

Groton Daily Independent

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**“Your mind is a ship;
it can sail across the
universe as long as you
don't allow negative
thoughts to sink it.”**

-Matshona Dhliwayo

Chicken Soup
for the Soul



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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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



**Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

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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While you were sleeping, here is the sunrise this morning!

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

**T
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BELIEVE IN**

**J
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Y**

“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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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

We are nearing the end of our yearly roster breakdown. Soon, the Minnesota Vikings will be reporting to training camp at their brand-new facilities in Eagan, MN. The rookies will report on July 24, and the veterans will report July 27. The team will have two weeks of practice before their first preseason game, when the Vikings travel to Denver to take on Case Keenum and the Broncos August 11.

After covering the linebackers last week, we move on to the cornerback position. Last year, the Vikings had six cornerbacks on the opening day roster. Currently there are 12 CBs listed on the roster, so competition will be fierce. Let's see who has a starting job locked up, and which players will be fighting for a roster spot.

Starters

Xavier Rhodes – Undoubtedly one of the most important players on Mike Zimmer's defense, Xavier Rhodes has earned the right to be in the conversation as the best cornerback in the NFL. He made the Pro Bowl the last two seasons and was named 1st-team All-Pro last year.

Trae Waynes – Since being drafted in the first round of the 2015 draft, Waynes has worked his way into a starting role and it is very unlikely he relinquishes that role this season. He is entering the fourth year of his five-year rookie contract, and if he plays well this season he will likely receive a contract extension next offseason.

The Rest of the Pack

Mackensie Alexander – The Vikings drafted Alexander in the second-round of the 2016 draft in the hopes he would become the team's starting nickel cornerback. He started to see the field more in his second season, and the job is likely his for the taking this offseason.

Holton Hill – As an undrafted rookie, Hill has his work cut out for him. However, he was seen by many as a second or third round talent who slipped through the draft because of maturity issues. If he can put his issues behind him and focus on football, Hill has a very good chance to make the roster.

Mike Hughes – The Vikings' first draft choice this year, Hughes will make the roster – but how much playing time he receives in his rookie year is up for debate. Zimmer is prone to hold his young defenders out for their first year or two, and with two great starters ahead of him, I doubt we see much of Hughes this year.

Craig James – Another undrafted rookie, James started his college career at Minnesota before transferring to Southern Illinois. His best hope is to impress coaches enough to be asked back to the practice squad.

Trevon Mathis – Yet another undrafted rookie, Mathis was a two-star prospect coming out of high school. He played his college ball at Toledo, and although he seems to step up in big games, I just don't see him playing in the NFL.

Tray Matthews – Surprise, another undrafted rookie. Matthews was a four-star safety prospect coming out of high school, and although the Vikings seem intent on giving him a shot at cornerback, safety seems to be his best position. I don't see him making the roster.

Terence Newman – Entering his 16th season, and about to turn 40-years old, Newman is surely entering his final season. If the younger guys show lots of promise there is a chance Newman is asked to retire, but if Zimmer feels he needs a veteran presence in the defensive backfield Newman will once again be asked to play a pivotal role on a team with championship aspirations.

Horace Richardson – Richardson has managed to stick with the team after being an undrafted rookie in 2017. With the depth at CB, practice squad is his best hope again.

Marcus Sherels – The player who everyone dismisses yet he somehow ends up sticking on the roster and carving out a role for himself as a return man, Sherels will once again have to hope that his reliability as a punt returner will be enough to keep him on the roster.

Jack Tocho – A seventh-round pick in 2017, Tocho is not very athletic but his work ethic is unquestionable, and he reportedly picks up the playbook very quickly. He was on the practice squad last year and will likely hope to end up back there for the 2018 season.

Don't miss next week's article, which will cover the safety position! And as always, if you have any questions or comments, I encourage you to reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL). Skol!

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Yard of the Week

The Michelle Fordham home at 304 N 5th St. has been chosen as this week's Yard of the Week of the members of the Groton Garden Club. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Death Notice: Francis Klein

Francis "Fritz" Klein, 95, of Groton and formerly of Andover passed away Sunday, July 15, 2018 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.



Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for full time and part time CNA's. 12 hr. shifts - days and nights (SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED) DIETARY OPENINGS Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts (WITH SIGN ON BONUS)

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

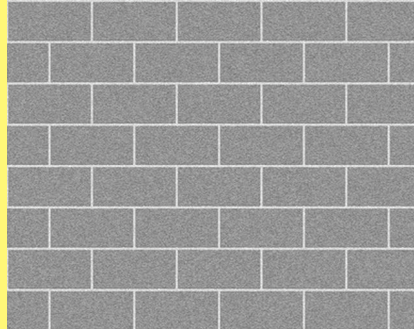
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MIDWEST MASONRY & CONCRETE PUMPING



**NEW OR REPLACED
SIDEWALK**



BLOCK WALLS



EGRESS WINDOWS



DRIVEWAY

BASEMENT FLOORS

STONE AND BRICK

WORK



GARAGE FLOORS

Call for a free quote

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Today in Weather History

July 16, 1993: Thunderstorms, dumping two to seven inches of rain caused flooding problems in north-eastern South Dakota. Several dams and many roads were washed out. Most of the damage was in Marshall County. Six families were evacuated about six miles southeast of Britton as two private earthen dams broke. Winds, as high as 70 mph were also reported in a couple of locations in Marshall County. The torrential rains resulted in flooded farmland, roads, and basements in northeast South Dakota through July 21st. In Groton and Claremont at least 90 percent of the homes had water in the basements. Some storm total rainfall amounts include 3.20 inches in Leola; 3.14 in Ipswich; 3.13 in Britton; and 2.77 in Eureka.

July 16, 2001: Very heavy rains of 3 to 7 inches fell across north central Corson County causing flash flooding. Oak Creek along with several other streams washed out several roads and damaged some fences from Watauga to McIntosh to McLaughlin and north. Travel stopped for a while on the Highway north of McLaughlin.

1920 - A severe hailstorm over parts of Antelope and Boone counties in Nebraska stripped trees of bark and foliage, ruined roofs, and broke nearly every window facing north. (The Weather Channel)

1946 - The temperature at Medford, OR, soared to an all-time high of 115 degrees to begin a two week heat wave. During that Oregon heat wave the mercury hit 100 degrees at Sexton Summit for the only time in forty years of records. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1975 - An early afternoon thunderstorm raked the east side of Tucson, AZ, with gale force winds, heavy rain, and numerous lightning strikes. A thirteen year old boy was swept through a forty foot long culvert by raging waters before being rescued. (The Weather Channel)

1979: The most damaging tornado in Wyoming history touched down 3 miles west-northwest of the Cheyenne airport. This strong tornado moved east or east-southeast across the northern part of Cheyenne, causing \$22 million in damage and one fatality. 140 houses and 17 trailers were destroyed. 325 other homes were damaged. Four C-130 aircraft and National Guard equipment sustained \$12 million damage. Municipal hangars and buildings suffered \$10 million in losses.

1987 - Showers and thundestorms in the southwestern U.S. ended a record string of thirty-nine consecutive days of 100 degree heat at Tucson, AZ. A thunderstorm at Bullhead City, AZ, produced wind gusts to 70 mph reducing the visibility to near zero in blowing dust. Southerly winds gusting to 40 mph pushed temperature readings above 100 degrees in the Northern Plains. Rapid City, SD, reported a record high of 106 degrees, following a record low of 39 degrees just three days earlier. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Thirty-seven cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 96 degrees at Bluefield, WV, and 104 degrees at Charleston WV were all-time records, and afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Binghamton, NY, 99 degrees at Elkins, WV, and 103 degrees at Pittsburgh PA, tied all-time records. Highs of 104 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and 105 degrees at Parkersburg WV were records for July, and Beckley, WV, equalled their record for July with a high of 94 degrees. Martinsburg, WV, was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 107 degrees. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms raked the northeastern U.S. with large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms developing along a stationary front drenched the Middle Atlantic Coast States with heavy rain, causing flooding in some areas. More than five inches of rain was reported near Madison and Ferncliff, VA. Hot weather prevailed in Texas. San Angelo reported a record high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

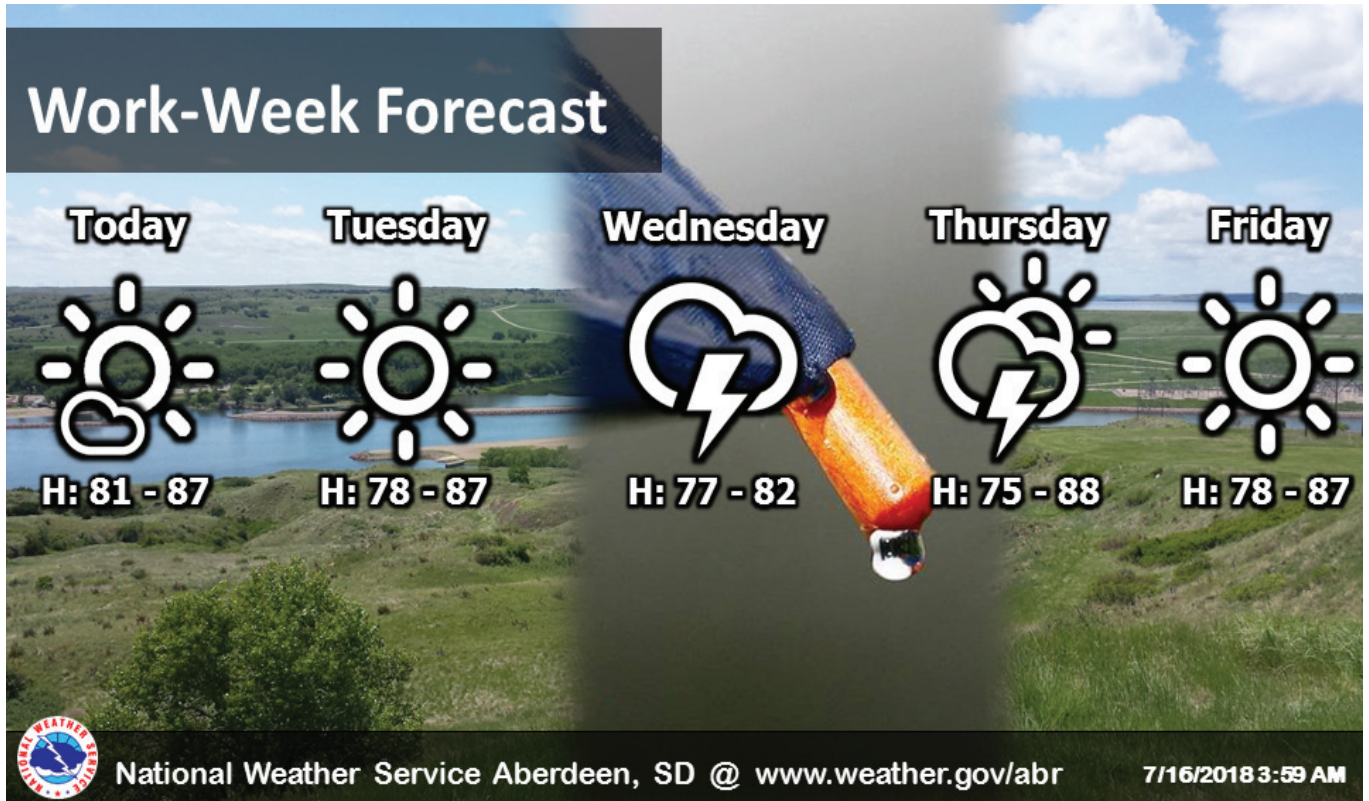
2009: A hailstone, 3.3 inches in diameter, 6.8 inches circumference, and weighing 2.1 ounces fell in Westford, Vermont. This hailstone is the largest ever found in Vermont.






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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	20% → 50% Slight Chance T-storms then Chance T-storms	50% Chance T-storms	20% Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 86 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 82 °F

Work-Week Forecast



Today	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
H: 81 - 87	H: 78 - 87	H: 77 - 82	H: 75 - 88	H: 78 - 87

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD @ www.weather.gov/abr 7/16/2018 3:59 AM

Published on: 07/16/2018 at 4:01AM

The week ahead features seasonable temperatures and the potential for thunderstorms during the middle of the week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80 F at 5:23 PM

Heat Index: -

Low Outside Temp: 58 F at 11:59 PM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph

Precip: 0.59

Today's Info

Record High: 112° in 1936

Record Low: 42° in 1976

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 1.38

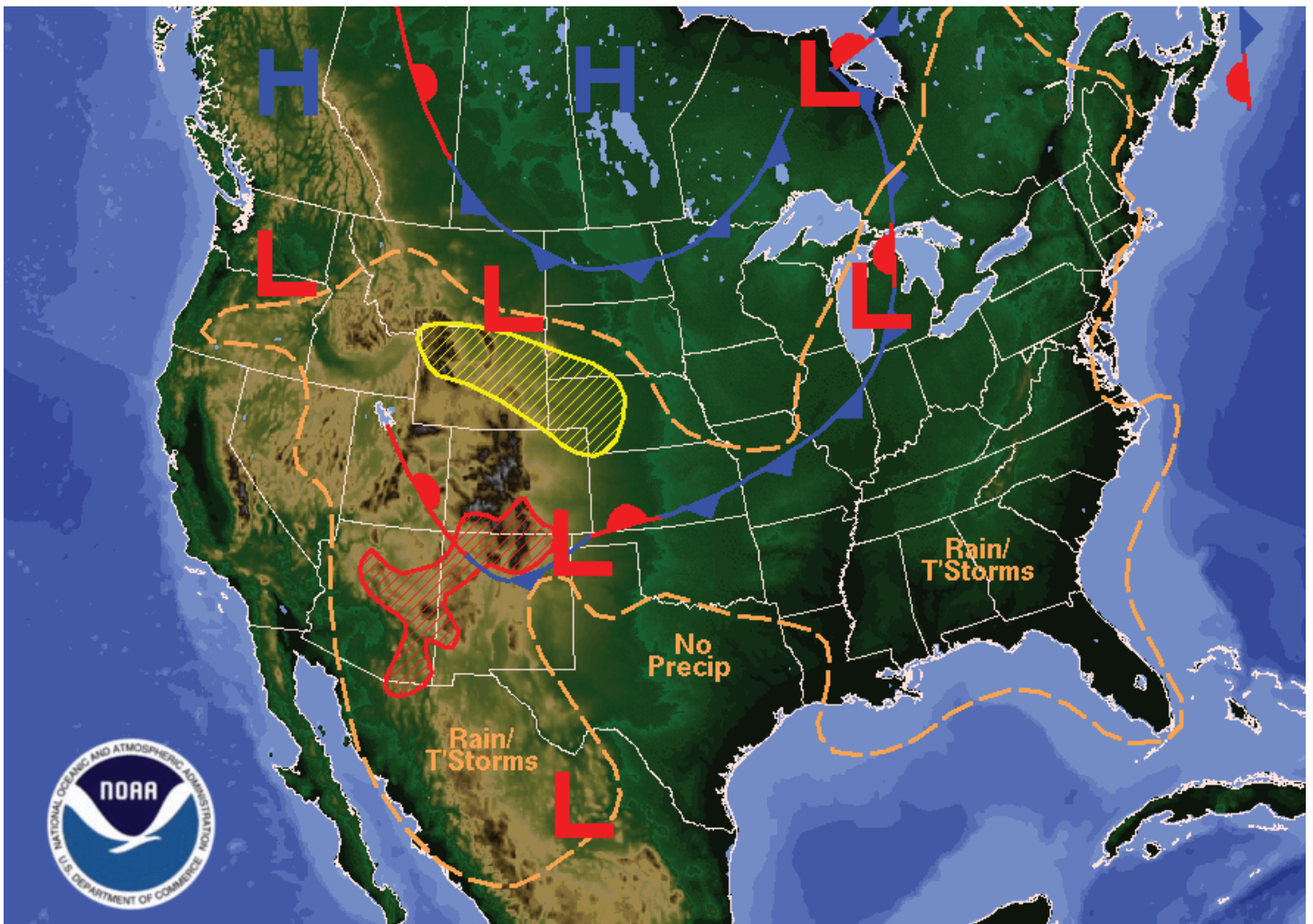
Precip to date in July: 2.74

Average Precip to date: 12.23

Precip Year to Date: 8.55

Sunset Tonight: 9:18 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:02 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jul 16, 2018, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds 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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SILENT OR SILENCED?

"It is time for You to act, Lord. Your law is being broken." That sounds like something we would hear while walking out of church or part of a conversation we were having with a friend about the "signs of the times."

"It is time for You to act, Lord." Not me, Lord! YOU!

This is really amusing. Here we find this Psalmist who has been writing to us about the Lord's faithfulness, the Lord's grace, the Lord's mercy, the Lord's goodness, the Lord's protection, the Lord's righteousness, the Lord's justice...and the list goes on and on.

Suddenly, he becomes aware of things that are going on around him that are wrong. Suddenly, he is awakened to things that are not in agreement with God's laws and he is bothered. Suddenly, he wants God to do something to make things right.

Why God and not him? Does he want to sit in a big, comfortable easy chair and cheer the Lord on? "Go get 'em, God! Make them pay for the wrongs they've done! I'm all for You straightening this mess out. In fact, why did You let things get like this in the first place? I'd like to help You, Lord, but don't count on me. It's Your world, Lord. Clean it up. I'm over here thanking You for all of my many blessings! Go, God. Go!"

Unfortunately, the words of the Psalmist sound like words that come from the mouths of many Christians. We expect God to do the work that He has entrusted us to do. "Go," Jesus said to His disciples, "and make disciples." We are to do what He told us to do! We are the ones to act.

Prayer: Forgive us, Lord, for refusing to do our part in doing what You have called us to do. May we begin now! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:126 It is time for you to act, Lord; your law is being broken.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

Volunteers travel to help hatchery in South Dakota

By KAIJA SWISHER, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Every spring, nearly a dozen couples arrive at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish to volunteer for the summer, assisting visitors in the Pond Shop, rail car, museum, and more.

"Each summer, several campers in RVs pull into the Volunteer Village at the Spearfish City (Campground). In 2018, license plates are visible from South Carolina, North Dakota, Connecticut, West Virginia, Georgia, and Oklahoma," said Karen Holzer, executive director of the Booth Society, the nonprofit friends group that supports the hatchery. "Upon their arrival, they learn about and explore the historic venues on the hatchery grounds. They don name tags and FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service) volunteer vests and are ready to meet the hatchery's 160,000 visitors."

Volunteers this summer include Randy and Sandy Reed, retired eighth-grade science teachers who are originally from Michigan and spent the last 10 years in South Carolina; and Jerry Gilbert and Jan Green, who spent most of their married life in West Virginia, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

The Reeds are full-time RVers who describe themselves as the adventurous type. They spent five years living on a sailboat when they were first married and have sought out volunteer placements as they travel. Volunteer.gov, a website that lists federal, state, and local volunteer placements, includes the summer placement at the hatchery, and since the Reeds hadn't been to the Great Plains area, they applied for the placement, got it, and came sight unseen to the Black Hills. This is their eighth volunteer placement since they retired two years ago.

Sandy Reed explained that they are very interested in history, like working with people, and look for unique opportunities when they search for placements.

"It's fun. This has been unique because there's 10 RVs here," she said.

"So it's like a little community," Randy Reed added.

They enjoy the beauty of the landscape and the hiking opportunities in the area, as well.

"Spearfish has a lot to offer, once you get here and really start looking in the area," Randy Reed said.

The couple also voiced their appreciation to the community; they have found people to be friendly and willing to offer advice, and they said that visitors are equally impressed by the hatchery and grounds.

"It's been very rewarding, so far," Randy Reed said, describing that they've met visitors who come back year after year.

"It's an ideal placement," Sandy Reed added.

The Reeds said that the biggest challenge of their current lifestyle was getting rid of all of their stuff, as whatever they own now travels with them in their RV. Sandy Reed said that at first she thought it would be difficult, but the more they downsized, the better it felt — and they joked that it saves money, since their shopping is limited to what they can fit in their 34-foot home on wheels.

They added that they get to see family as they travel, and with technology today, it is easier than ever to stay in touch through video calls, etc.

Their advice to others considering the lifestyle is to try life on the road before selling everything.

"I would recommend it for anyone that's adventurous," Randy Reed said.

Placements vary in length, and the Reeds try to have their next year planned out. Following their time at the hatchery, they will spend time working on a Habitat for Humanity build in New Mexico, then head to Arizona to visit family, and then head to Texas for birding. They hope to spend next summer in New England, another part of the country they have yet to see.

"Learning is one of the things we like to do," Randy Reed said, describing that there is more and more research available about the importance of keeping one's mind active as we age. "Traveling does the same thing."

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"This is more fun," Sandy Reed added.

Jerry Gilbert and Jan Green agree.

"For active seniors, this is the way to stay active," Gilbert said.

The couple chose the placement after Gilbert traveled through the area a couple of years ago. They returned to see Spearfish Canyon in the winter and then applied for the volunteer placement at the hatchery.

"We really enjoy it. It's really neat," Green said, describing that they've learned many new things and enjoy the community.

The couple has spent time volunteering as campground hosts in California and as guides at a lighthouse in Oregon, and from the hatchery, they are headed to an island in Puget Sound, and they enjoy doing something with purpose, having a mechanism to meet people, and connecting with the local community through volunteering.

Once their 34-foot RV is parked, Gilbert and Green get around town on their tandem bicycle, as they do not tow a car. They rent if they need and have found people to be very generous in offering to lend them a vehicle if needed, but for the most part, the bicycle does the trick, and they appreciate the wide streets and rec path system that allows them to get around the community with ease.

"We really like Spearfish," Gilbert said, adding that with the location of Volunteer Village adjacent to the rec path and Spearfish Creek, people often stop to chat with the volunteers while they are out and about. They have enjoyed learning about the history of the hatchery and Booth family and seeing how locals and visitors share that enthusiasm.

"It's a great family venue," Gilbert said.

"And the town uses it," Green said.

They offered similar advice for those thinking about a similar retirement — try it before jumping in. Gilbert encouraged people to talk to people who are doing it to find out about equipment, finding appropriate volunteer placement matches, etc. He added that it is important to be mechanically-inclined, as there is a lot to do to successfully operate and live out of an RV.

But if it fits one's lifestyle, there are many advantages. Green explained that they get to sleep in their own bed every night and don't have to live out of a suitcase, since their home and possessions are always with them.

They feel grateful for the opportunity to volunteer at the hatchery, appreciate the camaraderie with the other volunteers, and hope to come back in the future.

"It's amazing what the staff is doing here. . It's great to see the community support for the facility; it's great to see the community provide these sites for us to be able to stay at," Gilbert said, adding, "We're seeing all across the country that volunteers are becoming more and more essential in the operation of parks, whether it's national parks, state parks, county parks — the government is getting smaller, and volunteers are doing more and more."

And the community and hatchery staff appreciate the efforts of the volunteers

"From the front steps of the Booth house, the sliding doors of the Rail Car, and entrance of the Von Bayer Museum, the volunteers greet the visitors to share stories and the history of our America's fisheries conservation work, as well as the history of the D.C. Booth facility," Holzer said. "The temporary residents become recognized by local visitors both on the hatchery grounds and in the area businesses they frequent during their stay in Spearfish."

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Glamour camping resort opens in the Black Hills

By JIM HOLLAND, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — If the idea of pitching a tent and sleeping on the cold, hard ground doesn't have its appeal, perhaps glamour camping — glamping — is more your style. Glamping offers the "roughing it" aspect of an overnight stay in a tent without the need to give up a bathroom or a king-sized mattress

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and high-thread-count bed linens.

The Black Hills' first glamping resort opened last month near Keystone, the Rapid City Journal reported. Under Canvas Mount Rushmore joins four other camps currently operated by Bozeman, Montana, based Under Canvas.

Other camps serve Yellowstone, Glacier and Zion national parks, with another in Moab, Utah, close to Arches and Canyonlands national parks. Two more camps in the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and the Grand Canyon in Arizona are slated to open later this year.

Under Canvas-Mount Rushmore, situated among the stately pines and granite formations about a mile and a half southeast of Keystone, consists of 52 roomy canvas tent cabins with multiple floor plans.

All tents are erected on solid wood frames with a full floor and an exterior deck.

The basic tent setup, called the Safari, is a single, cabin-sized tent with close access to a communal bathhouse. The Deluxe, Stargazer and Suite options include a full bathroom with toilet, sink basin and shower stall included. All tents include small wood-burning stoves.

The Stargazer offers a clear panel over the bed, combining an under-the-stars ambiance and protection from the weather.

Meals are served in the Embers Restaurant and a check-in/lobby area, also under canvas and featuring a large deck with a spectacular view of Mount Rushmore National Memorial just a few miles away. Many tent cabins also have a view of the memorial.

Viewing telescopes set up on the deck allow guests to watch the evening lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore. The view on last Wednesday night came with a bonus, said assistant Mount Rushmore camp manager Alex Browere.

"It was cool with the sunset," Browere said.

The resort opened softly on May 24, with a grand opening on June 4.

Under Canvas Mount Rushmore will operate on a seasonal basis until Oct. 1. The tents and all interior furnishings will be taken down and stored until the resort reopens for the 2019 season, when the resort will expand to 75 tents.

Starting nightly rates (double occupancy) range from \$189 for a Safari, \$284 for a Deluxe, \$339 for a Stargazer and \$409 for a Suite with an adjacent tipi.

Multi-night packages, including guided driving tours of Black Hills attractions and other activities, meals and other amenities, are also available.

South Dakota School of Mines men's basketball coach Jason Henry started A&Js Screening, a screen printing business, as a sideline in 2002.

Now, Mike Lindsay has incorporated the screening business in a personalized clothing venture called Park Bench Apparel.

Park Bench offers personalized men's and women's clothing, hats, stickers, signs and banners and drink accessories.

The shop is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Along with his own products, he is helping others market their creations.

"We showcase local artists and sell their stuff here too," he said.

Strider featured in Google small business report

Ryan McFarland is billed not only as founder and CEO, but "chief enthusiast" of Rapid City-based Strider Bikes.

The pedal-less bike manufacturer maintains both a bricks-and-mortar retail presence but is also active and successful in marketing its products on the internet.

So much so that search engine Google has recognized Strider for being the top-rated "Best first bike" search option.

"We aim to do everything we can to support physical retail, but as a brand, we also need to be meeting parents and grandparents on their terms, through web searches they are making on digital devices," McFarland said.

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Because of their digital marketing success, Strider was selected by Google to represent South Dakota as an example of making good use of the web to grow a business. Strider is featured in Google's annual Economic Impact Report, released this month.

McFarland started Strider Bikes in his garage in 2007, after first removing the pedals and chain drive from a bike to teach his then-2-year-old son to balance.

Strider Bikes is now approaching 2 million bikes sold, with distribution in over 75 countries.

"Our growth has been greatly accelerated by the web," McFarland said in a release.

"The internet really is the prime location to run a business in today's world. Our use of the web effectively will enable us to realize a world in which all kids possess the ability to ride a bike independently," he said.

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

South Dakota city honors officers, boy for fire response

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota city has formally honored two police officers and a 10-year-old boy for their bravery during a house fire in May.

The city of Sturgis awarded Sgt. Chris Schmoker, Patrol Officer Dylan Goetsch, and Ethan Baker with Life Saving Awards this month, the Black Hills Pioneer reported . Schmoker and Goetsch also received the Municipal Medal of Honor.

The fire began May 12 at the home of Baker's grandparents.

Baker woke up during the fire and yelled for help, said Police Chief Geody VanDewater. His cries alerted his grandparents and his mother, who were able to make it safely outside the house.

"He saved their lives," Sturgis Volunteer Fire Chief Shawn Barrows. "Had he not had his wits about him, we would have had fatalities in there."

Schmoker and Goetsch were the first to arrive at the fire and were able to pull family member Jason McKee, who was unconscious, from the house.

McKee said Baker and the officers are heroes.

"On behalf of the entire McKee family and all my friends, I can't thank you enough for what you did," McKee said. "You went above and beyond the call of duty without any equipment or anything. You saved my life and I can't thank you enough for that."

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

South Dakota football facility renovation begins this summer

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Work will begin this summer on the new outdoor practice area for the University of South Dakota's football team.

The Coyotes may be able to use the new outdoor fields later this fall or when practice begins in the spring, the Argus Leader reported .

"Facilities are part of what student-athletes look at," said Coach Bob Nielson. "And to know that the university is committed to moving forward is important. It's important to them and it's important to us as a program. It positions us exceptionally well for the future."

The project is part of the university's \$26.3 million transformation of its athletic facilities. More detailed renderings of the finished product will be available later this summer, said David Herbster, the university's athletic director.

Work will also replace the portable bleachers with permanent seats. The football locker room, team meeting areas and offices will be located under the seats.

The next part of the project includes the interior renovation of the DakotaDome, which will continue into next year.

"The Dome is really an iconic facility in this state and to make this kind of major renovation, something that will make it an even better facility, is exciting for all of us at the University," Nielson said.

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The Dome opened as a multi-sport venue in 1979.
South Dakota is one of four Division I athletic programs in the Dakotas.

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

Minnesota drive-ins struggle in evolving movie market

LITCHFIELD, Minn. (AP) — Hollywood's demands and the changing economics of the film industry are making it tough for the owners of Minnesota's remaining drive-in movie theaters to make ends meet.

There were nearly 80 drive-in theaters across the state in the 1950s, Minnesota Public Radio News reported. Now there are just six in the cities Elko, Long Prairie, Warren, Lake Elmo, Litchfield and Luverne.

Dave Quincer is among the state's drive-in owners questioning the future of his business. The 53-year-old said he's been pouring money into his drive-in, Starlite, since he bought it a few years ago.

Quincer's family owned the Prairie Drive-in in Perham, which closed in 1987. Their Wadena drive-in also shuttered in 1989 after the business became too much for Quincer's dad.

"Years ago, my dad had issues too because Friday nights were just a big beer party and he knew he was going to have trouble," Quincer said. "So, my dad was popping Tums and he had a nervous stomach."

Quincer, a fourth generation drive-in theater owner, said he thinks he can get his theater through this season, but will require a lot of money for next year. He said it's been a good year for the movies he's shown this season, but that April rains prevented him from opening the drive-in until late spring.

"There's so many aspects of this business I can't control. People complain about mosquitoes," he said. "I'm surrounded by farm fields that are full of drainage ditches and water with all this rain."

Information from: Minnesota Public Radio News, <http://www.mprnews.org>

Passenger on motorcycle dies in crash in Box Elder

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a passenger on a motorcycle was killed in a crash in Box Elder.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a woman driving the motorcycle lost control while attempting to turn onto Interstate 90. The vehicle entered the ditch and hit a barbed wire fence. Both the driver and passenger were thrown from the motorcycle.

The passenger, a 62-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver was transported to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The patrol says it is considering charges against the driver.

Crews rescue 7 teens from rock island at Sioux Falls park

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say seven teenage boys were rescued from a small island of rocks at a Sioux Falls park.

Police say the boys swam out to the island in Falls Park early Saturday evening and were unable to return to shore because of the strong current created by a nearby low-head dam.

Rescue crews inflated a boat and brought the boys to shore in two groups.

Authorities say the boys were from out of state and did not know that swimming is prohibited in the river. Police released the boys to their parents.

The Latest: Trump to Putin: The world wants us to get along

HELSINKI (AP) — The Latest on President Donald Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin (all times local):

2:20 p.m.

President Donald Trump says at the start of his summit with Russia's President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki that he thinks "the world wants to see us get along."

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Trump says the two countries have "great opportunities," saying they have not been getting along for the past few years. He says he thinks they can have an "extraordinary relationship."

He says their discussions will involve trade, the military, missiles, nuclear weapons and China, including their "mutual friend" China's Xi Jinping. He did not mention Russia's meddling in the U.S. election.

The two leaders were seated together in a room adorned by American and Russian flags at the Finnish Presidential Palace, separated by a small table.

The meeting started about 45 minutes late following Putin's delayed arrival to Finland.

2:15 p.m.

Russian President Vladimir Putin says it's time to talk seriously with President Donald Trump about relations between their powerful nations and global problems.

Putin revealed little about his agenda in terse remarks at the start of talks with Trump in Helsinki.

While Trump spoke more extensively amid incessant clicks of cameras, Putin said only that "the time has come to talk thoroughly about bilateral relations as well as various hotspots in the world." He called the meeting part of "continued constant contacts" between the men.

Putin looked serious but smirked when journalists asked Trump about Russian meddling in the U.S. presidential campaign. Trump refused to answer.

He and Trump shook hands briefly and headed into talks, which are being closely watched around the world.

2 p.m.

President Donald Trump has arrived at Finland's Presidential Palace for a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin arrived minutes earlier at the palace in Helsinki for the summit, which consists of a one-on-one meeting and a larger working lunch, and will conclude with a joint news conference.

Monday's meeting is being closely watched on both sides of the Atlantic, coming days after the U.S. Justice Department indicted 12 Russian military intelligence officers for their role in hacking Democratic entities during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Trump says he hopes for better relations with the Russian leader. He faces bipartisan skepticism in Washington that his desire for warming ties is displacing concerns over Russia's annexation of Crimea and other destabilizing actions.

1:15 p.m.

President Vladimir Putin is using a newly designed Russian limousine abroad for the first time to get to the summit with President Donald Trump in Finland.

Putin first used the Kortezh limousine during his inauguration in May but had never taken it abroad until now. Putin landed in Helsinki behind schedule for the summit.

The use of the Kortezh could be a show of Russian pride to counter the U.S. president's world famous limousine known as "The Beast."

Putin's motorcade included several other vehicles of the same Kortezh, or Aurus family.

1:05 p.m.

President Vladimir Putin has arrived late for his high-profile meeting with President Donald Trump — another display of the Russian's leader famous lack of punctuality.

Putin's plane touched down in Helsinki 30 minutes later than planned, pushing back the start of his one-on-one talks with Trump Monday.

In the past, Putin was late for meetings with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Pope Francis, among many others.

In 2014, he was hours late for meeting German Chancellor Angela Merkel, after his previous stop in Serbia lasted longer than usual.

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Often seen as a trick to throw his interlocutors off balance, Putin's tardy ways appear to be more of a personal trait than a well-calculated strategy.

12:45 p.m.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman says he hopes the summit with President Donald Trump is a "baby step" toward fixing exceptionally bad U.S.-Russian relations.

Ahead of Monday's meeting, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told broadcaster RT that the men had no strict agenda but recognize their "special responsibility" for global stability.

He said European countries shouldn't be worried about a possible U.S.-Russian rapprochement or decisions about Europe made "over the heads of Europeans."

Peskov said the Russian leader respects Trump's "America first" stance because Putin puts Russia first, but said the only way to make progress at the summit is if both sides are open to finding areas of mutual benefit.

Russian officials say Putin is expected to reiterate denials of meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign.

12:35 p.m.

U.S. first lady Melania Trump says she and her Finnish counterpart had a "good conversation about issues facing our nations."

Mrs. Trump says in a tweet that she enjoyed Monday's talk, adding "Thank you to @JenniHaukio for hosting me!"

Haukio is the wife of Sauli Niinistö (SAW-lee KNEE-nes-tuh), the president of Finland, which is welcoming Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin of Russia for a summit.

The first ladies met separately over breakfast while their husbands held talks.

Meanwhile, the Finnish tabloid Iltalehti took the American first lady to task with a front-page photo tweaking her for an alleged "breach of etiquette" because she walked off of Air Force One in front of President Trump after they landed at the airport in Helsinki on Sunday night.

12:05 p.m.

Finland's biggest newspaper has a message for Presidents Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin: Respect a free press.

Daily Helsingin Sanomat has placed advertisements around Helsinki alluding to Finland's reputation as a hub for a free press. The advocacy group Reporters Without Borders has regularly ranked Finland among the top in its "Press Freedom Index" — including the No. 1 spot two years ago.

The Russian in one of the black and white ads translates to: "Unpleasant things will happen to journalists who ask Putin questions."

An English version for Trump said: "Mr. President, welcome to the land of free press."

Trump regularly berates some news outlets as purveyors of "fake news." Putin is regarded as creating a culture of violence that has led to the killing of some Russian journalists.

11:40 a.m.

The European Union's foreign policy chief says the United States has remained a "friend" of the 28-nation bloc and said "a change in the administration does not change the friendship between countries and peoples."

On Sunday, President Donald Trump named the European Union as a top adversary of the United States, saying "the European Union is a foe, what they do to us in trade." He added that "you wouldn't think of the European Union, but they're a foe."

The EU's Federica Mogherini (feh-deh-REE'-kah moh-gehr-EE'-nee) says ahead of Monday's meeting of EU foreign ministers that "for sure, we consider the United States friends, partners - close friends and

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partners. We will always do that.”

Trump is meeting with Russia’s Vladimir Putin in Helsinki on Monday.

10:15 a.m.

President Donald Trump says his upcoming meeting with Russia’s Vladimir Putin will go “fine.”

Trump made the brief prediction Monday at a breakfast at Finland’s presidential residence in Helsinki.

He was meeting with Finland’s President Sauli Niinistö (SAW-lee KNEE-nes-tuh) in the hours before his highly anticipated summit with Putin.

Trump thanked his Finnish counterpart for hosting the summit in Helsinki and spoke of his commitment to NATO.

Trump was a destabilizing presence at NATO earlier in his European trip, torching allies and demanding more defense spending before eventually reaffirming his commitment to the military alliance.

NATO at its heart is a bulwark against Russian aggression. Finland is not a member nation but has a memorandum of understanding with NATO.

Finland has also been the site of previous US-Russia summits.

9:50 a.m.

President Donald Trump is meeting with the Finnish president ahead of his summit with Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Trump has arrived at the the Mäntyniemi Residence in Helsinki, where he and first lady Melania Trump were greeted by President Sauli Niinistö (SAW-lee KNEE-nes-tuh) and his wife.

The leaders were seen surveying the view from a small balcony before sitting down for breakfast.

Trump will then be returning to his hotel before heading to the presidential palace for his highly anticipated talks with Putin.

Finland has a long legacy of hosting U.S.-Soviet and U.S.-Russian summits due to its geographic location and perceived neutrality.

9:45 a.m.

President Donald Trump is no fan of American journalists, but might love what the Russian media are saying about him ahead of his meeting with Russian Vladimir Putin.

Russia’s largely Kremlin-friendly TV networks, websites and newspapers portrayed Trump as a political maverick who is being unfairly targeted by his own compatriots.

Newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda dismissed the U.S. investigation into Trump’s “mythical work for the Kremlin,” and praised Trump for meeting Putin “despite opposition from his own elite and the hysterics of the media.”

Commentators on popular Sunday night talk show “Vecher” or “Evening” said Putin goes into Monday’s summit in Helsinki as the stronger figure, notably coming off his hosting of the World Cup.

They brushed off new indictments of Russians accused of hacking the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign.

9:20 a.m.

President Donald Trump says the U.S. relationship with Russia “has NEVER been worse” as he prepares for a high-stakes summit Monday with Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Trump in a tweet is blaming the hostilities on “many years of U.S. foolishness and stupidity and now, the Rigged Witch Hunt!”

That’s Trump’s favorite derogatory term for the special counsel investigation into Russian election meddling and possible ties to his campaign that has already led to a slew of indictments, including of a dozen Russian intelligence officers last week.

Trump is also once again blaming his predecessor, Barack Obama, for failing to stop Russia’s efforts in the 2016 election.

He says Obama “thought that Crooked Hillary was going to win the election,” so he did “NOTHING” about

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it when informed by the FBI.

9:05 a.m.

President Donald Trump is claiming credit for bolstering NATO as he heads into a day of meetings with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Trump rocked a NATO summit last week when he lambasted members for failing to meet defense spending pledges and questioned the value of the alliance before doing a 180 and embracing it.

But Trump says in a tweet that he's received "many calls from leaders of NATO countries" thanking him for helping "to get them focused on financial obligations, both present & future."

Trump says, "We had a truly great Summit" and claims it was "inaccurately covered by much of the media."

Foreign policy observers will be watching to see whether Trump has kinder words for Putin in Helsinki than he did for NATO leaders in Brussels.

7:50 a.m.

European Council President Donald Tusk has urged President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and China to work with Europe to avoid trade wars and prevent conflict and chaos.

Tusk was speaking Monday in Beijing at the opening of a summit between China and the European Union. He noted that Trump and Putin's summit in Helsinki would take place on the same day in Helsinki.

Of the summit, Tusk said: "We are all aware of the fact that the architecture of the world is changing before our very eyes and it is our common responsibility to make it a change for the better."

Tusk said Europe, China, the U.S. and Russia had a "common duty" not to destroy the global order but to improve it by reforming international trade rules.

7:10 a.m.

President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin are ready to go one-on-one in Finland.

Their summit Monday in Helsinki will play out against a backdrop of fraying Western alliances, the investigation into Russian election meddling and fears that Moscow's aggression may go unpunished.

The meeting was condemned in advance by an assortment of members of Congress from both parties after the U.S. indictment last week of 12 Russians accused of hacking Democrats in the 2016 election to help Trump.

Undeterred, the American president is set to go face-to-face with Putin, the authoritarian leader for whom he has expressed admiration.

Questions are swirling about whether Trump will sharply rebuke his Russian counterpart for the election meddling that prompted a special counsel probe.

Trump arrives to go 1-on-1 with Putin at Helsinki summit

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JILL COLVIN and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin arrived Monday at Helsinki's presidential palace for a long-awaited summit, hours after Trump blamed the United States, and not Russian election meddling or its annexation of Crimea, for a low-point in U.S.-Russia relations

The drama was playing out against a backdrop of fraying Western alliances, a new peak in the Russia investigation and fears that Moscow's aggression may go unchallenged.

"Our relationship with Russia has NEVER been worse," Trump tweeted Monday morning, blaming "many years of U.S. foolishness and stupidity and now, the Riggged Witch Hunt!"

The summit, which was being closely watched by rattled world capitals, was condemned in advance by members of Congress from both parties after the U.S. indictment last week of 12 Russian military intelligence officers accused of hacking Democrats in the 2016 election to help Trump's presidential campaign. Undeterred, the American president was set to go face to face with Putin, the authoritarian leader for

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whom he has expressed admiration.

Trump was greeted at the palace by Finland's president. The summit was starting later than scheduled because Putin arrived in Helsinki about a half hour late in another display of the Russian's leader famous lack of punctuality. Trump seemed to return the favor by waiting until Putin had arrived at the palace before leaving his hotel. Putin has been late for past meetings with the pope and British Queen, among many others.

Trump and his aides have repeatedly tried to lower expectations about what the summit will achieve. He told CBS News that he didn't "expect anything" from Putin, while his national security adviser said the U.S. wasn't looking for any "concrete deliverables." Trump told reporters during a breakfast Monday with Finland's president that he thought the summit would go "fine."

The meeting comes as questions swirl about whether Trump will sharply and publicly rebuke his Russian counterpart for the election meddling that prompted a special counsel probe that Trump has repeatedly labeled a "witch hunt."

In his tweets, Trump continued to undermine the investigation and blamed his predecessor, Barack Obama, for failing to stop Russia's efforts to sway the 2016 election in Trump's favor. He claimed Obama "was informed by the FBI about Russian Meddling, he said it couldn't happen, was no big deal, & did NOTHING about it."

The Obama administration did, in fact, take action, including confronting Putin in person as well as expelling nearly three dozen Russian diplomats the U.S. said were actually intelligence operatives and imposing new sanctions.

While Trump was eager for a made-for-TV moment that will dominate headlines like his sit-down with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last month, the Kremlin's primary mission was simply to have the summit happen. Putin hopes the meeting, mere hours after he presided over the World Cup finals, will help him forge good personal ties with Trump and focus on areas where Moscow and Washington may be able to find common ground, such as Syria.

The two leaders first meet one on one in the Finnish presidential palace's opulent Gothic Hall, then continue their discussions with an expanded group of aides and over lunch in the Hall of Mirrors, once the emperor's throne room. The leaders will conclude by taking questions at a joint news conference.

Observers have raised concerns about the fact that the leaders will be alone during their first meeting, but for a pair of interpreters, meaning there will be no corroborating witnesses to accurately represent what was said during the conversation.

Putin will likely not be shooting for official recognition of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea or easing of the crippling U.S. sanctions, aware that the U.S. Congress would never allow such action. But he would welcome a symbolic end to Western protests over Crimea and Moscow's attempts to destabilize elections and traditional Western alliances and norms.

Trump unleashed his own attacks on those very institutions before arriving in Finland.

In an interview with CBS News that aired Sunday, Trump described the European Union, a bloc of nations that includes many of America's closest allies, as a "foe."

That attack on the alliance came on the heels of Trump's jarring appearance at a NATO summit in Brussels, where he harshly criticized traditional allies over "delinquent" defense spending only to later confirm his commitment to the military alliance that has long been a bulwark against Russian aggression.

"NATO is now strong & rich!" Trump wrote in a celebratory tweet Monday morning. During his breakfast, he said NATO had "never been more together" and said the summit had been "a little bit tough at the beginning, but it turned out to be love."

Prior to meeting Putin, who has cracked down on the free press, Trump unleashed fresh attacks on the news media, including from aboard Air Force One as it descended into Helsinki.

"Unfortunately, no matter how well I do at the Summit, if I was given the great city of Moscow as retribution for all of the sins and evils committed by Russia over the years, I would return to criticism that it wasn't good enough - that I should have gotten Saint Petersburg in addition!" Trump tweeted. "Much of our news media is indeed the enemy of the people and all the Dems know how to do is resist and obstruct!"

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"Russia has done nothing to deserve us meeting them in this way," said Nina Jankowicz, a global fellow at the Wilson Center's Kennan Institute who specializes in Russia, Ukraine and disinformation. For Putin, she added, "not only is this a P.R. coup no matter what happens, Trump could say nothing and it would help to legitimize his regime."

Hovering over Helsinki is the specter of the 2016 election interference and ongoing special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible collusion between Trump campaign officials and Russia.

Trump said in Britain last week — another chaotic stop on his European tour — that he would raise the issue of election meddling with Putin even as he played down its impact.

"I don't think you'll have any 'Gee, I did it. I did it. You got me,'" said Trump, 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."

Trump also said in the CBS interview that he had given no thought to asking Putin to extradite the dozen Russian military intelligence officers indicted this past week in on charges related to the hacking of Democratic targets.

But after being asked about that by his interviewer, Trump said "certainly I'll be asking about it" although extradition is highly unlikely. The U.S. doesn't have an extradition treaty with Moscow and can't force the Russians to hand over citizens. Russia's constitution also prohibits turning over citizens to foreign governments.

Putin is likely to strongly reaffirm his denial of any meddling and cast the U.S. charges as unfounded.

The Russian Foreign Ministry rejected last week's indictment as part of a "shameful comedy" staged by those in the U.S. who try to prevent the normalization of Russia-U.S. ties, arguing that it doesn't contain evidence to back the accusations.

On Syria, a possible deal could see Moscow helping mediate the withdrawal of Iranian forces and their Hezbollah proxies from the areas alongside Syria's border with Israel — a diplomatic coup that would reflect Russia's carefully cultivated ties with both Israel and Iran.

While both Putin and Trump spoke about the need to discuss arms control issues, they are unlikely to make any quick deals. They may underline the importance of continuing the discussions, setting the stage for discussions on expert level.

Associated Press writers Zeke miller, Ken Thomas and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

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EU official urges Trump, Putin not to destroy global order

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — A senior European official on Monday urged U.S. President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and China to work with Europe to avoid trade wars and prevent conflict and chaos.

Speaking before Trump and Putin were due to meet in Helsinki, European Council President Donald Tusk appealed for leaders to avoid wrecking a political and economic order that nurtured a peaceful Europe and developing China.

Tusk spoke at a news conference with China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang, following an annual EU-Chinese economic summit also attended by the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. They met amid mounting acrimony over Trump's tariff hikes on goods from China, Europe and other trading partners.

"It is the common duty of Europe and China, America and Russia, not to destroy this order but to improve it, not to start trade wars which turn into hot conflict so often in our history," said Tusk, a former Polish prime minister.

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Tusk appealed to governments to “bravely and responsibly” reform the World Trade Organization, the global trade regulator, by updating its rules to address technology policy and state-owned industries — areas in which Beijing has conflicts with its trading partners. Trump has criticized the WTO as outdated and has gone outside the body to impose import controls, prompting warnings he was undermining the global system.

“There is still time to prevent conflict and chaos,” said Tusk. “Today, we are facing a dilemma — whether to play a tough game such as tariff wars and conflict in places like Ukraine and Syria, or to look for common solutions based on fair rules.”

Last week, Tusk lambasted Trump’s criticism of European allies and urged him to remember who his friends are when he met Putin.

Other governments have criticized Trump for going outside the WTO when he imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese goods. That was in response to complaints Beijing is hurting American companies by stealing or pressuring enterprises to hand over technology.

Trump strained relations with allies by imposing tariff hikes on steel and aluminum from Canada, Mexico and the European Union. The 28-country European trade bloc responded with import taxes on \$3.25 billion of U.S. goods.

Li, the premier, said China and the EU agreed to take steps to “safeguard free trade” and the global multilateral regulatory system.

“Given the complicated and fluid international landscape, it is important for China and the EU to uphold multilateralism,” said Li.

The premier repeated official promises to open China’s markets wider but didn’t directly address complaints about industrial policy or investment barriers the United States, EU and other trading partners say violate its free-trade commitments.

Beijing has tried, so far without success, to recruit European support in its dispute with Washington. European leaders have criticized Trump’s tactics but share U.S. criticism of China’s industrial policy and market barriers.

Asked whether China used Monday’s meeting to try to form an alliance with the EU against Washington, Li said the dispute was a bilateral matter for Beijing and the United States to solve.

“Our summit is not directed at any third party,” said Li.

The EU and China announced plans June 25 to form a group to work on updating WTO rules.

They gave no time line and private sector analysts expressed skepticism Beijing would agree to rules that might hamper its plans to develop Chinese champions in technology and other industries.

Li has appealed to visiting European leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel in May by saying their companies were welcome to invest.

An EU report last month said Beijing imposed more new import and investment barriers in 2017 than any other government.

Chinese leaders have tried to defuse foreign pressure by promising foreign companies better treatment without changing their industrial development strategies.

On Monday, reporters were invited to watch part of a meeting between Li, the premier, and executives of European companies including Airbus and BMW AG in an apparent show of openness.

Li assured the companies Beijing would protect patents and copyrights. When a BMW executive said joint a German-Chinese agreement this month to cooperate in developing intelligent vehicles would benefit from the early release of standards by Beijing for the technology, Li asked whether he was concerned joint formulation of those standards would undermine his company’s intellectual property. The executive said no.

“I want to hear if any big company here would like to make a complaint here on the theft of intellectual property,” said the premier. “I don’t know where my measure should target at if you don’t let me know.”

None of the executives raised concerns about intellectual property during the portion of the meeting reporters were allowed to see.

AP Analysis: Billionaires fuel powerful state charter groups

By SALLY HO, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Dollar for dollar, the beleaguered movement to bring charter schools to Washington state has had no bigger champion than billionaire Bill Gates.

The Microsoft co-founder gave millions of dollars to see a charter school law approved despite multiple failed ballot referendums. And his private foundation not only helped create the Washington State Charter Schools Association, but has at times contributed what amounts to an entire year's worth of revenues for the 5-year-old charter advocacy group.

All told, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given about \$25 million to the charter group that is credited with keeping the charter schools open after the state struck down the law, and then lobbying legislators to revive the privately run, publicly funded schools.

It's an extreme example of how billionaires are influencing state education policy by giving money to state-level charter support organizations to sustain, defend and expand the charter schools movement across the country.

Since 2006, philanthropists and their private foundations and charities have given almost half a billion dollars to those groups, according to an Associated Press analysis of tax filings and Foundation Center data. The review looked at 52 groups noted by a U.S. Department of Education website as official charter school resources in the 44 states plus Washington, D.C., that currently have a charter law, as well as the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Most of the money has gone to the top 15 groups, which received \$425 million from philanthropy. The Walton Family Foundation, run by the heirs to the Walmart fortune, is the largest donor to the state charter advocates, giving \$144 million to 27 groups.

"We ought to be paying more attention to who these organizations are, and what kind of vision they have, and what drives them. A lot of these organizations have extraordinary influence, and it's often pretty quiet influence," said Jon Valant, an education policy expert at Brookings.

Charters aren't subject to the same rules or standards governing traditional public schools but are embraced by Gates and other philanthropists who see them as investments in developing better and different ways to educate those who struggle in traditional school systems, particularly children in poor, urban areas. Studies on academic success are mixed.

The charter support groups, as nonprofits, are typically forbidden from involvement in political campaigns, but the same wealthy donors who sustain them in many cases directly channel support to pro-charter candidates through related political action committees or their own contributions. In one indication of the philanthropy's success in asserting its priorities, Georgia's lieutenant governor was recorded saying he was motivated to support school choice laws to curry the Walton foundation's favor for his gubernatorial campaign. The Walton family has denied any connection to the candidate.

Nationwide, about 5 percent of students attend charters. They have become a polarizing political issue amid criticism from some, notably teachers unions, that they drain resources from cash-starved schools and erode the neighborhood schooling model that defines communities.

The Walton foundation notes the groups it funds have resources that often pale in comparison to the war chests of teachers unions, the usual foes in their battles over state education policy.

"The philanthropic support is essential for a small group of schools" that represents disadvantage families without their own political power, said Robin Lake, director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education, a University of Washington-affiliated think tank that has in the past been funded by the Gates foundation to do work supporting charter schools.

But John Rogers, an education policy expert and UCLA professor, said it's a problem for democracy that billionaires who back a certain model of education reform can go toe-to-toe with a critical mass of professional teachers.

"A handful of billionaires who are advancing their vision of education reform is very different than having 200,000-some odd teachers across the state representing their understanding of public education through

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their union representation," Rogers said.

In California, the Waltons are the biggest backers of the powerhouse California Charter School Association, which has gotten more than \$100 million since 2006 with support coming also from Gates, Michael and Susan Dell and the Mark Zuckerberg-backed Silicon Valley Community foundations.

"We're proud of our partners and very open about our desired outcomes, and that is, honestly, access to more better schools," said Marc Sternberg, who leads the Walton foundation's education program.

Sternberg said the foundation doesn't set the agenda but wants to empower the local vision, which has included the charter association's fight for more money and access to public school buildings through lawsuits against Los Angeles Unified, the country's second-largest school district. The California charter group said it works aggressively when painted into a corner.

A political arm of the association also has been a force in Golden State politics. It's now focusing on pushing pro-charter candidates in the November election, including former charter schools executive Marshall Tuck for state schools superintendent, and a number of legislative seats.

In Washington state, charter skeptics say Gates single-handedly propped up the entire charter school network. He gave at least \$4 million to help pass a state charter school law, though the concept had failed three times at the ballot. Voters eventually approved a charter school law in 2012, making Washington one of the last states to adopt the schooling model.

After the state's highest court ruled in 2015 that the charter law's funding model was unconstitutional, the Gates-backed state charter group shepherded almost \$5 million to keep the lights on at six charter schools and urged legislators to pass a new law. In 2016, its political arm called Washington Charters Action was created, and an affiliated political action committee has already given small amounts to dozens of state lawmakers up for election this fall.

Today, the state's teachers union is challenging the second version of the law. The Washington Educators Association's spokesman Rich Wood said the charter group inserted itself into the case after the union sued the state.

The Washington charter group — and all the charter schools in the state — wouldn't agree to be interviewed. The Gates foundation said in a statement it is not involved with the lawsuit but values the association's technical work helping charter schools blossom.

Some critics say money can define the advocacy itself, so not all charter support groups accept money from the billionaire philanthropists.

A second statewide charter support organization in California, the Charter Schools Development Center, relies on programming fees to preserve its independence, according to director Eric Premack.

Though the two California charter groups share many similar values, Premack said, they're on different sides of the testing issue: how to and how much to use test scores to determine educational quality. Premack said he rejects test-based accountability — embraced by the California Charter Schools Association and many of its business mogul donors — as antithetical to the charter movement's innovative spirit.

"You often find them being close political bedfellows — if not the same — who support high-stakes testing," Premack said.

Associated Press journalist Larry Fenn contributed from New York.

Follow AP Education Reporter Sally Ho on Twitter: https://twitter.com/_SallyHo

Deadly fire shuts down key route to Yosemite National Park

MARIPOSA, Calif. (AP) — A wildfire that killed a California firefighter grew quickly and forced the closure of a key route into Yosemite National Park as crews contended with sweltering conditions Sunday, authorities said.

The so-called Ferguson Fire that broke out Friday scorched nearly 7 square miles (18 square kilometers) of dry brush along steep, remote hillsides on the park's western edge. It was burning largely out of control,

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and officials shut off electricity to many areas, including Yosemite Valley, as a safety precaution.

Guests were ordered to leave Yosemite Cedar Lodge on Saturday as flames crept up slopes and the air became thick with smoke.

"You can't see anything, it's so smoky outside. It's crazy," said front desk clerk Spencer Arebalo, one of a handful of employees who stayed behind at the popular hotel inside the park.

He said it was surreal to see the property empty at the height of tourist season.

"We're counting on being closed at least one more day," Arebalo said.

Evacuations also were ordered in rural communities just outside the park, and people in nearby lodges and motels were told to be ready to leave if flames approach. A stretch of State Route 140 into Yosemite was closed, and motorists were urged to find alternate routes.

Temperatures spiking to 95 degrees (35 Celsius) and inaccessible terrain were making it difficult for crews to slow the flames, U.S. Forest Service fire Capt. Mike Seymour said.

Heavy fire equipment operator Braden Varney, 36, died early Saturday on the fire line, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. Varney was driving a bulldozer to create a gap in vegetation to keep the flames from extending into a nearby community, according to Cal Fire Fire Chief Nancy Koerperich.

Varney's body likely won't be retrieved until Monday at the earliest because it's in a "precarious location" and conditions were too dangerous over the weekend, Cal Fire Deputy Chief Scott McLean said.

The wildfire is one of several burning across the state and among 56 large blazes that are active in the U.S., most in the American West, a region that is struggling with drought and heat.

A blaze near the California-Oregon border that killed a 72-year-old resident and injured three firefighters was almost entirely contained after burning more than 60 square miles (155 square kilometers) of dry brush.

Crews got full control over a stubborn fire that scorched 142 square miles (368 square kilometers) of brush and destroyed 20 structures in Yolo and Napa counties. Investigators said an electric livestock fence that was improperly installed sparked the flames.

In the fire near Yosemite, investigators were trying to find out more details about Varney's death Saturday, but they believe he was working his way out of the fire area when he was killed, Koerperich said.

"This certainly is going to be devastating to his family and those of us who call him family here with Cal Fire," she said.

Varney had worked for Cal Fire for 10 years. His father also worked as a Cal Fire heavy equipment operator. He is survived by his wife, Jessica; daughter Malhea, 5; and son Nolan, 3.

Gov. Jerry Brown ordered flags at the California Capitol to be flown at half-staff to honor "a man who dedicated his life to protecting his fellow Californians."

Jared Kushner's family firm accused of pushing out tenants

By **BERNARD CONDON** and **GARANACE BURKE**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The hammering and drilling began just months after Jared Kushner's family real estate firm bought a converted warehouse apartment building in the hip, Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Tenants say it started early in the morning and went on until nightfall, so loud that it drowned out normal conversation, so violent it rattled pictures off the walls. So much dust wafted through ducts and under doorways that it coated beds and clothes in closets. Rats crawled through holes in the walls. Workers with passkeys barged in unannounced. Residents who begged for relief got a standard reply, "We have permits."

More than a dozen current and former residents of the building told The Associated Press that they believe the Kushner Cos.' relentless construction, along with rent hikes of \$500 a month or more, was part of a campaign to push tenants out of rent-stabilized apartments and bring high-paying condo buyers in.

If so, it was a remarkably successful campaign. An AP investigation found that over the past three years, more than 250 rent-stabilized apartments — 75 percent of the building — were either emptied or sold as the Kushner Cos. was converting the building to luxury condos. Those sales so far have totaled more than \$155 million, an average of \$1.2 million per apartment.

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"They won, they succeeded," says Barth Bazyluk, who left apartment C606 with his wife and baby daughter in December. "You have to be ignorant or dumb to think this wasn't deliberate."

This up-close look at one of the Kushner Cos.' largest residential buildings in New York illustrates what critics describe as the firm's sharp-elbowed business practices while it was run by President Donald Trump's son-in-law and eventual White House adviser Jared Kushner.

The Kushner Cos. told the AP that it didn't harass any tenants to get them out. But the data suggest turnover at the building known as the Austin Nichols House was significantly higher than city averages for coveted rent-stabilized buildings, leaving behind a trail of anger, disrupted lives and a lawsuit to be filed Monday in which tenants say they were harassed and exposed to high levels of cancer-causing dust.

"We've looked into hundreds of rent-stabilized buildings and this is one of the worst we've ever seen," says Aaron Carr, head of tenant watchdog Housing Rights Initiative, whose investigation led to the pending lawsuit. "The scale and speed of tenants leaving, the conditions to which they were exposed, provides a window into the Kushner Cos.' predatory business model."

In a statement, the Kushner Cos. acknowledged it received some complaints about construction during major renovations, which ended in December 2017, but said that it responded to them immediately and that "tremendous care was taken to prevent dust and inconvenience to tenants."

It said many tenants moved out when their rent was increased to the maximum allowed under rent-stabilization rules.

Those rules limit the amount that landlords can hike rent each year to protect tenants from getting pushed out, though in this building the rents weren't cheap, with one-bedrooms going for more than \$3,000 a month.

Also, the city's building department says it sent inspectors to the building dozens of times since 2015 and uncovered no evidence that construction rules were being violated, a finding that some residents say doesn't square with their experiences.

The landmarked Austin Nichols House at 184 Kent Avenue, for decades a warehouse for groceries and Wild Turkey bourbon, was gutted by a previous owner in 2010 to create sleek apartments that took advantage of the building's high ceilings and waterfront views.

When Jared Kushner and two partners bought it for \$275 million in April 2015, they made it clear they wanted to convert the building's 338 apartments — all of them rent-stabilized — into condos. All but nine were occupied, and other than maxing out the rent, developers had few tools if they wanted to get tenants out.

Just months after the purchase, the Kushners began extensive renovations, ripping out appliances, floors and countertops that had been installed five years before.

"There were consistently people in the hallway early, 8 or so, banging on things, taking down walls. There was lots of dust. ... They had fans, and they were blowing dust under the doors," says tech salesman Marcus Carvalho, who left the building in December after six years, deciding the \$1,000 or so increase in rent to renew his lease wasn't worth it. "I didn't want to spend another minute in that construction zone."

His 679-square-foot (63-square-meter), one-room apartment, B502, sold the next month for \$800,000.

A few weeks after Carvalho left, the woman in C405 couldn't take the noise anymore either.

"It's like having a root canal without the physical pain. ... It was drilling from every direction," says Jane Coxwell, a chef who works late nights and writes at home during the day. "It was impossible to take a call. You could never sit and read a book or get any work done."

Then came the rats, including one she accosted with a tennis racket as it teetered on a curtain rod in her bathroom. She also had to contend with a flood after workers hit a pipe in the unit above her and with the constant fear workers would burst into her apartment at any moment after two with passkeys tried to do just that, once while she was in her underwear.

Coxwell says she sent dozens of emails to Kushner managers for more than a year asking for help, but got little relief.

One particularly noisy day she finally broke down, walked up to a construction manager and worker standing near her door and found herself forcing the words out through tears.

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"I understand you have to work, but I don't know how to ask anymore," she pleaded. "Please, please, can you keep it down?"

She says the men just laughed.

Much of the work was done in 2016, and then the Kushners went on a selling spree. In 2017 alone, the company sold 99 apartments in the building, according to Jared Kushner's federal financial disclosure forms. Brokerage data show an additional 16 apartments sold by early March 2018. That same month Kushner Cos. had 151 vacant apartments in the building, according to a court document.

The Kushner Cos. refused to confirm the numbers.

At the height of the construction, tenants fought back with three dozen complaints to the city's 311 hotline about work after hours, banging and pounding, falling debris and rodents.

After people complained about dust, Kushner Cos. put plastic sheeting around doorways, though many say it didn't help much. And after they complained about workers entering their apartments without permission, the company eventually posted guards in hallways.

"The banner says 'Luxury Waterfront Homes For Sale,'" says Jeff Werner, a banker who's lived in the building for eight years. "It doesn't advertise 'Live in a Construction Zone with White Toxic Dust Blowing.'"

Dust samples taken from nine apartments in May by consultants Olmsted Environmental Services turned up dangerously high levels of lead and crystalline silica. Breathing in tiny silica particles has been linked to lung cancer, liver disease and an incurable swelling of the lungs.

A draft of the pending \$10 million lawsuit alleges Kushner Cos. and its partners attempted to push tenants out by creating unlivable conditions with construction noise and dust in violation of state and city rules and laws. It also alleges the Kushners, by failing to take proper precautions, exposed residents to a "cloud of toxic smoke and dust."

The Kushner Cos. disputed the findings of the environmental report, alleging it appeared to be an updated version of a report prepared several years ago. The company didn't immediately respond when asked for comment about the lawsuit.

Ronan Conroy says he complained to the Kushners several times, walking down to the sales office once to confront management in person.

"Your strategy is to get people out, right?" Conroy recalls asking a staffer at the desk. He says the man basically shrugged, offered no dispute, then said, "We can let you out of your lease."

Frustrated and facing a big rent hike, Conroy left in early 2016.

"My strong impression is they made the building as unlivable as possible so they could get everyone out of there."

Burke reported from San Francisco. AP researchers Jennifer Farrar and Randy Herschaft contributed to this report.

Prime time: A day of deals at Amazon, and at its rivals

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is extending its annual "Prime Day" promotion to 36 hours this year and will try to lure more deal-seekers to the aisles of Whole Foods. Shoppers will have plenty of sales to choose from as other retailers offer promotions to try to take a share of the spending.

This year's sales event, which starts Monday afternoon, will be six hours longer than last year's and will launch new products. Amazon hopes to keep Prime attractive for current and would-be subscribers after raising the annual membership fee by 20 percent to \$119 and to \$12.99 for the month-to-month option.

Making Prime Day last even longer "ratchets up the pressure on all of retail" to roll out heavy promotions "in hopes of attracting shoppers and dollars," said Charlie O'Shea, lead retail analyst at Moody's. Macy's, for instance, was promoting a "Black Friday in July" event, and eBay kicked off more than a hundred deals.

Prime Day, created by Amazon.com Inc. in 2015 to mark its 20th anniversary, has inspired other e-commerce companies to invent their own shopping holidays. Online furniture seller Wayfair introduced Way Day in April, becoming its biggest revenue day ever. While Prime Day brings in more revenue for Amazon,

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too, it also helps boost its Prime memberships. It had more sign-ups during 2017's event than any other day in the company's history, Amazon said at the time, without providing specific numbers.

Here's a look at what's happening this year:

WHOLE FOODS IN THE MIX: The Seattle-based company is offering Prime members who spend \$10 at Whole Foods from July 11-17 a \$10 Amazon credit to use on Prime Day. And at its more than a dozen Amazon Books stores, discounts will expand beyond devices.

IT'S LONGER: After extending the daylong event to 30 hours in 2017, this year's Prime Day will be 36 hours long, starting at 3 p.m. ET Monday.

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

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

BACK TO SCHOOL: The company is making a big push in school supplies for Prime Day. It says customers bought more pencils, pens, notebooks, glue sticks, lunchboxes and backpacks on Prime Day last year than any other day of the year.

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

With flags, song, pride, French celebrate unifying victory

By **ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — It was a victory for all of France and the home crowd did it justice, pouring into Paris' Champs-Elysees Avenue by the tens of thousands to celebrate in an explosion of joy.

France's 4-2 win over Croatia in the World Cup final in Moscow on Sunday marked the second time in 20 years that France has won the World Cup, and came at a time when the people feel needy.

"It represents enormous things," said Goffrey Hamsik, dressed in a hat resembling a rooster — the French national symbol — and a shirt with the No. 10 for Kylian Mppape, the 19-year-old breakout star who hails from the Paris suburb of Bondy.

"We've had lots of problems in France these past years," he said, recalling deadly terror attacks. "This is good for the morale ... Here, we are all united. We mix. There is no religion, there is nothing, and that's what feels good."

Troublemakers marred some of the festivities at the top of the Champs-Elysees, breaking the window of a major store, throwing bottles, temporary barriers and even a bicycle at riot police as the celebrations wound down close to midnight. Police responded with water cannon and tear gas. BFM-TV reported that the store was pillaged.

Earlier, people wrapped in flags and dressed in crazy hats, and one man spotted totally nude except for the Tricolor, marched down the avenue where France displayed its military might a day earlier for Bastille Day.

Revelers set off smoke bombs in the national colors — blue, white and red — obscuring Napoleon's triumphal arch. People climbed atop every newspaper kiosk and bus stop in the area to wave flags and lead the crowds below in cheers. The national anthem, the Marseillaise, rang out, cars honked horns and cherry bombs cracks.

A young man sprayed a fire extinguisher on the crowd on a late hot afternoon.

Hundreds of police in riot gear were discretely lined up on side streets to monitor revelers. Typically, celebrations in France end up with some broken shop windows and other destruction, and Sunday was no exception. Tear gas was lobbed at one point on the Champs-Elysees. About 4,000 police watched over the fan zone — packed to its 90,000 capacity — during the match, then moved to the Champs-Elysees

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and neighboring streets.

As night fell, The Eiffel Tower flashed 1998-2018 to mark France's two World Cup titles.

The Arc de Triomphe was awash in the national colors, lit with the rooster, the faces of the winning team and the words "Proud to be Blue," or French.

The celebrations were spread across the nation.

For all the crazy antics — and some revelers who got out of control — a sense of patriotism and unity was almost visceral.

Antoine Griezmann, the France striker who scored one of the goal's Sunday, told a news conference two days before the final, televised on BFM TV, that pride in country is in short supply.

"We say it so little ... We should be proud to be French," Griezmann said.

Mahmoud Bourassi was among those taking a longer-term view and he had some sobering thoughts about France's run to the title and the festivities it has sparked.

Bourassi runs a youth center in Bondy — Mbappe's home that was among those scarred by riots in 2005 that exposed the fissures of France that have yet to heal — and he knows the teenage star of the tournament.

"All this euphoria and effervescence, it's positive but it's emotional and ephemeral," he said ahead of France's win. Bourassi said sports is a "catalyst to bring people and nations together."

But, he added, it must be built on.

"What we're seeing is magic, exceptional. But what are we going to do with it tomorrow?"

That is a question for President Emmanuel Macron, who was in Moscow celebrating with the team on victory night, and will receive the squad more formally on Monday at the presidential Elysee Palace.

Revelers celebrated the moment.

"We're happy. It took 20 years ... It's the pride of the nation. It unites everyone. It federates," Frederique Pourquet said as she and her friend left the Champs-Elysees.

The win "shows that the French people are consolidated and the work of all France," said Omar Bzi.

Hajar Maghnaoui, of Asnieres, north of Paris, said "It's a way to bring the French people together, and also the world."

John Leicester in Moscow contributed to this report.

Survey of economists: US sales and employment likely to grow

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Business Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Most U.S. business economists expect corporate sales to grow over the next three months and hiring and pay to rise with them.

But a majority of the economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics say the corporate tax cuts that the Trump administration pushed through Congress have yet to affect their plans for hiring or investment. The administration had promoted its tax cuts, which were heavily tilted toward corporations and wealthy individuals, as likely to raise worker pay and promote corporate investment and expansion over time.

The NABE also said a majority of respondents from goods-producing companies said their companies were delaying investment, raising prices or taking other steps in response to the Trump administration's trade conflicts with other nations.

The results of the quarterly survey being released Monday reflect responses from 98 of the NABE's members between June 14 and June 27.

Sixty-eight percent of the business economists said they foresee sales growing over the next three months. And for a fourth straight quarter, a higher proportion of respondents reported rising sales at their companies. All the panelists expect the U.S. economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, to expand over the next 12 months.

Goods producers — a category that includes manufacturers, farmers and construction — are most op-

timistic, with 94 percent saying they expect sales to rise over the next three months.

Fifty-one percent of the economists said wages rose at their companies between April and June, and they expect pay to keep rising over the next three months. It was the first time since the NABE began analyzing such data in 1982 that it has reported such strong wage growth over two quarters. Forty-one percent of respondents said their companies expect to hire in the next three months.

"Labor market conditions are tight, with skilled labor shortages driving firms to raise pay, increase training, and consider additional automation," Sara Rutledge, chair of the NABE's Business Conditions Survey, said in a statement.

Overall, the respondents reported little impact so far from the Trump administration's tariffs against China, the European Union, Canada and Mexico. A majority — 65 percent — said the trade disputes haven't led their companies to change hiring, investing or pricing so far.

But among goods-producing companies — which are directly affected by the tariffs and the counter-tariffs by America's trading partners — a majority said they had made one or more such changes. Twenty-six percent of the goods-producing companies said they had delayed investments, and 16 percent said they had raised prices.

Man killed by Chicago police ran away, reached for waist

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A man killed by Chicago police had a gun in a holster at his hip and was shot multiple times as he ran away, spun around and reached toward his waist, footage released Sunday from an officer's body-worn camera shows.

Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said it's the quickest he has ever ordered such video released and that he hoped to dispel rumors that Harith Augustus, 37, was unarmed. He also hoped that making the 30-second clip public would prevent another violent confrontation between residents and officers.

Protesters angry about the killing took to the streets Saturday in a city that's struggled with police shootings, especially against black men and other minorities. Some threw rocks and bottles at officers — including ones filled with urine — and police pulled people to the ground and hit them with batons.

"The community needs some answers and they need them now," Johnson told reporters Sunday. "We can't have another night like last night."

He said Augustus' family was in favor of releasing the video for the same reason.

Four protesters were arrested in the clash, and some police officers suffered minor injuries. Two squad cars also were damaged.

A protest and march Sunday after the video's release was calmer, with some demonstrators holding a moment of silence for Augustus, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

It's not fully clear why officers initially approached Augustus. On Saturday, patrol chief Fred Waller said officers patrolling on foot tried to question Augustus over a "bulge around his waistband" that suggested he was armed.

The video, which lacks sound, shows four officers approaching Augustus on Saturday outside a store on the city's South Side. An officer points to Augustus' waist and he backs away. Three officers try to grab his arms and he tries to get away, backing into a police cruiser as his shirt flies up, showing the gun.

The footage pauses and zooms in on the weapon, which police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi on Sunday said was done to ensure a semi-automatic handgun in its holster and two bullet magazines tucked into Augustus' waist could be seen clearly.

Augustus then runs away and into the street as a police SUV drives up. He spins and darts between the SUV and the police cruiser as he reaches toward his waist.

Augustus did not fire his weapon and the footage does not show him pulling the gun out of its holster.

Police also released a 50-second slow-motion clip showing Augustus reaching toward his waist. It's not clear if he was going for the weapon.

Guglielmi said Augustus did appear to try to grab something at his waist.

Johnson would not elaborate on why officers had initially approached Augustus.

Medical examiners said Augustus died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Augustus had no recent arrest history, Guglielmi said, without elaborating. He had a valid firearm owners' identification card but detectives have found no documentation that he had a permit to carry a concealed weapon, Johnson said.

Gloria Rainge, who lives in the area, told the Sun-Times that Augustus — known in the Grand Crossing neighborhood as "Snoop" — worked at a barbershop and had a 5-year-old daughter.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson called the shooting a tragedy and said in a statement that it's a blessing Augustus didn't have his daughter with him Saturday.

The Civilian Office of Police Accountability, which investigates shootings involving officers, said it was analyzing the video and asking anyone who may have captured cellphone footage to share it with the agency.

It was at least the third time in the last two weeks that a Chicago police officer shot someone.

Chicago has a troubled history of police shootings. The city erupted in protest in 2015 after the release of a video showing a white police officer shoot a black 17-year-old, Laquan McDonald, 16 times a year earlier.

The officer, Jason Van Dyke, was charged with murder. McDonald's death led to the ouster of the police chief and a series of reforms meant to prevent future police abuses and to hold officers accountable.

Jackson referenced the case as he called for video into Augustus' shooting to be released.

For breaking news updates: <http://apne.ws/2T6ufJK>

Police: Suspect dead after wounding 3 Kansas City officers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A gunman being investigated in the killing of a university student from India shot and wounded three Kansas City police officers Sunday before dying in an exchange of gunfire with police, authorities said.

The three officers' wounds were not life-threatening, police said.

The suspect, whose name has not been released, had been identified as a person of interest in the slaying of Sharath Koppu and officers had him under surveillance, according to police. Koppu, 25, was a master's degree student from India who was studying at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Koppu was shot on July 6 during an armed robbery at a fast food restaurant in Kansas City where he worked.

Jagdeesh Subramanian, president of the India Association of Kansas City, said the group is grateful to police for pursuing Koppu's shooting diligently and that "there is some closure" with the person of interest's death.

"We are equally disheartened hearing about the three officers who were shot in pursuit," Subramanian said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with them for a speedy recovery."

The man being sought by police in relation to Koppu's death opened fire Sunday afternoon on officers with a semi-automatic "AK-47-type" rifle as they conducted an investigation at a motel less than 2 miles (3 kilometers) from Kauffman Stadium, where the Kansas City Royals baseball team plays, police spokesman Sgt. Jake Becchina told The Associated Press. Two officers were wounded in that gunfire.

Police had been looking for the man all week, Kansas City police Chief Rick Smith told reporters in a video posted online by KCTV .

"This is the first time we laid eyes on him," Smith said.

After shooting the two officers, the man fled in a vehicle with another person, Becchina said. Police took the vehicle and placed the other person in custody, though Becchina said that individual isn't believed to be involved in the fatal robbery or the shootings of the officers.

The gunman remained at large until about an hour or so later, when he opened fire at officers from inside a house where he had barricaded himself a short distance from the motel, police said. A detective was shot.

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"We didn't know he was there. He just popped up all of a sudden," Smith said.

Becchina said about 15 minutes later, the man emerged from the home and again opened fire. Officers fired back, fatally wounding him.

Koppu, the university student who was killed in the shooting that police were investigating, was a software engineer who came from India to the United States in January, according to a GoFundMe page set up by his family. Raghu Chowdavaram, a cousin, told The Kansas City Star newspaper after Koppu's death that Koppu was a "perfect gentleman" who wouldn't hurt anyone.

Subramanian said the robbery and fatal shooting of Koppu appeared random and unfortunately "could have happened to anybody."

Young, joyful France beats Croatia 4-2 to win 2nd World Cup

By GRAHAM DUNBAR, AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Taking turns sliding across the rain-soaked turf holding the World Cup trophy tight, teenager Kylian Mbappe and the rest of France's players acted like the youthful bunch they are.

Nothing, not a Pussy Riot protest nor a postgame downpour that soaked Russian President Vladimir Putin, was going to stop the party.

It carried on long after a thrilling 4-2 win over Croatia on Sunday. In the locker room with French President Emmanuel Macron striking poses with players, then a champagne-spraying, water-splashing interruption of the coach Didier Deschamps' news conference.

"Sorry! They're young and they're happy," said Deschamps, like a proud father.

Deschamps had good reason to indulge them. His team is mostly aged 25 or under and can return almost intact to defend their title in 2022 in Qatar.

"Our children are going to be very proud," forward Antoine Griezmann said. "The World Cup, it's a lot."

The 19-year-old Mbappe became only the second teen after Pele to score in a World Cup final.

Mbappe had just shown his electrifying speed in the 52nd minute when play was held up by four protesters who ran onto the field. Russian punk band Pussy Riot later took credit for the incident — watched from the VIP seats by Putin, whose government once jailed members of the activist group. Charges were filed against the group Sunday, too.

Putin was later on the field to award medals to the players in a ceremony soon drenched in rain and joy. As thunder pealed and lightning cracked, FIFA president Gianni Infantino handed France captain Hugo Lloris the gold World Cup trophy.

Gold confetti stuck to the soaked Les Bleus as they paraded the trophy around the Luzhniki Stadium, a final act of an enthralling tournament in which Croatia reached its first final while powers Brazil, Germany and Argentina went home early.

About 12 minutes after a protester gave Mbappe a double high-five on the field, Mbappe sent a right-footed shot from 25 yards (meters) past goalkeeper Danijel Subasic. The goal put France up 4-1, closing the door on Croatia who had been the better team until Mbappe took control.

The only other teen to score in a World Cup final was Pele, who was 17 when Brazil beat Sweden 5-2 in 1958.

Mbappe, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain in the French league, was born months after France won its only other World Cup title in 1998.

"I have a whole story to write," Mbappe said. "This is just the beginning."

Paul Pogba and Griezmann, France's two other key creative players, also scored. Pogba played a disciplined role in Russia, but his natural joy was evident celebrating his 18-yard (meter) shot, and leading the champagne shower for Deschamps.

But it was Mbappe who put the match out of reach with a furious passage of play in the second half. In the 59th, a run from Mbappe started a play that ended up with Pogba on the edge of the penalty area. With his second attempt, the midfielder curled his shot beyond Subasic.

Griezmann scored from the penalty spot in the 38th minute fully four minutes after his corner kick was

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knocked out of play by Ivan Perisic's arm. The referee ruled it handball only after a video review, just as the first thunders claps boomed around the stadium.

"In a World Cup final, you do not give such a penalty," Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic said.

France took the lead in the 18th when Croatia's tallest outfield player, 1.90-meter (6-foot-3) forward Mario Mandzukic, rose to meet Griezmann's free kick with the top of his head. He deflected it past his own goalkeeper.

Perisic and Mandzukic both scored for Croatia, first to equalize in the 28th minute and later as a consolation goal in the 69th, embarrassing Lloris with a flicked shot as the France goalkeeper tried to dribble the ball out of his goalmouth.

But the three-goal lead was too much for the red-and-white-checkered squad that made a habit of coming back at the World Cup — and played three straight 120-minute games before the final.

"We were dominant, we had control," Dalic said through a translator. "What we've had in terms of luck over the tournament, we lacked that today."

Deschamps became only the third man to win the World Cup as a player and a coach. He joined Mario Zagallo of Brazil and Franz Beckenbauer, who captained West Germany.

France's captain 20 years ago, Deschamps was lifted up by his players on the field and flung into the air several teams and caught. The normally staid coach did a few skipping dance steps in the rain before stopping and laughing at himself.

It was that kind of unbridled evening for the French who won with an exuberance not often seen in a mostly efficient, controlled title run.

Back home in France, tens of thousands of fans headed to the Eiffel Tower to watch a broadcast on giant screens that Paris police closed the area more than two hours before kickoff.

Two years ago at home, France flopped in a European Championship final it was expected to win against Portugal.

"But maybe if we had been European champions we would not be champions today," Deschamps said.

PRESIDENTS' CLUB

Putin watched the game in a VIP section with the presidents of France and Croatia, Emmanuel Macron and Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic.

Macron paced nervously out of his seat during the video review, and kissed his Croatian counterpart on both cheeks to console her after the game. They joined the medal ceremony and both kissed the gold trophy before it got to Lloris.

FINAL GOALS

The two previous finals were 0-0 after 90 minutes before being settled with a single goal deep into extra time.

Three goals in the first half was the most prolific since 1974, when West Germany went into the break up 2-1 against the Netherlands. That was the final score.

The six-goal final was the most since England beat West Germany 4-2 in 1966. It also ensured the 2018 World Cup had only one scoreless game, when France last played at Luzhniki Stadium against Denmark.

More AP World Cup coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/WorldCup>

Syrian government targets rebels near Israel-occupied Golan

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government forces unleashed hundreds of missiles on a rebel-held area near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Sunday, activists said, the latest phase in an offensive to clear southern Syria of insurgents.

The government's push came after it had secured control of most of Daraa province in an offensive that began in June. On Sunday, the first batch of armed fighters and their families left the city of Daraa, the provincial capital, in buses that would take them to the rebel-held Idlib province in the north.

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Similar deals in other parts of Syria resulted in the evacuation of thousands of opposition fighters and civilians — evacuations that the United Nations and rights groups have decried as forced displacement.

Syrian President Bashar Assad said Sunday the success in driving the opposition out of Daraa embodies the will of his army and allied forces to “liberate all of Syrian territories” of “terrorism.”

In recent months and backed by Russian air force, the Syrian government has restored control of over 60 percent of previously rebel-held territory across the country.

Assad spoke during a meeting on Sunday with visiting Iranian foreign ministry’s official Hossein Jaber Ansari. Assad’s office said the two agreed that the “elimination of terrorism in most of the Syrian territory has laid the most appropriate ground to reach results at the political level” that could put an end to Syria’s war.

Syria’s government refers to all armed opposition groups as “terrorists” and accuses the West, Turkey, Israel and regional countries of supporting them.

The statement came a day before President Donald Trump and Russia’s Vladimir Putin are to meet in Finland. Syria is expected to feature highly on the agenda. Russia is a major Assad ally.

In Daraa, the evacuation deal will hand over areas held by the rebels for years back to government control. Daraa, which lies on a highway linking Damascus with Jordan, was the cradle of the 2011 uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Since early Sunday, government forces turned their missiles toward a stretch of land controlled by the armed opposition in northern Daraa and the countryside of adjacent Quneitra.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government forces fired more than 800 missiles at an area between northern Daraa and the Quneitra countryside, about 4 kilometers, or 2.5 miles, from the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The Observatory said government forces advanced on Massharah, a village in Quneitra, and rebels fought back in intense clashes that killed several pro-government fighters. The pro-Syrian government Central Military Media said a number of insurgents were killed in the clashes.

The Observatory reported airstrikes in Massharah, the first in over a year to hit the Quneitra countryside. It also reported airstrikes in a nearby village in northern Daraa, where government forces have been trying to retake a key hill there after failing to reach a deal with the rebels.

Government troops are also seeking to advance on another town to the south through negotiations with rebels there. Capturing Nawa would enable them to advance on militants in the area linked to the Islamic State group.

Daraa activist Abou Mahmoud Hourani said an estimated 400 members of the armed opposition and their families will be evacuated out of Daraa. Syrian state TV al-Ikhbariya said 10 buses carrying 407 people left for northern Syria. The station said the evacuation of nearly 1,000 people will likely be completed by Sunday.

Associated Press writer Albert Aji in Damascus, Syria, contributed to this report

This story has been corrected to say that capturing a town to the south, not the hill, would enable government troops to move in on IS-affiliated fighters.

Russian bots, trolls test waters ahead of US midterms

By NAIRA DAVLASHYAN and ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — The sponsors of the Russian “troll factory” that meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign have launched a new American website ahead of the U.S. midterm election in November. A Russian oligarch has links to Maryland’s election services. Russian bots and trolls are deploying increasingly sophisticated, targeted tools. And a new indictment suggests the Kremlin itself was behind previous hacking efforts in support of Donald Trump.

As the U.S. leader prepares to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki on Monday, many Ameri-

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cans are wondering: Is the Kremlin trying yet again to derail a U.S. election?

While U.S. intelligence officials call it a top concern, they haven't uncovered a clear, coordinated Russian plot to mess with the campaign. At least so far.

It could be that Russian disruptors are waiting until the primaries are over in September and the races become more straightforward - or it could be they are waiting until the U.S. presidential vote in 2020, which matters more for U.S. foreign policy.

In the meantime, an array of bots, trolls and sites like USAREally appear to be testing the waters.

USAREally was launched in May by the Federal News Agency, part of an empire allegedly run by Putin ally Yevgeny Prigozhin that includes the Internet Research Agency - the "troll factory" whose members were indicted by U.S. special investigator Robert Mueller this year.

USAREally's Moscow offices are in the same building as the Federal News Agency. The original troll factory was also initially based with Federal News Agency offices in St. Petersburg, in a drab four-story building where a huge "For Rent/Sale" sign now hangs. The site believed to house the troll factory's current offices is a more modern, seven-story complex with reflective blue windows in a different but similarly industrial neighborhood of St. Petersburg. Associated Press reporters were not allowed inside, and troll factory employees declined to be interviewed.

The USAREally site appears oddly amateurish and obviously Russian, with grammatical flubs and links to Russian social networks.

It says it's aimed at providing Americans "objective and independent" information, and chief editor Alexander Malkevich says it's not about influencing the midterm election. Yet his Moscow office is adorned with a confederate flag, Trump pictures and souvenirs and a talking pen that parrots famous Trump quotations.

"Disrupt elections? You will do all that without us," he told The Associated Press. He said Americans themselves have created their own divisions, whether over gun rights, immigrants or LGBT rights - all topics his site has posted articles about.

Most online manipulation ahead of the midterm election is coming from U.S. sources, experts say. They worry that focusing on Russian spy-mongering may distract authorities from more dangerous homegrown threats.

There is Russian activity, to be sure. But it appears aimed less at swaying the U.S. Congress one way or another and more at proving to fellow Russians that democracy is unsafe - and thereby legitimizing Putin's autocratic rule at home.

While security services are on high alert, "the intelligence community has yet to see evidence of a robust campaign aimed at tampering with election infrastructure along the lines of 2016," Christopher Krebs, the undersecretary at the Department of Homeland Security, told a Congressional hearing Wednesday.

That doesn't mean there's nothing to worry about.

National Intelligence Director Dan Coats said Friday that warning lights about overall cyber-threats to the U.S. are "blinking red" - much like "blinking red" signals warned before 9/11 that a terror attack was imminent.

Coats said that while the U.S. is not seeing the kind of Russian electoral interference that occurred in 2016, digital attempts to undermine America are not coming only from Russia. They're occurring daily, he said, and are "much bigger than just elections."

Intelligence officials still spot individuals affiliated with the Internet Research Agency creating new social media accounts that are masqueraded as belonging to Americans, according to Coats. The Internet Research Agency uses the fake accounts to drive attention to divisive issues in the U.S., he said.

USAREally plays a similar role.

"USAREally is unlikely to create big momentum in its own right," in part thanks to stepped-up actions by Twitter and Facebook to detect and shut down automated accounts, said Aric Toler of the Bellingcat investigative group.

However, Toler said the site could build momentum by creating divisive content that then gets passed to other provocative news aggregators in the U.S. such as InfoWars or Gateway Pundit.

He believes that a key role for sites like USAREally is to please the Kremlin and to prove that Prigozhin's

empire is still active in the U.S. news sphere.

Prigozhin, sometimes dubbed "Putin's chef" because of his restaurant businesses, has not commented publicly on USAREally. Prigozhin and 12 other Russians are personally charged with participating in a broad conspiracy to sow discord in the U.S. political system from 2014 through 2017.

Editor Malkevich confirms his site's funding comes from the Federal News Agency. But he says he has nothing to do with the indicted trolls, who once operated under the same roof.

"I absolutely don't understand this spy mania," he said. He says the site has a few thousand followers, and that his 30 journalists and editors check facts and don't use bots.

The big question is what Trump plans to do about this.

Trump is under heavy pressure to tell Putin to stay out of U.S. elections when they meet, and he said Friday that he would. But many state lawmakers and members of Congress say it's taken far too long, and that Trump's refusal to condemn Russia's interference in the 2016 election complicates efforts to combat future attacks.

Adding to the pressure on Trump is a new indictment issued Friday accusing 12 Russian military intelligence officials of extensive hacking in 2016 that was specifically aimed at discrediting Trump's rival, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

After the top U.S. intelligence agencies found a Putin-ordered influence campaign in which Russian hackers targeted at least 21 states ahead of the 2016 election, several state election directors fear further attempts to hack into voting systems could weaken the public's confidence in elections.

Maryland officials announced Friday that a vendor providing key election services is owned by a company whose chief investor is well-connected Russian businessman Vladimir Potanin. The FBI told state officials no criminal activity has been detected since vendor ByteGrid was purchased in 2015 by AltPoint Capital Partners.

Experts note that governments have been using technology to influence foreign powers for millennia, and caution against assuming the Russians are always at fault.

"Just because it's a troll doesn't mean it's a Russian troll," said Ben Nimmo of the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab. "The really big challenge for the midterms ... is differentiating what the Russians are doing, and what the Americans are doing to each other."

Davlashyan and Charlton reported from St. Petersburg and Moscow. Kate de Pury in Moscow, Geoff Mulvihill in Philadelphia and Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Trump names EU a global foe, raps media before Putin summit

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — President Donald Trump named the European Union as a top adversary of the United States and denounced the news media as the "enemy of the people" before arriving in Helsinki on Sunday on the eve of his high-stakes summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Trump and his top aides were downplaying expectations for Monday's summit as Trump continued to rattle allies by lumping in the EU with Russia and China after barnstorming across Europe, causing chaos at the recent NATO summit and in a trip to the United Kingdom.

Trump spent the weekend in Scotland at his resort in Turnberry, golfing, tweeting and granting an interview to CBS News in which he named the EU, a bloc of nations that includes many of America's closest allies, at the top of his list of biggest global foes.

"I think the European Union is a foe, what they do to us in trade," Trump said, adding that "you wouldn't think of the European Union, but they're a foe."

He said that Russia is a foe "in certain respects" and that China is a foe "economically ... but that doesn't mean they are bad. It doesn't mean anything. It means that they are competitive."

Trump has been reluctant to criticize Putin over the years and has described him in recent days not as an enemy but as a competitor.

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On Sunday, Trump flew to Finland, the final stop on a weeklong trip that began last Tuesday. Near Trump's hotel, police roped off a group of about 60 mostly male pro-Trump demonstrators waving American flags. Big banners said "Welcome Trump" and "God Bless D & M Trump" and a helicopter hovered overhead.

Chants of "We love Trump, We love Trump" broke out as the president's motorcade passed, and Trump waved.

Trump set expectations for the summit low, telling CBS News, "I don't expect anything. ... I go in with very low expectations." His national security adviser said they weren't looking for any "concrete deliverables."

He also said in the interview taped Saturday 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. presidential election.

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

The U.S. has no extradition treaty with Moscow and can't compel Russia to hand over citizens. Russia's constitution prohibits extraditing its citizens to foreign countries.

Contradicting Trump in an interview on ABC's "This Week," U.S. national security adviser John Bolton said the idea of asking Putin to turn over the 12 military intelligence officials was "pretty silly" and argued that doing so would put the U.S. president in a "weak position."

He also argued that Trump is entering the summit with a stronger hand because of the indictments.

"I think the president can put this on the table and say, 'This is a serious matter that we need to talk about,'" said Bolton, adding that asking for the indicted Russians to be turned over would have the opposite effect.

In the CBS News interview, Trump declined to discuss his goals for the summit — "I'll let you know after the meeting," he said — but said he believes such sessions are beneficial.

He cited his historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June as a "good thing," along with meetings he's had with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"Nothing bad is going to come out of" the Helsinki meeting, he said, "and maybe some good will come out."

From aboard Air Force One, Trump complained in tweets that he wasn't getting enough credit for his meeting with Kim and railed that "Much of our news media is indeed the enemy of the people" as he headed to sit down with Putin.

Putin is regarded as creating a culture of violence and impunity that has resulted in the killing of some Russian journalists. Trump regularly criticizes American news media outlets and has called out some journalists by name.

Trump complained: "No matter how well I do at the Summit," he'll face "criticism that it wasn't good enough."

"If I was given the great city of Moscow as retribution for all of the sins and evils committed by Russia over the years, I would return to criticism that it wasn't good enough — that I should have gotten Saint Petersburg in addition!" he tweeted.

Trump also praised Putin for holding the World Cup, which finished up Sunday.

Trump and Putin have held talks several times before. Their first meeting came last July when both participated in an international summit and continued for more than two hours, well over the scheduled 30 minutes. The leaders also met last fall during a separate summit in Vietnam.

But Jon Huntsman, the U.S. ambassador to Russia, said Monday's meeting "is really the first time for both presidents to actually sit across the table and have a conversation, and I hope it's a detailed conversation about where we might be able to find some overlapping and shared interests."

Congressional Democrats and at least one Republican have called on Trump to pull out of Monday's meeting unless he is willing to make Russian election-meddling the top issue. Huntsman said the summit must go on because Russian engagement is needed to solve some international issues.

"The collective blood pressure between the United States and Russia is off-the-charts high so it's a good thing these presidents are getting together," he said during an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Trump has said he will raise the issue of Russian election meddling, along with Syria, Ukraine, nuclear proliferation and other topics. Bolton described the meeting as "unstructured" and said: "We're not looking for concrete deliverables here."

Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington and Jamey Keaten in Helsinki contributed to this report.

'Hotel Transylvania 3' tops charts, 'Skyscraper' stumbles

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation" has checked into the No. 1 spot at the box office in its opening weekend and left the Dwayne Johnson action thriller, "Skyscraper," in the dust.

Sony Pictures estimated Sunday that the animated family movie earned \$44.1 million from North American theaters. As the first in the franchise to open in the summer, it's just slightly under the previous installment's \$48.5 million debut in September 2015.

Worldwide, "Hotel Transylvania 3" has already earned more than \$100 million.

"It's really terrific," said Adrian Smith, Sony's head of domestic distribution. "We're positioned to take advantage of the valuable summer weekdays and there are six weeks of summer left."

The successful series has grossed over \$900 million worldwide to date.

Going into the weekend, experts expected a three-way race to the top between "Hotel Transylvania 3," "Skyscraper" and "Ant-Man and the Wasp," but the family film won by a large margin.

"There haven't been a lot of options for families this summer," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "They become instant hits."

Johnson's "Skyscraper," a rare original summer blockbuster, remained earthbound in its first weekend in North America. The Universal Pictures film brought in only \$25.5 million domestically. "Skyscraper" cost a reported \$125 million to produce, not accounting for marketing costs.

Johnson has been a consistent presence in movie theaters this year with both "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" and "Rampage" prior to "Skyscraper." Both previous films opened in the \$35 million range, and while "Jumanji" went on to be a worldwide box office juggernaut, "Rampage" petered out domestically just under \$100 million. As with "Rampage," however, the studio is expecting the majority of "Skyscraper" profits to come from international audiences.

"'Skyscraper' is really engineered for a global release and it got a terrific start," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "We have great faith in a more than terrific run at the domestic box office going forward."

Internationally, "Skyscraper" grossed \$40.4 million from 57 territories for a global total of \$65.9 million.

Second place went to Disney and Marvel's "Ant-Man and the Wasp," which brought in an additional \$28.8 million in its second weekend, down 62 percent from last week. It's one of the steeper second week falls in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. The first "Ant-Man" fell 53 percent.

"Incredibles 2" took fourth place with \$16.2 million and "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" rounded out the top five with \$15.5 million.

A handful of smaller releases made notable splashes this weekend including Annapurna's buzzy dystopian satire "Sorry to Bother You," which opened in limited release last week and added 789 locations this weekend. It earned \$4.3 million in its expansion for spot No. 7 on the charts.

The coming of age film "Eighth Grade" also scored top marks, and the highest per theater average of the year, with \$252,284 from four theaters. The well-reviewed pic will expand nationwide in the coming weeks.

And documentaries continue to perform well too, including the Fred Rogers doc "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" which added \$1.9 million from 868 theaters, and "Three Identical Strangers" which expanded to 167 theaters and grossed \$1.2 million.

Estimated ticket sales are for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final

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domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," \$44.1 million (\$46.4 million international).
2. "Ant-Man and the Wasp," \$28.8 million (\$35.3 million international).
3. "Skyscraper," \$25.5 million (\$40.4 million international).
4. "Incredibles 2," \$16.2 million (\$33.3 million international).
5. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," \$15.5 million (\$26.7 million international).
6. "The First Purge," \$9.1 million (\$6.2 million international).
7. "Sorry to Bother You," \$4.3 million.
8. "Sicario: Day of the Soldado," \$3.9 million (\$1.7 million international).
9. "Uncle Drew," \$3.2 million (\$70,000 international).
10. "Ocean's 8," \$2.9 million (\$4.3 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Dying to Survive," \$66.6 million.
2. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," \$46.4 million.
3. "Hidden Man," \$44.8 million.
4. "Skyscraper," \$40.4 million.
5. "Ant-Man and the Wasp," \$35.3 million.
6. "Incredibles 2," \$33.3 million.
7. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," \$26.7 million.
8. "Asura," \$6.6 million.
9. "The First Purge," \$6.2 million.
10. "Ocean's 8," \$4.3 million.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lldbahr>

No doubt: Djokovic wins 4th Wimbledon, 1st Slam in 2 years

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Novak Djokovic acknowledged that he was worried. His coach was, too.

Could Djokovic ever return to the top of tennis? To the heights he'd already reached? Could he put aside the time lost to a painful right elbow that required surgery and the disappointment of poor-for-him results? Could he end a Grand Slam drought that lasted more than two years?

All of that fretting seemed misplaced Sunday night. Back at his best, Djokovic became Wimbledon's champion for the fourth time, grabbing a lead right away against a weary Kevin Anderson in the final and holding off a late challenge to win 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (3).

"There were several moments where I was frustrated and questioning whether I can get back (to the) desired level or not. But that makes this whole journey even more special for me," Djokovic said.

"It's easy to talk now and look back at it and be kind of grateful, but I really am grateful to go through this kind of, so to say, mixed emotions, turbulences as well, mentally, moments of doubt and disappointment and frustration, anger."

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It is Djokovic's 13th major trophy, the fourth-highest total in the history of men's tennis, trailing only Roger Federer's 20, Rafael Nadal's 17 and his childhood idol Pete Sampras' 14.

But it's also Djokovic's first since he completed a career Grand Slam at the 2016 French Open.

"It was a long journey," the 31-year-old from Serbia said. "I couldn't pick a better place, to be honest, in the tennis world to peak and to make a comeback."

A year ago at the All England Club, Djokovic quit during his quarterfinal because of the elbow, then took the rest of 2017 off.

After the operation in February, Djokovic's results were mediocre. He realized later he tried to come back too soon.

"I really was impatient," he says now.

In April, he reunited with Marian Vajda, the man who had coached Djokovic for years before Boris Becker and Andre Agassi did.

"I always had doubt," Vajda said. "I was thinking really negative."

They built "the new Novak," as Vajda explained it.

Retooled his serve. Made adjustments to other strokes.

Still, Djokovic was so dispirited by his upset loss at the French Open last month that he vowed, in the heat of the moment, to skip the grass-court circuit.

Good thing he didn't stick to that.

Because he fell out of the top 20 for the first time in more than a decade, the No. 21 Djokovic is the lowest-ranked Wimbledon titlist since Goran Ivanisevic in 2001.

On Sunday, under a pale blue sky interrupted by only the occasional soft white puff of cloud, Djokovic looked far more like a guy who used to be No. 1.

"The first two sets," said Anderson, who played college tennis at the University of Illinois, "Novak beat up on me pretty bad."

Anderson could be excused for exhaustion. His semifinal was the second-longest Grand Slam match in history, lasting more than 6½ hours until he edged John Isner 26-24 in the fifth set. And that followed another extended fifth set in his 13-11 upset of eight-time champion Federer in the quarterfinals.

Anderson also blamed some nerves.

This was, after all, the 22nd Grand Slam final for Djokovic, and the second for Anderson, the runner-up at last year's U.S. Open and aiming to become the first South African man to win Wimbledon.

He was so out of sorts, his strokes so off-the-mark, that Djokovic gathered eight of the first 10 games even though he only conjured up two winners. No need for more, because Anderson gifted him 15 unforced errors in that span.

"I didn't really find my form the way I wanted to," said Anderson, whose right elbow was massaged by a trainer after the first set. "Of course, my body didn't feel great."

It was so lopsided for the first hour-plus that spectators began pulling for Anderson, likely in the hopes of getting more tennis for their tickets, which carried a face value of 210 pounds (about \$275).

Somehow, Anderson raised his game late and nearly managed to extend the match, five times standing just a point away from forcing a fourth set.

Djokovic held steady on each one, then was as superior in the tiebreaker as he was most of the afternoon.

"You can definitely see the improvements he's made since coming back from injury," Anderson said.

By the end, Djokovic's new serve had saved all seven break points he faced. His groundstrokes were a big reason he only made 13 unforced errors, while Anderson had 32.

When Anderson pushed a forehand return into the net to end it, Djokovic exhaled. After they shook hands, Djokovic performed his personal ritual of bending down to grab a couple of blades of grass and plopping them in his mouth, savoring the triumph.

He did the same after his Wimbledon titles in 2011, 2014 and 2015. One key difference on this day was the presence of two special guests: The doctor who performed the elbow surgery and Djokovic's 3-year-old son, Stefan, who was in the stands for the trophy presentation.

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Later, they met in a hallway, and Djokovic knelt down to hug his child.

"It feels amazing," Djokovic said, "because for the first time in my life, I have someone screaming 'Daddy! Daddy!'"

As much as Djokovic is known for his body-bending defense and unerring reads on opponents' serves, he's also someone who fills his matches with histrionics and exaggerated reactions, whether violently smacking the side of his shoe with his racket — as he did against Nadal in their thrilling five-set semifinal that began Friday and ended Saturday — or tearing off his shirt to celebrate a victory.

This day was no different. Angered by fans making noise during points, he told the chair umpire to tell them to shut up, throwing a colorful word into the demand. He pointed to his ear after winning one point, as if to say: "Who are you cheering for now?!" He blew a kiss toward the stands after another.

But when he broke Anderson for the second time in three service games at the outset, Djokovic simply shook a clenched fist while calmly looking at his guest box above the scoreboard. The bright yellow digits on there showed that Djokovic already led 4-1 after all of 18 minutes.

Might as well have declared him the champion, right then and there.

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

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

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.

Evelyn Stauffer, a spokeswoman for Health and Human Services, said the administration proposed its plan "in the interests of transparency and cooperation" after concluding that the abbreviated vetting was necessary to make the deadline.

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"Within the time the court allows, we will strive to implement the most comprehensive procedures possible to ensure child welfare," she said. "We look forward to continuing our close work with the court to accomplish the goals we share of safe, expeditious reunification."

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 16, the 197th day of 2018. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 16, 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico; the same day, the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis left Mare Island Naval Shipyard in California on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Marianas.

On this date:

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the United States government; the area became Washington, D.C.

In 1862, Flag Officer David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1935, the first parking meters were installed in the United States, in Oklahoma City.

In 1951, the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1957, Marine Corps Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a Vought F8U Crusader jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8.4 seconds.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater declared that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

In 1973, during the Senate Watergate hearings, former White House aide Alexander P. Butterfield publicly revealed the existence of President Richard Nixon's secret taping system.

In 1980, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Detroit.

In 1981, singer Harry Chapin was killed when his car was struck by a tractor-trailer on New York's Long Island Expressway.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

In 2002, the Irish Republican Army issued an unprecedented apology for the deaths of "noncombatants" over 30 years of violence in Northern Ireland.

Ten years ago: Republican John McCain addressed the annual convention of the NAACP, telling the civil rights group in Cincinnati he would expand education opportunities, partly through vouchers for low-income children to attend private schools. Israel freed notorious Lebanese militant Samir Kantar and four others after Hezbollah guerrillas handed over the bodies of two Israeli soldiers. Florida resident Casey Anthony, whose 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, had been missing a month, was arrested on charges of child neglect, making false official statements and obstructing a criminal investigation. (Casey Anthony was later acquitted at trial of murdering Caylee, whose skeletal remains were found in December 2008; she was convicted of lying to police.)

Five years ago: Egypt's interim leader, Adly Mansour, swore in a Cabinet that included women and Christians but no Islamists as the military-backed administration moved swiftly to formalize the new political order. Twenty-three children, between the ages of 5 and 12, were fatally poisoned by pesticide-contaminated lunches served at a school in eastern India. The American League beat the National League 3-0 in the All-Star Game.

One year ago: Ten people died at a popular swimming hole in Arizona's Tonto National Forest after a rainstorm unleashed a flash flood. Roger Federer won a record-breaking 8th Wimbledon title, beating

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Marin Cilic (CHIHl'-ihch) 6-3, 6-1, 6-4. British actress Jodie Whittaker was announced as the next star of the long-running science fiction series "Doctor Who" — the first woman to take a role that had been played by a dozen men over six decades. George Romero, director of the cult classic "Night of the Living Dead" and other horror films, died at the age of 77.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh is 86. Soul singer William Bell is 79. International Tennis Hall of Famer Margaret Court is 76. College Football Hall of Famer and football coach Jimmy Johnson is 75. Violinist Pinchas Zukerman is 70. Actor-singer Ruben Blades is 70. Rock composer-musician Stewart Copeland is 66. Playwright Tony Kushner is 62. Actress Faye Grant is 61. Dancer Michael Flatley is 60. Actress Phoebe Cates is 55. Actor Paul Hipp is 55. Actor Daryl "Chill" Mitchell is 53. Actor-comedian Will Ferrell is 51. Actor Jonathan Adams is 51. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Barry Sanders is 50. Actress Rain Pryor is 49. Actor Corey Feldman is 47. Rock musician Ed Kowalczyk (Live) is 47. Rock singer Ryan McCombs (Drowning Pool) is 44. Actress Jayma Mays is 39. Actress AnnaLynne McCord is 31. Actor-singer James Maslow is 28. Actor Mark Indelicato is 24. Pop singer-musician Luke Hemmings (5 Seconds to Summer) is 22.

Thought for Today: "If sentiment doesn't ultimately make fibbers of some people, their natural abominable memories almost certainly will." — J.D. Salinger (1919-2010).