court for a generation as part of precedent-shattering decisions. Recognizing the stakes, many Democrats have lined up in opposition to any Trump pick.

One group aligned with Democrats began running ads Thursday in the home states of Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, urging them to hold firm in their support of access to abortion services.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Darlene Superville, Ken Thomas and Alan Fram in Washington and Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this report.

China says it must 'counterattack' for US tariff hike

BEIJING (AP) — China's says it is "forced to make a necessary counterattack" to a U.S. tariff hike on billions of dollars of Chinese goods but gave no immediate details of possible retaliation.

The Commerce Ministry on Friday criticized Washington for "trade bullying" following the tariff hike that took effect at noon Beijing time in a spiraling dispute over technology policy that companies worry could chill global economic growth.

A ministry statement said, "the Chinese side promised not to fire the first shot, but to defend the core interests of the country and people, it is forced to make a necessary counterattack."

Beijing earlier released a list of American goods targeted for possible tariff hikes including soybeans, electric cars and whiskey.

Trump urges ouster of senator he blames for derailing VA nod

By CATHERINE LUCEY and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — In a campaign stop that was both political and personal, President Donald Trump targeted Democrat Jon Tester on Thursday in a bid to get more Republicans elected to the Senate but also to punish the lawmaker he blames for derailing his nominee to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Trump unleashed a vigorous campaign-season attack on some of his most strident Democratic critics and leaned heavily into the roiling immigration debate by claiming the opposition wants to abolish the federal agency that enforces immigration laws, though no top Democrats in the House or Senate have called for such a move.

Appearing in a state he dominated in 2016, Trump sought to cast Tester as a "liberal Democrat," railing against his voting record on issues like abortion, immigration and taxes. While Tester opposed Trump's first Supreme Court nominee, Neil Gorsuch, and the Republican tax bill, he has also taken flak from the left for a bill easing the rules on banks.

Tester took out full-page ads in more than a dozen newspapers across the state Thursday to thank Trump for signing 16 bills the Democrat sponsored or co-sponsored.

The president has made the Montana race a priority as he hopes to help Republicans tighten the party's

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hold on the Senate. He welcomed Tester's Republican opponent, state Auditor Matt Rosendale, to the stage Thursday, calling him a "very special person."

"You deserve a senator who doesn't just talk like he's from Montana. You deserve a senator who actually votes like he's from Montana," Trump said.

In the crowded arena, Trump made clear the campaign stop was personal as he lamented the failed nomination of White House physician Ronny Jackson to lead the VA. Trump blamed Tester for "shameful, dishonest attacks on a great man, a friend of mine."

Trump singled out Tester in April, saying the farmer "will have a big price to pay" for releasing allegations against Jackson that included on-the-job drunkenness, overprescribing medication and fostering a hostile work environment. Jackson, a Navy rear admiral, denied the claims but withdrew his nomination. The Pentagon is investigating.

"Tester said things about him that were horrible and they weren't true," Trump said. "And that's probably why I'm here. Because I won Montana by so many points, I don't have to come here."

He repeated slams on key Democrats, ridiculing claims by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a possible 2020 presidential challenger, of Native American heritage and referring to her again as "Pocahontas." Trump said he would give Warren a DNA test kit in the middle of a debate and offer \$1 million for her favorite charity, "paid for by Trump, if you take the test and it shows you're an Indian."

"We will take that little kit, but we have to do it gently because we're in the #MeToo generation, so we have to be very gentle, and we will very gently take that kit and we will slowly toss it," he said.

Warren responded on Twitter, advising Trump: "While you obsess over my genes, your Admin is conducting DNA tests on little kids because you ripped them from their mamas & you are too incompetent to reunite them in time to meet a court order. Maybe you should focus on fixing the lives you're destroying."

Warren was referring to the Health and Human Services Department's announcement that it will use DNA to confirm parent-child links as it tries to reunite families separated at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Trump described Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., who has been calling for his impeachment, as a "low IQ individual" and pegged her level of intellect as "somewhere in the mid-60s," which is considered the range for a mental disability.

Trump also returned to themes of his presidency, stressing his hard-line immigration policies and support for law enforcement.

"If you want to protect your families and your community, then you have no choice," Trump said. "You have to vote for Republicans."

He tweeted about immigration after the rally as he flew to New Jersey, claiming that "a vote for Democrats in November is a vote to let MS-13 run wild in our communities, to let drugs pour into our cities, and to take jobs and benefits away from hardworking Americans."

Trump also talked tough about upcoming meetings in Europe with members of the NATO military alliance and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He went after Germany for not spending more of its budget on defense and claimed to have delivered an ultimatum to Chancellor Angela Merkel. "And I said, 'You know, Angela, I can't guarantee it, but we're protecting you and it means a lot more to you than protecting us 'cause I don't know how much protection we get by protecting you.'"

Trump also scoffed at journalists for questioning his readiness to meet with Putin, a former spy, in Finland on July 16.

"Will I be prepared? Totally prepared," the president said. "I've been preparing for this stuff my whole life."

U.S. intelligence agencies say Putin meddled in the 2016 election to benefit Trump. Putin denies interfering, and Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on the intelligence assessment.

Hundreds of people began lining up outside the arena a full eight hours before Trump was scheduled to speak, and the number swelled to thousands by midday. Mechanic Shane Hegle said he drove 120 miles (195 kilometers) from his Cut Bank home to be among the first in line.

Hegle said he voted for Tester in past elections but was undecided now. Trump's message would influence his decision, he said.

"I'll see what Trump has to say and how he delivers his magic words," Hagle said.

Montana is the latest stop on Trump's midterm campaign tour, designed to boost Republicans and advocate for his first 18 months in office. He is expected to travel throughout the summer.

Superville reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Matt Volz in Great Falls contributed to this report.

Buddhist meditation may calm team trapped in Thai cave

By TASSANEE VEJPONGSA and GRANT PECK, Associated Press

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — At a gilded temple in Thailand's mountainous north, Ekapol Chanthawong honed a skill that will serve him well as he sits trapped underground in a dark cave: meditation.

Before the 25-year-old was a coach to the young boys on the Wild Boars soccer team — 12 of whom are trapped alongside him — he spent a decade as a saffron-robed Buddhist monk. He still stays at the temple from time to time and will meditate with the monks there each day.

"He could meditate up to an hour," said his aunt, Tham Chanthawong. "It has definitely helped him and probably helps the boys to stay calm."

More than 288 hours have passed since Ekapol and the boys got trapped in Tham Luang Nang Non cave by monsoon floodwaters on June 23 after they went exploring. The group was discovered July 2 after 10 days totally cut off from the outside world, and while they are for the most physically healthy, experts say the ordeal has likely taken a mental toll that could worsen the longer the situation lasts.

"It's very likely that while the boys were in the cave but not yet discovered by rescuers that they experienced various degrees of anxiety, fear, confusion, vulnerability and dependency, and perhaps hopelessness," said Paul Auerbach, of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Stanford University's medical school.

Videos taken inside the cave show the boys, aged 11-16, and their coach interacting with Thai navy SEAL divers, who have been sent in to supply them, provide medical care and to keep them company. Though they are visibly skinny and weak, the boys and their coach appear to be in good spirits, smiling for the camera as the SEALs crack jokes.

Still the group is unable to leave and there is no timeline for their extraction. The only way out of the cave at this time would be for the boys to dive through the same complicated route of narrow passageways that their rescuers entered, something that is extremely dangerous even for expert divers let alone children with no such experience. Yet it is something being considered with storms on the way that could worsen the floods.

Cave rescue experts have said it could be safest to simply supply the boys where they are for now, and wait for the water to go down either naturally or by pumping. That could take months, however, given that Thailand's rainy season typically lasts through October.

"Being discovered was a moment of elation," Auerbach said, "but that is now followed by the reality that a difficult technical rescue might be necessary, which carries with it disappointment for the boys and a new set of fears."

Experts say the Wild Boars come into their situation with some advantages, including their youth, their group identity and, yes, their coach's experience with meditation.

"Adolescents are especially social creatures, and having friends with them as well as their coach would be a tremendous help," said David Spiegel, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University's medical school.

The boys and their coach are known to be a tight-knit group who go on adventures, including swimming in waterfalls, cycling trips through the mountains, river rafting and cave exploring.

Experts say Ekapol's meditation — a mainstay of the Buddhist faith — likely served the group well.

"I'd speculate it could be helpful — even if it functioned solely as a way for the children to feel like their coach was doing something to help them," said Michael Poulin, a professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Buffalo. "Feeling loved and cared for is paramount."

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Spiegel agreed that meditation could help those trapped manage their mental state, "allowing their fearful and negative thoughts to flow through them like a storm passing, rather than fighting their fear."

Aisha Wiboonrungrueng, whose 11-year-old son Chanin is trapped in the cave, has no doubt that Ekapol's calm personality has influenced the boys' state of mind.

"Look at how calm they were sitting there waiting. No one was crying or anything. It was astonishing," she said, referring a video that captured the moment the boys were found.

Omar Reygadas, who spent 69 days trapped underground in Chile in 2010 with 32 other miners, said faith and prayer, as well as humor were very important to the miners at times when they doubted they would get out.

"They shouldn't be ashamed to be scared," he said of the boys. "Because we were scared, too. Our tears also ran. Even as adult men, we cried."

If safety concerns force the boys to stay in the cave for an extended period, it will be important to their mental health for there to be organization and daily routines, said John Fairbank, a psychiatry professor and co-director of the UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

He said that could include "daily hygiene routines, regular meal times, age-appropriate cognitive activities, regular physical exercise to the extent feasible in limited space, religious/spiritual practices, and specific times for daily briefings on their situation and for communicating with their families."

All the experts agreed that the group will continue to face challenges even after they make it out of the cave.

Thailand's Department of Mental Health said hospitals are making preparations to care for the boys' and will monitor them until their mental health is fully regained. They are also working with the families to prepare for how to interact with the boys once they get out, such as not digging for details about what they endured.

"Their re-entry into the world outside the cave will predictably be one of massive attention from family, friends and the media," Auerbach said, noting it could be overwhelming. "The world soon loses interest and moves on to the next story, so it is extremely important that these survivors not be forgotten and be closely monitored so that they can receive the best possible support."

Statue of Liberty climber unrepentant; Trump calls her clown

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An unrepentant protester who climbed the base of the Statue of Liberty on a busy Fourth of July in what prosecutors called a "dangerous stunt" pleaded not guilty on Thursday to misdemeanor trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Activists packed into a Manhattan courtroom cheered when a federal magistrate judge released Therese Okoumou without bail after she had spent the night behind bars. Okoumou responded by raising her fist and blowing kisses to her supporters.

Outside court, the naturalized U.S. citizen from Congo said she climbed the landmark as a spur-of-the-moment protest over the Trump administration's zero-tolerance immigration policies that resulted in the separation of immigrant children from parents accused of crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally.

"When they go low, we go high, and I went as high as I could," Okoumou said, paraphrasing former first lady Michelle Obama. "No children belong in a cage."

Okoumou, who goes by her middle name, Patricia, sported a T-shirt reading "White Supremacy is Terrorism," which she had worn inside-out in court.

President Donald Trump, during a campaign rally in Montana, called her a "clown."

"You saw that clown yesterday on the Statue of Liberty. You see that guys that went up there. I wouldn't have done it," the Republican president said Thursday night, praising the bravery of police officers who ascended the statue's base and persuaded her to climb down.

He added: "I would have said, 'Let's get some nets, and let's wait till she comes down. Just get some nets.'"

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Okoumou, of Staten Island, "staged a dangerous stunt that alarmed the public and endangered her own life and the lives of the (New York Police Department) officers who responded to the scene," U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said in a statement.

Court papers also charged Okoumou with resisting arrest by refusing to leave her perch by the bottom of the statue's robes, about 100 feet (30 meters) aboveground. Police were forced to scale the statue to pull her down.

If convicted, Okoumou, 44, would face up to six months behind bars on each count.

The National Park Service decided to evacuate more than 4,000 visitors from Liberty Island on Wednesday out of an abundance of caution, spokesman Jerry Willis said. Average attendance for the Fourth of July is 20,000 to 25,000 people, he added.

The park service also was taking a closer look at the statue to see if there was any damage, though that's unlikely, Willis said. The copper-pounded skin is only the thickness of two pennies but "it's strong," he said.

"That statue has been out in the middle of New York Harbor for 130 years — with hurricanes and lightning and everything that nature has thrown at her," he said. "She's survived quite well."

The park service was reviewing security videotape to try to determine how the woman was able to make the climb, Willis said.

Asked about it herself, Okoumou smiled and responded: "I did a pull-up."

Associated Press writer Kiley Armstrong contributed to this report.

Asian stocks lower on impending trade war

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stocks were mostly lower Friday as investors braced for the implementation of U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports at midnight Washington time, and likely similar measures by Beijing on U.S. exports.

Upbeat economic data and overnight gains on U.S. stock markets helped temper concerns but trading volume was light.

China's Shanghai Composite Index sank 0.8 percent to 2,712.88. The Shanghai benchmark has languished recently, losing more than 12 percent over the past two weeks.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.5 percent to 28,055.08, while South Korea's Kospi slipped 0.3 percent to 2,251.63. Markets in Taiwan, Singapore and other Southeast Asian countries were lower.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 bucked the region's trend, adding 0.7 percent to 21,691.89 in what appeared to be a technical rebound after a four-day losing streak. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 rose 0.5 percent to 6,243.30.

"The Trump administrations trade war is finally upon us," said Stephen Innes, Asia-Pacific head of trading at OANDA. "If this moves off the tit-for-tat battleground into a full out trade war, it will not only threaten market stability but could compromise relations between Washington and Beijing."

On Friday the U.S. is set to impose a 25 percent tariff on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports. China is expected to strike back with tariffs on a similar amount of U.S. exports including soybeans.

The Trump administration has said it won't target an additional \$16 billion worth of Chinese goods until it gathers further public comments. It's also identifying an additional \$200 billion in Chinese goods for 10 percent tariffs, which could take effect if Beijing retaliates.

Overnight, Wall Street finished higher on Thursday, a day after the Independence Day holiday, led by gains in tech and health care companies. Upbeat U.S. economic data helped as reports showed U.S. service firms expanding at a surprisingly strong pace in June.

The S&P 500 index rose 0.9 percent to 2,736.61. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.8 percent to 24,356.74. The Nasdaq composite added 1.1 percent to 7,586.43. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks picked up 1.1 percent to 1,679.48.

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Benchmark U.S. crude dropped 16 cents to \$72.78 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged \$1.20, or 1.6 percent, to settle at \$72.94 per barrel Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 31 cents to \$77.08 per barrel in London. It slid 85 cents, or 1.1 percent, to close at \$77.39 per barrel on Thursday.

The dollar strengthened to 110.67 yen from 110.60 yen while the euro fell to \$1.1687 from \$1.1691.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, July 6, the 187th day of 2018. There are 178 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 6, 1957, Althea Gibson became the first black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title as she defeated fellow American Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2. The Harry S. Truman Library, the nation's first presidential library, was dedicated in Independence, Missouri. Sixteen-year-old John Lennon first met 15-year-old Paul McCartney when Lennon's band, the Quarrymen skiffle group, performed a gig at St. Peter's Church in Woolton, Liverpool.

On this date:

In 1535, Sir Thomas More was executed in England for high treason.

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1885, French scientist Louis Pasteur tested an anti-rabies vaccine on 9-year-old Joseph Meister, who had been bitten by an infected dog; the boy did not develop rabies.

In 1917, during World War I, Arab forces led by T.E. Lawrence and Auda Abu Tayi captured the port of Aqaba (AH'-kah-buh) from the Ottoman Turks.

In 1933, the first All-Star baseball game was played at Chicago's Comiskey Park; the American League defeated the National League, 4-2.

In 1942, Anne Frank, her parents and sister entered a "secret annex" in an Amsterdam building where they were later joined by four other people; they hid from Nazi occupiers for two years before being discovered and arrested.

In 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1964, the movie "A Hard Day's Night," starring The Beatles, had its world premiere in London. British colony Nyasaland became the independent country of Malawi.

In 1967, war erupted as Nigeria sent troops into the secessionist state of Biafra. (The Biafran (bee-AF'-ruhn) War lasted 2 1/2 years and resulted in a Nigerian victory.)

In 1971, jazz trumpeter and singer Louis Armstrong died in New York at age 69.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform. Medical waste and other debris began washing up on New York City-area seashores, forcing the closing of several popular beaches.

In 1997, the rover Sojourner rolled down a ramp from the Mars Pathfinder lander onto the Martian landscape to begin inspecting the soil and rocks of the red planet.

Ten years ago: The U.S. launched an airstrike in Afghanistan's Nuristan province; the Afghan government later said 47 civilians died. President George W. Bush arrived in Japan for his eighth and final Group of Eight summit, where he emphasized the urgency of providing aid to Africa. Rafael Nadal won a riveting five-set Wimbledon final, 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-7 (8), 9-7, denying Roger Federer a sixth straight title in a match that lasted 4 hours, 48 minutes.

Five years ago: A runaway train carrying crude oil derailed in eastern Quebec, igniting fires and explosions that destroyed much of the town of Lac-Mégantic and killed 47 people. An Asiana Airlines Boeing 777 from Seoul, South Korea, crashed while landing at San Francisco International Airport; of the 307 people on board Flight 214, three Chinese teens were killed. A solar-powered aircraft, the Solar Impulse,

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completed the final leg of a history-making cross-country flight, gliding to a smooth stop at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Marion Bartoli won her first major title, defeating Sabine Lisicki 6-1, 6-4 in the Wimbledon final. Jimmie Johnson became the first driver in 31 years to sweep Daytona International Speedway.

One year ago: The maker of opioid painkiller Opana ER said it would stop selling the drug at the request of the Food and Drug Administration in an effort to curb abuse.

Today's Birthdays: The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is 83. Actor Ned Beatty is 81. Singer Gene Chandler is 78. Country singer Jeannie Seely is 78. Actor Burt Ward is 73. Former President George W. Bush is 72. Actor-director Sylvester Stallone is 72. Actor Fred Dryer is 72. Actress Shelley Hack is 71. Actress Nathalie Baye is 70. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 67. Actress Allyce Beasley is 67. Rock musician John Bazz (The Blasters) is 66. Actor Grant Goodeve is 66. Country singer Nanci Griffith is 65. Retired MLB All-Star Willie Randolph is 64. Jazz musician Rick Braun is 63. Actor Casey Sander is 63. Country musician John Jorgenson is 62. Former first daughter Susan Ford Bales is 61. Hockey player and coach Ron Duguay (doo-GAY') is 61. Actress-writer Jennifer Saunders is 60. Rock musician John Keeble (Spandau Ballet) is 59. Actor Pip Torrens is 58. Actor Brian Posehn is 52. Actor Robb Derringer is 51. Political reporter/moderator John Dickerson is 50. Actor Brian Van Holt is 49. Rapper Inspectah Deck (Wu-Tang Clan) is 48. TV host Josh Elliott is 47. Rapper 50 Cent is 43. Actress Tamera Mowry is 40. Actress Tia Mowry is 40. Comedian-actor Kevin Hart is 39. Actress Eva (EH'-vuh) Green is 38. Actor Gregory Smith is 35. Rock musician Chris "Woody" Wood (Bastille) is 33. Rock singer Kate Nash is 31. Actor Jeremy Suarez is 28.

Thought for Today: "Fear is forward. No one is afraid of yesterday." — Renata Adler, American writer.