

Groton Daily Independent

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“One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”

-Henry Miller



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

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Groton Ford Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Westby's 30th Anniversary
2. Last week's Yard of the Week
- 2- Believe in the Journey ad
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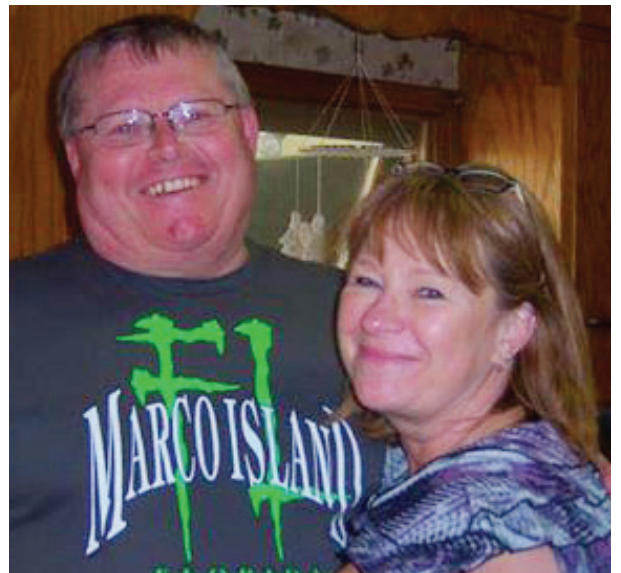


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Westby's 30th Anniversary
Ron and Lori Westby will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on Monday, July 16th, 2018. Greetings may be sent to 1103 N 2nd St Groton, SD 57445. No gifts please.



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Yard of the Week

The Paul and Kristi Eckrich home at 506 N. Washington St. was chosen last week as the Yard of the Week. The Yard of the Week is sponsored by the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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BELIEVE IN**

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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**

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What's going on this week in state government

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Monday, July 16, 1:30 p.m. CDT, Pierre – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will speak at the South Dakota Performance Excellence Award Recognition, recognizing SDDOT's commitment to excellence and ongoing improvement efforts, Capitol Bldg.

Wednesday, July 18, 2 p.m. CDT, Pierre – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will be a guest on 1240 AM KCCR with Zach Nelson.

Thursday, July 19, to Saturday, July 21, Santa Fe, NM – Gov. Dennis Daugaard will attend the National Governors Association summer meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Monday, July 16, 9 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Board of Education Standards will meet in the Library Commons on first floor of the Mackay Building, 800 Governors Drive. A proposed agenda that includes a call-in number and access code is posted at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=32>. The meeting will also be livestreamed at <http://www.sd.net/mackay/>.

Monday, July 16, 12 p.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers and Audiologists will meet via teleconference. For more information, including public access information, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=49>.

Tuesday, July 17, and Wednesday, July 18 – The South Dakota Workforce Development Council (WDC) will hold its quarterly meeting over two days at the following times and locations:

Tuesday, July 17, 12:30 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – at Rapid City Job Service, 2330 N. Maple Ave., Suite 1.

Wednesday, July 18, 8:30 a.m. MDT, Nemo – at Box Elder Job Corps Center, 22023 Job Corps Place.

Meeting materials and more information can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=111>.

Tuesday, July 17, 9:30 a.m. CDT, Fort Pierre – The South Dakota State Interagency Coordinating Council will meet at Drifters Conference Center. A proposed agenda is posted at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=57>.

Tuesday, July 17, 11 a.m. MDT, Spearfish – The Department of Social Services' Board of Social Work Examiners will hold a teleconference board meeting at 625 Main St. and at Family Service Inc., 2210 W. Brown Place in Sioux Falls. For more information and to view the agenda please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=91>.

Tuesday, July 17, 1:30 p.m. CDT, Huron – The South Dakota State Fair commission will be holding a meeting at the Nordby Hall. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=39>. For more information, please contact the State Fair office at 605-353-7340.

Tuesday, July 17, 2 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Board of Certified Professional Midwives will be holding a board meeting at the Hayes Building conference room, 600 E. Capitol Ave. For more information or to view the agenda please visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=207>.

Tuesday, July 17, 9:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – The South Dakota Nutrient Research and Education Council will be holding a meeting at the McCrory Gardens Education and Visitors Center. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=176>.

Wednesday, July 18 to Thursday, July 19, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Board of Regents will convene Wednesday, July 18, at 1 p.m. CDT at Hilton Garden Inn South, 5300 S. Grand Circle, in executive session to discuss personnel matters. The board's agenda may be accessed online at <https://www.sdbor.edu/the-board/agendaitems/Pages/default.aspx>. For more information, contact Janelle Toman, 605-773-3455.

Wednesday, July 18, 9 a.m. CDT – The South Dakota Board of Accountancy will hold a meeting via conference call. Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=4>. For more information, please contact Nicole Kasin at 605-367-5770.

Thursday, July 19, 9 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Plumbing Commission will hold its quarterly meeting at the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave., in the Sharpe Conference Room. Meeting materials can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=77>.

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Thursday, July 19, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee will be holding a meeting at the Red Rossa Conference Center, 808 W. Sioux Ave. For more information please visit <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Opioid.aspx>.

Thursday, July 19, 1 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Real Estate Commission will hold a meeting at the Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave. Meeting materials can be found at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=84>. For more information, please contact Melissa Miller at 605-773-3600.

Friday, July 20, 8 a.m. CDT, Oacoma – The South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities will hold its quarterly meeting at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center located at 1500 Shoreline Drive in Oacoma, S.D. For more information, please contact Arlene Poncelet at 605-773-6369.

Friday, July 20, 8:30 MDT, Rapid City – The Board of Technical Professions will hold a regular meeting at the Board office, 2525 W. Main St., Suite 211. Meeting agenda and materials can be viewed at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=37>. If you have questions, please contact Kathryn Patterson at 605-394-2510 or Kathryn.Patterson@state.sd.us.

Friday, July 20, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Department of Social Services' Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists Board of Examiners will hold a board meeting at 700 Governors Drive, Conference Rm. 3. For more information and to view the agenda please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=22>.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Tuesday, July 17 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

DeSmet, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Miller, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Wagner, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Wednesday, July 18 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Thursday, July 19 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

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Monday, July 16, to Thursday, July 19: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, July 16:

- 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – 101 1st Ave. SE, Suite 100 605-280-4306
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Clark – 200 N. Commercial St. N. 605-280-4306
- 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Gettysburg – 205 W. Commercial #103 605-280-4308
- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – 725 N. LaCrosse St. #200 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – 321 W. 3rd St. 605-360-7819

Tuesday, July 17:

- 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. MDT, Belle Fourche – 830 6th Ave. 605-280-4307
- 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. CDT, Britton – 909 S. Main St. 605-280-4306
- 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Flandreau – 101 E. Pipestone Ave. 605-360-7819
- 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Leola – 421 Grant St. 605-280-4308
- 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Sturgis – 1300 Sherman St. #212 605-280-4307
- 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. – CDT, Webster – 711 W. 1st St. 605-280-4306

Wednesday, July 18:

- 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Herried – American Legion 605-280-4308
- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – 725 N. LaCrosse St. #200 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – 210 E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306

Thursday, July 19:

- 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Bison – 100 E. Main 605-280-4307
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Huron – 450 3rd St. SW #103 605-280-4306
- 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – 200 E. Center St. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, White River – S. 1st and McKinley (Courthouse) 605-280-4308

Tuesday, July 17, to Thursday, July 19 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

- Tuesday, July 17, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – at 420 S. Roosevelt St. Parties interested in attending should register by calling 605-626-2340 prior to 5 p.m. Monday, July 16. For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Tuesday, July 17, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – at 223 S. Van Eps Ave. For more information, call 605-256-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Tuesday, July 17, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Mitchell – at 1321 N. Main St. For more information, call 605-995-8060 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Wednesday, July 18, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – at 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.

- Wednesday, July 18, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Sisseton – at 10 E. Hickory St., Suite 3. For more information, call 605-698-3964 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Wednesday, July 18, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – at 1300 North Ave. For more information, call 605-642-6900 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Wednesday, July 18, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Lake Andes – at 51 S. 3rd Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212, or visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Thursday, July 19, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – at 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information or to register, call 605-688-4350.

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Tuesday, July 17, to Wednesday, July 18 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, July 17, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Wagner – at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 29775 Main Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607, ext. 207 or 212 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

- Wednesday, July 18, 12 – 3 p.m. CDT, Mobridge – at the Mobridge Economic Development Office, 205 2nd St. E., Suite 1. For more information during office hours, call 605-380-8930 and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Monday, July 16, to Friday, July 20 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. This workshop will be offered at the following locations:

- Monday, July 16, and Tuesday, July 17, 12 to 4 p.m. CDT, Yankton – At Cornerstones Career Learning Center, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. This is a two-day workshop. Call 605-668-2920 to register or for more information.

- Tuesday, July 17, and Thursday, June 19, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Pierre – At The Right Turn, 115 E. Sioux Ave. This is a two-day workshop. Call 605-773-4755 to register by Wednesday, July 11. Any classes without three people registered by the previous Wednesday will be canceled.

- Tuesday, July 17, through Thursday, July 19, 6 – 9 p.m. CDT, Pierre – At The Right Turn, 115 E. Sioux Ave. This is a three-day workshop. Call 605-773-4755 to register by Wednesday, July 11. Any classes without three people registered by the previous Wednesday will be canceled.

- Thursday, July 19, and Friday, July 20, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Watertown – At Lake Area Technical Institute, 1201 Arrow Ave. This is a two-day workshop. Please register in advance of the class. Registration is available at <https://www.lakeareatech.edu/corporate-education/a-game-training/>. For more information, call 605-882-5284 ext. 236 or 260.

Wednesday, July 18, 10 a.m. CDT, Rosebud – The South Dakota Department of Revenue will host a basic sales tax seminar. The seminar will take place at the Tribal Building Annex, located at 2431 Legion Ave. To register for this free seminar, visit <http://dor.sd.gov> then click on the Education tab. For more information, contact Courtney Dosch at 605-773-3311.

Wednesday, July 18, 1 p.m. CDT, Rosebud – The South Dakota Department of Revenue will host a basic contractor's excise tax seminar. The seminar will take place at the Tribal Building Annex, located at 2431 Legion Ave. To register for this free seminar, visit <http://dor.sd.gov> then click on the Education tab. For more information, contact Courtney Dosch at 605-773-3311.

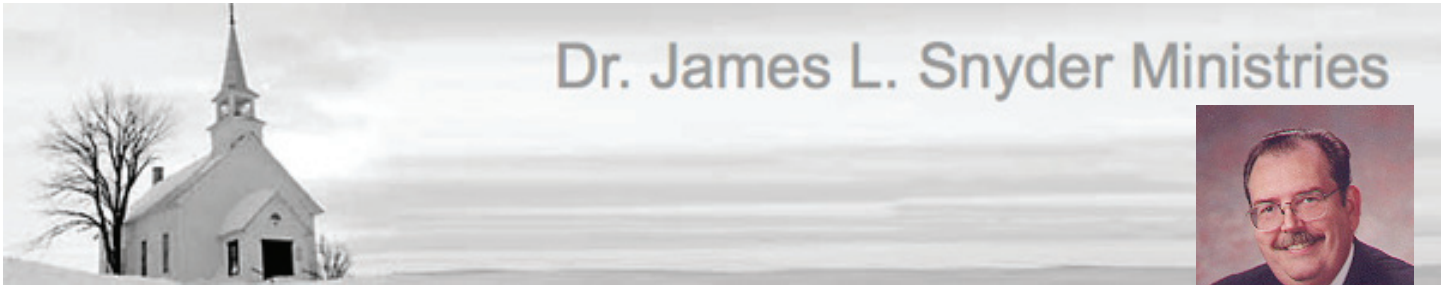
Wednesday, July 18, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at the Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com.

Thursday, July 19, 12:30 – 2 p.m. CDT, Brookings – Aramark will conduct walk-in interviews every Thursday through Aug. 30, at Brookings Job Service, 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information call 605-688-4350.

Thursday, July 19, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at the Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com

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I Fell for It... Again

An old saying more or less defines my life, "What we learn from history is that we don't learn from history."

When I was younger, I assumed that the older I got, the smarter I would become. I have not achieved that at this point in my life. It gets so tiresome to repeat the same mistakes over and over again.

I do hope though, that this will change somewhere along my life. I am hoping it changes before I die.

I was reminded of this flaw in my personality several weeks ago when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I spent a little bit of vacation time at St. Augustine. Someone had given us tickets for several nights in a bed and breakfast.

We spent the whole week just enjoying ourselves. I should correct that though. I spent the whole week reading and meditating with my eyes closed.

The other side of our relationship went to all the thrift stores in the area. She would leave right after breakfast, stop back for lunch, then spend the rest of the day until suppertime going from one thrift shop to another. How she can do this for days on end is beyond my wildest dream.

Several times, she asked if I wanted to go with her, but I declined this most gracious invitation. I remember the last time I took her up on that offer and we bounce from one thrift store to the next thrift store. They all started to look alike after a while.

It only takes me five minutes to thoroughly examine the thrift store, while my wife takes two hours to go through bit-by-bit every aspect of that thrift store. Every thrift store in the area knows her by name at this point.

I, the lazier part of the marital equation, chose to stay in our room and just relax. I am just as addicted to relaxation as my wife is addicted to thrift store shopping. I am not certain who suffers the worst addiction.

To be honest, she has gotten many wonderful deals at some of these thrift stores. Whenever we need anything, she knows exactly which thrift store to go to and she can barter them down to the very bottom. How they make any money on her shopping I do not know.

Every once in a while I suffer this awful nightmare. I wake up sweating and breathing really hard.

The nightmare is that we have opened up our own thrift store. No dream can get any worse than that!

I never tell her of these nightmares because I do not want to plant any ideas in her head. I lean strictly away from that idea.

In spite of all of this, I still have failed to learn anything from history.

My wife had spent most of the day visiting these thrift stores, and also buying things from these thrift stores, and had come home and we had a little bit of supper in our room. I assumed we were in for the evening.

I wish I would know when to keep my mouth shut. As we were finishing our casual supper, I said something that I now regret very much. I said, "Boy, it sure would be nice to have one of those lap desks so I could use my computer while I'm sitting here in the bed."

I did not mean for this to be a point of discussion just a casual observation, that is all.

Then I took it a step further. "Have you ever seen any lap desks in the thrift stores that you visit?"

If there is anything I could ever take back in my life, this would have been one of them. I did not know

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how serious the subject was.

"I don't know," she said most enthusiastically, "but I'll go and find out right..."

Before she could say the word "now," she had gone out the door and shut it most soundly. The rest of the evening she was visiting thrift stores all over the place. I was afraid, very much afraid, that she would actually find one and bring it back.

I suppose they are to be found in thrift stores somewhere. But I just meant it as a passing bit of conversation.

Four hours later, she returned and was very much excited. She had found something she had been looking for, for a very long time. It was a very eloquent teapot with 6 cups and saucers to it.

"Look what I found," she said most excitedly. "I've been looking for this and we can use it at our next lady's tea." According to her, this tea set matches the one she had back home. She was so excited about it.

I would not say anything, but I think she forgot why she went to the thrift stores in the first place. Now I have learned something from history, and that is not to remind her of the lap desk that she was going to look for. To this day, I have never mentioned it.

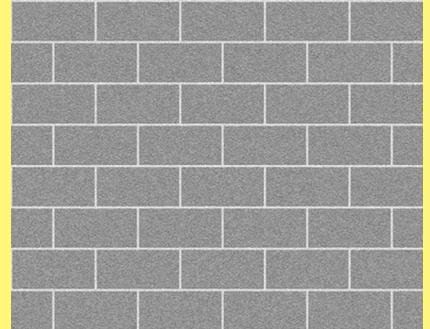
I like what the wise old man in the Bible said, "A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (Ecclesiastes 3:7).

There is a time to "keep silence" and it is a wise man who knows when. That may be why people say that silence is golden.

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Death Notice: Lyle Clopine



Arizona: Lyle Clopine, formerly of Hosmer and Groton, SD died July 7, 2018 at his winter home. Services will be held on Friday, July 20 at 11:00 in Peoria, Az.

Lyle is survived by wife of seventy years, Ruth, daughters, Karen Wolter, Groton; Korene, Peoria, Katherine Bort, Peoria and son-in-law, Jon Althaus.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials to Ruth Clopine, 8939 West Palo Verde Ave., Peoria, Az. 85345



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

DIETARY OPENINGS

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

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

GFP Commission Proposes a Change to Drawing Structure for Deer Hunting Licenses

PIERRE, S.D. – A South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposal would require deer hunters to choose among six deer hunting seasons in the first draw period for deer hunting licenses.

The proposal reads that deer hunters would have to choose from East River (includes Special Buck), West River (includes Special Buck), Black Hills, Custer State Park, Refuge and Muzzleloader deer hunting seasons as a first choice in the first draw. This proposal does not include archery or the youth/apprentice deer hunting seasons.

The proposal is designed to increase the number of deer hunters who draw their preferred license. This proposal does not impact current preference points, the ability to accumulate preference points or limit the number of licenses an individual could obtain.

The department conducted a series of nine focus group meetings to discuss three alternatives to the deer license structure. A video and online survey was also available to those deer hunters who were not initially part of the focus groups allowing them a part of the discussion.

Results from the focus group meetings suggested that approximately 46 percent of the participants preferred change. Of the online respondents, 43 percent preferred change. When looking at the number of resident hunters who typically apply for one deer season, which in 2017 represented 67 percent of firearm deer applicants, 72 percent of the focus group participants preferred change and 50 percent of the online respondents preferred change. For example, in 2017, there were 52,633 resident hunters who applied for a limited draw deer license for one or more of the six deer hunting seasons. Of the 52,633 resident hunters, 35,140 applied for only one of the six seasons.

The deer license alternative presentation provided during the July Commission meeting can be found online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/commission/information/>.

This proposal will have two public hearings; Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. CDT at Lewis and Clark Resort in Yankton and Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. MDT, at Cadillac Jacks Spring Hill Suites in Deadwood. Individuals can also provide written comments on proposals by sending them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501, or online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing.

GFP Commission Changed Several State Refuges and Boating Restrictions

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

These changes included:

Removed the East Oakwood Lake Waterfowl Refuge and the "no boating zone" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Brookings County.

Removed the Sand Lake Game Bird Refuge in Campbell County.

Reclassified the Waubay State Game Refuge to Waubay State Game Bird Refuge and removed the "no boating zone" in the Windgate Arm in Day County.

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

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

Removed the Whitewood Lake State Waterfowl Refuge and the "no boating zone" from Oct. 20 – Dec.

31 in Kingsbury County.

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

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

Removed the Milwaukee Lake "no motors zone" from Oct. 20 - Dec. 31 in Lake County.

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

Modified the Bear Butte Lake "no motors over 25 horse power zone" to a "no wake zone" in Meade County.

The Commission rejected the following proposals for finalization:

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

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

Add an electric motors zone to Swan Lake from Oct. 20 – December 31 in Clark County.

The Commission modified their original proposal on Spirit Lake in Kingsbury County from an electric motors zone to complete removal of all boating restrictions during the Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 timeframe. The modified proposal was accepted and passed by the Commission.

The Commission rejected the following elements of this finalization and will review them at a later time:

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

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

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

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

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

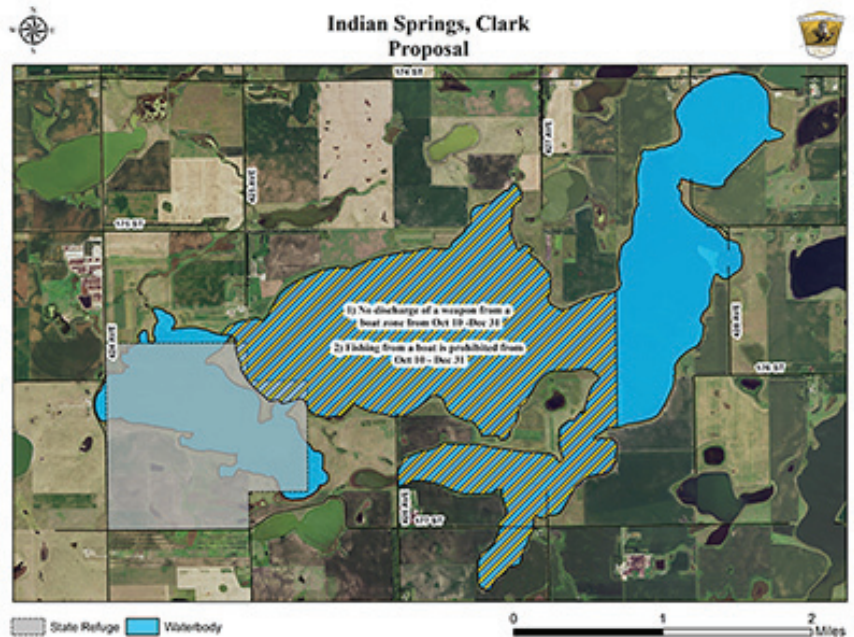
Clear Lake "no boating zone" to an "electric motors only" from Oct. 20 – Dec. 31 in Minnehaha County.

GFP Commission Proposes Changes to Seasonal Boating on Indian Springs in Clark County

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed changes to a Clark county water body, Indian Springs, regarding its seasonal boating restrictions.

One change would prohibit the discharge of a weapon from a boat and the other would prohibit boat fishing from Oct. 10 – Dec. 31 on waters west of a half mile, east of 427th Avenue within Indian Springs. The proposal would not impact ice fishing opportunities.

A public hearing for this proposal will be held on Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. CDT at Lewis and Clark Resort in Yankton. Individuals can also provide written comments on proposals by sending them to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501, or online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions/>. To



be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and meet the submission deadline of 72 hours before the public hearing.

GFP Eases Archery Equipment Restrictions

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission removed several archery equipment restrictions at their July meeting in Pierre.

The Commission expanded the list of legal equipment and removed a variety of regulations. Modifications of the rules allow archers to make equipment decisions based on personal preference, performance and tailor equipment to fit their needs.

Archery hunters will no longer find restrictions on:

Arrow rests;

Compound bow let off;

Axle to axle length;

Minimum arrow weight; and

Minimum arrow length.

With this finalization, archery hunters are now required to use a broadhead when hunting any big game, including turkeys both in the spring and fall seasons. Archers can still possess an arrow tipped with any point while in the field for practice.

In addition, archery hunters must use a bow with a minimum of 40 pounds of draw weight when hunting elk and 30 pounds when hunting all other big game animals.

2018 Fall Turkey Hunting Season Finalized

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

The Commission also closed the prairie units in Bon Homme County (12A), Brule County (13A), Davison/Hanson (8A), Hutchinson County (37A), Perkins County (53A), Union County (62A), established and opened a unit in Jackson County (Unit 39A), including all of Roberts County in Unit 48A and removed those portions of Lawrence, Meade and Pennington counties from the Black Hills unit.

For more information on the turkey hunting season, visit <https://gfp.sd.gov/turkey/>.

GFP Commission Finalizes Fish Harvest Restrictions on Reetz Lake

PIERRE, S.D. - As part of an access agreement with the landowners of Reetz Lake, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission agreed to change fish harvest restrictions on the non-meandered water body.

Reetz Lake will be open to public fishing from May 1 – Sept. 30. Landowner permission is required to fish from Oct. 1 – April 30.

Daily fish limits for Reetz Lake includes:

May 1 – Sept. 30

1 walleye or sauger, 28 inches or greater

1 yellow perch, 14 inches or greater

1 black crappie, 15 inches or greater

1 bluegill, 10 inches or greater

Statewide regulations for all other species.

Oct. 1 – April 30

All lake specific harvest restrictions are off and statewide regulations would apply to all species.

In addition, the largemouth and smallmouth bass size restrictions were removed year-round and changed to statewide harvest regulations.

The Reetz Lake boat ramp remains closed until the access agreement is finalized. Once finalized, the department will provide public notification.

-GFP-

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Today in Weather History

July 15, 1885: The first of three damaging tornadoes hit 7 miles NNE of Highmore, Hyde County, and moved to the northeast. Two small homes were destroyed before the funnel turned to the east, then northeast and north before lifting. This tornado was estimated to have an F2 strength and was seen in all directions for 20 miles. The second tornado appeared to be motionless 3 miles east of Harrold, and then moved east to Holabird, in Hyde County, where it destroyed two homes and dissipated. A third tornado, this one with an estimated F3 strength, formed to the west of Highmore and moved east into town, then lifted about 4 miles east of town. Three homes were destroyed, and about 20 other buildings were damaged at Highmore. A farmer was killed 2 miles east of town. Losses totaled about \$55,000, which included many new buildings, including a church and a skating rink.

July 15, 1986: Thunderstorms brought locally heavy rainfall to portions of Walworth to Marshall Counties. Three inches of rain in an hour and a half was reported in extreme northwest Marshall County. The highest rainfall amount was seven inches southeast of Bowdle. The rains caused lowland flooding, with water over several roads in Marshall County, including Highway 10, two miles east of Britton. In Britton, 3.86 inches of rain was reported.

July 15, 2006: Record heat occurred across central and north central South Dakota and into parts of northeast South Dakota. Afternoon high temperatures ranged from 105 to as high as 120 degrees. Record highs were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, and Timber Lake. Pierre set a new all-time record high of 117 degrees, and Mobridge tied their all-time record high of 116 degrees. Kennebec and Timber Lake both hit a record high temperature of 112 degrees. The coop observer station 17 miles west-southwest of Fort Pierre tied the state record high temperature with 120 degrees. Other high temperatures for the day were 116 degrees at Onida and Mission Ridge, 114 degrees at Murdo, 112 degrees at Redfield and Blunt, 111 degrees at Stephan, 110 degrees at Conde and Gann Valley, and 109 degrees at Aberdeen.

July 15, 2011: A large upper-level high-pressure area built over the region bringing sweltering and humid conditions. This heat was the worst to hit the area since July 2006. Beginning on Friday, July 15th and persisting through Wednesday, July 20th, many locations experienced high temperatures in the 90s to lower 100s, with low temperatures in the 70s at night. Also, humidity levels rose to extreme levels. Surface dew point temperatures in the 70s and lower 80s brought extreme heat index values of up to 110 to 125 degrees. The dew points were some of the highest ever recorded in the region on July 17th. The dew point at Aberdeen tied the previous record with 82 degrees. Sisseton also tied their record with 83 degrees. Watertown came a degree shy of matching their record with 80 degrees.

The prolonged heat took its toll on livestock with fifteen hundred cattle perishing during the heat. Numerous sports and outdoor activities were canceled. Some of the highest heat index values included; 110 degrees at Mobridge; 111 degrees at Watertown; 113 degrees at Miller and Gettysburg; 114 degrees at Wheaton and Faulkton; 116 degrees at Pierre; 118 degrees at Sisseton; and 121 degrees at Aberdeen. The highest heat index value occurred at Leola with a temperature of 98 degrees and a dewpoint of 82 degrees, and the heat index hit 125 degrees.

1888: The Bandai volcano erupts on the Japanese island of Honshu on this day in 1888, killing hundreds and burying many nearby villages in ash.

1901: The city of Marquette, Michigan set their all-time record high temperature with 108-degree reading.







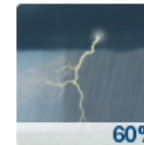
1916 - A dying South Atlantic Coast storm produced torrential rains in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Altapass, NC, was drenched with more than 22 inches of rain, a 24 hour rainfall record for the state. Flooding resulted in considerable damage, particularly to railroads. (David Ludlum)

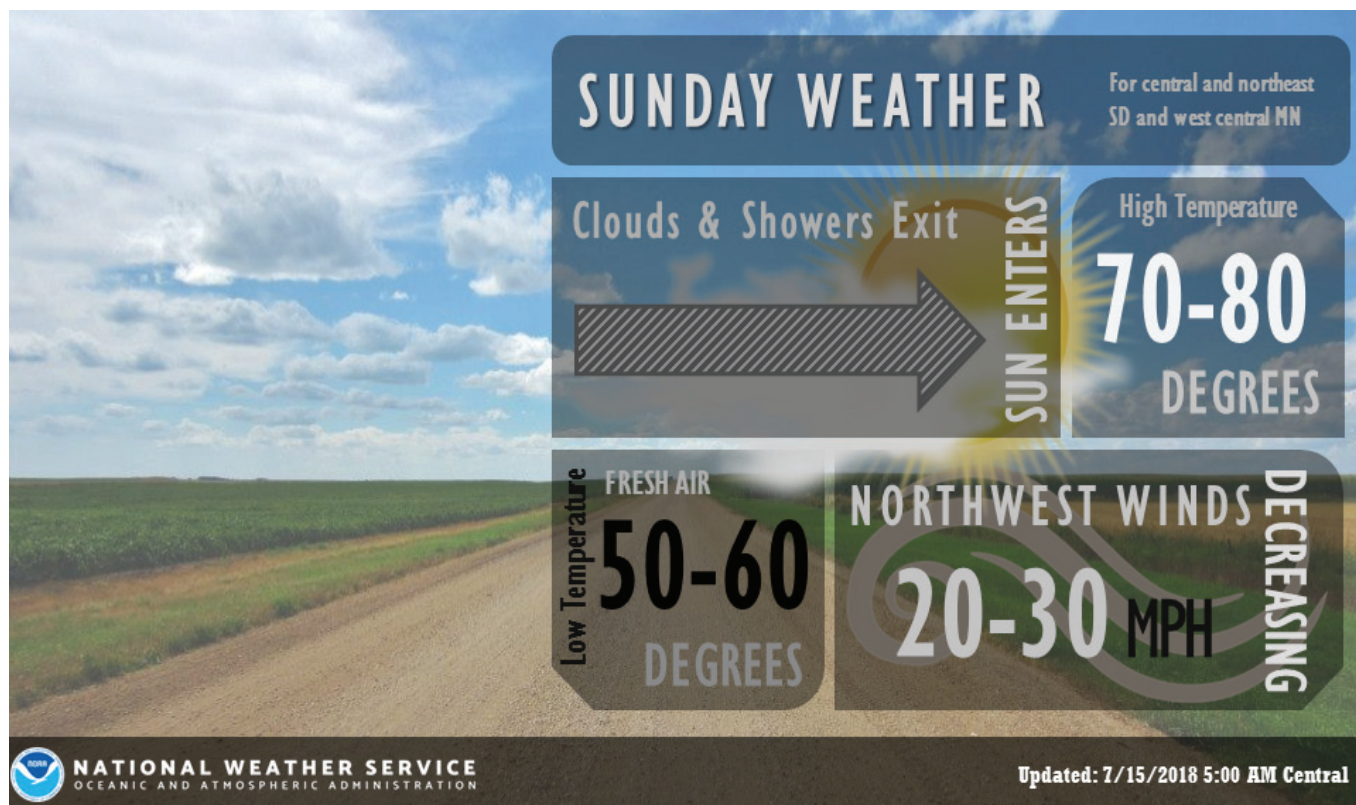
1954 - The temperature at Balcony Falls, VA, soared to 110 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The Big Thompson Creek in Colorado flooded for the second time in seven years, claiming three lives, and filling the town of Estes Park with eight to ten feet of water. (The Weather Channel)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Chance T-storms then Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	T-storms Likely
High: 78 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 79 °F



SUNDAY WEATHER For central and northeast SD and west central MN

Clouds & Showers Exit

SUN ENTERS

High Temperature
70-80
DEGREES

FRESH AIR
Low Temperature
50-60
DEGREES

NORTHWEST WINDS
20-30 MPH
DECREASING

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 7/15/2018 5:00 AM Central

Published on: 07/15/2018 at 5:02AM

A cold front will continue to move southeast and bring scattered showers and thunderstorms this morning. Behind the front, there will be gusty winds, with decreasing clouds from north to south through the day. The northerly winds will bring much drier air into the area, creating more comfortable conditions for outdoor activities through Tuesday.

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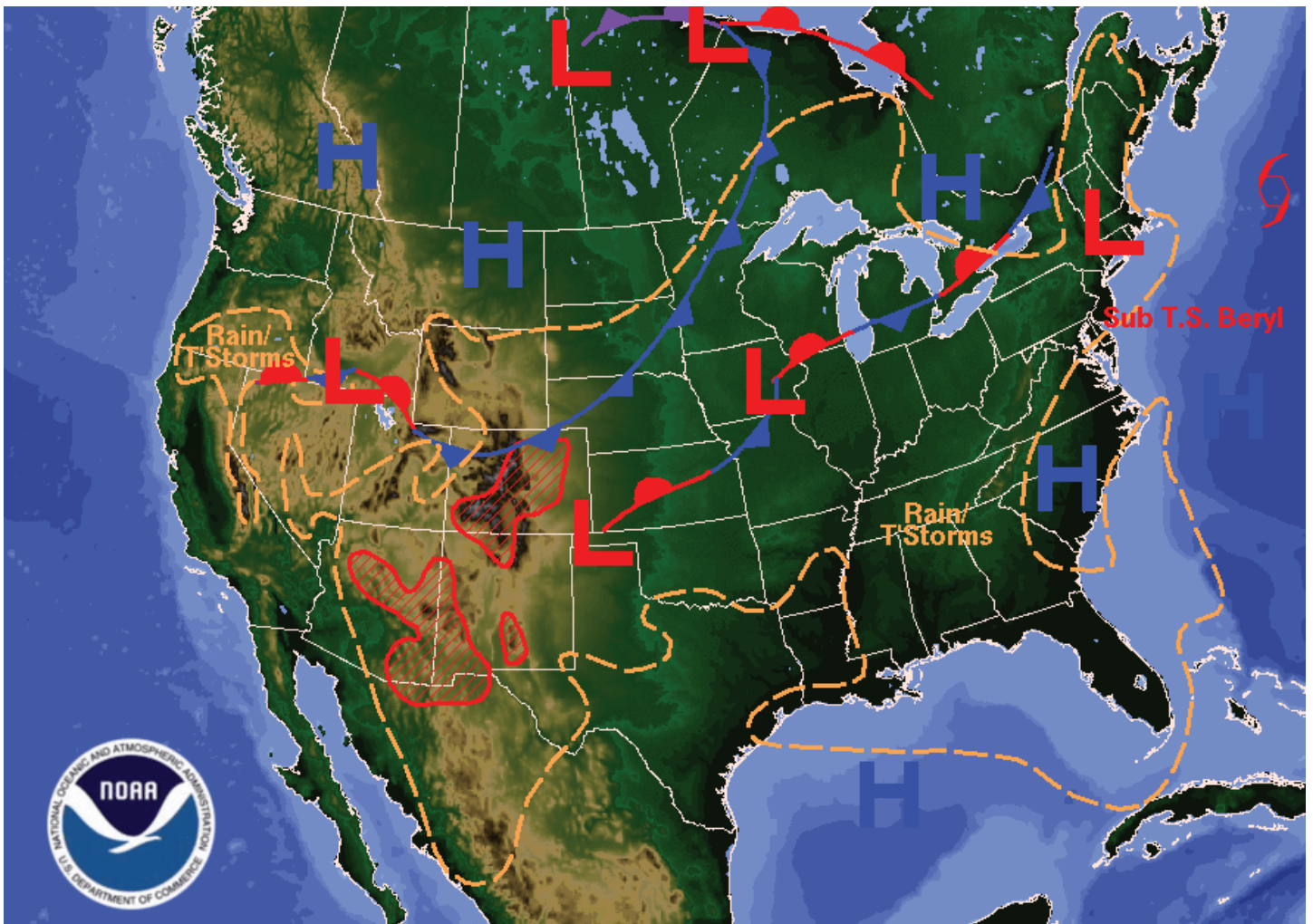
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 90 F at 4:36 PM
Heat Index: -
Low Outside Temp: 59 F at 5:18 AM
High Gust: 25.0 Mph
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 114° in 1931
Record Low: 41° in 1912
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 1.38
Precip to date in July: 2.15
Average Precip to date: 12.23
Precip Year to Date: 7.96
Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:01 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jul 15, 2018, issued 4:46 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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PROMISES! PROMISES!

Making a promise is easy. Keeping a promise may be difficult. Most of us make promises without giving much thought to the consequences of not keeping the promise either to ourselves or to the one we made the promise to. But making a promise means that we have given our word that we will or will not do something. It can be something that is significant or something that is insignificant. That part does not matter. What really does matter is that we have given our word.

Most of us have made and broken many promises. We may forget what we said we would do, or what is even worse, we may have had no intention to keep our word. Yet, when people give us their word or make a promise we expect them to honor it. When they don't do as they said they would do, we feel disappointed and let down.

Whenever God made a promise, it went into effect at that very moment and will continue through eternity. So, when the Psalmist said, "Sustain me, my God, according to Your promise, and I will live; do not let my hope be dashed," he had no doubt that God would keep His Word.

Many of us have difficulty taking God at His word. Is it because those whom we once trusted gave us their word and then failed to honor it? Do we doubt everyone because of broken promises in the past? Do we doubt God today because others disappointed us yesterday? Perhaps.

We trust those who do what they say they will do. "I will live," said the Psalmist. God had always been faithful to him in the past. He had no reason to ever doubt God.

Prayer: Give us a faith, Father, that will never waver. May we take You at Your Word and never doubt. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:116 Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed.

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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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
01-09-20-24-27
(one, nine, twenty, twenty-four, twenty-seven)
Estimated jackpot: \$119,000

Lotto America
06-09-31-37-51, Star Ball: 3, ASB: 3
(six, nine, thirty-one, thirty-seven, fifty-one; Star Ball: three; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$4.89 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$375 million

Powerball
22-41-42-49-67, Powerball: 11, Power Play: 3
(twenty-two, forty-one, forty-two, forty-nine, sixty-seven; Powerball: eleven; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$100 million

Deputies: South Dakota woman found dead in Iowa camper

EVERLY, Iowa (AP) — Law enforcement officials in northwestern Iowa are investigating the death of a South Dakota woman whose body was found in a camper.

The Sioux City Journal reports that Clay County sheriff's deputies were called to a rural area near Everly late Thursday night for reports of an unresponsive woman.

Arriving deputies found 30-year-old Casey Blaine Eleeson, of Huron, South Dakota, dead in the camper. Investigators say her death is suspicious.

A 43-year-old man from Spencer, Iowa, at the scene was arrested after deputies say he was found with methamphetamine and marijuana on him.

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

Pine Ridge man convicted in toddler's death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 24-year-old Pine Ridge man has been found guilty in the beating death of his girlfriend's daughter.

The Rapid City Journal reports it took a federal jury less than an hour Friday to convict Zachariah Poor Bear on charges of first-degree murder and assault resulting in injury to a minor. Prosecutors say Poor Bear fatally beat 19-month-old Aaliyah Horse three years ago in Pine Ridge while she was in his care.

The child's mother, 19-year-old Tracey Horse, testified she left the toddler in Poor Bear's care so she could go look for some marijuana. Horse says Poor Bear was mad that he had to watch the child.

Poor Bear faces life in prison. A sentencing date has not been set.

Horse was charged in juvenile court in her daughter's death.

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

Sioux Falls adopts city flag

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls residents have an official symbol of city pride to fly on their front stoop.

The City Council this week formally adopted the red-and-blue Sioux Falls flag that had already spread throughout the city, the Argus Leader reported. The “people’s flag” gained popularity after its design was selected four years ago in a contest held by the Committee to Establish a Suitable Flying Banner for the City of Sioux Falls.

The resolution allows anyone to reproduce, wear or sell the flag’s design. The city now has the option to fly the design from its buildings.

The ascending jagged line design in the middle of the flag represents the namesake falls and citywide growth. The sun in the left-hand corner nods to the state flag and the pink-red color on the bottom notes the Sioux quartzite native to the area. The red, white and blue incorporated in the design also salutes the U.S. flag while still maintaining city and state pride.

“I think this will give it some legitimacy and make a beautiful symbol of our city,” said City Councilor Pat Starr.

He said the action didn’t come at any cost to the city and reflects a strong ground level effort to identify, unify and inspire Sioux Falls residents.

“This is the way government should be done,” Starr said. “From the grassroots efforts of people in our community who worked hard to bring this forward.”

The city’s flag adoption leaves Fargo, North Dakota, and Hilo, Hawaii, as the only major U.S. municipalities without flags.



Sioux Falls flag Monday, June 4, outside of MacKenzie River Pizza, Grill & Pub. (Photo: Briana Sanchez / Argus Leader)

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

South Dakota food delivery company expands

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota food delivery company that launched three years ago is expanding again.

Zip Dish Delivery serves as a food delivery services for restaurants that don’t have their own, the Aberdeen American News reported.

The company began in Brookings before expanding to Watertown last year. It’ll open in Aberdeen in the next month or so, said co-owner Daniel Stratton.

The company is currently finding partner restaurants, hiring employees and creating a website for Aberdeen. Pounders, Mavericks and The Millstone are among the restaurants already on board, Stratton said.

A preference to stay home and play games inspired Stratton and Luke Davidson to start the business. “We were gamers. We liked to play board games, video games, things like that,” Stratton said. “When we were hanging out, our options were very limited for delivery.”

Food delivery services such as GrubHub, Uber Eats and Postmates are popular in major cities, but the need isn’t limited to metropolitan areas, he said.

“We thought places like Brookings and Watertown were perfect because although you can get anywhere in five to 10 minutes, it’s still big enough that people don’t want to leave (their homes),” Stratton said.

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Zip Dish delivers from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Minimum orders are \$12 and delivery fees start at \$5.99. The program offers a loyalty program that awards customers free delivery on their ninth order. Customers pay through a mobile square reader when the food is delivered, which allows for flexibility if orders are changed.

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

Trump sets expectations low for Helsinki summit with Putin

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP) — President Donald Trump is keeping expectation low for his high-stakes summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin, saying "nothing bad is going to come out of it, and maybe some good will come out."

The president also told CBS News in an interview that he "hadn't thought" about asking Putin to extradite the dozen Russian military intelligence officers indicted this past week in Washington on charges related to the hacking of Democratic targets in the 2016 U.S. election.

But after being given the idea by his interviewer, Trump said "certainly I'll be asking about it."

The United States has no extradition treaty with Moscow and can't compel Russia to hand over citizens. A provision in Russia's constitution prohibits extraditing its citizens to foreign countries.

The president taped the interview at his Turnberry golf resort in Scotland on Saturday, the day before he was set to leave for Helsinki for the summit. CBS released excerpts on Sunday.

Trump said he was approaching the Putin meeting "with low expectations... I'm not going with high expectations."

Trump declined to discuss his goals for the summit — "I'll let you know after the meeting," he said — but said he believes such get-togethers are beneficial in and of themselves.

He cited his historic meeting last month with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as well as meetings he's had with China's Xi Jinping.

Assessing the Putin meeting, Trump said: "Nothing bad is going to come out of it, and maybe some good will come out."

In the interview, Trump also blamed the Democratic National Committee for "allowing themselves to be hacked" by Russians trying to help Trump win the 2016 election.

UK's Theresa May: Trump told me to 'sue the EU' over Brexit

By SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Donald Trump has advised British Prime Minister Theresa May to "sue" the European Union to resolve the tense negotiations over Britain's impending exit from the bloc.

The American president told reporters Friday at a joint press conference with May that he had given the British leader a suggestion that she found too "brutal."

Asked Sunday on the BBC's Andrew Marr Show what that suggestion was, May said with an amused expression: "He told me I should sue the EU. Not go into negotiation, sue them."

She added: "What the president also said at that press conference was 'Don't walk away. Don't walk away from the negotiations. Then you're stuck.'"

It wasn't exactly clear what Trump meant. The revelation came after explosive and undiplomatic remarks Trump made this week about May's leadership — especially her handling of the Brexit negotiations — as he made his first official visit to Britain.

In an interview with The Sun newspaper published Thursday — just as May was hosting Trump at a lavish black-tie dinner — Trump said the British leader's approach likely "killed" chances of a free-trade deal with the United States. He said he had told May how to conduct Brexit negotiations, "but she didn't listen to me."

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He also praised May's rival, Boris Johnson, who quit last week as foreign secretary to protest May's Brexit plans. Trump claimed Johnson would make a "great prime minister."

The comments shocked many in Britain — even May's opponents — and threatened to undermine May's already fragile hold on power. Her Conservative government is deeply split between supporters of a clean break with the EU and those who want to keep close ties with the bloc, Britain's biggest trading partner.

The U.S. president later sought to soften the blow, telling reporters at Friday's joint news conference that May was an "incredible woman" who is "doing a fantastic job" as prime minister.

He denied he criticized May, saying the Sun tabloid did not print his complimentary remarks about the British leader, but the Sun released audio that proved otherwise.

Asked to rate U.S.-U.K. relations, Trump gave them the "highest level of special." He added it was up to May how to handle Brexit, though he wants to ensure the U.S. "can trade and we don't have any restrictions" on commerce with the United Kingdom.

May's government has just published its long-awaited Brexit plans, which propose to keep Britain and the EU in a free market for goods, with a more distant relationship for services. That has infuriated fervent Brexit supporters, who see it as a bad deal. Along with Johnson, the man who had been leading the Brexit negotiations, David Davis, also quit in protest.

May on Sunday warned party rebels they should fall into line, saying wrecking her Brexit blueprint could result in disaster.

"We need to keep our eyes on the prize. If we don't, we risk ending up with no Brexit at all," she wrote in the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

She acknowledged that some lawmakers had doubts about her plans to stick to a "common rulebook" with the bloc for goods and agricultural products in return for free trade, without tariffs or border customs checks, but insisted she couldn't see a viable alternative.

Britain's status as part of the EU's single market and tariff-free customs union for goods will end after the U.K. leaves the bloc in March.

S. Korea probes army plan for troops to control protesters

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A group of army generals rolling tanks and troops into Seoul to seize power. Paratroopers firing at large crowds calling for democracy. Tanks and armored vehicles stationed at universities to intimidate student protesters.

Such scenes of military intervention in South Korea have been nonexistent since the country achieved democracy in the late 1980s. But revelations this past week of a document showing the military drafted plans to mobilize troops to suppress protests last year have struck a nerve among people in one of Asia's most vibrant and wealthiest democracies. Some allege the plans even included a scenario for a coup.

The memories of brutal, military-backed dictatorships that imprisoned, tortured and executed dissidents remain vivid to many South Koreans. But most experts say the actual chances for another coup in South Korea are extremely low. A look at the explosive revelations and why a coup is nearly impossible to pull off today:

ERUPTION OF SCANDAL

A controversy over the military plans arose last week when a ruling party lawmaker disclosed a document drafted by a military intelligence unit that showed plans to deploy troops if protests grew violent following a court ruling in March 2017 that would determine the fate of conservative then-President Park Geun-hye. Lawmakers had impeached Park over broad corruption allegations in December 2016.

The document written by the Defense Security Command describes a military response to protests both in support of and against Park. After the Constitutional Court ruled to formally remove Park from office, fierce rallies erupted denouncing the court verdict but weren't serious enough to pose a threat to national security. The plans for troop deployment weren't carried out.

However, Lim Tae-hoon, an activist who analyzed the document, said the plans were clearly targeted at

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a much larger group of anti-Park protesters, who poured onto the streets in their millions to passionately but peacefully call for Park's ouster.

Pointing out that the document included plans for martial law and contemplated how the army could bypass the military's normal chain of command to quickly deploy large forces to Seoul, Lim raised suspicions that a closed group of army leaders plotted a coup to increase Park's powers if she survived the attempt to oust her.

"There was no reason at all for the army to prepare plans to deploy troops and even consider martial law," Lim said.

Following a public outcry, Park's liberal successor, Moon Jae-in, who won the presidential election in May last year, ordered an investigation into the document. Baek Hye-ryun, a lawmaker from Moon's party, said it would have been "no different than a coup" if army leaders had plotted to use drastic measures to crack down on anti-Park protesters.

Military experts downplay such views. Despite the peaceful nature of the protests, the military is obligated to prepare for exceptional situations where troop intervention is required to maintain order, they say.

Kim Dong-yub, a former South Korean military official, said it's clear that the creators of the document "were held captive by the past." Still, it would be excessive to say there were plans for a coup, he said.

"They were ready to make pathetic and frantic efforts to serve their interests if the court had rescued Park's presidency," said Kim, now an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

IS A COUP EVEN POSSIBLE?

None of the five military experts interviewed by The Associated Press believed there was a real chance a coup could happen in 21st century South Korea. "There's not even a 0.1 percent chance for that," said Kim Taewoo, former president of the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul.

Here's why experts find a coup virtually impossible:

___ Ubiquitous smartphones and internet services in South Korea would make it extremely difficult for rebels to keep their coup plans confidential and sneak troops to large population areas. South Korea is one of the world's most wired nations, with about eight out of every 10 citizens having smartphones.

___ Coup forces would try to seize TV stations and newspapers to dictate the flow of information and force their message to the public. But that's much harder to do in the age of live streams on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

___ Tanks and other military vehicles mobilized by coup forces would probably never reach Seoul in time, bogged down by the metropolitan area's notorious traffic.

___ Most importantly, many young soldiers and officers, born and raised in a full-fledged democracy, likely wouldn't follow orders if their commanders turn against their own citizens.

"The sense of citizenship by our soldiers is totally different from the past. If they got an unjust order to point their guns at their own citizens, not at North Korea, I doubt they would follow such orders," said Seoul-based military expert Kim Dae-young.

South Korea has more than 600,000 troops, a majority of them men in their 20s drafted into a two-year mandatory service.

PAST MILITARY RULES

The fierce public reaction to the document is partly tied to Park's family history. She is the daughter of staunch anti-communist dictator Park Chung-hee, a late general-turned-autocrat who ruled South Korea for nearly 20 years before he was assassinated by his own spy chief in 1979.

Park Chung-hee led several thousand marines, paratroopers and other combat forces that moved into Seoul in the early hours of May 16, 1961, in the country's first successful coup. During his rule, he occasionally proclaimed martial law and other decrees to crack down on protests and jail critics.

He had previously survived two attempts on his life and justified his dictatorship with the threat posed by what he called belligerent North Korea. Proponents remember him as a hero who achieved a rapid

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industrialization and lifted the nation from the devastation of the 1950-53 Korean War, but opponents call him a ruthless leader with a bloody record of civilian oppression.

Less than two months after Park Chung-hee's death, Maj. Gen. Chun Doo-hwan and his military cronies drove tanks and troops into Seoul in December 1979 in the country's second successful coup. The next year, he orchestrated a brutal military crackdown on a pro-democracy uprising in the southern city of Gwangju, killing at least 200 people.

In the summer of 1987, massive street protests forced Chun's government to accept direct presidential elections. However, his army buddy Roh Tae-woo, who had joined Chun's 1979 coup, won the election held later in 1987 thanks largely to divided votes among liberal opposition candidates.

After leaving office, both Chun and Roh were arrested and spent time in prison on bribery, treason and other charges.

Follow Hyung-jin Kim at www.twitter.com/@hyungjin1972 and Kim Tong-hyung at www.twitter.com/@kimtonghyung

US judge criticizes plan to reunify families split at border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A federal judge, responding to a plan to reunify children separated at the border, said he was having second thoughts about his belief that the Trump administration was acting in good faith to comply with his orders.

The Justice Department on Friday filed a plan to reunify more than 2,500 children age 5 and older by a court-imposed deadline of July 26 using "truncated" procedures to verify parentage and perform background checks, which exclude DNA testing and other steps it took to reunify children under 5.

The administration said the abbreviated vetting puts children at significant safety risk but is needed to meet the deadline.

Chris Meekins, deputy assistant Health and Human Services secretary for preparedness and response, filed a declaration that he is fully committed to meeting the deadline. However, he does not believe "the placing of children into such situations is consistent with the mission of HHS or my core values."

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw took umbrage at Meekins' statement, disputing the official's interpretation of his orders and saying that safe reunification could and will occur by July 26.

"It is clear from Mr. Meekins's declaration that HHS either does not understand the court's orders or is acting in defiance of them," the judge wrote late Friday. "At a minimum, it appears he is attempting to provide cover to defendants for their own conduct in the practice of family separation, and the lack of foresight and infrastructure necessary to remedy the harms caused by that practice."

Sabraw, an appointee of President George W. Bush, said Meekins' statement calls into question his comments in court hours earlier that the administration was acting in good faith.

Sabraw said in court Friday that the administration had largely complied with orders but, at the same time, he indicated he will be monitoring its actions ahead of the deadline.

The judge said the administration must provide a list of names of parents in immigration custody and their children by Monday and complete background checks for them by Thursday. He scheduled four hearings over the next two weeks for updates, including one on Monday.

"The task is laborious, but can be accomplished in the time and manner prescribed," he wrote in his order.

What Trump and Putin hope to achieve at Helsinki summit

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — The outcome of the first summit between the unpredictable first-term American president and Russia's steely-eyed longtime leader is anybody's guess. With no set agenda, the summit could veer between spectacle and substance. As Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin head into Monday's meeting in Helsinki, here's a look at what each president may be hoping to achieve:

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WHAT TRUMP WANTS

What Trump wants from Russia has long been one of the great mysteries of his presidency.

The president will go into the summit followed by whispers about his ties to Moscow, questions that have grown only more urgent since the Justice Department last week indicted 12 Russian military intelligence officers accused of interfering in the 2016 election in an effort to help Trump.

And while most summits featuring an American president are carefully scripted affairs designed to produce a tangible result, Trump will go face-to-face with Putin having done scant preparation, possessing no clear agenda and saddled with a track record that, despite his protests, suggests he may not sharply challenge his Russian counterpart over election meddling.

"I think we go into that meeting not looking for so much," Trump told reporters last week.

Trump has strenuously insisted that improved relations with Russia would benefit the United States. But much of the appeal of the Finland meeting is simply to have the summit itself and to bolster ties between Washington and Moscow and between Putin and Trump, who places his personal rapport with foreign leaders near the heart of his foreign policy.

"The fact that we're having a summit at this level, at this time in history, is a deliverable in itself," said Jon Huntsman, the U.S. ambassador to Russia. "What is important here is that we start a discussion."

Trump has been drawn to the spectacle of the summit and has expressed an eagerness to recreate in Helsinki the media show of last month's Singapore summit when he met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Even as many NATO leaders made supportive noises this week, the Helsinki summit has raised fears in many global capitals that Trump will pull back from traditional Western alliances, allowing Putin to expand his sphere of influence.

Back home, too, there is wariness on Capitol Hill, with a number of Democrats and a handful of Republicans urging Trump to cancel the summit in the wake of the explosive indictments.

But Trump has vowed that he can handle Putin, whom he has taken to referring to as a "competitor" rather than an adversary.

And Trump in recent days has outlined some of the items he'd like to discuss, including Ukraine. Though the president has said he was "not happy" about Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, he puts the blame on his predecessor and says he will continue relations with Putin even if Moscow refuses to return the peninsula.

Trump also said he and Putin would discuss the ongoing war in Syria and arms control, negotiations that White House officials have signaled could be fruitful.

"I will be talking about nuclear proliferation," the president said alongside British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday. "We've been modernizing and fixing and buying. And it's just a devastating technology. And they, likewise, are doing a lot. And it's a very, very bad policy."

But it is the matter of election meddling, including fears Russia could try to interfere in the midterm elections this fall, that could play a central role in the summit talks or loom even larger if not addressed. In neither of Trump's previous meetings with Putin — informal talks on the sidelines of summits last year in Germany and Vietnam — did the president publicly upbraid the Russian leader, prompting questions about whether he believed the former KGB officer's denials over his own intelligence agencies' assessments of meddling.

Trump repeatedly has cast doubt on the conclusion that Russia was behind the hacking of his Democratic rivals and disparaged special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible links between Russia and his campaign as a "witch hunt." But he said in Britain that he would raise it with Putin even as he downplayed its impact.

"I don't think you'll have any 'Gee, I did it. I did it. You got me,'" Trump said, invoking a television detective. "There won't be a Perry Mason here, I don't think. But you never know what happens, right? But I will absolutely firmly ask the question."

WHAT PUTIN WANTS

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For Putin, sitting down with Trump offers a long-awaited chance to begin repairing relations with Washington after years of spiraling tensions.

Putin wants the U.S. and its allies to lift sanctions, pull back NATO forces deployed near Russia's borders and restore business as usual with Moscow. In the longer run, he hopes to persuade the U.S. to acknowledge Moscow's influence over its former Soviet neighbors and, more broadly, recognize Russia as a global player whose interests must be taken into account.

These are long-term goals, and Putin realizes that no significant progress will come from just one meeting. More than anything else, he sees Monday's summit as an opportunity to develop good rapport with Trump and set the stage for regular high-level contacts.

"Russia-U.S. ties aren't just at their lowest point since the end of the Cold War, they never were as bad as they are now," said Fyodor Lukyanov, who chairs the Council for Foreign and Defense Policies, an influential Moscow-based association of policy experts. "It's unhealthy and abnormal when the leaders of the two nuclear powers capable of destroying each other and the rest of the world don't meet."

Moscow views Trump's criticism of NATO allies and his recent comments about wanting Russia back in the Group of Seven club of leading industrialized nations with guarded optimism but no euphoria. Initially excited about Trump's election, the Kremlin has long realized that his hands are bound by the ongoing investigations into whether his campaign colluded with Moscow.

Konstantin Kosachev, the Kremlin-connected head of the foreign affairs committee in parliament's upper house, wrote in his blog that Russia won't engage in vague talk about "illusory subjects," such as the prospect of lifting Western sanctions or Russia's return to the G-7.

Putin knows it would be unrealistic to expect U.S. recognition of Russia's annexation of Crimea or a quick rollback of sanctions approved by Congress. Instead, he's likely to focus on issues where compromise is possible to help melt the ice.

Syria is one area where Moscow and Washington could potentially reach common ground.

One possible agreement could see Washington give a tacit go-ahead for a Syrian army deployment along the border with Israel in exchange for the withdrawal of Iranian forces and their Hezbollah proxies, whose presence in the area represents a red line for Israel.

There is little hope for any quick progress on other major issues.

Kosachev said it would be "pointless" to discuss Russian meddling in the U.S. election, which Moscow firmly denies. He also warned that demands for Russia to return Crimea to Ukraine or revise its policy on eastern Ukraine would be equally fruitless. The Kremlin sees Crimea's status as non-negotiable and puts the blame squarely on the Ukrainian government for the lack of progress on a 2015 plan to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Putin has held the door open for a possible deployment of U.N. peacekeepers to separate the warring sides, but firmly rejected Ukraine's push for their presence along the border with Russia.

On arms control, one area where the U.S. and Russia might reach agreement is a possible extension of the New START treaty, set to expire in 2021, which caps the number of deployed nuclear warheads at 1,550 for each country.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, signed in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, is supposed to last indefinitely but has increasingly run into trouble. The U.S. has accused Russia of violating the terms of the treaty by developing a new cruise missile, which Moscow has denied.

Russia has pledged adherence to both treaties, but it has become less focused on arms control agreements than in the past, when it was struggling to maintain nuclear parity with the U.S.

After complaining about U.S. missile defense plans as a major threat to Russia, Putin in March unveiled an array of new weapons he said would render the U.S. missile shield useless, including a hypersonic intercontinental strike vehicle and a long-range nuclear-powered underwater drone armed with an atomic weapon.

"Russia was much weaker, and the weak always try to appeal to international law," Lukyanov said. "But the atmosphere is different now, and Russia is much more self-confident."

Isachenkov reported from Moscow.

Charges undermine Assange denials about hacked email origins

By RAPHAEL SATTER and DESMOND BUTLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the beginning of 2017, one of Julian Assange's biggest media boosters traveled to the WikiLeaks founder's refuge inside the Ecuadorean Embassy in London and asked him where he got the leaks that shook up the U.S. presidential election only months earlier.

Fox News host Sean Hannity pointed straight to the purloined emails from the Democratic National Committee and Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman.

"Can you say to the American people, unequivocally, that you did not get this information about the DNC, John Podesta's emails, can you tell the American people 1,000 percent you did not get it from Russia or anybody associated with Russia?"

"Yes," Assange said. "We can say — we have said repeatedly — over the last two months that our source is not the Russian government and it is not a state party."

The Justice Department's indictment Friday of 12 Russian military intelligence officers undermines those denials. And if the criminal charges are proved, it would show that WikiLeaks (referred to as "Organization 1" in the indictment) received the material from Guccifer 2.0, a persona directly controlled by Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff, also known as GRU, and even gave the Russian hackers advice on how to disseminate it.

Whether Assange knew that those behind Guccifer 2.0 were Russian agents is not addressed in the indictment. But it seems unlikely that Assange, a former hacker who once boasted of having compromised U.S. military networks himself, could have missed the extensive coverage blaming the Kremlin for the DNC hack.

Assange told Hannity he exercised exclusive control over WikiLeaks' releases.

"There is one person in the world, and I think it's actually only one, who knows exactly what's going on with our publications and that's me," Assange said.

On June 22, 2016, by which point the online publication Motherboard had already debunked Guccifer 2.0's claim to be a lone Romanian hacker, WikiLeaks sent a typo-ridden message to the persona, saying that releasing the material through WikiLeaks would have "a much higher impact than what you are doing," the indictment states.

"If you have anything hillary related we want it in the next (two) days pref(er)able because the DNC is approaching and she will solidify bernie supporters behind her after," says a message from July 6, 2016, referring to the upcoming Democratic National Convention and Clinton's chief party rival, Bernie Sanders.

The exchange appears to point to a desire to undercut Clinton by playing up divisions within the Democratic camp.

"we think trump has only a 25% chance of winning against hillary ... so conflict between bernie and hillary is interesting," the message says.

At that time in the campaign, there were simmering tensions between the supporters of Clinton and Sanders that would come to a head during the convention because of the hacked emails.

WikiLeaks and a lawyer for Assange, Melinda Taylor, did not return messages seeking comment on the indictment or the exchanges with Guccifer 2.0.

Assange's eagerness to get his hands on the alleged material from GRU reflected in the indictment — and prevent anyone else from beating WikiLeaks to the punch — is also revealed in leaked messages to journalist Emma Best. She, like several other reporters, also was in communication with Guccifer 2.0.

In copies of Twitter messages obtained by The Associated Press and first reported by BuzzFeed, WikiLeaks demands that Best butt out.

"Please 'leave' their convers(a)tion with them and us," WikiLeaks said on August 13, 2016, arguing that

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the impact of material would be "very substantially reduced" if Best handled the leak.

Best told BuzzFeed she dropped the matter. About an hour after the conversation ended, Guccifer 2.0 announced on Twitter that it was sending a "major trove" of data and emails to WikiLeaks.

The indictment also puts to rest a conspiracy theory, carefully nurtured by Assange and his supporters, that slain DNC staffer Seth Rich was at the origin of the leaks.

Rich died in July 2016 in what police in the District of Columbia say was a botched robbery. But the tragedy became fodder for conspiracy theorists who pushed the unfounded allegation that Rich, 27, had been providing information to the hackers and was killed for it.

It was Assange who first floated the idea into the mainstream, bringing up Rich's case in an interview with Dutch television the following month.

"What are you suggesting?" the startled anchor asked him.

"I'm suggesting that our sources take risks and they become concerned to see things occurring like that," Assange answered.

The anchor pressed Assange repeatedly, eventually saying: "It's quite something to suggest a murder. That's basically what you're doing."

Over the next few months, WikiLeaks would continue to amplify the conspiracy theory -- all while stopping short of endorsing it outright. During all this time, the indictment alleges, WikiLeaks knew full well that Guccifer 2.0 was its source, cajoling the account's operators to hand it more data and ordering rival journalists to steer clear.

The conspiracy theory has been a source of deep pain for Rich's family, who declined to comment on the indictment.

Lisa Lynch, an associate professor of media and communications at Drew University who has written about WikiLeaks, said the indictment highlighted the cynicism of WikiLeaks' wink-wink support for conspiracy theories.

"We can see very well-intentioned people arguing about whether those documents should be published," Lynch said of the DNC documents. "But the whole Seth Rich thing is incredibly venal."

Satter reported from London.

Follow Raphael Satter on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/razhael> and Desmond Butler at <https://twitter.com/desmondbutler>

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

Trump tweets, hits links before high-stakes Putin meeting

By JILL COLVIN and RENATA BRITO, Associated Press

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP) — Two days before a high-stakes summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Donald Trump played golf and tweeted Saturday from one of his namesake resorts, blaming his predecessor for Russian election meddling and lashing out at the free press from foreign soil.

Aides had said Trump would spend the weekend preparing to meet Putin on Monday in Helsinki, but the tweets showed other topics were on his mind.

"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!" he tweeted early Saturday, referencing his seaside golf resort. "The weather is beautiful, and this place is incredible! Tomorrow I go to Helsinki for a Monday meeting with Vladimir Putin."

Trump was later seen playing the Turnberry links, several holes of which are visible from a nearby beach, where dozens of people staged a protest picnic Saturday. He was videotaped waving at protesters as they shouted "No Trump, No KKK, No Racist USA!" before resuming his game. He was also seen posing for photos.

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A line of police, some on horseback, stood between the course and protesters. Snipers perched atop a nearby tower overlooking the vast property.

The protesters were among the thousands who came out in Scotland and England in opposition to the U.S. president's visit to both countries.

Some 10,000 people marched Saturday through the Scottish capital of Edinburgh, while police searched for a paraglider who breached a no-fly zone and flew a protest banner over the resort in western Scotland where Trump and his wife, Melania, are staying through Sunday.

The glider carried a banner that said "Trump: Well Below Par" over the resort Friday night to protest his environmental and immigration policies.

In Edinburgh, anti-fascist groups and political activists joined those who said they'd never protested before, weaving through the capital's streets waving an array of makeshift anti-Trump banners. A choir, a bagpiper, a tambourine band and poetry readings added to the carnival spirit.

"Donald Trump is not welcome here," Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard told the crowd. "The horrific scenes at the Mexican border are just the latest example of his repudiation of decent human values."

Protesters also launched a 20-foot-tall (6-meter) blimp depicting Trump as an angry baby that had flown over anti-Trump protests in London on Friday.

Trump has spent the weeklong trip wreaking havoc in Europe, first at a NATO summit in Brussels where he questioned the value of the decades-old alliance, and later in Britain, where he faced fallout from a stunning newspaper interview in which he undermined British Prime Minister Theresa May at an especially vulnerable time.

But Trump was also keeping tabs on domestic issues, including the investigations into Russian election meddling.

In Saturday's tweets, Trump tried to blame former President Barack Obama for failing to stop the Russians from working to help him win the 2016 election.

"The stories you heard about the 12 Russians yesterday took place during the Obama Administration, not the Trump Administration," Trump tweeted, asking why they didn't "do something about it, especially when it was reported that President Obama was informed by the FBI in September, before the Election?"

It was Trump's first response to indictments announced Friday in Washington against 12 Russian military intelligence officers who allegedly hacked into the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton, Trump's Democratic rival, and the Democratic Party, and released tens of thousands of emails in a sweeping Kremlin conspiracy to help Trump.

Trump denies that he or any campaign aides were involved with the Russian campaign and repeatedly dismisses the ongoing investigation that produced Friday's indictments as a "witch hunt."

Trump told reporters he plans to raise election meddling with Putin but said he doesn't expect Putin to ever accept blame.

"I will absolutely bring that up. I don't think you'll have any 'Gee, I did it. I did it. You got me,'" Trump said Friday, referring to Putin.

Leading Democratic senators asked Trump in a letter Saturday to scrap the summit if he was not prepared "to make Russia's attack on our election the top issue you will discuss." And John McCain, a leading Republican senator and Trump critic, said Trump must hold Putin accountable or not proceed with the meeting.

But Trump's chief diplomat, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, told journalists traveling with him that he was confident the meeting would "put America in a better place."

Trump's tweets also targeted CNN, mocking the American cable channel's president, Jeff Zucker, as "Little Jeff Z" and knocking its election coverage following the president's spat with a CNN correspondent at a news conference Friday in England.

"So funny! I just checked out Fake News CNN, for the first time in a long time (they are dying in the ratings), to see if they covered my takedown yesterday of Jim Acosta (actually a nice guy). They didn't!" Acosta had objected to Trump dismissing the news outlet as "fake news."

In fact, CNN reported on the exchange of words and interviewed Acosta on air about what happened.

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Acosta also replied to Trump on Twitter.

"Takedown? I don't think so. Perhaps we should even the playing field next time and you can take my question. (You're right about one thing.. I am a nice guy)," Acosta said Saturday.

Trump's repeated attacks on the news media while overseas — he also lashed out at NBC News and The Sun newspaper during Friday's news conference — has alarmed free speech advocates, especially as Trump is set to hold a joint press availability Monday with Putin, whose country is known for being deeply hostile to a free press.

White House Correspondents' Association President Margaret Talev said in a statement that "saying a news organization isn't real doesn't change the facts and won't stop us from doing our jobs."

Trump's decision to stay yet again at a property he owns — and has repeatedly advertised during the trip — caught the attention of ethics experts, who say he should not profit off the presidency.

Colvin reported From Glasgow. Associated Press writer Susannah George in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump's remarks about changing European culture draw ire

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND** and **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's lament this week that immigration is "changing the culture" of Europe echoed rising anti-immigrant feelings on both sides of the Atlantic, where Europe and the United States are going through a demographic transformation that makes some of the white majority uncomfortable.

Historians and advocates immediately denounced Trump's comments, saying such talk would encourage white nationalists.

"The way he put this argument about changing our culture ... about Europe becoming less nice than it is, in other words, these people are here and they are making the culture crappy and making the place lesser, that's straight out of the white supremacist/white nationalist playbook," said Heidi Beirich, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project.

Trump, in an interview with the British newspaper The Sun, blamed immigration for a changing culture in Europe: "I think allowing millions and millions of people to come into Europe is very, very sad. I think you are losing your culture. Look around. You go through certain areas that didn't exist ten or 15 years ago."

Trump, the grandson of a German immigrant and the son of a Scottish immigrant to the United States, repeated his contention at a news conference with British Prime Minister Theresa May:

"I just think it's changing the culture. I think it's a very negative thing for Europe. I think it's very negative," he said. "I think it's very much hurt other parts of Europe. And I know it's politically not necessarily correct to say that, but I'll say it and I'll say it loud. And I think they better watch themselves because you are changing culture, you are changing a lot of things."

Beirich called those comments "racist."

Claire M. Massey, a scholar at the Institute for British and North American Studies at Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Universität in Greifswald, Germany, said Trump's comments were "awfully painful," especially for the United Kingdom, where immigration has played a key role in rebuilding the country after World War II. "England and the United Kingdom wouldn't be what it is today without immigrants," she said.

Massey said Trump's comments remind her of the rhetoric coming from neo-Nazis in Germany and Poland. The comments will embolden the far-right in Europe at a time when many European nations are already very diverse.

Lisbon, Portugal, for example, is now home to sizable and visible Brazilian, Cape Verdean, and Angolan populations. The immigrant groups and their Portuguese-born children have helped revitalize areas of the cities once in disrepair and have a presence in everything from professional soccer teams to popular culture.

Portuguese Mozambique-born fado singer Mariza is among the nation's most beloved performers.

In France, immigrants from the Middle East and Africa have settled throughout Paris and have drawn

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the ire of the far-right and even some moderates over the city's changing makeup. Then-French Prime Minister François Fillon decreed in 2011 that women were banned from wearing face veils outside of the home except in mosques or as car passengers. A European court later upheld the ban, saying the intent was to unify the country, but not before an outcry by human rights activists.

Throughout England, from London to Liverpool, immigrants from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the former British colonies in the Caribbean have reshaped various neighborhoods, drawing scorn from members of the far-right and some rural residents who blamed the European Union and immigrants for the economic struggles of once-prosperous mining regions.

The United States is also going through a demographic shift. The Census Bureau estimates that the country's population will have more minorities than whites for the first time in 2043, a change due in part to higher birth rates among Hispanics and a stagnating or declining birth rate among blacks, whites and Asians.

Trump's public life has been filled with controversial statements about immigrants.

In the first moments of his presidential campaign in June 2015, he called for the construction of a border wall with Mexico and accused the country of sending migrants who were "bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

He continually used dark imagery to depict immigrants as dangerous invaders. Then, in the aftermath of a terrorist attack that December in San Bernardino, California, that was carried out by a U.S.-born Muslim and his Pakistani wife, who was a legal U.S. resident, Trump called for barring all Muslims from entering the country. The Supreme Court eventually upheld his executive order banning travel from several mostly Muslim countries, rejecting challenges that it discriminated against Muslims or exceeded his authority.

In January, Trump questioned why the U.S. would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa as he rejected a bipartisan immigration deal, according to one participant and people briefed on the conversation.

In recent weeks, Trump bowed to tremendous political pressure and issued an executive order ending his administration's practice of separating migrant children from their parents when families cross the border with Mexico illegally.

Paul A. Kramer, a Vanderbilt University historian who specializes in the politics of inequality in the United States, said Trump's most recent comments were an intentional attempt to ally himself and his base in the United States with the far-right nationalist movements in Europe.

"The rising tide of white nationalism is something that he embraces, that he sees himself as participating in and that he wants to encourage," Kramer said.

Contreras contributed to this report from Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jesse J. Holland and Russell Contreras cover race and ethnicity for The Associated Press. Contact Jesse at jholland@ap.org and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jessejholland> . Follow Contreras on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/russcontreras> .

US official: Russia using social media to divide Americans

By GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The U.S. homeland security secretary said on Saturday there are no signs that Russia is targeting this year's midterm elections with the same "scale or scope" it targeted the 2016 presidential election.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen spoke at a convention of state secretaries of state, an event that's usually a low-key affair highlighting voter registration, balloting devices and election security issues that don't get much public attention. But coming amid fresh allegations into Russia's attempts to sway the 2016 election, the sessions on election security have a higher level of urgency and interest.

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Nielsen said her agency will help state and local election officials prepare their systems for cyberattacks from Russia or elsewhere. She said U.S. intelligence officials are seeing "persistent Russian efforts using social media, sympathetic spokespeople and other fronts to sow discord and divisiveness amongst the American people, though not necessarily focused on specific politicians or political campaigns."

The conference of top state election officials she addressed was sandwiched between Friday's indictments of 12 Russian military intelligence officers alleged to have hacked into Democratic party and campaign accounts and Monday's long-awaited meeting between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump has never condemned Russia over meddling in the 2016 election despite the findings of all top U.S. intelligence agencies, and the Kremlin has insisted it didn't meddle in the U.S. election. In the past, Trump has reiterated Putin's denials, but this week he said he would bring up the issue when they meet on Monday in Finland.

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

Some of the state officials who run elections say it's important for Trump, a Republican, 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.

Some of his peers declined to go that far.

"I don't go around telling the president what to do," said Jay Ashcroft, the Republican secretary of state in Missouri.

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 his Democratic opponent, 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, investigators say. Without naming the state, Friday's indictment said the Russian intelligence officers stole information on about 500,000 voters from the website of one board of elections, a breach undetected for three weeks.

There's no evidence results were altered, 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.

The election officials talked about technical details of blocking an incursion.

Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman, a Republican, told her peers 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.

"The whole idea of this is to instill confidence in voters and the public that the system is secure," Wyman said in an interview.

Some state officials also said Homeland Security is becoming more helpful in sharing information.

On Friday, a federal grand jury indicted the 12 Russian intelligence officers on charges they hacked into Democratic campaign networks in 2016 and 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.

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

Israel exchanges intense fire with Hamas militants in Gaza

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military carried out its largest airstrike campaign in Gaza since the 2014 war Saturday as Hamas militants fired dozens of rockets into Israel throughout the day, threatening to trigger an all-out war after weeks of growing tensions along the volatile border.

Two Palestinian teenagers were killed in an airstrike in Gaza City, while three Israelis were wounded from a rocket that landed on a residential home.

Israel said it was focused on hitting militant targets and was warning Gaza civilians to keep their distance from certain sites. But even before the report of casualties the intense tit-for-tat airstrikes and rocket barrages still marked a significant flare-up after a long period of a generally low-level, simmering conflict.

"The Israeli army delivered its most painful strike against Hamas since the 2014 war and we will increase the strength of our attacks as much as necessary," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Late Saturday, Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza announced that they had agreed to a cease-fire brokered by Egypt, but sirens warning of incoming rockets still wailed in southern Israel early Sunday and it was unclear if the cease-fire was holding.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said the latest Israeli sortie, the third of the day, struck some 40 Hamas targets including tunnels, logistical centers and a Hamas battalion headquarters. He said the escalation was the result of the sustained Hamas rocket attacks, its fomenting of violence along the border and its campaign of launching incendiary kites and balloons that have devastated Israeli farmlands and nature reserves.

"Our message to Hamas is that we can and will enhance the intensity of our effort if needed," he said. "What Hamas is doing is pushing them ever closer to the edge of the abyss ... Hamas will have to understand that there is a price to be paid."

Later, witnesses reported that Israeli warplanes dropped four bombs on an unfinished building near a Hamas police and security compound in Gaza City, reducing the old structure to rubble. The four-story building is adjacent to a public park. Gaza's Health ministry said two teenagers were killed in the strike and ten others injured.

It marked the first casualties of the day. Striking in the heart of Gaza City is typically only seen during full-blown conflicts like the 2014 war and could signal that a further escalation may be in store.

The Israeli military had no immediate reaction to that strike but said it had targeted a separate high-rise building in the northern Gaza Strip that was used as a Hamas urban warfare training facility. It said a tunnel was dug under the building.

Shortly after, Israeli medical officials said three Israelis were wounded from a rocket that landed on a house in southern Israel. It said paramedics in the southern city of Sderot were treating a 52-year-old man with a chest wound, a 17-year-old girl with a face wound and a 20-year-old woman with injuries to her limbs.

Sirens wailed overnight and throughout most of the day Saturday in southern Israel as waves of rockets and mortars were launched from Gaza amid the airstrikes. The military said it identified about 60 launches of rockets and mortars from Gaza toward Israeli territory, of which about 10 were intercepted by the Iron Dome aerial defense system. As a precaution, the military shut down a popular beach in southern Israel and placed limitations on gatherings of large crowds. Israeli police says four of the projectiles caused damage.

Israel has been warning Hamas in recent weeks that while it has no interest in engaging in the kind of conflict that led to the sides fighting three wars over the past decade, it will not tolerate Gaza militants' continued efforts to breach the border and its campaign to devastate Israeli border communities with incendiary attacks.

With Israel focused on rising tension along its northern border in its efforts to prevent Iran from establishing a permanent military foothold in post-civil war Syria, it has been wary of escalating hostilities in Gaza. But Netanyahu has also come under pressure to act from southern Israeli communities, who have once again found themselves under rocket fire from Gaza in addition to contending with the daily field fires.

"We are ready to operate simultaneously in different theaters," Conricus said, referring to the dual threats

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from Syria and Gaza. "It will be challenging to fight on more than one border but it is something we can do and are prepared to do."

Israel's military chief visited the border area for briefings and the Security Cabinet, Israel's top decision-making body, is expected to convene Sunday to discuss further actions.

On Friday, thousands of Palestinians gathered near the Gaza border for their near-weekly protest. A 15-year-old Palestinian who tried to climb over the fence into Israel was shot dead. Later the military said an Israeli officer was moderately wounded by a grenade thrown at him.

Gaza's health ministry said Saturday that a 20-year-old struck by gunfire Friday during the protests in the southern Gaza Strip had also died of his wounds.

The Islamic militant group Hamas that rules Gaza has led border protests aimed in part at drawing attention to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007. The demonstrations have been fueled in large part by pervasive despair caused by the blockade, which has caused widespread economic hardship.

Over 130, mostly unarmed, Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire since protests began on March 30.

Israel says it is defending its sovereign border and accuses Hamas of using the protests as cover for attempts to breach the border fence and attack civilians and soldiers. Most recently, it has been struggling to cope with the widespread fires caused by the incendiary kites and balloons floating over the border.

In a statement, the military said Hamas' activities "violate Israeli sovereignty, endanger Israeli civilians and sabotage Israel's humanitarian efforts that aim to help Gazan civilians."

In a relatively rare admission, Hamas said it fired the rockets to deter Israel from further action. Most of the recent rockets from Gaza have been fired by smaller factions but Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said it was an "immediate response" that was meant to "deliver the message."

The military said its jets targeted two Hamas tunnels as well as other military compounds, including those involved in the production of the kites and balloons. It said the Hamas battalion headquarters in northern Gaza was completely destroyed and footage it released showed a series of large explosions that left a gaping hole in the ground.

Lobbying firm sought envoys help to salvage Russian company

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. lobbying firm sought to recruit the ambassadors of France, Germany and several other countries to demonstrate international support for severing Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska's control of Rusal, the aluminum manufacturing giant sanctioned by Washington.

Documents made public by the Justice Department show that Mercury LLC drafted messages for at least six envoys to send to senior U.S. government officials that expressed support for a plan to eliminate Deripaska's majority stake in the EN+ Group, the holding company that owns nearly 50 percent of Rusal.

The records are the latest installment in a drama full of international intrigue.

Deripaska's close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin are under a microscope while unintended targets of the U.S. penalties struggle with the punishment's impact. Leading the way, in an odd twist, is a conservative member of Britain's House of Lords, Gregory Barker, who hired Mercury to salvage Rusal and EN+ by casting Deripaska as the heavy.

It's unclear how many of the ambassadors sent the messages. But Jamaica's envoy did, underscoring concerns about the future of a Rusal-owned factory on the Caribbean island.

When the Treasury imposed sanctions on Deripaska a few months ago, EN+ and Rusal were blacklisted too because of the cascading nature of the penalties. It fell to Barker, who was installed less than a year ago as chairman of EN+'s board, to persuade the Trump administration to lift the sanctions against both companies. To do that, he will have to assure the U.S. that Deripaska is no longer calling the shots at EN+ or Rusal.

Barker, a former British energy minister, signed a contract with Mercury in early May — a month after the Treasury Department announced the sanctions. Mercury is to earn \$108,500 every four weeks, ac-

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According to the contract, to support Barker's efforts to negotiate Deripaska's exit from the EN+ board and "the reduction of his ownership interest in the company."

Anders Aslund, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council and an expert on Russia's economic policy, said there can be only two possible owners of Rusal: the Russian government or Deripaska. That's because the aluminum company's main assets are giant smelters in east Siberia, a reality he said Treasury officials failed to grasp.

"It appears to me that both parties play the game now: Deripaska reduces his public exposure and the Treasury (Department) pretends that it is satisfied, gradually easing the sanctions," Aslund said.

The letters prepared for the envoys said Deripaska, not the companies, is the "true target" of the U.S. sanctions. He's already resigned from the EN+ board. The Treasury Department has set a late October deadline for his 70 percent stake in EN+ to be cut back to less than 50 percent. The "path for the United States to provide sanctions relief," the department said, is through Deripaska's divestment and relinquishment of control.

The draft messages, along with background material prepared by Mercury, warned that each country would be damaged economically if the sanctions aren't eased. France and Germany rely on Rusal's aluminum in their automotive, telecommunications and aerospace industries. And Rusal is a full or part owner of factories that employ hundreds of people in Ireland, Sweden, Australia and Jamaica.

The ambassadors of France and Sweden did not send the messages, according to representatives from each embassy. The embassies of Germany, Ireland and Australia wouldn't say.

The Treasury Department announced sanctions against Deripaska in early April as part of an array of measures that targeted tycoons close to the Kremlin, cutting Rusal off from international financial institutions. In spelling out the penalties, the department said Deripaska had been accused of illegal wiretaps, extortion, racketeering, money laundering and even death threats against business rivals.

Deripaska also has figured into special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into links between the Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and Russia due to Deripaska's connection to former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, who once worked as a consultant to the billionaire businessman. Prosecutors recently disclosed that Deripaska provided a Manafort company with \$10 million around 2010, a transaction described as a loan on U.S. income tax forms.

Neither Deripaska nor Manafort has been formally accused of taking part in Russian election-meddling; both have denied any involvement.

The push to curb Deripaska's influence is playing out as Trump readies for a summit with Putin on Monday in Helsinki. Putin may try to call for Washington to relax the sanctions, which were triggered by Russia's annexation of Crimea, interference in eastern Ukraine's separatist fighting and meddling in the 2016 U.S. election.

The draft messages say that Barker's approach is supported by other board members and EN+'s minority shareholders. The Trump administration is urged to extend any "relevant deadlines" to allow the plan to be fully implemented, according to the messages. There's no indication, however, of who or what EN+'s new majority shareholder would be.

The Treasury Department and the State Department declined to comment on Mercury's lobbying effort.

The letter dated June 14 that Jamaica's ambassador, Audrey Marks, sent to Treasury Department officials is nearly identical to the one Mercury prepared. Rusal owns the West Indies Alumina Company and "continued sanctions will impact our economy and jobs, with the attendant impact on workers and their dependents," Marks wrote.

Lillian Farrell, a spokeswoman for the Irish Embassy, said Ireland is "gravely concerned" over the impact the sanctions will have on the Rusal-owned factory in Limerick. The embassy "is in ongoing contact with the U.S. authorities" over the plant's future, she said. The embassy has had discussions "with interested third parties" but the content of those conversations is confidential, Farrell said.

The letter Mercury prepared for Sweden's ambassador, Karin Olofsdotter, described the Rusal-owned Kubikenborg Aluminum as the country's largest industrial facility.

Officials from the Swedish Embassy met with Mercury representatives, according to Gunnar Vrang, a

spokesman for the ministry of foreign affairs in Stockholm, but no one in Sweden's government sent a message. He said Sweden and the U.S. have a shared interest in avoiding "unintended negative consequences of the sanctions in question."

Associated Press writer Chad Day contributed to this report.

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Haiti's prime minister resigns amid fuel price hike fallout

By EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ and EVENS SANON, Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian Prime Minister Jack Guy Lafontant resigned Saturday amid calls for him to step down over his handling of a failed plan to raise fuel prices that set off a wave of deadly protests.

Lafontant told Haiti's Chamber of Deputies that he sent President Jovenel Moise his resignation letter. Moise confirmed via Twitter that he had accepted Lafontant's resignation along with those of other Cabinet members.

The prime minister's abrupt resignation came ahead of a vote on a motion of censure Lafontant, a first step toward asking that Moise name a new prime minister to form a Cabinet to handle the crisis. The prime minister is the second highest official in Haiti after the president.

Lafontant was to answer questions about the July 6-8 riots that followed the government's attempt to raise fuel prices by up to 51 percent as part of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. At least seven people were killed and dozens of businesses were looted during the unrest.

Instead, Lafontant (LA-FAH-TON) used the opportunity to announce his resignation, while in various parts of Haiti's small protests were held demanding the head of state step down.

As the session began, chamber president Gary Bodaue wrote on his Twitter account that the legislature "is at a crossroads in history; it must assume its responsibilities." He had earlier called the price hikes "untimely" and "inoperative."

Lafontant (LA-FAH-TON) suspended the fuel prices increases after protests erupted last week but the disturbances continued and calls for the prime minister to resign grew, including from the opposition and some business groups.

Lafontant, a 57-year-old doctor who took office in March 2017, had said the price hikes of 38 percent to 51 percent for gasoline, diesel and kerosene were needed for Haiti to balance its budget.

Government officials agreed to reduce subsidies for fuel in February as part of an assistance package with the IMF. The agreement also included increased spending on social services and infrastructure and improved tax collection in an effort to modernize the economy of one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere.

Lafontant's replacement will be nominated by Moise and confirmed by the Senate.

Border measures part of Trump's bigger immigration crackdown

By COLLEEN LONG and AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The separation of families at the U.S.-Mexico border caught the attention of the world and prompted mass outrage, but it only tells a small part of the story surrounding the Trump administration's immigration policy.

In reality, the government is working to harden the system on multiple fronts to curb immigration, carving a path around various court rulings to do so. The administration is seeking to lock up families indefinitely, expand detention space and tighten asylum rules and apply more scrutiny to green card applications.

Many of the initiatives received little attention during the chaos over separated families, but they show how determined President Donald Trump is to stop immigrants from coming — both legally and illegally

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— even in cases where the administration has been stymied by the courts.

Other administrations may have faced similar problems with illegal immigration and tried similar solutions, but all have been unable to stem the flow of migrants streaming through southern border. No other president, however, has campaigned so vociferously on the topic.

“The United States will not be a migrant camp and it will not be a refugee holding facility,” President Donald Trump declared days before putting an end to the separation of parents from their children. “Not on my watch.”

This week’s headlines were dominated by stories of reunions of immigrant parents and their young children that the Trump administration had to carry out under a court order. The White House said it “worked tirelessly” to complete the reunifications and make sure the children were put back into safe homes.

In the same week, however, the administration made other moves to clamp down on immigrant families, asylum seekers and those seeking green cards.

The administration’s attempts to deter Central American families and children from making the trip north are designed to send the message to immigrants — and Trump’s supporters in an election year — that reaching the United States is going to get harder, and so will getting papers to stay in the country legally.

“All of these things, I think, are part of a bigger ultimate aim, which is to significantly reduce immigration of all kinds to the United States over the longer term, and in the process, the real desire is to change the character of the country,” said Doris Meissner, a former commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the Clinton administration.

Before departing the White House this week for his European trip, Trump offered his own solution for the government missing a court-mandated deadline to reunite some families: “Don’t come to our country illegally.”

In Europe, the president hasn’t shied away from offering his views on the flow of immigration across the pond. Trump pressed ahead with his complaints that European immigration policies are changing the “fabric of Europe” and destroying European culture. He reiterated a position he articulated in a British tabloid where he said: “I think allowing millions and millions of people to come into Europe is very, very sad.”

The Trump administration announced plans in April to prosecute illegal border crossers with the crime of improper entry, and in doing so, jailed some parents caught on the border and placed their children in government custody. The U.S. government was sued and the public was outraged, prompting Trump to halt the separations.

The chaos over the separations has put the administration in the difficult position of having to release families with ankle-monitoring bracelets into the public — a practice Trump has decried — while at the same time attempting a series of legal maneuvers to argue for tougher enforcement capabilities.

That’s because two court cases in California restrict what the government can do in carrying out hardline immigration policies. One requires the government to release immigrant children generally after 20 days in detention. The other has banned the separation of families and placed the government under tight deadlines to reunite parents and children.

In an attempt to comply with both rulings, the White House wants to present families with a choice: Stay together in detention or release the child to a government program for immigrant youth for potential placement with a relative while the parent remains locked up.

It’s unclear whether the administration has enough detention beds to do so, but it’s looking. Homeland Security has formally requested 12,000 beds for family detention, with 2,000 beds to be made available immediately at U.S. military bases. The Defense Department has said it also received a request to house up to 20,000 unaccompanied immigrant children.

Officials are also seeking to send immigrants back to their countries sooner and make it harder for them to seek asylum in a backlogged courts system where it can take years to get a ruling. Trump officials say too many people are claiming they are persecuted when they are not, adding that only 20 percent of asylum claims are granted.

Asylum officers tasked with screening immigrants stopped at the border were told this week to heed a recent opinion by Attorney General Jeff Sessions that gang and domestic violence should not generally be

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a reason for asylum — reasons cited by many immigrants fleeing bloodshed in Central America.

The result: fewer immigrants will pass these initial screenings that enable them to seek asylum before an immigration judge, said Megan Brewer, an immigration attorney in Los Angeles and former asylum officer.

"If they don't comply, all their decisions are going to be sent back to them," she said. "The average officer will go with the path of least resistance."

Immigrants in the country legally also face new hurdles under various policies.

Since taking office, the administration has ended protected status for hundreds of thousands of people from countries recovering from war and natural disasters, slashed the number of refugees allowed into the United States and said it will seek to strip the U.S. citizenship of those suspected of cheating to get it. And applicants for green cards and other immigration benefits are facing longer waits and more detailed questions.

Immigration on the Southwest border has changed over the years. Previously there were far more people coming, with more than five times the number of border patrol apprehensions in 2000 than during the most recent fiscal year. More immigrants also came from Mexico than Central America — which made it easier for U.S. authorities to send them back. Far fewer were children or families.

A number of immigration experts contend the arrival of Central American immigrants on the border is not a crisis — except of the administration's making.

Immigrant advocates said ankle bracelets and community-based programs can be used to ensure immigrants attend court hearings where a judge will determine whether they're allowed to stay in the country or should be deported. They said it's much cheaper and more appropriate since detention isn't meant to be punitive but to ensure court attendance.

Rather, they said resources should be devoted to beefing up the overwhelmed immigration court system to help those genuinely fleeing violence get their cases heard quicker and weed out those who aren't.

"It is doable but there is nothing flashy about it. There is nothing sound-bitey about it, and this administration does not seem to be interested in serious answers. It wants to project that there is a crisis," said Meissner. "And there is a crisis which they have created."

They also questioned whether detention would stop migrants from heading north. Jonathan Hiskey, a political science professor at Vanderbilt University, said research has shown that efforts to deter immigration might dissuade some job seekers from heading north but not those fleeing violence like gang killings in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Hiskey conducted research during the surge in Central American migration in 2014 and said while many knew it was tougher to make it to the United States, those who were crime victims still planned to try. And the prospect of being detained upon arrival — something the Obama administration tried with family detention centers — wouldn't stop them.

Taxin reported from Santa Ana, Calif. Associated Press Writer Lolita C. Baldor contributed to this report.

Italy: France, Malta offer to take quarter of 450 migrants

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy said Saturday that Malta and France had agreed to take 100 of the 450 migrants who were rescued from a fishing boat in the Mediterranean, claiming victory in the latest standoff but demanding even greater European solidarity.

Premier Giuseppe Conte said that Malta and France had come forward in response to his request to all 27 other members of the European Union to share the burden of welcoming the migrants.

"It's an important result," Conte wrote on Facebook, along with a copy of the letter he wrote to top European Commission officials demanding that other European countries make good on their verbal pledges to help Italy deal with the influx.

The migrants had been aboard a large fishing boat when the Italian and Maltese coast guard control

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centers began squabbling Friday over who was responsible for taking them in.

Malta said it had fulfilled its obligations by monitoring the vessel to see if it needed help. Malta says the ship's crew made clear they didn't need help and were heading toward the Italian island of Lampedusa.

Italy insisted Malta should have opened its ports to the ship.

Early Saturday, the migrants were taken off the boat and transferred onto a rescue vessel from the EU border patrol agency Frontex and a ship from the Italian border police.

The Maltese government said Prime Minister Joseph Muscat had agreed to participate in the migrant relocation initiative, similar to one involving the Lifeline ship of a German aid group several weeks ago. But he stressed that Malta at all times followed international law.

In just one month in office, Italy under the hard-line, anti-migrant Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has upended years of Italian policy toward migrants by refusing them entry.

Italy in general feels that the European Union has left it alone to handle the tens of thousands of migrants coming across the sea every year. Salvini is pressing the EU to step up and take in the migrants who land in Italy and is trying to help Libya prevent them from leaving.

Aid officials say migrants who are being returned to Libya are at risk of facing abuse, rape, beatings and slavery.

Kerber tops Williams at Wimbledon for 3rd Grand Slam title

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Angelique Kerber was not about to be overwhelmed by the setting or the stakes in this Wimbledon final. She knew exactly what to expect — and what to do — against Serena Williams.

Two years after losing to Williams with a title on the line at Centre Court, Kerber came through. So steady, so patient, so accurate throughout, she never really gave Williams much of a chance this time, putting together a 6-3, 6-3 victory Saturday for her first championship at the All England Club and third major overall.

"I think it's the experience. You have to go through all the things — the good things, the bad things — and then you need to learn," said Kerber, the first German to win Wimbledon since Steffi Graf in 1996.

"I know that against Serena, I have to play my best tennis, especially in the important moments," said Kerber, who won the Australian Open and U.S. Open in 2016, but was the runner-up to Williams at Wimbledon that season, "especially in the important moments."

That's just what she did.

"Angelique played really well," Williams said. "She played out of her mind."

Kerber made only five unforced errors the entire match, 19 fewer than Williams. Perhaps more impressive was this: She broke Williams in 4 of 9 service games.

In doing so, Kerber prevented Williams from claiming an eighth title at Wimbledon and 24th from all Grand Slam tournaments, which would have equaled Margaret Court's record. As things stand, Williams holds the mark for the half-century of professional tennis, one ahead of Kerber's idol, Graf.

Williams gave birth only 10½ months ago, then was treated for blood clots. She wore special compression leggings as a precaution during Wimbledon, just the fourth tournament of her comeback.

After all the time away, Williams spoke about being impressed with herself for just reaching the final. She also wanted to win, of course.

"To all the moms out there, I was playing for you today — and I tried," said the 36-year-old American, her voice shaking during the trophy ceremony.

Kerber addressed Williams during the on-court interviews, saying: "You're such an inspiration for everybody, for all of us. I'm sure you will have your next Grand Slam title soon. I'm really, really sure."

The final started more than two hours late, because they had to wait for the end of Novak Djokovic's five-set victory over Rafael Nadal in a men's semifinal that was suspended the night before. On Sunday, Djokovic will play Kevin Anderson, who won his semifinal against John Isner 26-24 in the fifth set Friday night.

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Despite so much Grand Slam success, despite holding a 6-2 career edge against Kerber entering the day, Williams played tightly right from the outset.

After taking the opening two points, she made four miscues in a row to get broken. That was part of a run in which she dropped 8 of 9 points. Williams was mostly her own undoing, too: She was responsible for the final's initial six unforced errors. By the time the first set was over, the disparity was 14-3.

That's not going to work against an opponent of Kerber's quality.

Trying to sneak a ball by Kerber is something akin to trying to put one past a brick wall. There are no holes.

The left-hander scurried along the baseline, this way and that, using a combination of quickness and anticipation to track down what often appeared to be winners for Williams but were not enough to end a point. Kerber would bend real low, even putting a knee right on the grass to get a ball back.

And when she swung her racket, the measure was almost always true.

Kerber is much more than a defender. She has added a more aggressive element to her game in recent years and worked to improve her serve.

"I'm still sure that we haven't seen the best Angie," said her coach, Wim Fissette. "The defense is one of her qualities, but she also knows now that she's not going to win a Grand Slam with just defense, and that's, for me, very important."

Kerber was broken only once. And she delivered a pair of down-the-line forehand passing winners to grab the last break of Williams she'd need, for a 4-2 edge in the second set.

Kerber celebrated match point by covering her face and collapsing flat on her back, getting grass stains on her white outfit. She relished the moment she had dreamt about as a little kid, watching Graf on TV.

After embracing Williams, she climbed into the stands to hug Fissette and her family.

Later, Kerber sipped champagne and collected the round, purple badge given to a champion to signify membership in the All England Club.

She affixed the badge to her white T-shirt and laughed as she proudly played with it at the start of her news conference.

"Winning here, it's forever," Kerber said. "Nobody can take the title away from me now."

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He's back: Djokovic tops Nadal to reach 5th Wimbledon final

By **HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer**

LONDON (AP) — From the way Novak Djokovic repeatedly smacked his racket against his shoe after one miss, to the shouts directed at himself and his coach after others, it was clear how much he wanted to prove he's past the roughest patch of his career.

Djokovic sent the strongest signal yet he is back at the top of tennis by reaching his fifth Wimbledon final with a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9), 3-6, 10-8 victory over rival Rafael Nadal on Saturday in a match suspended overnight.

"It really could have gone either ways," said Djokovic, who is bidding for a fourth championship at the All England Club and 13th Grand Slam title overall. "Basically until the last shot, I didn't know if I was going to win."

He'll face Kevin Anderson in Sunday's final. Anderson beat John Isner in a 6½-hour semifinal that ended at 26-24 fifth set Friday night, pushing back the start of Djokovic vs. Nadal.

The second semifinal then was halted when the third set ended just past 11 p.m., because of a neighborhood curfew. It had started with Centre Court's retractable roof closed and so concluded that way, too, even though there was no hint of rain.

It all made for an unusual schedule, with the start of the women's final — normally the stand-alone

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showcase on the fortnight's last Saturday — delayed until Nadal and Djokovic finished.

Djokovic hasn't won a major in more than two years, dealing with an injured right elbow that was so painful in 2017 he quit his quarterfinal at Wimbledon and sat out the rest of the season. He had surgery in February, but his results were still shaky.

Until now, that is. His defense and returning are as good as ever and made the difference in his 52nd career tour-level meeting with Nadal, more than any other two men have played.

"In my opinion, he deserved it," Nadal said. "I deserved it, too."

Undaunted by losing a lead and being forced to an extra set, Djokovic saved break points at 4-all and 7-all in the fifth, before breaking Nadal at love to end things.

"It's hard to pick the words," said Djokovic, who has won his past eight five-setters at Wimbledon. "I'm just going through things, flashbacks of the last 15 months, and everything I've been through to get here."

As intense as any athletes in any sport, these two didn't exactly slowly ramp things up when they returned to Centre Court about 14 hours after they'd departed. Having the roof shut meant every sound was amplified as it ricocheted off the dome — the thwack of ball off racket, the players' grunts, the spectators' applause.

This was high-decibel, high-stakes, high-quality tennis between two of the greats right from the get-go, beginning with an 18-point, six-deuce game that last 15 minutes and felt truly pivotal. It included a 23-stroke exchange and three others of at least 11. Nadal saved two break points and when he finally held, the owner 17 major championships, two at Wimbledon, punched the air and yelled as if he'd won the match, not a solitary game.

When Nadal broke in Saturday's second game, a dismayed Djokovic grabbed a spare ball and whacked it with his racket against the wall behind the baseline. Fortunately, he was at the end of the court farthest from the Royal Box, where the pair of visiting Duchesses, Kate and the newly married Meghan, sat in the front row.

There were other such displays of emotion from Djokovic, who is prone to yelling at himself or at his coach. He reacted by getting broken again to trail 5-3 in that set by raising his left shoe and violently pounding his racket against it — one, two, three, four times. Moments later, he got to love-40 before Nadal took five points in a row to serve out the set.

But it was Djokovic who tended to be better down the stretch in his 52nd career meeting against Nadal in a contest that seemed as if it should be worth a trophy.

Might very well have been.

Not only is Anderson far less accomplished than either of these two — he owns zero Grand Slam titles — but he also is coming off a pair of strenuous five-setters, including his 13-11 win against eight-time Wimbledon champion Roger Federer in the quarterfinals.

There's no doubt Djokovic will be a big favorite, even if he did need to play nearly 2½ hours Saturday while Anderson was able to rest and relax and recover.

"It's been a roller-coaster ride for him the last couple rounds, but he had a day off, which means a lot," Djokovic said. "I wish I could have one."

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Trump faults Obama for US response to Russian hacking

By ERIC TUCKER and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Saturday scolded the Obama administration for not responding aggressively enough to Russian hacking of Democratic targets in the 2016 U.S. election — cyberattacks underpinning the indictment of 12 Russian military intelligence officers.

Trump's first response to special counsel Robert Mueller's initial charges against Russian government officials for interfering in American politics came in tweets the president posted while at his golf resort in Scotland, two days before a high-stakes summit in Finland with Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

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"The stories you heard about the 12 Russians yesterday took place during the Obama Administration, not the Trump Administration," Trump tweeted. "Why didn't they do something about it, especially when it was reported that President Obama was informed by the FBI in September, before the Election?"

The indictment announced Friday said the Russians hacked into Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and the Democratic Party and released tens of thousands of private communications as part of a broad conspiracy by the Kremlin to meddle in an American election that ended up putting Trump in the White House.

U.S. intelligence agencies have said Moscow was aiming to help the Trump campaign and harm Clinton's bid.

Trump said this past week during his trip to Europe that he would "absolutely, firmly" raise the election-meddling issue with Putin at their meeting, though he added, "I don't think you'll have any 'Gee, I did it, I did it. You got me!'" Leading Democratic senators asked Trump in a letter Saturday to scrap the summit "if you are not prepared to make Russia's attack on our election the top issue you will discuss."

Trump's secretary of state, former CIA Director Mike Pompeo, said he was confident the meeting "will put America in a better place. It's very important that they meet."

The 29-page indictment lays out how, months before Americans voted in November 2016, Russians schemed to break into key Democratic email accounts, including those belonging to Clinton's 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.

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

The Kremlin 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," said Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov.

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 an American court.

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."

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 such as 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-

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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.

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.

___ Colvin reported from Glasgow, Scotland. Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Richard Lardner, Desmond Butler, Mary Clare Jalonick and Susannah George in Washington and Raphael Satter in London contributed to this report.

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 15, the 196th day of 2018. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon delivered a televised address in which he announced that he had accepted an invitation to visit the People's Republic of China.

On this date:

In 1799, French soldiers in Egypt discovered the Rosetta Stone, which proved instrumental in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state to be readmitted to the Union. Manitoba entered confederation as the fifth Canadian province.

In 1910, the term "Alzheimer's disease" was used to describe a progressive form of presenile dementia in the book "Clinical Psychiatry" by German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin, who credited the work of his colleague, Alois Alzheimer, in identifying the condition.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover announced he was slashing his own salary by 20 percent, from \$75,000 to \$60,000 a year; he also cut Cabinet members' salaries by 15 percent, from \$15,000 to \$12,750 a year.

In 1964, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was nominated for president by the Republican national convention in San Francisco.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, California, by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed; the kidnappers were caught.)

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter delivered his "malaise" speech in which he lamented what he called a "crisis of confidence" in America.

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In 1985, a visibly gaunt Rock Hudson appeared at a news conference with actress Doris Day (it was later revealed Hudson was suffering from AIDS).

In 1992, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton was nominated for president at the Democratic national convention in New York.

In 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace (ver-SAH'-chay), 50, was shot dead outside his Miami Beach home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan, 27, was found dead eight days later, a suicide. (Investigators believed Cunanan killed four other people before Versace in a cross-country spree that began the previous March.)

In 2002, John Walker Lindh, an American who'd fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, to two felonies in a deal sparing him life in prison.

In 2010, after 85 days, BP stopped the flow of oil from a blown-out well in the Gulf of Mexico using a 75-ton cap lowered onto the wellhead earlier in the week.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush said the nation's troubled financial system was "basically sound," and he urged lawmakers to quickly enact legislation to prop up mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. A judge in Los Angeles sentenced Helen Golay, 77, and Olga Rutterschmidt, 75, to two consecutive life terms each for murdering two indigent men to collect insurance policies taken out on their lives. In an All-Star game that began at dusk and ended at 1:37 a.m. the next morning, the American League defeated the National League 4-3 in 15 innings at Yankee Stadium.

Five years ago: Two days after a Florida jury acquitted George Zimmerman in the death of Trayvon Martin, Attorney General Eric Holder called the killing a "tragic, unnecessary shooting," and said the Justice Department would follow "the facts and the law" as it reviewed evidence to see whether federal criminal charges were warranted. (Federal authorities have yet to reach a decision in the case.) Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, the notoriously brutal leader of the feared Zetas drug cartel, was captured in the first major blow against an organized crime leader by Mexican officials.

One year ago: After twice being rejected for U.S. visas, an all-girl robotics team from Afghanistan arrived in Washington for an international competition after President Donald Trump used a rare "parole" mechanism to sidestep the visa system. The case had become a flashpoint in the debate about Trump's efforts to tighten entrance to the U.S. Garbine Muguruza (GAHR'-been moo-gah-ROO'-thuh) beat Venus Williams 7-5, 6-0 to win the Wimbledon title. Two former high-ranking Penn State administrators surrendered to serve jail sentences for how they responded to a 2001 complaint about assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky showering with a boy. Oscar-winning actor Martin Landau died at the age of 89.

Today's Birthdays: Author Clive Cussler is 87. Actor Ken Kercheval is 83. Actor Patrick Wayne is 79. Actor Jan-Michael Vincent is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Millie Jackson is 74. Rock singer-musician Peter Lewis (Moby Grape) is 73. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 72. Rock musician Artimus Pyle is 70. Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post, is 68. Actress Celia Imrie is 66. Actor Terry O'Quinn is 66. Rock singer-musician David Pack is 66. Rock musician Marky Ramone is 62. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 62. Country singer-songwriter Mac McAnally is 61. Model Kim Alexis is 58. Actor Willie Aames is 58. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 57. Actress Lolita Davidovich is 57. Actress Shari Headley is 55. Actress Brigitte Nielsen is 55. Rock musician Jason Bonham is 52. Actress Amanda Foreman is 52. Actor Kristoff St. John is 52. Rock musician Phillip Fisher is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Stokley (Mint Condition) is 51. Actor-comedian Eddie Griffin is 50. Actor Stan Kirsch is 50. Actor Reggie Hayes is 49. Actor-screenwriter Jim Rash is 47. Rock musician John Dolmayan is 46. Actor Scott Foley is 46. Actor Brian Austin Green is 45. Rapper Jim Jones is 42. Actress Diane Kruger is 42. Actress Lana Parrilla (LAH'-nuh pa-REE'-uh) is 41. Rock musician Ray Toro (My Chemical Romance) is 41. Actress Laura Benanti is 39. Actor Travis Fimmel is 39. Actor Taylor Kinney is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kia Thornton (Divine) is 37. Actor-singer Tristan "Mack" Wilds is 29. Actress Medalion Rahimi is 26. Actor Iain Armitage (TV: "Big Little Lies" "Young Sheldon") is ten.

Thought for Today: "If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it." — Margaret Fuller, American journalist and social critic (1810-1850).