

Groton Daily Independent

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

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



Westby's 30th Anniversary

Ron and Lori Westby will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on Monday, July 16th, 2018. Greetings may be sent to 1103 N 2nd St Groton, SD 57445. No gifts please.



Mosquito Control Done Last Night

The City of Groton did mosquito control Friday evening. We do not have a map to show you as the app did not fully work throughout the night. The spraying of streets, alleys and avenues was done with 15 gallons of Evolver used during the control event.

According to Josh Clayton, State Epidemiologist of the South Dakota Department of Health, "As we approach the peak transmission season for West Nile virus, all indicators are suggesting a higher-than-normal risk of transmission across South Dakota. We are seeing high mosquito infection rates across the state along with hot and humid weather that is ideal for vector mosquito activity. Overall, the conditions are most similar to those we saw in 2016 when there were more than 150 reported human cases. Human cases of West Nile virus tend to lag mosquito-to-human transmission by 1-2 weeks. Now through mid-August has historically been the time of greatest risk of West Nile virus transmission to humans. Mosquito control programs should consider beginning or increasing their spraying efforts."

The City of Groton has resumed spraying on a weekly basis, starting last week, after being off for about a month due to the dry conditions.

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Resurrecting Old Insurance Model May Limit Who Gets Covered and How Well

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

A new health insurance option awaits consumers this fall. Proponents say it will offer lower premiums and relief from increasingly expensive Obamacare policies sold in the so-called individual market. That's the place where people who don't have employer or government-sponsored insurance turn when they need coverage.

It's no secret that rising premiums have hurt people in that market if they are among those whom the law considers too wealthy for subsidies to help them out - for example, families of four with incomes above \$100,400 and single people whose incomes exceed \$48,560.

So the Trump Administration has approved the return of association policies, called AHPs for short. Fraternal or professional organizations can sponsor one. A single proprietor or sole owner of a business can also set up one of these new arrangements.

But these "new" arrangements are not new. They were around for years before the Affordable Care Act was passed, and they've been resurrected by the Trump administration to promote a low-cost option for a small slice of the insurance marketplace. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta offers this rationale: "Many of our laws, particularly Obamacare, make health care more expensive for small businesses than large companies. AHPs are about more choice, more access and more coverage."

Once again the individual market may become the Wild, Wild West of insurance as sellers pick and choose what benefits to offer. They can present a shopping nightmare for consumers who try to slog through the market and understand what they're buying. Many of the protections offered by the ACA are gone, and shoppers are on their own to sort through the fine print that may or may not disclose what they are buying.

For example, the Affordable Care Act outlawed the practice of considering a person's pre-existing health conditions before issuing a policy, one of the most important protections it provided. Under the government's rules for AHPs, a person's health still cannot be factored into the decision to issue a policy.

But insurers may find a way around this limitation, says Sabrina Corlette, a research professor at Georgetown University's Center for Health Insurance Reforms. "The way benefits are designed can make a policy very unattractive to certain groups of sick people," she told me.

If an insurance group doesn't want to cover a lot of people with HIV-AIDS, it could create a network that includes almost no doctors who treat people with that condition.

AHPs must still cover the ACA's preventive services like mammograms and diabetes screening. But other ACA protections are gone. Fewer benefits and ones that are less comprehensive are the trade-offs for cheaper policies. "AHPs will have more flexibility in how they vary premiums and what benefits are covered," says Cori Uccello, senior health fellow at the American Academy of Actuaries.

Here's where the shopping task gets tricky. AHPs won't be required to cover any of the ACA's package of essential benefits - things like mental health, maternity, and prescription drugs. It's also possible their benefits could come with limitations on hospital stays and doctor visits. Comparing policies with these different combinations of benefits will take some effort.

There are other changes, too, that would-be shoppers should be aware of. The "flexibility" touted by the Labor Secretary means that AHPs will now be able to use gender in deciding how much to charge. Women could be forced to pay more than men because insurers say that, especially at younger ages, women have more claims.

On the Health Affairs blog Katie Keith of Keith Health Policy Solutions showed what could happen when gender is factored into the pricing decision. Keith pointed to a Blue Cross Blue Shield comment letter that suggested AHPs could rate (determine what to charge) young men more than 40 percent lower than insurers could while young women could be rated more than 30 percent higher. The AHPs could rate engineers nine percent lower than insurers and rate taxi drivers 15 percent higher. Engineers apparently file fewer claims than taxi drivers.

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That may be the biggest change – that AHPs will be able to consider people’s jobs in the decision to insure them. The ACA had outlawed the practice of occupational underwriting, which had meant that waiters, musicians, models, beauty operators, fry cooks, even doctors and lawyers sometimes couldn’t obtain insurance because insurance stats showed people in those occupations filed more claims. Will people in those occupations be turned down now?

Association health plans might look like a panacea for the country’s health care woes. But questionable practices are likely to resurface, and it’s not clear state insurance departments, which had a tough time keeping tabs on fraud and abuse years ago, are up to the job of policing them.

AHPs may well throw the individual market into a big mess without addressing the fundamental problem they purport to solve: the underlying high price of American medical care.

What would you choose: lower premiums or skimpier benefits? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

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“Believe in the Journey”

**Ladies Luncheon & Program
Wednesday, July 18 at Noon
Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol
Silent Auction at 11:00 AM - Door Prizes
Dee Dee Raap - speaker
Advance tickets please: \$10
Call Kay Espeland 492-3507 or
Alice Jean Peterson 492-3351**

GROTON KIWANIS CLUB

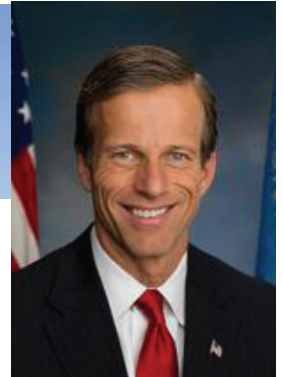
April Abeln and Topper Tastad were the program for Groton Kiwanis Club last Wednesday noon. They spoke on the upcoming summerfest.

Lois Hanson, formerly from Groton, and now from Yumatilla, Florida, was a guest.

Lee Schinkel introduced his guest, Pastor Brandon, new minister at the Groton and Conde United Methodist parishes.

Next week’s program leader is Lavonne Helmer, followed by Tom Mahan.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Judge Kavanaugh Is Well-Qualified to Serve on the Supreme Court

Every vote that I cast in the U.S. Senate, whether it's on a substantial piece of legislation or a minor procedural motion, is important and helps me fulfill the oath that I took when I assumed this office. Few votes, if any, though, match the gravity that goes with providing my constitutional advice and consent on nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court. Once confirmed, Supreme Court justices serve for a lifetime, which is why these votes are so consequential.

Now that the president has nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a well-qualified and mainstream jurist, to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy, the Senate will follow regular order, which will allow senators time to meet with him, review his record, and determine how they will ultimately vote on his nomination. Having considered the nominations of more than half of the current justices on the Supreme Court, I'm not new to this process, and I'm humbled to have the opportunity to participate in it once again.

The process for considering Supreme Court justices is a unique intersection of the three branches of the federal government. The head of the executive branch chooses a nominee, the upper chamber of the legislative branch provides its advice and consent, and the nominee, if confirmed, goes on to sit on the judicial branch's highest court.

The qualifications for serving in each of these branches differs greatly, though. For example, if someone is running for Congress, it's important to know where they stand on the public policy issues of the day and how they've voted in the past or how they might vote in the future. If someone is being considered for a judgeship, though, particularly a seat on the Supreme Court, I'm most interested in two things: is he well-qualified, and does he understand the proper role of a judge, which is to call balls and strikes, not rewrite the rules of the game.

Judge Kavanaugh checks both of those boxes. He's eminently qualified. He graduated from Yale Law School, clerked for Justice Kennedy, and he's spent more than a decade on one of the most powerful circuit courts in the nation. And from what I've seen so far, Judge Kavanaugh isn't interested in legislating from the bench. He checks his opinion at the door, and he interprets the law and the Constitution as they are written – not how he would have written them.

While I was hopeful this process would rise above partisan politics, it doesn't seem likely, unfortunately. For example, one of my Democrat colleagues issued a statement that he'd vote no on the president's nominee – before the president even announced who he would nominate. How can we have a constructive debate when so many of my colleagues are using "no" as their starting point?

Some of my colleagues, many of whom are still unable or unwilling to accept the 2016 election results, might be more interested in scoring political points than learning about Judge Kavanaugh's qualifications, but I'm looking forward to meeting with him and hearing more about his judicial philosophy. As I mentioned, he's clearly well-qualified, and he seems like a genuine person who's dedicated to his family and community. I believe that he deserves to be considered on the merits, and I hope my colleagues ultimately do, too.



Tackling Juvenile Diabetes

Never underestimate the power of your story. That's typically my advice when folks ask what they can do to influence policy. Just tell your story.

Each week, dozens of South Dakotans do.

In some cases, people will share how federal policy impacts their jobs or career fields. In other instances, they'll offer up changes that could create more opportunity. But many times, they'll talk about a challenge their family faces, recognizing that many others likely face the same obstacle. That was the case when I met with a juvenile diabetes research advocate this summer.

It's rare to find a family whose story hasn't been touched by diabetes. In South Dakota alone, more than 40,000 people live with the disease, many of whom are children.

I had three nephews who were diagnosed young. My nephew Hunter learned he had Type I diabetes when he was in elementary school, and his brother was diagnosed a few years later. Another one of my nephews was just diagnosed a couple years ago. He's 17 now. Growing up with juvenile diabetes has rarely been easy for my nephews, but more often than not they've embraced the challenge, learning resilience, personal responsibility, and compassion for others. I'm pretty proud of them.

We've learned together, as a family, how to manage the disease, but it took time to make the necessary adjustments. Nonetheless, the changes made a world of difference. Unfortunately, an estimated 21,000 South Dakotans aren't even aware they have the disease, as it's easy to cast aside the symptoms, which include extreme thirst, itchy skin, increased hunger, unexpected weight loss, or slow-healing wounds. Some people also experience drowsiness or extreme nausea. If you or someone you love has experienced these signs, it's important to consult a doctor.

Even in the short time since my nephews were diagnosed, new information about how to best manage diabetes has surfaced. And more investments are being made into research and biomedical innovation every day.

From a policy perspective, we've cut some of the burdensome red tape that had made it difficult for innovation to thrive. For instance, in 2016, the 21st Century Cures Act was signed into law. This landmark legislation removed regulatory burdens that slow the pace of scientific advancement and put patients at the heart of the regulatory review process. It also modernized clinical trials and streamlined processes that made it difficult to translate discoveries into FDA-approved treatments.

Many of these policy changes came because people were willing to tell of the challenges their families faced. Your experiences can have an incredible impact too, so never underestimate the power of your story.

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Another Historic Opportunity to Shape the Direction of our Country

In June, Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement from the United States Supreme Court after 30 years. While we thank him for his years of service and dedication to our legal system, his announcement provides an important vacancy on our nation's highest court. Confirming a president's nominees to lifetime appointments to the federal bench is one of the most important jobs of the U.S. Senate. The decisions they make have lasting effects on the direction of our country for a generation or more.

On July 9, 2018, President Trump announced his intention to nominate Judge Brett Kavanaugh to replace Justice Kennedy. I had the opportunity to be at the White House for this historic announcement. Judge Kavanaugh currently sits on the D.C. Circuit Court, commonly referred to as the "second highest court in the land." He graduated from Yale Law School and was a clerk for Justice Kennedy.

During his career, he has issued more than 300 opinions, so part of our job in the Senate will be to review them so we can learn more about his decision-making philosophy. The Supreme Court has endorsed Kavanaugh's opinions more than a dozen times. In some cases, the Supreme Court upheld a D.C. Circuit Court opinion, which he joined, and in other cases, they used his dissenting opinions to overturn D.C. Circuit Court opinion.

Already, President Trump has done an excellent job of nominating fair-minded, conservative judges to the federal courts. In addition to Justice Neil Gorsuch, who was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court last year, today approximately one out of every eight circuit court judges on the bench has been nominated by President Trump.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell recently announced that the Senate plans to schedule a vote on Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation this fall. This timeframe is similar to the confirmation process of previous Supreme Court Justices who have been confirmed in recent years.

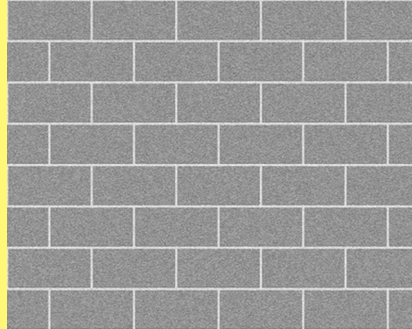
As a coequal branch of government, it is vital that our federal judges apply the law as it is written, regardless of the policy outcome. Some of our Democrat colleagues have demanded that nominees reveal how they would vote in a particular case based on the policy outcome. We believe this is inappropriate. Judges – particularly Supreme Court Justices who have the final say in the law – must be able and willing to put their personal beliefs aside and apply the law as it was written, not as he or she would like it to be.

The Constitution clearly laid out that the role of the Supreme Court is to fairly interpret the law that Congress creates. Period. The judiciary must not be politicized. Confirming fair, impartial judges who will adhere to the Constitution is one of our greatest responsibilities in the Senate, and one which I take very seriously. I look forward to a thorough and rigorous confirmation process as we consider the nomination of Judge Kavanaugh.

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Bringing Our Alcohol Laws To The 21st Century

When I speak with business prospects, I often praise our common sense regulatory environment. I emphasize that we don't place unnecessary hurdles before our citizens or entrepreneurs in South Dakota. Success is allowed here and government doesn't get in the way.

Until very recently though, this hasn't been the case for microbreweries in South Dakota. Many of South Dakota's laws on alcohol were designed right after prohibition ended, including our laws governing microbreweries. Our statutes capped microbrewery production at 5,000 barrels of beer per year. This is very small, compared to Montana's cap of 60,000, Wyoming's cap of 50,000 and North Dakota's cap of 25,000. Iowa had no cap at all. South Dakota also did not allow a microbrewery to sell its product directly to a retailer while Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa did.

As of July 1, this is no longer the case. A bill I signed into law this past legislative session now allows microbreweries to produce up to 30,000 barrels of beer per year and they can also self-distribute their product. These updates will allow us to better compete with our surrounding states and help our home-grown craft breweries grow and thrive.

I also signed several other bills this year to modernize our alcohol statutes – some of which just went into effect at the beginning of this month as well. Two of these new laws allow farm wineries, distillers and microcideries to hold other types of retail licenses and operate at additional locations under the same privileges. Other laws streamlined regulations for wine manufacturers, provided greater flexibility for charitable events and eliminated the prohibition on using alcohol in some types of foods.

South Dakota's alcohol laws were written over 80 years ago, during a very different era. I am glad we have streamlined and modernized our statutes, so that they make sense for a 21st Century economy. The new framework improves our already stellar business climate, and validates claims I've been making to our business prospects.

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Today in Weather History

July 14, 1964: A severe thunderstorm produced a tornado which caused damage to Ellsworth AFB. Another storm in Meade County produced a tornado that was spotted by Air Force personnel. This storm was bearing down on a missile site near Creighton forcing the evacuation of the site. No damage to the site was reported.

July 14, 1970: A line of severe thunderstorms raced across southeast South Dakota into northwest Iowa causing extensive damage. The line of storms produced widespread high winds and large hail. The hail averaged quarter to hen egg size although some areas received stones the size of softballs and winds over 70 mph were not uncommon. Apparently, the most extensive damage from the storms extended from Mitchell through Parker to near Beresford. Spotty areas reported 100% crop damage. In Lincoln County, the hail caused an estimated \$8 million dollars in crop damage and \$2 million dollars in property damage. In the town of Marion, the hail was so large that it punched holes in some roofs.

July 14, 2009: A line of storms moving across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours on the 14th became heavy rainfall producing thunderstorms for northeastern South Dakota. Rainfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches caused mainly localized flooding. However in Grant County, a 20 foot wide by 17-foot deep culvert on 468th Avenue in Twin Brooks was washed away by flash flooding. The Grant County Highway Department said fixing the channel would cost more than \$40,000.

1995: On the evening of Friday, July 14th, thunderstorms producing severe weather were occurring over Upper Michigan and adjacent portions of Ontario near Sault Saint Marie. By late evening the storms had evolved into a bowing line just northwest of the Mackinac Bridge. At 10:17 PM EDT, the thunderstorm gust front hit the bridge and a gust to 90 mph was measured. Sustained winds of 80 mph continued on the bridge for ten more minutes. Thus began the intense "Ontario-Adirondacks Derecho" that would cause hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of damage, several deaths, and many injuries as it raced southeast from the northern Great Lakes to the Atlantic coast. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Storm Prediction Center.

2006: Tropical Storm Bilis tracks across northern Taiwan before making landfall in southeastern China's Fujian province with maximum sustained winds near 65 mph. The storm causes at least 575 deaths in Fujian, Guangdong, and Hunan provinces and direct economic losses near \$3.3 billion.

1936 - Extreme heat prevailed across the central U.S. as severe drought raged from Texas to the Dakotas. Record high temperatures were established in sixteen states that summer, including readings as high as 120 degrees in the Great Plains Region. On this particular date, afternoon highs for 113 stations across the state of Iowa averaged 108.7 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1957 - Hail, with some stones up to an inch in diameter, covered the ground to a depth of three inches ruining crops in the Bath area of New Hampshire. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms in Iowa produced eight inches of golf ball size hail near Grafton, IA, completely stripping corn stalks in the area. Hail caused more than a million dollars damage to crops in Worth County and Mitchell County, and another million dollars damage in Ada County and Crawford County. Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the Great Plains Region. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Duluth, MN, with a reading of 37 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Severe thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Atlantic Coast Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms also spawned a rather strong tornado near Westtown, NY, and drenched Agawam, MA, with four inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from eastern New Mexico to central Nebraska. One hundred soldiers were injured by flying debris and collapsing tents during a thunderstorm near Trinidad, CO. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced wind gusts to 77 mph at La Junta. Early morning thunderstorms produced torrential rains over parts of Louisiana, with 7.50 inches at Carencro, and 5.85 inches at Morgan City. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - Death Valley had 7 consecutive days (July 14-20) with high temperatures equal to or above 125 degrees.


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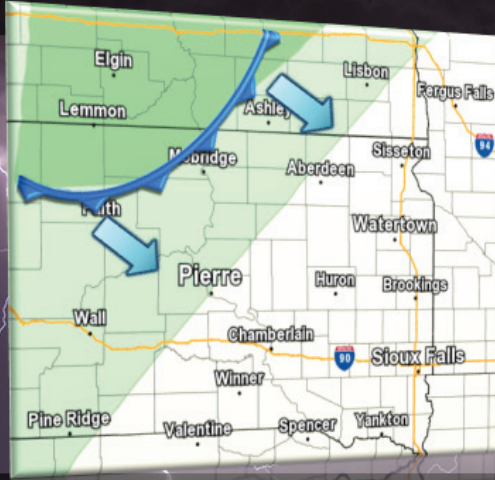
Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Hot	Mostly Clear then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 90 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 83 °F

Today

HOT




85-95°
S 10-15mph



Thunderstorms
develop along
a front mainly
after 7 pm

Storms
dissipate as
they move
southeast

Tonight



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 7/14/2018 5:27 AM Central

Published on: 07/14/2018 at 5:28AM

High pressure will produce a sunny sky and southerly winds today. A cold front will move through the area tonight and Sunday. This front will bring a chance of showers and thunderstorms, especially for areas along and west of the Missouri River. Behind the front, temperatures Sunday through Tuesday will return more normal values for mid-July.

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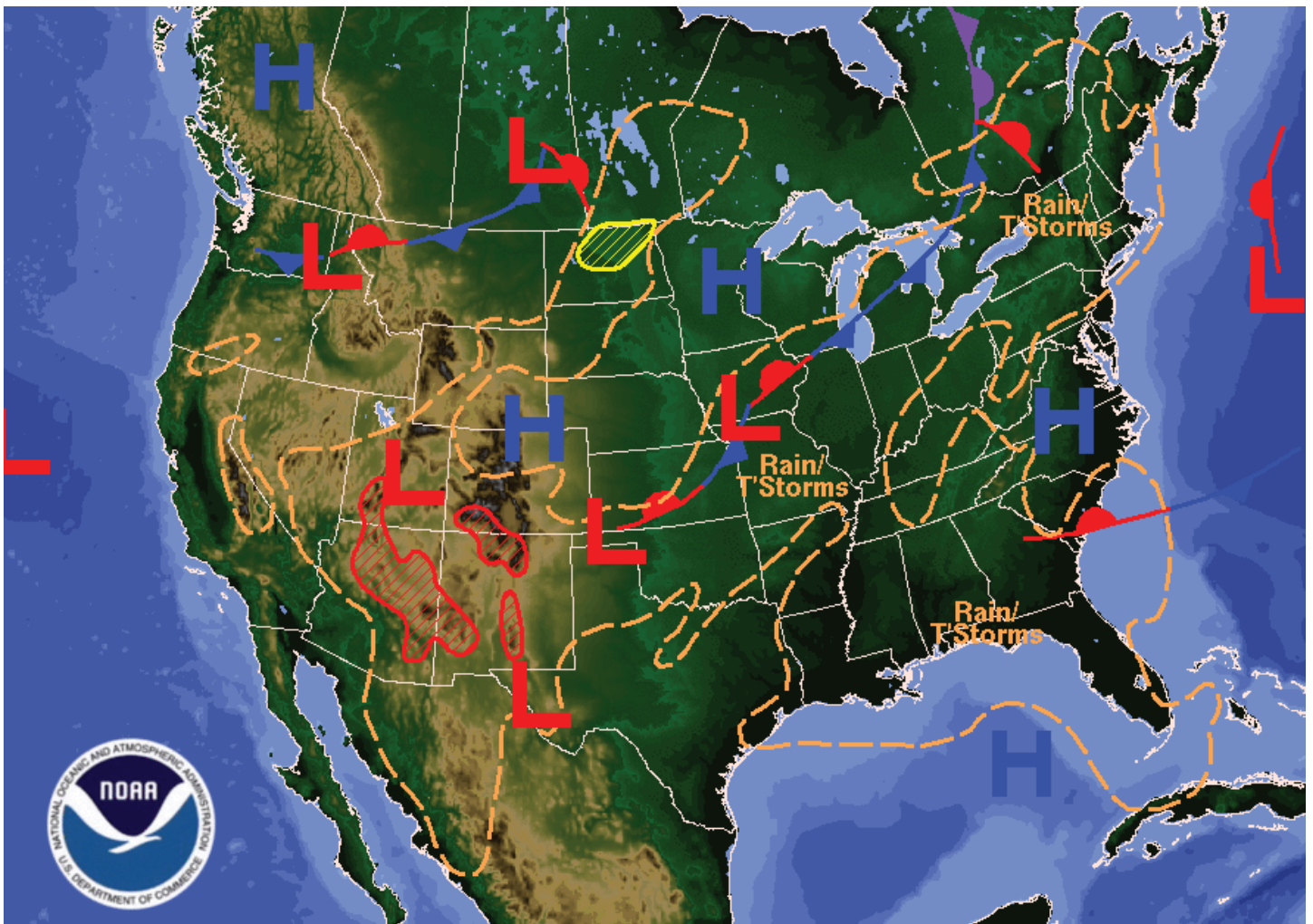
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 87.6 F at 3:52 PM
Heat Index: 93 at 3:50 PM
Low Outside Temp: 61.3 F at 6:30 AM
High Gust: 8.0 Mph at 2:47 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1931, 1901
Record Low: 42° in 1967
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 1.28
Precip to date in July: 2.15
Average Precip to date: 12.13
Precip Year to Date: 7.96
Sunset Tonight: 9:20 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:00 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jul 14, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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CHOOSING WISELY

Everyone has an "attitude." Sometimes it is not obvious. But the more time we spend with people and get to know them, the sooner we will realize "who they really are." No one can hide his true identity forever.

When I was a child, my mother and I seemed to constantly "disagree" on my selection of friends. I remember hearing her say quite frequently, "Larry, you are not to go to Al's home," or "You are not going to play baseball with Bruce," or "If I see you playing marbles with Steve, I'm going to take all of your marbles from you." Only later in life did I realize what was "going on." It was important to her that my friends have the same values and beliefs that she wanted me to have.

God gave our Psalmist great insight about friends when he wrote, "Away from me evildoers, that I may keep the commands of my God!"

We all need friends. But we need friends who will lead us to paths of righteousness. Unfortunately, we are often attracted to people with bright, happy and fun-filled personalities. They like to laugh, have good times and live exciting lives. They are a pleasure to be with and bring a sense of optimism into our life. But, they may lead us away from the Lord as we pursue a life filled with things that pass.

We need to be careful when we select our friends and companions. We need friends who will encourage us and challenge us to be Christ like, who will lift us up in our faith and draw us closer to God. Before we get close to anyone we must know if this person is close to God. If Jesus is our best friend, then, our best friends must be like Jesus.

Prayer: Give us great care, Father, when we choose our friends. May we not befriend those who will lead us astray. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:115 Away from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commands of my God!

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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

Clinic helps kids develop communication skills this summer

By **KELDA J.L. PHARRIS, Aberdeen American News**

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — As summer burns on, an Aberdeen clinic keeps children's communication skills developing when schools can't.

The Avera St. Luke's Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic operates out of the Avera Therapy Center and is open to any child, preschool age on up, Aberdeen American News reported.

"We target 3 to 16. The birth to 3 (program) works with younger children," said Amy Fedoruk, a speech and language pathologist at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. "The school-age kids are sometimes the ones that fall through the cracks. We tend to work with kids who have delays that maybe don't have as much remediation."

Generally, schools assist with speech and communication skills during the school year. The schools have testing to determine if a child needs help, and what type.

Those who need a little help benefit from the clinic. For example, Fedoruk said, a child might need some more work to correctly pronounce K sounds.

For other children, the clinic is a summer secondary support program to complement school-year assistance. A summer slide can affect communication skills.

"During the summer, we get a lot of referrals from the schools because there are kids who don't meet the requirements for the extended school program," Fedoruk said.

"No one will be turned away from the Scottish Rite clinic," she said.

That includes those who are unable to pay.

Fedoruk said parents have expressed a lot of gratitude for the program. The Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic has 10 or so local children in the program at any given time, she said. The Scottish Rite Masons fund it. There are four programs in South Dakota and more scattered across the nation.

"About 10 percent of population has a communication disorder," Fedoruk said. "We know that the younger years are really important for language development. I think we are better at identifying communication problems now and how they impact the individual.

"We look at language, memory, problem-solving ..." she said. "We tend to do mostly one-on-one, play-based (curriculum). We realize they are working, so work should be fun."

Children can be both the most challenging and the most rewarding people to work with.

"I like their enthusiasm and motivation level," Fedoruk said. "I also like to figure out how to motivate these kids to do something. Some days you can't beat some of the stories you hear. I know why I do this job."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

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"We target 3 to 16. The birth to 3 (program) works with younger children," said Amy Fedoruk, a speech and language pathologist at Avera St. Luke's Hospital. "The school-age kids are sometimes the ones that fall through the cracks. We tend to work with kids who have delays that maybe don't have as much remediation."

Generally, schools assist with speech and communication skills during the school year. The schools have

testing to determine if a child needs help, and what type.

Those who need a little help benefit from the clinic. For example, Fedoruk said, a child might need some more work to correctly pronounce K sounds.

For other children, the clinic is a summer secondary support program to complement school-year assistance. A summer slide can affect communication skills.

"During the summer, we get a lot of referrals from the schools because there are kids who don't meet the requirements for the extended school program," Fedoruk said.

"No one will be turned away from the Scottish Rite clinic," she said.

That includes those who are unable to pay.

Fedoruk said parents have expressed a lot of gratitude for the program. The Scottish Rite Speech and Language Clinic has 10 or so local children in the program at any given time, she said. The Scottish Rite Masons fund it. There are four programs in South Dakota and more scattered across the nation.

"About 10 percent of population has a communication disorder," Fedoruk said. "We know that the younger years are really important for language development. I think we are better at identifying communication problems now and how they impact the individual.

"We look at language, memory, problem-solving ..." she said. "We tend to do mostly one-on-one, play-based (curriculum). We realize they are working, so work should be fun."

Children can be both the most challenging and the most rewarding people to work with.

"I like their enthusiasm and motivation level," Fedoruk said. "I also like to figure out how to motivate these kids to do something. Some days you can't beat some of the stories you hear. I know why I do this job."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Rural maternity care falling short in South Dakota

By **PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Holding her baby boy in her arms, Julie Larson laughed softly when she saw his tiny face break into a smile.

Even sitting in a neonatal intensive care unit in Sioux Falls, miles away from the family farm, miles away from her husband and two daughters, Julie was happy.

She had Jack. And she had Rudy. Twin boys. Distance is just a reality for the Larsons. Especially when the family adds new members.

The family's Willow Lake farm is a two-hour drive from Sanford Health in Sioux Falls and 45 minutes away from the Watertown hospital, where Julie gave birth to her daughters.

"You do worry about it a little bit in case something randomly happens," Julie said. "It was always in the back of mind."

Mothers who live in rural South Dakota face one of the biggest provider gaps in the United States when it comes to finding a hospital with doctors trained to treat pregnancy and birth, according to 2017 research from the University of Minnesota.

And rural maternity care is disappearing.

Meanwhile, high infant mortality rates continue to haunt South Dakota as the state's only medical school sends young aspiring OB-GYNs elsewhere to finish their training, the Argus Leader reported.

Physicians have responded by taking an active role in training and improving rural maternity care, but the job is daunting.

"Unfortunately, I think it will always be an issue, and it should always be something we're striving to improve upon," said Dr. Erica Schipper, an obstetrician-gynecologist for Sanford Health.

Providing hospital-based care to rural families is difficult, regardless of geography. But moms in rural South Dakota are worse off than most of their counterparts in other rural parts of the country.

Nearly two-thirds of the state's 58 rural counties don't have a hospital with an OB-GYN. Only Nevada and Florida were worse off, according to University of Minnesota researchers, who studied 10 years of

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data to determine rural access to maternity care across the United States.

During those same 10 years, from 2004 to 2014, rural counties lost maternity care services. Rural programs continue to disappear due to financial and workforce-related problems.

Maternity wards in general are usually just trying to break even, and rural maternity care usually loses money, said Dr. Kimberlee McKay, an obstetrician-gynecologist for Avera Health.

"Right now the big thing is to just keep these smaller facilities from shutting down," she said.

Avera has stopped doing births at its facilities in Platte and Sibley, Iowa, though both centers continue to offer prenatal care.

Katy Kozhimannil is one of the Minnesota-based researchers who worked on the study. Responding to maternity care concerns from Alabama, Kozhimannil's team received funding from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy to conduct their research.

New mothers such as Larson expect to drive. Running the farm just means being farther away from some services, including screenings and ultrasounds all pregnant women need in the weeks and months before giving birth.

"We're used to that," Larson said. "That's no big deal."

But significant drive times can become a big deal for pregnant moms and the unborn baby, said McKay, an advocate for rural maternity care, and member of the state task force examining the causes of South Dakota's higher-than-normal infant mortality rate.

"What we talked about was this access to first trimester care," McKay said. "There are places like Buffalo, South Dakota, and Newell, South Dakota -- they're three hour drives from Rapid or Pierre. Some of them go to Billings (Montana). I don't even know where all those women go."

South Dakota's infant mortality rate spiked last year to 7.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, after dropping to a nearly 20-year low of 4.8 the year before.

Since the task force issued its recommendations, state officials have taken an active role in making infant mortality a public health concern.

Much of the focus has been on educating parents in an effort to reduce SIDS rates: safe sleep practices for baby and encouraging prenatal health for new moms.

But obstetricians also play an important role from the beginning. By seeing a doctor early, moms can avoid risks to the baby, McKay said.

Doctor visits, with all their blood tests and ultrasounds, reduce risks for both mother and baby-- that's the whole idea behind prenatal care, McKay said.

Proximity is important.

"The main thing is getting medications in timely fashion," McKay said. "Having all the tools that you need at the ready."

Nearly 40 percent of infant deaths in South Dakota occur in the first 24 hours of life.

Infant mortality is more than an indicator of community health. It's used internationally as an indicator of health care in general, including the availability of care.

Doctors at Sanford found a blockage in the stomach of Julie Larson's son, Rudy, before he was delivered.

They were able to immediately fix the condition - known as duodenal atresia - because they knew what to expect.

Rudy is making a slower recover than his twin brother, Jack, but Larson said everything went great and she expects to take him home soon.

"We had lots of time to prepare and meet with a surgeon," she said. "None of this was a surprise when the twins were born."

The University of South Dakota trains about 60 future doctors per year.

A handful go on to provide care to pregnant mothers.

And while the state has been good about attracting these young doctors back, all must first leave South Dakota to continue their training.

There is no residency program in the state.

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"They can complete medical school here but they have to leave the state to do four years of training in OB-GYN before they can come back to practice," said Schipper, who is also an associate clinical professor for USD.

The five OB-GYN graduates in 2018 are heading to Pennsylvania, Omaha, Kansas and Iowa to continue their training.

McKay is a Belle Fourche native and USD grad. Like all future obstetricians, she had to leave South Dakota to follow the passion for maternity care she developed while serving rural communities around the Rapid City area as a medical student.

McKay looks at her residency and time away from the state as a positive, even though she knows such a program could improve care in South Dakota.

"We like to leave the state and then come back because it's good to get a good perspective, that didn't hinder me," McKay said.

USD ended its obstetrics residency in the late 1980s amid budget concerns and other complications the school was facing at the time.

There has been some conversation about reviving the program, but adding a residency program requires funding, Schipper said.

"Training doctors isn't free," she said.

South Dakota has still been able to slightly increase the number of OB-GYNs serving patients in recent years, but not enough to keep up with population growth.

South Dakota has the third-highest ratio of adult women per OB-GYN in the U.S., according to 2015 workforce analysis by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

"South Dakota obviously has a challenge of having a small population and a very large land mass and that does make it harder to provide obstetrical care," Schipper said.

Doctors with both Sanford and Avera said the key to improving maternity care in remote parts of the state has been communication and collaboration.

"In a lot of cases in South Dakota, the rural family medicine doctor or nurse midwife will provide a lot of the prenatal or postpartum care and the hospitals will do the delivery and neonatal care," Schipper said.

McKay came away from the task force with a number of ideas for how Avera could improve its services for women across the state.

The biggest thing that stuck with her was how rural communities were struggling to address pregnancy risks caused by high blood pressure and gestational diabetes.

"They just weren't as controlled in areas where we don't have access to obstetrics," McKay said.

In the years since the 2011 task force, Avera has examined and tried to improve rural maternity care by increasing communication between all of its hospitals in the region.

Avera eCare and other forms of communication have allowed the health care system to educate physicians and improve protocols across the state, at facilities with or without a trained obstetrician, McKay said.

There is a gestational diabetes management program for all of Avera's rural facilities. There is a fetal monitoring system that allows all providers to be interconnected. There are ultrasound outreaches, so OB-GYNs are reading almost every single ultrasound for all patients in the system.

That type of approach holds the key for improving care in this state, McKay said.

"Connectivity will save us," she said.

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

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

21-22-39-59-68, Mega Ball: 2, Megaplier: 2

(twenty-one, twenty-two, thirty-nine, fifty-nine, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: two; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$340 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$100 million

TransCanada to move materials, prep sites for Keystone XL

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The Keystone XL oil pipeline developer said in a letter this week to a Native American tribal chairman that the company will start moving materials and preparing construction sites for the project in Montana and South Dakota.

TransCanada Corp. said in the letter to Cheyenne River Sioux Chairman Harold Frazier, of South Dakota, that the work would start in July and go through the fall. The chairman on Thursday tweeted copies of TransCanada's message and his response on the tribe's letterhead: "We will be waiting."

Frazier wasn't immediately available on Friday to comment to The Associated Press. Keystone XL faces intense resistance from environmental groups, Native American tribes and some landowners along the route.

The project would cost an estimated \$8 billion. The 1,179-mile pipeline would transport up to 830,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with lines to carry oil to Gulf Coast refineries.

TransCanada spokesman Terry Cunha said in an email that the preparatory work will ramp up over the year to position TransCanada for construction in 2019. He said it would include moving pipe and equipment to start clearing activities to prepare for getting final permits and approvals for construction.

But the project faces legal hurdles. Nebraska landowners have filed a lawsuit challenging the Nebraska Public Service Commission's decision to approve a route through the state.

A separate federal lawsuit brought by Montana landowners and environmental groups seeks to overturn President Donald Trump's decision to grant a presidential permit for the project, which was necessary because it would cross the U.S.-Canadian border.

South Dakota's Supreme Court in June dismissed an appeal from pipeline opponents — including the Cheyenne River Sioux — of a judge's decision last year upholding regulators' approval for the pipeline to cross the state.

McDonald's removing salads from 3,000 stores after illness

CHICAGO (AP) — McDonald's is stopping the sale of salads at 3,000 restaurants after people became sick from a parasite causing intestinal illness.

The Chicago-based fast-food chain said Friday it's acting "out of an abundance of caution" until switching to another supplier. Health officials in Illinois and Iowa say they've identified roughly 100 combined cases of cyclosporiasis apparently linked to consuming McDonald's salads. The illness is caused by the Cyclospora parasite.

McDonald's is removing the lettuce blend from identified restaurants and distribution centers. At least one of the affected restaurants is in each of the following states: Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Kentucky, West Virginia and Missouri.

The most common symptom is watery diarrhea. Other symptoms could include appetite loss, intestinal pain, nausea and fatigue.

South Dakota regulators seek input on \$297M wind project

AVON, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota regulators are considering public input on a \$297 million wind project proposed for southeastern counties.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission held a public hearing Thursday on the permit application for the proposed Prevailing Wind Park Energy facility. Utah-based sPower would own and operate the 61-turbine project on approximately 50,000 acres of land in Bon Homme, Charles Mix and Hutchinson counties. The company would sell the electricity to North Dakota-based Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Landowners and residents voiced concerns about health impacts, sound and flicker effects, property values and obstructed views.

"This will destroy the aesthetics of our rural area," said Julie Freier, who said her family owns 800 acres near the project site.

Tripp resident Karen Jenkins said she doesn't believe that Bon Homme County officials, particularly the zoning board, have been transparent about the wind farm. She said the Prevailing Wind project would worsen issues at her family's property, which has already suffered a major hit from the nearby Beethoven wind farm.

"There's so many people in this area that are afraid to say something because they don't want to fight with their friends and neighbors," said Jenkins' husband, Mike Jenkins. "Everybody is impacted one way or the other."

sPower Wind Vice President Peter Pawloski said the wind project could bring economic benefits, including job opportunities, landowner payments and spending in the region. The project could be operational by the end of next year, pending permit approval, he said.

The company wants to ensure that the project remains as "minimally disruptive as possible," Pawloski said. Commissioner Chris Nelson said regulators will likely make a final decision in October.

Sturgis craft brewer to build new brewery

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A craft brewer plans to build a new brewery, taproom and gift shop on the site of a former campground in Sturgis.

Knuckle Brewing Co. expects to break ground on the 15,000-square-foot brewery this fall and hopes to be brewing more beer by early next year.

The Rapid City Journal reports owner Bryan Carter is also looking at restaurant options for the new facility and other business partnerships at the site. Knuckle Brewing opened at its present location in Sturgis in 2014. A 2016 addition doubled the brewery's fermentation capacity. But, Carter says that within a year he was running out of beer before the end of the summer season and the Sturgis motorcycle rally.

Carter says their goal is to produce about 5,000 barrels of beer annually at the new brewery.

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

Dusty Johnson ends June with \$151K on hand in House race

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota congressional candidate Dusty Johnson closed out June with roughly \$151,000 in the bank after easily winning the Republican primary earlier that month.

A federal campaign finance report filed this week shows Johnson, a former public utilities commissioner, raised about \$120,000 from May 17 through June 30. Johnson beat Secretary of State Shantel Krebs and state Sen. Neal Tapio in the June 5 primary.

Johnson is competing against candidates including Democrat Tim Bjorkman, a former judge, in the November general election. Bjorkman's campaign hasn't yet filed its campaign finance report ahead of the upcoming deadline.

Bjorkman had about \$183,000 in the bank on May 16. He's didn't face a primary opponent.

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Supreme Court: Drug search unwarranted

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has sided with a man who said police did not have a warrant or consent to search him for drugs.

The high court has reversed a Pennington County ruling that denied Gene Kaline's attempt to suppress evidence, specifically three bags of methamphetamine that was found in his pockets in Rapid City in September 2016. The Argus Leader says the arresting officer had testified that Kaline consented to the search.

Kaline served eight days of a suspended sentence in jail. The state Supreme Court ruled prosecutors failed to prove that Kaline had consented to the search. It said the search was done without a warrant or reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.

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

Mitchell street construction impacting Corn Palace visitors

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Street construction in Mitchell is impacting visitation at the city's main tourist attraction.

The Daily Republic reports that Corn Palace Director Scott Schmidt says visitor numbers were at 113,760 from May 1 to July 9, down about 13,000 from the same period last year.

Board member Jeff Smith cites an ongoing road project that's expected to be mostly complete next week.

The Corn Palace bills itself as the world's only palace dedicated to the commodity. It features murals made of hundreds of thousands of ears of corn and draws about 200,000 tourists each year.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Government settles with accused Rapid City landlord

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The federal government has reached a settlement with a Rapid City apartment landlord accused of discrimination.

Amie Kelly allegedly favored a male renter over a single woman and her teenage daughter, and was accused of violating the Fair Housing Act. The case ended up in federal court when it couldn't be resolved administratively through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons says that under the settlement, Kelly doesn't admit to any wrongdoing but will pay the woman \$3,000 in damages.

State election officials in US meet amid security concerns

By GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The top state election officials from throughout the U.S. are gathering this weekend in Philadelphia amid fresh revelations of Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election and just before President Donald Trump holds one-on-one talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The annual gathering has typically been a low-key affair highlighting such things as voter registration and balloting devices. This year's meetings of the National Association of Secretaries of State and the National Association of State Election Directors are generating far greater interest.

The conference is sandwiched between Friday's indictments of 12 Russian military intelligence officers alleged to have hacked into Democratic party and campaign accounts, and Trump's long-awaited meeting with Putin.

Trump has never condemned Russia over its meddling in the 2016 elections despite the findings of all top U.S. intelligence agencies. In the past, Trump has reiterated Putin's denials, but this week said he would bring up the issue when the two meet Monday in Finland.

"All I can do is say, 'Did you?'" Trump said last week at a news conference in Brussels. "And, 'Don't do it again.' But he may deny it."

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Some of the state officials who run elections say it's important for the president to take a tougher stance to avoid having the public's confidence in fair elections undermined.

"I believe as commander in chief, he has an obligation to address it, and frankly put Putin and any other foreign nation that seeks to undermine our democracy on notice that the actions will not be tolerated," California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, a Democrat, said in an interview this week.

Trump portrays the investigation as a partisan attack, but not all Republicans see it that way. This month, the Republicans and Democrats on the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee backed the findings of an assessment from U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia tried to interfere in the 2016 election — and acted in favor of Trump and against Democratic Hillary Clinton.

As part of that effort, Russian hackers targeted at least 21 states ahead of the election and are believed to have breached the voter registration system in at least one, Illinois. Without naming the state, Friday's indictment says the Russian intelligence officers stole information on about 500,000 voters from the website of one board of elections, a breach that went undetected for three weeks.

There is no evidence they altered any results, but the attempts prompted the federal government and states to re-examine election systems and tighten their cybersecurity.

Federal officials also say it's possible that malware might have been planted that could tamper with voting or paralyze computer systems in future elections.

During a hearing this past week, U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas called the 2016 election meddling "a provocative attack against our country, and we must not allow it to happen again." McCaul, a Republican who serves as chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said he believes the country will be targeted again during the midterm elections in November.

"We need to be prepared," he said.

On Friday, a federal grand jury indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers on charges that they hacked into Democratic campaign networks in 2016, then stole and released tens of thousands of documents.

The indictment says one of the intrusions came that summer, on a vendor whose software is used to verify voter registration information. The indictment references a spoof email it says the Russian agents sent to more than 100 election-managing customers of the vendor to try to get more information.

"The indictments tell us that ... no longer can we deny in any shape or form that Russians were involved," said cybersecurity expert Sam Woolley of the Institute for the Future in Palo Alto, California.

He said state election officials need to ensure they have the most robust possible protections for their voting systems.

"Right now, this is definitely not the case," he said. "Most people operate on machines that are not very secure."

Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman is scheduled to tell her peers this weekend about how her state is using its National Guard to help test and shore up cybersecurity for elections. She said it's important to make it clear to voters that the military is not running elections and does not have access to election data.

"We're acutely aware of the optics of working with the National Guard," Wyman, a Republican, said in an interview. "The whole idea of this is to instill confidence in voters and the public that the system is secure."

Associated Press writer Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.

Trump in Scotland for Putin meeting prep and a little golf

By JILL COLVIN and PAUL KELBIE, Associated Press

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP) — A roving news conference. Reporters piling into golf carts and running along fairways trying to keep up. A protester scattering golf balls marked with swastikas.

The last time Donald Trump traveled to Scotland was in 2016, hours after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union and shortly after he became the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

He created a media maelstrom as he held court with the media, compared pro-Brexit voters to his own supporters and mixed campaigning with business promotion in a way that was signature Trump.

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This time, his trip should be less dramatic as he spends the weekend out of the spotlight, at his Turnberry resort, preparing for his high-stakes summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki on Monday.

"I have arrived in Scotland and will be at Trump Turnberry for two days of meetings, calls and hopefully, some golf - my primary form of exercise! The weather is beautiful, and this place is incredible! Tomorrow I go to Helsinki for a Monday meeting with Vladimir Putin," Trump tweeted Saturday.

Trump long has professed a special connection to Scotland, the land of his mother's birth. He owns two championship-level golf resorts in the country, including the seaside Turnberry. But ever since he ventured into Scotland a dozen years ago, Trump has been losing money and waging battles with residents, wind farms and local politicians.

"President Trump knows this country probably better than any president in recent history," Trump's ambassador to the U.K, Robert "Woody" Johnson, told reporters before Trump's trip.

Trump's mother, born Mary McLeod, was born in Stornoway, a place Trump has described as "serious Scotland." He says his mother adored the queen and the "pomp and circumstance" of events like royal weddings.

"Any time the queen was on television, my mother wanted to watch it," he told The Sun newspaper in an interview this past week.

But Trump has faced endless opposition as he's worked to renovate the Turnberry resort on the west coast and expand Trump International Golf Links Scotland in Aberdeen.

David Milne, whose property overlooks the latter, planned to mark the president's visit the same way he did the last time Trump appeared: flying the Mexican national flag over his house within sight of the clubhouse to protest Trump's immigration views.

"He is the president of a country that is allies with us and we have to give a certain amount of respect to the office of the president, even if we think the incumbent is a complete idiot," said Milne. But, he added, "It would be better for a lot of people if he just stayed at home and saved the fuel."

Anger at Trump has been especially hot in Aberdeen, where Trump's plans have been mired in controversy from the day the president bought the land in 2006. Neighbors have accused Trump of harassment and bullying to get them to sell land. A local fisherman became a national hero of sorts when he refused to sell to Trump despite a \$690,000 offer.

The Trump Organization was initially turned down for approval to build on legally protected dunes. Scotland's government eventually granted permission because of a pledge to create around 6,000 jobs, a five-star hotel with 450 rooms and two golf courses worth 1 billion pounds (\$1.3 billion). So far, only one course has been built along with a clubhouse and a boutique hotel with 16 rooms.

Conservationists also claim the course risks damaging an important site of special scientific interest. A few months before Trump clinched the Republican nomination, he lost a court fight to stop an offshore windmill farm near the North Sea resort.

While Trump likes to brag about the properties, they have been losing money. A financial report filed by Trump's company with the British government last year showed it had lost millions of dollars on the two properties and losses had more than doubled in 2016 to 17.6 million pounds (\$23 million). It was the third year in a row of losses. Revenue also fell sharply.

Asked about the losses, The Trump Organization emailed a statement that pointed to Turnberry's positives: "Trump Turnberry is one of the most spectacular properties anywhere on the world and we are incredibly proud of its continued success."

During his last visit to Scotland, Trump created a made-for-TV spectacle as he held a news conference at his course in Aberdeen. Reporters in golf carts followed Trump as he moved from hole to hole, holding court along the way. The event also doubled as an advertisement for the course, with Trump extolled its North Sea views as among "the great sights of the world."

Trump also spent the visit hailing Britain's vote to leave the EU, and drawing parallels between Brexit voters and the anger driving his own presidential campaign. Scotland voted against leaving the EU.

"I love to see people take their country back," Trump said at a news conference marking a \$200 million-

plus rehabilitation of Turnberry.

Several dozen protesters demonstrated outside the resort but were kept at a distance from the candidate and course. But one man wearing a Turnberry fleece briefly interrupted the news conference by tossing a box of golf balls emblazoned with swastikas.

This time, anti-Trump organizers planned a series of protests. Among them: a "carnival of resistance" outside the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on Saturday, expected to attract busloads of protesters from across the country.

Kirsty Haigh of Scotland United Against Trump said, "Trump likes to talk up his Scottish connections, but we are going to show that his politics are not welcome here."

Scottish police said there were trying to trace a paraglider who flew a Greenpeace protest banner on Friday over Turnberry and breached a no-fly zone. Greenpeace said the glider carried a banner reading "Trump: Well Below Par" to protest his environmental and immigration policies.

Associated Press writer Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

As Supreme Court battle roils DC, suburban voters shrug

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) — It stands to shift the direction of the nation's highest court for decades, but President Donald Trump's move to fill a Supreme Court vacancy has barely cracked the consciousness of some voters in the nation's top political battlegrounds.

Even among this year's most prized voting bloc — educated suburban women — there's no evidence that a groundswell of opposition to a conservative transformation of the judicial branch, which could lead to the erosion or reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, will significantly alter the trajectory of the midterms, particularly in the House.

Many of those on the left who were already energized to punish Trump's party this fall remain enthusiastic. On the right, voters loyal to Trump often needed no encouragement either, though some Republicans who have soured on the president were heartened by Kavanaugh's nomination.

And those in the middle? Many said they weren't following the issue closely enough to have a strong opinion despite the prospect of dramatic changes to America's customs and culture.

"I'm not going to know much about this, I'm afraid," said 31-year-old Christian school principal Sara Breetzke, a self-described moderate Republican who lives in Omaha. "I really should know more, but I don't have anything unique to say."

Breetzke was among two dozen voters interviewed by The Associated Press in the days immediately after Trump tapped federal court judge Brett Kavanaugh to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy, who was a swing vote on several key issues, including abortion rights. Those interviewed live and vote in districts that are expected to decide the House majority this fall — places like suburban Philadelphia; metropolitan Omaha; Orange County, California; northern Virginia; and Denver's western suburbs, where Republicans hold seats but Democrat Hillary Clinton performed well in 2016.

Democrats must pick up at least 23 new seats now held by Republicans to claim the House majority. They are starting with a focus on 25 districts where Clinton led Trump in the presidential vote, but the field now extends to several dozen more districts where Trump won by small margins.

The Supreme Court battle will be fought in the Senate, where Republicans are eager to vote on Kavanaugh's nomination before the midterms. The vote is especially crucial for Democrats seeking re-election in states Trump won in 2016 and could affect turnout in those races. But for now, it's unclear whether that enthusiasm will trickle down to contests for the House, where Democrats are better positioned to regain control.

In suburban Denver, 33-year-old realtor Marlene Corona said she was trying to tune out the Supreme Court debate, "so I don't get too frustrated."

The Democrat said she was already motivated to vote in November — against vulnerable Republican

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Congressman Mike Coffman — from the moment Trump was elected: “I don’t think anything is going to change that.”

In Bucks County, Pennsylvania, north of Philadelphia, registered independent Sandi Frederick said she’d be troubled if *Roe v. Wade* were overturned. But having voted for Trump in 2016, she said she’d likely vote for freshman Republican Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick.

For now, Frederick, a 56-year-old independent, says Trump’s Supreme Court pick is a qualified candidate: He speaks well, e seems like a family man and he seems to have an acceptable resume.

And in northern Virginia, where two-term Congresswoman Barbara Comstock is considered one of the nation’s most vulnerable Republicans, 67-year-old Marlene Burkgren says she feels powerless to stop Trump’s party from confirming Kavanaugh.

“I’m a little disappointed with the way things have worked out,” said Burkgren, a volunteer teach tai chi teacher at the local senior center.

“There’s nothing we can do,” Burkgren said, noting that she still plans to vote in November to try to oust Republicans from control. Comstock faces state Sen. Jennifer Wexton in a campaign season that has seen a wave of new women candidates.

These voters echo the beliefs of many of Washington’s top political operatives, who are skeptical that the high-profile Supreme Court nomination debate in the weeks ahead will significantly change the fight for congressional control this fall. The skepticism reflects the increasingly short attention span of most voters given the weekly turbulence in the Trump era and the likely timing of the Senate’s pre-election nomination battle.

Polling related to past Supreme Court nominees suggests there is typically little public awareness or informed opinion on the picks, especially within a few days of their unveiling.

Certainly, some Republicans who have been lukewarm to Trump said the president’s push for another conservative justice renews some enthusiasm that has waned somewhat as the GOP-controlled Congress has failed on key promises to dismantle the 2010 health care law and enact new immigration restrictions.

Retired airline pilot Dave Stacy of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, voted for Trump but said he doesn’t like him. Kavanaugh’s nomination gives Stacy reason to vote for vulnerable Republican freshman Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick.

“I don’t like (Trump) as a person,” Stacy said. “I think he’s arrogant. But I like what he’s doing.”

And Kavanaugh’s profile serves as a powerful reminder for some Democrats of what they don’t like about the Trump era.

“I think (Trump) doubled down on what divides us,” said Gavin Laboski, also of Doylestown. “That pick isn’t a reach across the aisle in any way shape or form.”

Despite the ambivalence from some, candidates in both parties are working to use the situation to their advantage.

Democrats in Washington and in congressional districts are warning voters that a conservative shift on the court could negatively affect women’s rights, health care and the special counsel’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The party enjoys a consistent advantage generically in polling ahead of the Nov. 6 election, and the Kavanaugh nomination is expected to push more activists to volunteer and more donors to contribute to party causes, Democratic operatives said.

Likewise, Republicans cheered the prospect of new restrictions on abortion and other conservative priorities that help motivate evangelical voters who may be skeptical about Trump’s leadership style and personal baggage.

Still, Republicans will need suburban women, especially those like Republican-leaning Taylor Liesemeyer of Omaha, where first-term GOP Rep. Don Bacon is facing a spirited challenge from progressive Democratic newcomer Kara Eastman.

Bacon called Kavanaugh’s credentials “impeccable” and congratulated Trump on the pick, comments that could pose a risk in an election where women like Liesemeyer, a Republican who supports keeping abortion legal, will be key.

"I think as a country we need to be more progressive in certain aspects, though I have a lot of traditional values," the 21-year-old occupational therapist said. "I think, as a woman, I should give other women that choice."

Associated Press writers Matthew Barakat in Loudoun County, Virginia, Marc Levy in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Nicholas Riccardi in Centennial, Colorado, and Amy Taxin in Huntington Beach, California, contributed to this report.

Indictment ties Russian government to election hacking

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve Russian military intelligence officers hacked into the Clinton presidential campaign and the Democratic Party and released tens of thousands of private communications in a sweeping conspiracy by the Kremlin to meddle in the 2016 U.S. election, according to an indictment announced days before President Donald Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The indictment represents special counsel Robert Mueller's first charges against Russian government officials for interfering in American politics, an effort U.S. intelligence agencies say was aimed at helping the Trump campaign and harming his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. The case follows a separate indictment that accused Russians of using social media to sow discord among American voters.

The 29-page indictment lays out how, months before Americans went to the polls, Russians schemed to break into key Democratic email accounts, including those belonging to Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Stolen emails, many politically damaging for Clinton, appeared on WikiLeaks in the campaign's final stretch.

The charges say the Russian defendants, using a persona known as Guccifer 2.0, in August 2016 contacted a person in touch with the Trump campaign to offer help. And they say that on the same day Trump, in a speech, urged Russia to find Clinton's missing emails, Russian hackers tried for the first time to break into email accounts used by her personal office.

Mueller did not allege that Trump campaign associates were involved in the hacking effort, that Americans were knowingly in touch with Russian intelligence officers or that any vote tallies were altered by hacking. The White House seized on those points in a statement that offered no condemnation of Russian election interference.

It was unclear whether the indictment might factor into Trump's meeting with Putin on Monday.

Trump has repeatedly expressed skepticism about Russian involvement in the hacking while being accused by Democrats of cozying up to the Russian president. Trump complained about the Russia investigation hours before the indictment, saying the "stupidity" was making it "very hard to do something with Russia."

The Kremlin, meanwhile, denied anew that it tried to sway the election. "The Russian state has never interfered and has no intention of interfering in the U.S. elections," Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Friday.

The indictment identifies the defendants as officers with Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, also known as GRU. If that link is established, it would shatter the Kremlin denials of the Russian state's involvement in the U.S. elections, given that the GRU is part of the state machine.

The Russian defendants are not in custody, and it is not clear they will ever appear in American court, though the Justice Department has recently seen value in indicting foreign hackers in absentia as public deterrence.

The indictment accuses the Russian hackers, starting in March 2016, of covertly monitoring the computers of dozens of Democratic officials and volunteers, implanting malicious computer code known as malware to explore the networks and steal data, and sending phishing emails to gain access to accounts.

One attempt at interference came hours after Trump, in a July 27, 2016, speech, suggested Russians look for emails that Clinton said she had deleted from her tenure as secretary of state.

"Russia, if you're listening," Trump said, "I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing."

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That evening, the indictment says, the Russians attempted to break into email accounts used by Clinton's personal office, along with 76 Clinton campaign email addresses.

By June 2016, the defendants, relying on fictional personas like DCLeaks and Guccifer 2.0, began planning the release of tens of thousands of stolen emails, the indictment alleges.

The Podesta emails published by WikiLeaks displayed the campaign's private communications, including deliberations about messaging that played into attacks that Clinton was calculating and a political flip-flopper. Private speeches she gave to financial industry firms were particularly damaging within the left wing of the Democratic party and among independents frustrated with the influence of Wall Street in politics.

The indictment alleges that Guccifer 2.0 was in touch with multiple Americans in the summer of 2016 about the pilfered material, including an unidentified congressional candidate who requested and then received stolen information.

On Aug. 15, 2016, the indictment says, Guccifer 2.0 reached out to someone in contact with the Trump campaign and asked the person if they had seen anything "interesting in the docs I posted?" Guccifer 2.0 said it would be a "great pleasure" to help.

Prosecutors say weeks later, Guccifer 2.0 referred to a stolen DCCC document posted online and asked the person, "what do u think of the info on the turnout model for the democrats entire presidential campaign." The person responded, "(p)retty standard."

The indictment doesn't identify the person, though longtime Trump confidant Roger Stone acknowledged Friday, through his lawyer, a "24-word exchange with someone on Twitter claiming to be Guccifer 2.0."

"This exchange is now entirely public and provides no evidence of collaboration or collusion with Guccifer 2.0 or anyone else in the alleged hacking of the DNC emails," said lawyer Grant Smith.

In addition, someone at Wikileaks contacted Guccifer 2.0 before the Democratic National Convention asking for Clinton material, court papers show.

The charges come as Mueller continues to investigate potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign. Before Friday, 20 people and three companies had been charged in the investigation.

Defendants include four former Trump campaign and White House aides, three of whom have pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate, and 13 Russians accused in a powerful social media campaign to sway U.S. public opinion in 2016.

Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, said on Twitter that it was time to end the investigation since "no Americans are involved" in Friday's indictment. But with Mueller still investigating, it's not known whether further indictments are taking shape or will.

Meanwhile, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein called for a unified approach to countering foreign meddling.

"When we confront foreign interference in American elections, it is important for us to avoid thinking politically as Republicans or Democrats and instead to think patriotically as Americans," he said. "Our response must not depend on who was victimized."

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Richard Lardner, Desmond Butler and Mary Clare Jalonick in Washington and Raphael Satter in London contributed to this report.

More AP reporting on Russian hacking: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Russianhacking>

Pompeo visits Mexico, is urged to reunite migrant families

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto on Friday urged a U.S. delegation led by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to quickly reunite migrant families separated at the border.

Pena Nieto said in a statement he called for "a permanent alternative that prioritizes the well-being and rights of minors."

Pompeo visited Mexico with Cabinet-level officials to meet with both Pena Nieto and president-elect

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Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador after a sea-change election that could offer a chance for the neighbors to repair strained relations.

Discussions were expected to address ways to combat transnational criminal organizations, the U.S. opioid epidemic and trade tensions. But irregular migration across Mexico's northern border into the United States loomed large during the meetings.

"The United States is committed to making measurable progress to ensure security on both sides of that border," Pompeo told journalists.

U.S.-Mexico ties have deteriorated significantly under President Donald Trump, who campaigned on building a border wall and has repeatedly blamed Mexico for economic and social problems in the United States.

Trump's son-in-law and White House adviser Jared Kushner accompanied Pompeo, as well as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. They met first with Pena Nieto and then with the president-elect.

Dozens of protesters jeered at Pompeo's motorcade as the delegation arrived to congratulate the leftist, populist Lopez Obrador.

Many of the protesters condemned the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy that separated families attempting to claim asylum in the United States. The vast majority of child migrants separated at the border were Central Americans, not Mexicans.

"Where are our children?" read one sign. Others read, "Stop Trump" and "ICE is a terrorist" — referring to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Pompeo acknowledged strains in U.S.-Mexico relations when he greeted Lopez Obrador, but pledged the Trump administration values the bilateral ties.

"We know there have been bumps in the road between our two countries, but President Trump is determined to make the relationship between our peoples better and stronger," Pompeo said. "We wanted to come down here to let you know that President Trump cares deeply for the success of the relationship between our two countries. Our presence here today signals that to you."

Sharing a nearly 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) border, Mexico and the United States have traditionally coordinated closely on security and immigration. Mexico is also the United States' third-largest trading partner for goods, with the U.S. buying about 80 percent of Mexico's exports, including automobiles, fruit, vegetables and beer.

Marcelo Ebrard, who is slated to be the next Mexican top diplomat, described the meeting between Pompeo and the president-elect as "frank, respectful and cordial." They shared with the U.S. delegation proposals for cooperation in commerce, development, security and migration.

But Ebrard said they did not discuss one idea that a Mexican official says has been debated to address irregular migration: declaring Mexico a "safe third country." That would mean people traveling through Mexico hoping to claim asylum in the U.S. would have to do so in Mexico instead.

Such a proposal is unlikely to garner support in Mexico as it would burden the country with tens of thousands more asylum seekers a year, according to the official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Relations have also been strained by tit-for-tat trade tariffs between Mexico and the U.S. amid tense negotiations over the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, and fears of a trade war. Trump has branded the free trade pact, which also includes Canada, as a job killer for Americans.

In his statement, Pena Nieto emphasized his government's willingness to continue renegotiating NAFTA to reach a deal "as quickly as possible."

Despite positive statements from both sides, the upcoming transition of power in Mexico has the potential to further destabilize U.S.-Mexico relations if either leader takes aim at the other to appeal to his political base at home. They're unlikely partners, as they occupy opposite ends of the political spectrum.

Lopez Obrador has already announced his government will cancel a pending purchase of U.S. helicopters as an example of cost-cutting measures. The sale was initially promoted by Washington as a move that would help a strategic partner fight against criminal organizations.

And November midterm elections in the U.S. bring the possibility that Trump could return to the rhetoric

of his presidential campaign, which was derogatory toward Mexico.

Associated Press writers Mark Stevenson, Peter Orsi, Christopher Sherman and JoeBill Munoz in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Long-hidden hackers unmasked by US special counsel

By RAPHAEL SATTER, AP Cybersecurity Writer

PARIS (AP) — On the morning of March 19, 2016, Den Katenberg ran a little test with big stakes.

The previous week, Katenberg's hacking crew had been bombarding the Hillary Clinton campaign's email accounts with fake Google warnings, trying to get her Brooklyn-based staff to panic, enter their passwords and open their digital lives to Russia's intelligence services.

But the going was tough. Even when Clinton staffers clicked the malicious links Katenberg crafted, two-factor authentication — a second, failsafe password test — still kept him out of their accounts.

After a day of testing on March 18, he took a different tack, striking the Clinton's campaign staff at their personal — and generally less secure — Gmail addresses. At 10:30 the next morning he carried out one last experiment, targeting himself at his own Gmail address to make sure his messages weren't being blocked.

An hour later he sent out a barrage of new malicious messages to more than 70 people, including one to Clinton campaign chair John Podesta. By the end of the day, he'd won access to one of the most important inboxes in American politics.

On Friday, the U.S. special counsel said Katenberg was an alias used by Lt. Aleksey Lukashev, an email phishing specialist with Unit 26165 of Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate, often abbreviated GRU.

Katenberg, who did not return multiple messages seeking comment, has been in The Associated Press' sights ever since his email was identified among a massive hacker hit list handed to the news agency by Secureworks last year.

It was that 19,000-line database that allowed the AP to reconstruct Katenberg's digital movements, logging every malicious link he and his colleagues created between March 2015 and May 2016.

The data show that the malicious emails came in waves, some 20 or 30 of them at a time, aimed at diplomats, journalists, defense contractors and other Russian intelligence targets across the world. Between the waves, sometimes only an hour or a few minutes before a major campaign, the hackers sent test emails to their own accounts to make sure they could still dodge Google's spam filters.

Katenberg's GRU hacking group, widely nicknamed "Fancy Bear," was locked in an arms race with the email giant. Every few months, Google would cotton on to the group's tactics and begin blocking its messages. The Secureworks list, along with more than 100 other phishing emails recovered from spying victims, showed how the GRU would respond by firing up a new batch of malicious websites, moving on to a new link shortening service, or trying a new brand of phishing message meant to lure its recipients into giving up their credentials.

"Someone has your password," was one particularly dire-sounding message sent by the GRU to a DNC staffer on March 25, 2016. Some messages played on their targets' fears of being hacked. One offered Gmail users a malicious "Anti-Phishing Guard App" to protect themselves from cybercriminals. Another particularly twisted message warned a Russian journalist that "Government-backed attackers may be trying to steal your password" — before directing him to a booby-trapped link.

But as good as the hackers were at extracting passwords from their victims, they also made mistakes.

For example, the Gmail address the GRU used to test-drive its phishing messages on March 19, 2016, was also used to register a Den Katenberg Twitter account, according to Twitter's "Find friends" feature. The AP also found a Facebook page using the same name and picture, although it's by no means clear that the accounts' black-and-white photograph of a young man in a dark sweater really belongs to Lukashev.

Both social media pages appeared dormant, but Lukashev and his colleagues may not be resting easy. Katenberg's Facebook profile vanished within minutes of the publication of this article. Across the internet, journalists were picking up traces of the once-anonymous hackers' digital trail, like the document posted

to the website of a Moscow secondary school that identified Viktor Netyshko as the head of Unit 26165 — just as the U.S. indictment alleged.

For years men like Netyshko and Lukashev are alleged to have hunted America's secrets. Now the world's media is after theirs.

Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

Online:

Raphael Satter can be reached at: <http://raphaelsatter.com>

More AP reporting on Russian hacking: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Russianhacking>

12 Russians indicted for meddling in 2016 US election

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

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Waters rose, turning hour-long cave trip into 18-day ordeal

By JOHNSON LAI and JASON CORBEN, Associated Press

CHIANG RAI, Thailand (AP) — The boys meant to explore the cave for just an hour, a casual jaunt to relax after soccer practice, but the waters rose. The teammates climbed higher, using their hands to feel the walls for a crawl space that would lead to safer, higher ground. Those handprints were among the first signs of where the boys were, what they had done to escape the floods, and what dangers rescuers would face in their mission to save the boys and their coach.

The boys now recuperating and the rescuers who brought them to safety are starting to share stories of the dangers and their survival. The hospital in northern Thailand where the 12 boys and their soccer coach are quarantined said Friday they are basically healthy, aside from some minor infections. A psychiatrist said their mental state seems fine.

Family members, first able to reunite with them only through a glass window, now can meet face-to-face though still not touch, to ensure any illnesses don't spread.

Banphot Konkum, father of 13-year-old Duangpetch Promthep, told The Associated Press his son — better known by his nickname, Dom — said the team members didn't know rain had started falling after they had entered the cave on June 23. But the rain caused flooding in the cave, blocking them from exiting.

"After an hour when they wanted to leave, the water level was rising. They ran farther inside the cave to escape from the water. The water flow was strong," said Banphot.

In their search for a safe haven, the boys were reported to have used their hands to feel the walls for an opening to take them to a higher, safer spot. Searchers later found what they thought were the boys' handprints, giving them confidence the boys were alive and that the searchers were on the right path.

"They, all 13 of them, saw a small passage or a crawl space, so they all dug the hole to get through to another spot, until they found Nen Nom Sao," Banphot said, referring to the sandy slope on which they ended up sheltering. There was nowhere else to go.

Dom's grandmother, Kameay Promthep, said she would tell Dom never to go near the cave or water again because she doesn't want anything to happen to him or for him to cause trouble to others again.

"I will tell Dom that he has to thank all the Thai people from all over the country and people from all over the world who were kind enough to come and help Dom. Without the (Thai navy) SEALs, the officials, and everyone who came and helped, Dom wouldn't be here today. He would not be seeing his Grandma, and Grandma wouldn't see his face again. From now on, Dom will have to be a good person."

Banphot said all 13 rescued team members will enter the monkhood to pay tribute to Saman Kunan, a former Thai navy SEAL who died while diving to place essential supplies along the rescue route. Becoming a monk at a temple for at least a short period is a way of making merit in Thai Buddhist tradition.

"We are planning the date and will do it whenever all the families are all ready," said Banphot.

The mother of the youngest Wild Boar teammate, 11-year old Chanin Wiboonrungruang, told a Bangkok newspaper that her son told her the team did not make a special point of bringing along food since they were only planning a short trek into the cave.

"After the first three nights with no food in the cave, my son felt extreme hunger and cried," Aikhan told the Bangkok Post. "He had to rely only on water dripping from the rock. It was very cold at night and pitch dark. They had to lie huddled together.

She said her son, nicknamed Tun, said the boys' 25-year-old soccer coach Ekapol "Ake" Chanthawong, told them to meditate to ease their hunger and save their energy. He had already spent nearly a decade as a Buddhist monk.

One of the two British divers who found the group said the rescue operation was "completely uncharted, unprecedented territory," and that he had not been certain the boys would be found alive.

"Nothing like this has been done," Rick Stanton said at a news conference Friday at London's Heathrow airport after returning from Thailand.

Recalling the moment on July 2 when he and his diving partner John Volanthen found the boys on their 10th day inside the cave, he said his initial reaction was "of course, excitement, relief that they were still

alive.”

“As they were coming down the slope we were counting them till we got to 13. Unbelievable,” he said. “They looked in good health, but of course when we departed all we could think about was how we were going to get them out. And so there was relief tempered with uncertainty.”

The British divers who blazed the trail were praised by Australian doctor-diver Richard Harris, who stayed in the cave for three days to oversee the medical care of the boys while they were waiting to be rescued.

“Rick and John not only found the children and coach alive, but conveyed the gravity of the situation to the rest of the world and thus the rescue started in earnest,” he wrote on his Facebook page on Friday, as he was flying home on an Australian air force plane with his countrymen who also worked at the cave. “The 4 Brits then did further supply dives to the soccer players, the coach and the four Thai Navy Seals which allowed them to prepare and sustain themselves for the rescue ultimately.”

Thai authorities had contacted the British Cave Rescue Council for help when the boys disappeared. The British divers left London on June 26 with special rescue equipment, including radios designed to work in caves.

An international team of cave divers and Thai navy SEALs extracted the 12 boys and coach in a high-risk, three-day mission that concluded Tuesday.

“None of the tasks were easy,” Thai navy SEAL commander Rear Adm. Arpakorn Yookongkaew said Thursday after his men flew back to their base at Sattahip on the Gulf of Thailand.

“We were working on many tasks and we had to plan well. Our troops were taking risks, working in dangerous conditions and risking their lives. Many had to go to hospitals after the dives and many were sick. But we didn’t mention it because it could affect morale.”

Harris also acknowledged the contribution of the many who were not directly involved with the diving operations, “swarms of men and women” from Thailand and the international community who provided “everything from catering, communications, media and of course the huge teams of workers filling the cave with tonnes and tonnes of equipment to try and lower the water and sustain the diving operations.”

“I have never seen anything like it with man battling to control the natural forces of the monsoon waters. Local climbing and rope access workers rigged the dry cave section for that part of the rescue and scoured the bush for more entrances to the cave. Drilling teams attempted to get through nearly a km of rock to the boy’s location. And all this time 4 brave Navy Seals sat with the Wild Boars knowing they were in as much danger as the kids.”

Associated Press journalist Tassanee Vejpongsa in Bangkok contributed to this report.

UK police say bottle was source of pair’s Novichok poisoning

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British detectives investigating the poisoning of two people with a military grade nerve agent said Friday that a small bottle found in the home of one of the victims tested positive for Novichok, a lethal substance produced in the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Dawn Sturgess, 44, and Charlie Rowley, 45, were sickened on June 30 in a southwestern England town not far from Salisbury, where British authorities say a Russian ex-spy and his daughter were poisoned with Novichok in March.

Sturgess died in a hospital on Sunday. Rowley was in critical condition for more than a week, but has regained consciousness.

The Metropolitan Police said the bottle was found during searches of Rowley’s house Wednesday and scientists confirmed the substance in the bottle was Novichok. Police have interviewed Rowley since he became conscious.

Police are still looking into where the bottle came from and how it got into Rowley’s house. They said further tests would be done to try to establish if the nerve agent was from the same batch that was used to poison Russian ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia.

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More than 100 police officers had been searching for the source of Rowley and Sturgess' exposure in the town of Amesbury, where they lived, and Salisbury, where the Skripals were poisoned.

The Skripals survived and were released from the Salisbury hospital before Rowley and Sturgess were poisoned and taken there. British authorities took the father and daughter to a secret protected location.

British police said earlier they suspected the new victims had handled a container contaminated with Novichok and had no reason to think Rowley and Sturgess were targeted deliberately.

Assistant Police Commissioner Neil Basu, Britain's top counterterrorism officer, told local residents this week that Novichok could remain active for 50 years if it kept in a sealed container. He said he could not guarantee there were no more traces of the lethal poison in the area.

Basu said Friday that cordons would remain in place in some locations to protect the public despite the apparent breakthrough in the case. He would not provide more information about the bottle found in Rowley's home.

"This is clearly a significant and positive development. However, we cannot guarantee that there isn't any more of the substance left," Basu said. The continued blocking off of areas would "allow thorough searches to continue as a precautionary measure for public safety and to assist the investigation team."

Britain's Foreign Office said Friday that the U.K. has asked the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to collect samples for analysis at its labs. The organization has the power to assign blame for chemical weapons use.

The Novichok saga began in March when the Skripals mysteriously fell ill on a park bench in Salisbury. They were found to have been poisoned with Novichok.

Prime Minister Theresa May blamed the Russian government for the attack, which the Kremlin has vehemently denied. The case led the United States and other countries to expel a large number of Russian diplomats.

Public health officials said the risk of exposure to the public is low, but advised people not to pick up any strange items.

Anderson tops Isner 26-24 at Wimbledon; other SF suspended

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — To say that Kevin Anderson won this interminable Wimbledon semifinal, and that John Isner lost it, didn't really seem fair. To Anderson, anyway.

They had played on and on, through 6 1/2 hours of ho-hum hold after ho-hum hold, during the second-longest match in the history of a tournament that began in 1877, all the way until the never-ending serving marathon did, finally, end at 26-24 in the fifth set Friday, with Anderson claiming the most important of the 569 points — the last.

So when Anderson left Centre Court, well aware that his 7-6 (6), 6-7 (5), 6-7 (9), 6-4, 26-24 victory earned him the chance to win his first Grand Slam title at age 32, the South African said: "At the end, you feel like this is a draw between the two of us."

He continued: "John's such a great guy, and I really feel for him, because if I'd been on the opposite side, I don't know how you can take that, playing for so long and coming up short."

Only one match at Wimbledon ever lasted longer: Isner's 2010 first-round victory over Nicolas Mahut, the longest match in tennis history. It went more than 11 hours over three days and finished 70-68 in the fifth on Court 18, which now bears a plaque commemorating it.

Friday's contest lasted so long, the day's second semifinal didn't finish.

Novak Djokovic was leading Rafael Nadal 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9) in a compelling showdown filled with entertaining points that was suspended as soon as the third set concluded at just past 11 p.m., the curfew at the All England Club. Some people in the stands booed the decision to halt the match after a fantastic tiebreaker in which Nadal wasted three set points at 6-5, 7-6 and 8-7. Djokovic cashed in on his second when Nadal's backhand found the net after an 18-stroke exchange.

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Because Nadal and Djokovic didn't begin playing until after 8 p.m., the retractable roof above the main stadium was shut between the matches and the arena's artificial lights were turned on. Now they'll come back Saturday to figure out who will face Anderson in the final, resuming at 1 p.m. local time, under the roof.

The women's final between Serena Williams and Angelique Kerber will then follow. That creates an unusual situation: Instead of a standard 2 p.m. start, Williams and Kerber won't know exactly when their match will begin.

Anderson will certainly appreciate the chance to put his feet up ahead of Sunday's final, while Nadal and Djokovic — who have a combined 29 Grand Slam titles between them, five at Wimbledon — push each other some more.

Anderson's fifth set alone lasted nearly 3 hours as his semifinal became a test of endurance more than skill.

"He stayed the course incredibly well," said the No. 9 seed Isner, a 33-year-old American playing in his first major semifinal. "Just disappointed to lose. I was pretty close to making a Grand Slam final and it didn't happen."

Anderson finally earned the must-have, go-ahead service break with the help of a point in which the right-hander tumbled to his backside, scrambled back to his feet and hit a shot lefty.

"That definitely brings a smile to my face," said Anderson, the runner-up to Nadal at last year's U.S. Open. "At that stage, you're just trying to fight in every single moment, and I was like, 'Just get up!'"

The No. 8 seed Anderson eliminated eight-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer in a 13-11 fifth set in the quarterfinals Wednesday. Between that and the energy-sapper against Isner, it's hard to imagine how Anderson will have much left for his second Slam final.

Wimbledon doesn't use tiebreakers in the fifth set for men, or third set for women, so there's nothing to prevent a match from continuing ad infinitum. Both Isner and Anderson said they'd like to see that change.

At one point in the fifth set, a spectator shouted, "Come on, guys! We want to see Rafa!"

The 6-foot-8 Anderson and 6-10 Isner go way back, to their college days, Isner at Georgia, Anderson at Illinois. In the pros, Isner had won eight of 11 previous matchups. But this one was as close as can be.

There wasn't a whole lot of intrigue, or momentum shifts. The serving, though, was something else. Isner pounded his at up to 142 mph; Anderson reached 136 mph. They combined for 102 aces: 53 by Isner, 49 by Anderson.

"The effort they both put in and the performance and the guts, the way they competed — a lot to be proud of," said Justin Gimelstob, one of Isner's coaches.

Both failed to seize early opportunities. Isner wasted a set point in the opener. Anderson served for the third at 5-3, got broken, and then had a pair of set points in that tiebreaker, double-faulting one away.

By the latter stages, with break chances so rare, murmurs would spread through the Centre Court stands whenever a game's returner got to love-15 or love-30.

Could we be about to see the sixth and last break of a match that would end up with 90 holds?

Repeatedly, the answer was, of course, "No," even when Anderson held break points at 7-all, 10-all and 17-all. The 10-all game ended with Isner hitting a forehand passing winner on the run to hold, then letting his momentum carry him directly to his sideline chair, where he plopped himself down.

By the end, he was looking exhausted, leaning over to rest a hand on a knee between points.

"I feel pretty terrible," Isner said afterward. "My left heel is killing me and I have an awful blister on my right foot."

He never got a break point in the fifth set. Anderson finally came through on his sixth for a 25-24 lead, when Isner wearily put a backhand into the net.

Then Anderson served out the victory, with Isner sailing a forehand wide on match point.

Soon, they were meeting for an embrace.

More AP tennis coverage: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis>

Demonstrators mock Donald Trump; protest his visit to the UK

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Thousands crammed the streets of central London on Friday to vent their anger over Donald Trump's first official visit to Britain, blowing horns, waving banners and hoisting a bright orange effigy of the U.S. president on their shoulders

Filing past palaces of high-end commerce — Apple, Burberry, Brooks Brothers — marchers criticized Trump's policies on immigration, climate change and torture, as well as his treatment of women. Some carried more than one sign, unable to choose which policy they hated the most.

The Rev. Nigel Sinclair, a 53-year-old Church of England preacher, came in what he called his Sunday vicar's outfit, carrying a sign that showed how Trump's ideas differ from those of Jesus Christ. Susie Mazur, 29, from Salisbury in southwestern England, crocheted a Donald Trump pin-cushion and wore it on her head, winning praise from fellow protesters.

"People coming here nowadays feel very hopeless about what is happening. They don't like what is happening

in the U.K., in America, across the world — there are so many problems," Mazur said. "Everyone has the same goal. What they want is to stop hate, basically."

As Trump met with Prime Minister Theresa May at her country retreat outside the city, the protesters gathered outside embassies, offices and homes carrying signs that read, "Human rights have no border," and "Mother Earth unites us," before marching past the shops of Regent's Street on their way to Piccadilly Circus and finally Trafalgar Square, which the city calls a "center of national democracy and protest."

Not everyone was protesting against Trump, however.

Augustine Chukwuma Obodo, who wore a "Make America Great Again!" hat and a "Trump for President in 2020" shirt, said he wanted to make clear that not everyone found the protests amusing. Obodo, a Nigerian living in London, said he wanted to add his voice to those who are quieter, but believe Trump is doing a good job on issues such as pushing NATO members to increase their defense spending.

"America is not a cash point," he said.

The day began with a giant balloon that caricatured Trump as a screaming orange baby flying outside the Houses of Parliament. The diaper-clad infant, with a quiff of hair and a mobile phone for tweeting, was the centerpiece of demonstrations.

"Depicting Trump as a baby is a great way of targeting his fragile ego, and mocking him is our main



A six-meter high cartoon baby blimp of U.S. President Donald Trump is flown as a protest against his visit, in Parliament Square in London, England, Friday, July 13, 2018. Trump is making his first trip to Britain as president after a tense summit with NATO leaders in Brussels and on the heels of ruptures in British Prime Minister Theresa May's government because of the crisis over Britain's exit from the European Union. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

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motivation," said Matthew Bonner, one of the organizers of the balloon flight. "He doesn't seem to be affected by the moral outrage that comes from his behavior and his policies. You can't reason with him, but you can ridicule him."

Hundreds crammed Parliament Square to take in the spectacle. Deborah Burns, 43, of Newcastle in northern England, brought along her 10-year old daughter, Monica Siddique.

"I think it's a good way to stop Trump from being mean to the rest of the world," Monica said of the balloon. "He says, 'Oh, this is a free world.' But then he goes and builds walls. ... He acts like a baby."

Some Americans living in London came to see the balloon, wearing the Stars and Stripes draped over their shoulders. Other spectators just came to take pictures as the balloon floated overhead for two hours.

"It's a very British way of protesting — we don't like to throw stones," said Phil Chapman, 59, of Hayfield, a village in Derbyshire. "It's far easier to protest in a pleasant way. If you can do that with humor, you will get more attention."

Trump criticized London Mayor Sadiq Khan, who refused to prevent the balloon from flying, in an interview published Friday.

"I think he has not been hospitable to a government that is very important," Trump told Britain's Sun newspaper. "Now, he might not like the current president, but I represent the United States. I also represent a lot of people in Europe, because a lot of people from Europe are in the United States."

Khan, who has been a target of Trump's ire before, said his job was to make sure the protests were peaceful, not to be a censor or the "arbiter of good taste."

"The idea that I would stop a blimp or a balloon flying over London because it may cause offense, and thereby curtail the rights people have to protest when it's not unsafe, it's not un-peaceful, I think people would find a bit astonishing," Khan told the BBC.

Anger over Trump's visit has been simmering ever since May invited the president for a state visit just a week after his inauguration last year. The event, which would normally include glittering horse-drawn carriages and a state dinner hosted by the monarch, morphed into a two-day "working visit" with much less pomp and circumstance amid concern about security and crowds in central London.

Trump avoided the protests by largely staying away from the capital. After a black-tie dinner 60 miles (100 kilometers) outside London, he spent Thursday night at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Regents Park, then flew by helicopter to May's country retreat, Chequers, for his meeting with the prime minister, followed by another flight to Windsor Palace for tea with Queen Elizabeth II.

He then headed for Scotland, where he was to spend the weekend at one of his private golf clubs.

Ahead of Trump's arrival, hundreds of people gathered in Scotland's largest city, Glasgow, to protest the U.S. president's U.K. visit.

Among them was Emily Bryce, who proudly carried a homemade banner written in Gaelic, in recognition of Trump's Highland roots. "Donald Trump, son of the devil," it read.

"It's a disgrace that Theresa May has allowed Trump to visit the U.K. and to meet the queen," the 67-year-old Bryce said.

A march in support of Trump was planned for Saturday in London, starting at the U.S. Embassy on the south bank of the River Thames and ending near the prime minister's residence at Downing Street. But on Friday, the crowds belonged to those who oppose his policies.

Placards reading "Dump Trump," and "Can't comb over sexism," were raised high by the boisterous crowds in the capital.

Phil Bond, 65, a musician, said he knew it was unlikely that the demonstrations will make any difference to Trump, but he believes people in the United States will notice.

"If enough people come out, it might make a difference," he said.

Melania Trump dutifully tries her hand at lawn bowls

By SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Her game face on, Melania Trump dutifully tried her hand at lawn bowls during a solo outing Friday to a historic London veterans' retirement home on her first visit to Britain as America's first lady.

As President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May met just outside London for talks, Mrs. Trump visited Royal Hospital Chelsea, an imposing building founded over 300 years ago by King Charles II that currently houses hundreds of British veterans. She was hosted by May's husband, Philip.

The pair toured the hospital grounds before joining a small group of elementary schoolchildren and veterans in making red paper poppies, a national symbol for remembering and honoring those fallen in war.

She greeted the children with a cheery "Hello" and a big smile, shaking their hands and asking one to show her how to make a poppy pin.

Reporters were shoed out of the room as the first lady engaged the group in a discussion about "Be Best," a campaign she unveiled in May to focus on childhood well-being and to teach them kindness.

She ended the visit with a game of bowls with May, the children and the veterans.

There was no sight or sound of the thousands of people rallying against President Trump in central London during his wife's visit, which her staff managed to largely keep secret to avoid the ire of demonstrators.

Wearing a sleeveless multicolored dress by British fashion designer Victoria Beckham and spiky flesh-tone stilettos, Mrs. Trump appeared to take the game seriously and followed a boy's advice on how to hold the ball. She stooped several times to roll it across the lawn, smiling and making a few faces.

Children waving British and U.S. flags cheered loudly. She also initiated a high-five with a veteran who gave her effort a thumbs-up.

In a statement afterward, Mrs. Trump said she had been "very much looking forward to discussing concepts of 'Be Best' on an international level. The event highlighted that being the best you can be incorporates honoring the sacrifices of the past and celebrating hope for the future."

The visit wrapped up before President Trump and May's news conference at her official country estate, where he denied ever criticizing the prime minister — not long after a British tabloid published an interview that included his biting criticism of aspects of her leadership.

The first lady's appearance came amid her return to the international stage after she was hospitalized in May for a kidney surgery and dropped out of sight for nearly a month. She did not accompany the president to his meetings with world leaders in Canada and Singapore last month.

Mrs. Trump and the president reunited later Friday for a return trip into the country for a social visit and tea with Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle, then flew to Scotland for a private weekend at one of Trump's golf properties.

The first lady caused a stir last month when she wore a jacket with "I really done care, do u?" scrawled on the back on a trip to the U.S.-Mexico border to meet children affected by her husband's policy against illegal immigration.

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Protests, diplomatic backflips mark Trump's visit to England

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — President Donald Trump closed out a turbulent 30-hour visit to England on Friday that featured massive protests, moments of pageantry and startling diplomatic backflips as the U.S. leader tried to smooth over controversies on trade, Brexit and his critical assessment of British Prime Minister Theresa May.

After a breach of protocol in bashing his hosts, Trump was on his best behavior as he wrapped up the visit, insisting the U.S.-U.K. relationship is at "the highest level of special" before dropping by Windsor Castle for tea with the queen and heading off for a weekend at one of his golf courses in Scotland. He left

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a trail of double-talk and chaos that has become a pattern in the U.S. president's recent overseas travels.

Even Trump's reception by Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle became a dramatic split-screen event, as the Justice Department in Washington simultaneously announced indictments against 12 Russian military intelligence officers for 2016 election interference, charges issued just days before Trump's summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin on Monday.

Trump's pomp-filled visit to the U.K. was overshadowed by an explosive interview in The Sun newspaper in which he blasted May, blamed London's mayor for terrorist attacks against the city and argued that Europe was "losing its culture" because of immigration.

The president who prides himself on not apologizing did his own version of backpedaling at a news conference with May on Friday, seeking to blame his favorite foil for any perceived friction with May, whom he lavished with praise after having questioned her leadership.

"I didn't criticize the prime minister," Trump said. "I have a lot of respect for the prime minister." He blamed the newspaper for skipping over his praise of May in a piece that was published Thursday just as the prime minister played host to Trump at an opulent welcome dinner at a country palace.

The president then urged reporters to listen to a full recording of the interview, which he said would give the full picture. But the audio already posted on The Sun's website only undermined Trump's familiar charge of "fake news."

In the interview, Trump criticized May's plan for Brexit and said it may cause a proposed U.K.-U.S. trade deal to collapse. He questioned her competence just as her government is in turmoil from contentious negotiations on how Britain will leave the European Union.

"Well, I think the deal that she is striking is not what the people voted on," Trump said in the interview. He also praised one of May's political rivals, former foreign secretary Boris Johnson, who resigned from her government in protest this week. The president backed away from the comments on Friday, saying of May's Brexit talks: "Whatever you're going to do is OK with us. Just make sure we can trade together. That's all that matters."

May, for her part, praised the strength of the British-U.S. bond. But in a gentle rebuke, she said: "It is all of our responsibility to ensure that trans-Atlantic unity endures."

As for her relationship with Trump, she said: "We are friends."

Trump was greeted by massive protests across Britain, including tens of thousands of demonstrators who filled the streets of London alongside a giant balloon that flew over Parliament on Friday depicting him as a cell-phone-toting angry baby in a diaper.

In a frenetic news conference at Chequers, May's official country house, an unrestrained Trump blamed his predecessor for Russian aggression in Crimea, placed fair trade at the center of Britain's efforts to leave the European Union, defended his beliefs that immigration has damaged Europe and repeatedly jostled with television correspondents' whose coverage he found critical.

The news conference was a scene in itself, featuring the moos of cows in the distance. And Trump at times drew laughs from some British reporters, who jeered his criticism of the media and openly laughed at his numerous boasts.

The president's bombast at Chequers was offset by a rare moment of delicacy hours later, when a chauffeured Range Rover took Trump and first lady Melania Trump to the courtyard of Windsor Castle, where Queen Elizabeth II was awaiting them under a canopy on a dais.

There were handshakes all around, then the threesome stood side-by-side as a military band played America's national anthem. With the queen in the middle, the Trumps seemed to tower over the monarch, who stands roughly 5-foot-3. The president is about 6-foot-2, and Mrs. Trump is near that in her stilettos.

The president and queen then broke off to review the troops, walking slowly past a line of Coldstream Guards wearing traditional bearskin hats. While Trump typically likes to take the lead, he appeared mostly to follow the queen's direction, adjusting his pace to hers.

The meeting with the queen, a traditional sign of prestige and power, was lost to some, as U.S. cable networks began cutting away to cover the Russian indictments. And calls from Congress grew louder for Trump to cancel Monday's meeting in Helsinki with Putin, whom Trump has previously declined to chal-

lenge on 2016 election meddling.

In Britain, the takeaway from Trump's trip across the pond will probably be the interview, in which he accused May of ruining what her country stands to gain from its Brexit vote to leave the EU. Trump linked his own election to the June 2016 referendum in which a slim majority of British voters supported leaving the EU.

Up to 100,000 people massed in London for demonstrations against the president's visit. Marchers gathered in central London before walking through the center of the city to Parliament — where earlier the 20-foot (six meter) baby blimp hovered overhead. Many protesters used humor to convey their opposition. One sign read "Trump wears poorly tailored suits," another proclaimed "Overcomb Brexit." One man was selling rolls of "Trump toilet paper" emblazoned with a picture of the president.

Trump acknowledged feeling unwelcome in the city, and blamed that in part on Mayor Sadiq Khan, who gave protesters permission to fly the baby Trump balloon.

"I guess when they put out blimps to make me feel unwelcome, no reason for me to go to London," he told The Sun, which is owned by his media ally, Rupert Murdoch, owner of Fox News in the United States.

Trump also blamed recent terrorist attacks there on Khan, who is Muslim. The president claimed Europe is "losing its culture" because of immigration from the Middle East and Africa.

Khan, whose grandparents are from Pakistan, responded by questioning why Trump repeatedly criticizes him.

"Paris, Nice, Brussels, Berlin. Cities in America all suffered terror attacks," Khan told British broadcaster Sky News. "And it's for President Trump to explain why he singled me as the mayor of London out and not the mayors of other cities and leaders of other cities."

Additional protests were waiting for Trump in Scotland as he took a weekend break before traveling to Finland to meet Putin.

Lemire reported from London. Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Darlene Superville and Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

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

Papa John's starts pulling founder's image from marketing

By CANDICE CHOI, AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Papa John's, which has featured founder John Schnatter as a spokesman in logos and TV ads, has begun pulling his image from its marketing and pledged to assess its diversity practices in response to his use of a racial slur.

Schnatter's face was off some materials by Friday, though the pizza chain said there are no plans to change its name. Schnatter is still on the board and is the company's largest shareholder — meaning he remains a key presence.

CEO Steve Ritchie said Friday the company will retain an outside expert to audit its processes related to diversity and inclusion. And he said senior managers will hold "listening sessions" to give employees a platform for any concerns.

"Papa John's is not an individual. Papa John's is a pizza company with 120,000 corporate and franchise team members around the world," he said in a statement.

Schnatter came under fire this week after a Forbes report that he used the N-word during a media training conference call in May. When asked how he would distance himself from racist groups, Schnatter reportedly complained that Colonel Sanders never faced a backlash for using the word.

Schnatter subsequently said he would resign as chairman and issued a statement of apology acknowledging the use of "inappropriate and hurtful" language.

In a radio interview with WHAS in Louisville on Friday, Schnatter said he was "just talking the way that the Colonel talked." He said the comment was taken out of context but that he nevertheless felt "sick"

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about the incident.

"I said it, and it's wrong," he said.

In addition to appearing in TV ads in the past, Schnatter's image has been on packaging and in a logo that usually is all over the website of the Louisville, Kentucky-based company.

Papa John's has acknowledged in regulatory filings that Schnatter's role as its pitchman could be a liability if his reputation was damaged. The company got a taste of that last year, when Schnatter stepped down as CEO after blaming disappointing pizza sales on the outcry surrounding football players kneeling during the national anthem.

Keith Hollingsworth, a professor with Morehouse College's business department, said keeping Schnatter in the marketing and advertising would signal to people that the company does not have a problem with his comments, or that it doesn't think they are a big deal.

"Five years from now, they might be able to start bringing him back. But at the moment, you have to be very decisive and show you take this very seriously," Hollingsworth said.

The company cannot afford to alienate customers, with sales already under pressure from rivals such as Domino's. For the first three months of this year, Papa John's said a key sales figure fell 5.3 percent in North America.

Schnatter owns nearly 30 percent of the company's shares, which fell after the report but rebounded when he said he would depart as chairman. They ended little changed Friday.

Other fallout continued Friday. The University of Louisville said it will remove the Papa John's name from its football stadium, and that it will rename the John H. Schnatter Center for Free Enterprise at its business college. Earlier in the week, the school said Schnatter resigned from its board of trustees.

Major League Baseball had also said it was indefinitely suspending a promotion with Papa John's that offered people discounts at the pizza chain after a player hit a grand slam.

Papa John's International Inc., which began operations in 1984, has more than 5,200 locations globally.

Follow Candice Choi at www.twitter.com/candicechoi

132 die in Pakistan election violence ahead of Sharif return

By **ZAHEER BABAR and ABDUL SATTAR, Associated Press**

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — The deadliest attacks in Pakistan's troubled election campaign killed at least 132 people, including a candidate, on Friday just before the arrest of disgraced former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif upon his return to the country.

In the southwestern province of Baluchistan, a suicide bomber killed 128 people, including a politician running for a provincial legislature. Four others died in a strike in Pakistan's northwest, spreading panic in the country.

The attacks came hours before Sharif returned from London along with his daughter Maryam to face a 10-year prison sentence on corruption charges, anti-corruption officials said. Maryam Sharif faces seven years in jail.

He was taken into custody to serve his sentence however he is expected to appeal and seek bail. It wasn't clear when his appeal would be filed but he has until Monday.

In the southern town of Mastung, candidate Siraj Raisani and 127 others died when a suicide bomber blew himself up amid scores of supporters who had gathered at a rally.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement carried on its Amaq news agency.

The group gave no reason for the bombing that killed Raisani, who was running for the election on the Baluchistan Awami Party ticket.

Raisani is the brother of the former Baluchistan chief minister, Aslam Raisani. Caretaker Home Minister Agha Umar Bungalzai told The Associated Press another 300 people were wounded in Friday's bombing.

The U.S. State Department in a statement strongly condemned this week's attacks on political candidates

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and their supporters in Pakistan.

"These attacks are cowardly attempts to deprive the Pakistani people of their democratic rights," it said. "We will continue to stand with the people of Pakistan and the broader South Asia region in their fight against terrorism."

Meanwhile, Sharif arrived in the eastern city of Lahore from London where he was visiting his ailing wife when a Pakistani court convicted him and his daughter of corruption.

Sharif's son-in-law is currently serving his one-year prison sentence on the same charge, which stems from the purchase of luxury apartments in Britain that the court said were bought with illegally acquired money.

Ahead of his return, police swept through Lahore, arresting scores of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League party workers to prevent them from greeting him at the airport.

Barbed wire was strung across some roads leading to the Lahore airport on Friday and barricades were positioned at the roadside ready to close off main boulevards should crowds start to gather.

In a video message Friday reportedly from aboard his aircraft en route to Pakistan, Sharif said he was returning knowing he would be taken directly to prison.

Sharif has been banned from participating in politics, and his brother Shahbaz Sharif now heads his Pakistan Muslim League and is campaigning for re-election on July 25.

In a televised appeal to supporters from London earlier this week, Sharif said he was not afraid of prison and asked people to vote for his party. He also used the opportunity to again criticize Pakistan's powerful military, which has ruled the country directly or indirectly for most of its 71-year history, saying Pakistan now has a "state above the state."

During his term in office, Sharif criticized the military's involvement in civilian affairs and its efforts in fighting extremists.

Pakistani and international rights groups have accused the military of seeking to maintain its influence in Pakistani politics by keeping Sharif out of power. The military denied the accusations saying their assistance in carrying out the elections was requested by Pakistan's Election Commission. The army will deploy 350,000 security personnel to polling stations throughout the country on election day.

Underscoring the security threat, were Friday's bombings the first of which killed four people in the northwest near the election rally of a senior politician from an Islamist party.

The explosion targeted candidate Akram Khan Durrani, who escaped unhurt, and wounded 20 people, said local police chief Rashid Khan.

Durrani is running in the July 25 vote against popular former lawmaker Imran Khan. He is a candidate of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, an election alliance of radical religious groups.

The attacks came days after a suicide bomber dispatched by the Pakistani Taliban killed secular politician Haroon Ahmed Bilour and 20 others at his rally in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

Former lawmaker Imran Khan, who hopes to become the next prime minister, condemned Friday's attack against his opponent, Durrani. In a tweet, he said there seems to be a conspiracy to sabotage the July 25 vote. But he said the people of Pakistan will not allow anything to prevent "historic" elections from taking place.

Sattar reported from Quetta, Pakistan and Associated Press writers Riaz Khan in Peshawar and Munir Ahmed and Kathy Gannon in Islamabad contributed to this report.

Trump attacks CNN, NBC and British paper in news conference

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump found time to attack CNN, NBC and the British tabloid The Sun, and offer fashion advice to a fourth news organization, while talking to reporters Friday with British Prime Minister Theresa May.

The leaders faced sharp questions at a news conference following their talks, which came between

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a reportedly contentious meeting of NATO representatives and Trump's upcoming summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Frequent Trump foil Jim Acosta of CNN tried to ask a question at one point and was rebuffed by the president.

"CNN is fake news," Trump said. "I don't take questions from CNN.

"Let's go to a real network," Trump said, pointing to John Roberts of Fox News Channel. Roberts asked if there was any way that relations with Russia would improve as long as the country occupied Crimea.

A day earlier, Trump took a question from CNN's Jeremy Diamond following the NATO meeting. And as Friday's session with May was breaking up, Acosta shouted, "Mr. President, will you ask Putin to stay out of U.S. elections?"

Trump turned around and answered yes.

Roberts, a veteran of CBS News and CNN, took some withering criticism online for not standing up for Acosta in the moment or, perhaps, ceding the microphone to his colleague.

CNN anchor Jake Tapper tweeted that he was "old enough to remember when other networks came to the defense of Fox News WH correspondents during the Obama years. Such did not happen here. Lesson for the kids out there: no one should ever try to do the right thing with the expectation that it will ever be reciprocated."

Media solidarity has become an issue with White House briefings lately, as some journalists suggest that reporters should band together to prevent press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders from changing the subject to avoid answering questions. It hasn't happened to any appreciable degree.

Roberts said later that he paused when Acosta and Trump went back and forth, and asked his own question when it became clear the president would not entertain one from CNN.

He noted he used to work at CNN. "There are some fine journalists who work there and risk their lives to report on stories around the world," Roberts said. "To issue a blanket condemnation of the network as 'fake news' is ... unfair."

Roberts also said it was similarly wrong for Trump to call Kristen Welker of NBC News dishonest. "She is as honest as the day is long," he said.

Trump took offense Friday when Welker asked him, "Are you giving Russian President Vladimir Putin the upper hand heading into your talks given that you are challenging the alliances that he is seeking to break up and defeat?"

Trump called it dishonest reporting. "Of course it happens to be NBC, which is possibly worse than CNN," he said. Welker was cut off when she tried to reply.

NBC News had no comment on the exchange. Margaret Talev, president of the White House Correspondents Association, said that "asking smart, tough questions, whether in a presidential press conference or interview, is central to the role a free press plays in a healthy republic."

"Saying a news organization isn't real doesn't change the facts and won't stop us from doing our jobs," Talev said.

All of the cable news networks, along with ABC, CBS and NBC, carried the news conference live. Mika Brzezinski of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" promised the show would fact-check the session live, much as it had done the day before following a NATO meeting. Co-host Joe Scarborough frequently broke in while Trump talked on Thursday, calling some of his claims untrue.

But MSNBC didn't break in to the Trump-May session Friday. There was no indication whether the live fact-check was considered a failed experiment, or whether it would be repeated on "Morning Joe" or any other show.

Trump was questioned Friday about critical statements he had made about May in an interview this week with The Sun, where he said she hadn't taken his advice about Brexit negotiations and he praised her political rival. He criticized the newspaper for not printing the positive things he said about May, although he later softened his stance when it was pointed out that the Sun released audio portions of the interview.

"I said very nice things about her," he said. "They didn't put it in the headline. I wish they'd put it in the

headline.”

The Sun’s headline: “Trump’s Brexit Blast: Donald Trump told Theresa May how to do Brexit ‘but she wrecked it’ — and says the US trade deal is off.”

In a statement, the Sun said it stood by its reporting. “To say the president called us ‘fake news’ with any serious intent is, well ... fake news.”

During one awkward moment in the news conference, Trump called attention to Reuters reporter Jeff Mason’s hat. Roberts, sitting next to him, playfully doffed the hat to reveal Mason’s bald head.

“I like you better without the hat,” Trump said.

Mason took it off and asked his question.

Associated Press reporters Jill Lawless and Jill Colvin contributed to this report from London.

Agency watchdog slams ex-HHS chief Price on costly travel

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government wasted at least \$341,000 on travel by ousted Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, including booking charter flights without considering cheaper scheduled airlines, an agency watchdog said Friday.

The HHS inspector general’s long-awaited report chastised the department for flouting federal travel rules, which require officials to book trips in the most cost-efficient way for taxpayers.

The inspector general estimated that the government spent nearly \$1.2 million on Price’s travel during his seven months in office. That included more than \$700,000 in military flights on two foreign and two domestic trips, as well as more than \$480,000 for various domestic trips by private chartered aircraft.

HHS “improperly used federal funds related to Sec. Price’s government travel,” the report said. Of 21 trips reviewed by the inspector general’s investigators, only one complied with all federal travel requirements. The report said none of the charter flights complied.

Price, who built a reputation as a budget hawk during earlier congressional service, has apologized and repaid the government nearly \$60,000. The report said authorities should seek full recovery of the \$341,000 deemed wasteful spending.

Price spokesman Nicholas Peters said in a statement, “there is no indication in the (inspector general’s) report that the paperwork and regulatory issues of department staff were anything other than good faith mistakes.”

Peters would not comment on any additional repayments by Price. He said investigators did not attempt to interview Price.

In its formal response to the report, HHS agreed with most of the inspector general’s recommendations for tightening up official travel and requested detail on the \$341,000 that investigators said the government should recoup. The inspector general said HHS should determine how best to recover the money.

On Friday, HHS Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan said in a separate statement that the department has since instituted new travel procedures for all political appointees, calling them “the most rigorous controls on travel in the organization’s history.” Such travel is now reviewed by the ethics office.

But Hargan also seemed to quibble, saying “the work of an audit is to review compliance with procedures, not make legal conclusions. As a matter of law, none of the travel at issue was unauthorized.”

The inspector general’s report raised questions about how Price’s travel was authorized. For example, investigators found that on five of 12 charter flights, legal approval came only during or after the trip.

Extravagant spending on travel and office remodeling by top officials became a running story as the Trump administration took power in Washington on a presidential promise to “drain the swamp.” The latest Cabinet casualty was Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt, who resigned this month amid ethics investigations.

Price was forced out in the fall of 2017 after his travel drew the ire of President Donald Trump, who was also upset over the GOP failure to repeal “Obamacare.”

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A successful orthopedic surgeon before winning a congressional seat from the Atlanta suburbs, Price rose to become one of the top GOP experts on budget and health care issues. But as secretary of HHS, he never produced a health care plan to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act.

Among other findings from the report:

— Investigators questioned Price's assertion that his official schedule prevented him from flying commercial. In one case a White House event cited as justification was canceled, and Price's office chose to continue with a charter flight at a cost of nearly \$18,000.

— Even among charter flight options, Price's office did not always book the lowest-cost trip. In one case the difference between quoted options amounted to nearly \$46,000.

— For six trips, Price either started or ended his travel in his home state of Georgia, his most frequent charter travel destination outside of his official duty station in Washington, D.C.

— HHS paid more than \$11,500 on commercial flights for a Price trip to China, Vietnam and Japan. But Price ultimately flew on military transport at a cost of more than \$430,000.

HHS lost track of what it spent for the commercial airline ticket until the inspector general's investigators identified the expense. The government ultimately got a refund for the commercial ticket.

HHS said current Secretary Alex Azar flies commercial on official business, with a few exceptions that have involved requests from the White House. Azar pays for his personal travel back home to Indiana on weekends.

Algeria stops forcing migrants into Sahara after outrage

By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Algeria's deadly expulsions of migrants into the Sahara Desert have nearly ground to a halt after widespread condemnation and the abrupt firing of two top security officials.

The expulsions to the desert borders that Algeria shares with Niger and Mali have all but ended since The Associated Press reported less than three weeks ago that more than 13,000 people, including women and children, had been dropped off in the stark, dangerous region since May 2017, according to officials with the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration.

Before the AP reached out to Algeria for comment and published the report on June 26, the North African nation was expelling migrants by the hundreds almost every week into the unforgiving desert, sometimes to their deaths.

Algeria has refused repeated AP requests for comment on the expulsions.

The European Union also declined to comment. The expulsions came as Europe is pressuring North African governments to head off the migrants before they can cross the Mediterranean Sea.

An aid worker with contacts in Algeria told the AP that the mass detentions continue, but now migrants, including dozens of pregnant women, are warehoused in overcrowded jails. The worker requested anonymity to avoid retribution from the Algerian government.

Algeria also continues to deport migrants from neighboring Niger, with which it has had an expulsion agreement since 2015. But while migrants from other sub-Saharan countries were dropped in the desert secretly and forced to walk for miles under the blistering sun, the Nigeriens have long been driven to the border by convoys. After the AP report in June, Algerian officials invited local media to watch such a round of deportations to prove they were humanely done.

Since the AP report, Algeria's security forces have fallen into disarray, with the head of the gendarmerie and the chief of national security both being forced from their jobs. It is unclear why the men were fired, but both were linked to the migrant expulsions in the desert as well as to an unrelated corruption scandal involving the seizure of more than 700 kilograms (1,550 pounds) of cocaine from a cargo ship in May.

In its few public statements, Algeria has insisted that migrants are treated appropriately, but the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has condemned the expulsions in the desert. Two days after the AP report, Human Rights Watch also released an investigation into the forced desert marches.

"Algeria has the power to control its borders, but that doesn't mean it can round up people based on

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the color of their skin and dump them in the desert, regardless of their legal status and without a shred of due process," Sarah Leah Whitson of Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

Migrants filmed videos of themselves fanning out across the open desert, stumbling through heat that reaches above 50 degrees Centigrade (122 degrees Fahrenheit) in summer as Algerian gendarmes with guns ensured they did not turn back. Of the more than two dozen migrants who AP journalists interviewed in Niger, nearly all reported seeing deaths during the forced march, which sometimes lasted days.

Even before the AP report, the conditions that migrants were enduring in the Sahara Desert had been an open secret among aid workers as well as governments in Africa and Europe. The African Union had already complained about Algeria's policies toward migrants in a statement in May.

"We cannot accept African countries ill-treating Africans, even if they enter the country illegally," the chairman of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said this week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

European Union officials say they discussed the desert expulsions with Algerian government officials privately in recent months, but the EU nonetheless settled upon Algeria as one of a handful of countries where it had hoped to set up centers to sort economic migrants from asylum-seekers fleeing for their lives. Algeria refused the dubious honor, as did multiple other countries.

Elias Meseret in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, contributed.

Pence family's failed gas stations cost taxpayers \$20M+

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, Associated Press

GARDEN CITY, Ind. (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence turns nostalgic when he talks about growing up in small-town Columbus, Indiana, where his father helped build a Midwestern empire of more than 200 gas stations that provided an upbringing on the "front row of the American dream."

The collapse of Kiel Bros. Oil Co. in 2004 was widely publicized. Less known is that the state of Indiana — and, to a smaller extent, Kentucky and Illinois — are still on the hook for millions of dollars to clean up more than 85 contaminated sites across the three states, including underground tanks that leaked toxic chemicals into soil, streams and wells.

Indiana alone has spent at least \$21 million on the cleanup thus far, or an average of about \$500,000 per site, according to an analysis of records by The Associated Press. And the work is nowhere near complete.

The federal government, meanwhile, plans to clean up a plume of cancer-causing solvent discovered beneath a former Kiel Bros. station that threatens drinking water near the Pence family's hometown.

To assess the pollution costs, the AP reviewed thousands of pages of court documents, tax statements, business filings and federal financial disclosures, as well as federal and state environmental records for Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. The total financial impact isn't clear because Indiana officials have yet to release cost figures for 12 contaminated areas. Other records are incomplete, redacted or missing.

The public cleanup of more than 25 former Kiel Bros. sites in Kentucky and Illinois — where officials have done a better job keeping costs down — has been much less expensive, totaling about \$1.7 million, according to an analysis of records obtained under each state's public records law.

Kiel Bros. has paid for only a fraction of the overall effort. In court documents, the company cited payment of \$8.8 million in "indemnity and defense costs," but also noted that \$5 million of that amount came from the states.

Indiana's Department of Environmental Management, which regulates gas stations, did not respond to a detailed list of questions from the AP. Spokesman Ryan Clem said the agency is working to provide records requested under Indiana's public records law that could shed some light on how much former Kiel Bros. sites have cost the state.

Pence spokeswoman Alyssa Farah called the findings "a years old issue" that the vice president has addressed before. She did not elaborate.

In a statement, Pence's older brother Greg Pence — who was president of Kiel Bros. when it went bankrupt and is now running for Congress as a Republican — distanced himself from the cleanup costs.

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"Greg Pence has had nothing to do with Kiel Bros since 2004. This is another attempt by the liberal media to rehash old, baseless attacks," campaign spokeswoman Molly Gillaspie said.

The fact that the company stuck taxpayers with the lion's share of the cleanup bill rankles some observers, especially in light of the family's reputation as budget hawks critical of government spending.

The Pence family, especially Greg Pence, has "some answering in public" to do, said A. James Barnes, an environmental law professor who served in high-ranking posts at the Environmental Protection Agency under President Ronald Reagan.

Mike Pence, then a third-year congressman, lost more than \$600,000 when the company went under. He later became Indiana governor and now has assets worth between \$532,000 and \$1.13 million. Greg Pence, who is seeking the vice president's old congressional seat, has total assets worth \$5.7 to \$26 million.

Nearly a decade after going under, Kiel Bros. sites still ranked among the top 10 recipients of state money for such cleanups in Indiana in 2013, the last year for which the petroleum industry has reliable spending data for the company. That was out of more than 230 companies seeking cleanup money that year, including major gas station chains with a substantially larger presence in the state.

Founded as an oil distributor by businessman Carl Kiel in 1960, the company expanded into the gas station business. Pence's father, Edward, joined in the early years and, by the mid-1970s, rose to corporate vice president.

Mike Pence says he worked for the business — which mostly operated under the name Tobacco Road — starting at age 14. But it was his brother who took over after Edward Pence's 1988 death and eventually became president.

By the early 2000s, Kiel Bros. was swimming in debt as industry consolidation and low gas prices stretched profit margins to the brink. The business racked up environmental fines and closed stores. In June 2004, Greg Pence resigned as the company filed for bankruptcy.

"The oil and gas industry changed rapidly in the 1990s and early 2000s, and many small, independent companies like Kiel Brothers were not able to survive," said Gillaspie, Greg Pence's spokeswoman.

Not long after, Pence also resigned from the board of a local bank that loaned \$16 million to the company. He and Ted Kiel, whose father founded the company, had personally guaranteed the loans, promising to repay outstanding debts with their own assets, records show.

Ted Kiel settled. The bank fought Greg Pence in court and obtained a \$3.8 million judgment, which he later settled for pennies on the dollar, according to records and interviews.

Gillaspie said Pence reached a "satisfactory settlement agreement with all parties."

Many of the gas stations were sold off and are still operating. But some sites were abandoned, including a graffiti-covered storage tank facility that once towered over an Indianapolis neighborhood. Nearby residents cheered last December as a crew tore down the tank, which was sold by the company for \$10 in 2005 and has been an eyesore ever since. The cleanup will cost an estimated \$260,000, according to the city.

Elsewhere in the city, business continues as usual at a gas station that has been in continuous state of cleanup since 1990. Pictures taken in 1992 show standing pools of black sludge where two underground storage tanks were removed. At the time, Greg Pence and state environmental regulators pledged to work together on the cleanup. Since then, it has become one of the most expensive Kiel Bros. sites, costing the state \$1.7 million.

In the immediate aftermath of the bankruptcy, the state sought about \$8.4 million from the company for cleanup and fines. After a new Republican governor, Mitch Daniels, assumed office in 2005, the state dropped that claim, which had been filed under Daniels' Democratic predecessor, Gov. Joe Kernan.

The justification for the change is a matter of debate.

Citing the complexities of bankruptcy law, experts said there was no guarantee a judge would approve Indiana's claim.

"Bankruptcy court is the last refuge of environmental scofflaws," said Pat Parenteau, a Vermont Law School professor who specializes in environmental and natural resource issues. "This is one of the more fiendishly

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complicated areas of crossover between environmental law and bankruptcy law that you can imagine.”

But Tim Method, a former deputy commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, said the state’s approach to business regulation changed abruptly with the new administration.

“Daniels felt we ought to work for business rather than be a hindrance,” said Method, who was among a handful of administrators forced out after Daniels took over.

Greg Pence wasn’t out of work for long. Within months, Daniels appointed him deputy commissioner of the Department of Environmental Management, the same agency fighting Kiel Bros. in court. Pence stepped down after only a few months, however, and returned to the petroleum business.

Daniels spokesman Jim Bush said the Pence family’s political influence played no role in Greg Pence’s hire. He declined to comment on the state’s decision to drop its claim against Kiel Bros. in bankruptcy court.

For some families living near Columbus, the Kiel Bros. business left behind more than debt. They smelled oil in water drawn from private wells. Nearly three decades later, the unincorporated area known as Garden City is a federal Superfund site, a designation reserved for the nation’s most heavily polluted locations.

Investigators initially determined Kiel Bros. was the source of the oil, along with a plume of trichloroethylene detected decades ago under a gas station. The chemical called TCE is a solvent used to degrease metal parts. The EPA says the plume is drifting toward the aquifer that is Columbus’ primary source of drinking water.

State officials seesawed over whether the company was responsible for the TCE before concluding in 2002 that it was not.

“Why did we absolve the company that we think the problem started with?” said Kevin Butler, a former teacher whose father was one of the first to smell the oil. “It just doesn’t seem very logical that this problem would be centered to this area, and confined to this area, if it wasn’t the responsibility of that company.”

Indiana has since spent more than \$860,000 cleaning up the petroleum. The EPA estimates it could cost \$320,000 to \$1.6 million to take care of the TCE, which taxpayers will likely foot the bill for.

After Kiel Bros. filed for bankruptcy, more than 500 creditors sought more than \$150 million from the company, with the state of Indiana filing one of the largest claims, records show .

In dropping its claims against the company for more than \$8.4 million, state officials stated in a 2007 court filing that “significant cleanup activity has occurred.” They also said they were “satisfied” with the company’s plan for future cleanup, which relied on the state paying much of the cost.

The decision likely made more money available for other creditors, including businesses the company was in debt to, said John A. E. Pottow, a bankruptcy expert and University of Michigan Law School professor.

“You don’t normally drop your claims in a bankruptcy case, so that’s kind of weird,” said Pottow. “If I’m a creditor, I am elated if one of my peers drops their claim.”

When an underground tank leaks, companies are liable for the damage, but Indiana has been especially amenable to using public money to pay for heavily contaminated soil to be excavated and for high-powered pumps to suck toxic liquid and vapor from the soil.

The state’s payout limit was \$2 million per site until Mike Pence signed a 2016 law as governor, increasing it to \$2.5 million. In 2016, Indiana paid out nearly two-and-a-half times the national average per incident, according to records.

Historically, Indiana has been somewhat ambivalent toward environmental enforcement, said David M. Uhlmann, an environmental law and policy professor at University of Michigan Law School.

The decision to drop the court fight with Kiel Bros. could have been “Indiana being Indiana,” Uhlmann said. But another plausible explanation “is Pence and his family having outsized influence,” he said.

Farah, the vice president’s spokeswoman, said Pence did not use his political position to gain favorable treatment for his brother or the company, saying any suggestion otherwise is “simply not grounded in fact.”

Just outside the Pences’ hometown, the state installed elaborate water-filtration systems decades ago at several homes and businesses that are closest to the service station above the chemical plume.

Mike Musillami, owner of a drive-in restaurant, said he’s fortunate to have the equipment, which is maintained by state officials. But many of his customers aren’t as lucky, he said. They rely on bottled water or paper cartridge filters or simply take the risk of drinking from the tap without an elaborate filtration system.

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"Long term, this cannot be good for them," he said. "These are people who are our daily customers. We want them around a long time."

Despite some wobbles, stocks end the week with more gains

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks wrapped up another solid week Friday as industrial and energy companies ticked higher, but corporate earnings got off to a sluggish start as reports from several major U.S. banks failed to excite investors.

Indexes wobbled in morning trading, but rising oil prices helped energy companies, and defense contractors and machinery makers also rose. Consumer-focused companies like Amazon set record highs.

Wells Fargo skidded after reporting a drop in earnings as fallout continued from its phony accounts scandal. Citigroup also fell after its revenue growth was weak. AT&T skidded after the Justice Department asked a court to overturn the company's purchase of Time Warner.

Investors expect another round of great profit growth this quarter, but they're not sure about what will come next: the U.S. and China are in a trade war without any signs of resolution, midterm Congressional elections are getting closer, and interest rates keep rising. Paul Christopher, head of global market strategy for the Wells Fargo Investment Institute, said investors will focus on corporate forecasts covering the rest of the year.

"We think there will be a lot of attention paid to the outlook," he said. "We still think the economy is really what investors should be watching here, and we think it's going to be solid this year and again good next year."

The S&P 500 index edged up 3.02 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,801.31. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 94.52 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,019.41. The Nasdaq composite set another record, just barely, as it rose 2.06 points to 7,825.98.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks fell 3.20 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,687.08. More stocks fell than rose on the New York Stock Exchange.

Major indexes rose for the second consecutive week following modest losses over the previous two weeks. Investors continued to waver between optimism about the growing U.S. economy, and the strong company earnings that come with it, and worries that the trade war and other commercial disputes could set back global economic growth.

Wells Fargo, the largest U.S. mortgage lender, posted a smaller profit than analysts expected. Its stock gave up 1.2 percent to \$55.36. Citi fell 2.2 percent to \$67 and JPMorgan Chase dipped 0.5 percent to \$106.36.

While bank profits are surging this year, their stocks are not. Much of the profit growth has come from last year's corporate tax cuts rather than a big improvement in the banks' businesses. Investors have also worried about the shrinking gap between short-term interest rates and longer-term ones because banks make a lot of their money by borrowing money at short-term rates and lending it out over the long term.

While investors are taking money out of financials, they are more optimistic about technology companies and retailers, which are expected to post even stronger earnings growth later this summer. On Friday Amazon rose 0.9 percent to \$1,813.03 and Microsoft added 1.2 percent to \$105.43.

AT&T dropped 1.7 percent to \$31.67 after the Justice Department moved to challenge its recent purchase of Time Warner. The \$85 billion deal closed last month after a federal judge ruled that it did not violate antitrust law, but the government is asking a higher court to reconsider that ruling.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 1 percent to \$71.01 a barrel in New York while Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 1.4 percent to \$75.33 per barrel in London.

Devon Energy advanced 1.8 percent to \$44.72 and Exxon Mobile rose 0.7 percent to \$83.31.

Johnson & Johnston lost 1.4 percent to \$125.93 after a St. Louis jury awarded almost \$4.7 billion in damages to 22 women and their families after they claimed asbestos in Johnson & Johnson talcum powder contributed to their ovarian cancer. The company said it will appeal, as it has in previous cases that found

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for women who sued the company. This is the first case that focused on asbestos in the talcum powder.

Bond prices moved higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.83 percent from 2.85 percent.

Gold lost 0.4 percent to \$1,241.20 an ounce. Silver fell 1 percent to \$15.82 an ounce. Copper lost 0.1 percent to \$2.78 a pound.

While the stronger dollar has sent gold and silver prices lower, the losses for copper have been especially steep. Copper futures have fallen for five straight weeks, down 16 percent over that time, a sign that investors are worried the trade war will impair construction, manufacturing and power generation.

Wholesale gasoline rose 1.7 percent to \$2.11 a gallon. Heating oil added 0.5 percent to \$2.13 a gallon. Natural gas sank 1.6 percent to \$2.75 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar rose to 112.30 yen from 112.46 yen. The euro edged up to \$1.1677 from \$1.1670.

France's CAC 40 advanced 0.4 percent and Germany's DAX rose 0.4 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.1 percent.

Asian markets finished mostly higher led by Japan, where the Nikkei 225 jumped 1.9 percent as the yen weakened against the dollar, which helps exporters. South Korea's Kospi advanced 1.1 percent to and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index added 0.2 percent.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 14, the 195th day of 2018. There are 170 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 14, 1933, all German political parties, except the Nazi Party, were outlawed.

On this date:

In 1789, in an event symbolizing the start of the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners inside.

In 1798, Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it a federal crime to publish false, scandalous or malicious writing about the United States government.

In 1881, outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias "Billy the Kid," was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner in present-day New Mexico.

In 1913, Gerald Rudolph Ford Jr., the 38th president of the United States, was born Leslie Lynch King Jr. in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1914, scientist Robert H. Goddard received a U.S. patent for a liquid-fueled rocket apparatus.

In 1921, Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were convicted in Dedham, Massachusetts, of murdering a shoe company paymaster and his guard. (Sacco and Vanzetti were executed six years later.)

In 1945, Italy formally declared war on Japan, its former Axis partner during World War II.

In 1964, in a speech to the Republican national convention in San Francisco, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller was booed by supporters of Barry Goldwater as he called on the GOP to denounce political extremists.

In 1966, the city of Chicago awoke to the shocking news that eight student nurses had been brutally slain during the night in a South Side dormitory. Drifter Richard Speck was convicted of the mass killing and condemned to death, but had his sentence reduced to life in prison, where he died in 1991.

In 1976, Jimmy Carter won the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in New York.

In 1980, the Republican national convention opened in Detroit, where nominee-apparent Ronald Reagan told a welcoming rally he and his supporters were determined to "make America great again."

In 1999, race-based school busing in Boston came to an end after 25 years.

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In 2004, the Senate scuttled a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. (Forty-eight senators voted to advance the measure — 12 short of the 60 needed — and 50 voted to block it).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush lifted an executive ban on offshore oil drilling which had stood since his father was president. The New Yorker magazine featured a satirical cover showing Barack Obama dressed as a Muslim and his wife, Michelle, as a terrorist in the Oval Office. (The Obama campaign called the cover “tasteless and offensive.”)

Five years ago: Thousands of demonstrators across the country protested a Florida jury’s decision the day before to clear George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. German Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN’-geh-lah MEHR’-kuhl), in a TV interview, called for tougher European and global rules on data protection amid fallout from recent revelations about U.S. surveillance programs.

One year ago: A Russian-American lobbyist said he attended a June 2016 meeting with President Donald Trump’s son that was billed as part of a Russian government effort to help the Republican campaign. Arab assailants opened fire from inside a major Jerusalem shrine, killing two Israeli policemen before being shot dead.

Today’s Birthdays: Actress Nancy Olson is 90. Former football player and actor Rosey Grier is 86. Actor Vincent Pastore is 72. Music company executive Tommy Mottola (muh-TOH’-luh) is 70. Rock musician Chris Cross (Ultravox) is 66. Actor Jerry Houser is 66. Actor-director Eric Laneuville is 66. Actor Stan Shaw is 66. Movie producer Scott Rudin is 60. Singer-guitarist Kyle Gass is 58. Country musician Ray Herndon (McBride and the Ride) is 58. Actress Jane Lynch is 58. Actor Jackie Earle Haley is 57. Actor Matthew Fox is 52. Rock musician Ellen Reid (Crash Test Dummies) is 52. Rock singer-musician Tanya Donnelly is 52. Actress Missy Gold is 48. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Ross Rebagliati is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tameka Cottle (Xscape) is 43. Country singer Jamey Johnson is 43. Hip-hop musician taboo (Black Eyed Peas) is 43. Actor Scott Porter is 39. Rock singer Dan Smith (Bastille) is 32. Actress Sara Canning (TV: “The Vampire Diaries”) is 31. Rock singer Dan Reynolds (Imagine Dragons) is 31.

Thought for Today: “A man must be both stupid and uncharitable who believes there is no virtue or truth but on his own side.” — Joseph Addison, English essayist and poet (1672-1719).