

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, July 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 008 ~ 1 of 39

**“Go wide, explore  
and learn new things.  
Something will surely  
have a kick for you.”**

**-Mustafa Saifuddin**



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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.



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## New Intersection Warning System In Spink County

SPINK COUNTY, S.D. – To improve safety, the South Dakota Department of Transportation is installing an Intersection Conflict Warning Systems (ICWS) to improve safety at the intersections of Highway 281 and Highway 20 in Spink County.

The ICWS is being installed to address the crashes at the intersection by providing drivers on both highways with a dynamic warning of other vehicles approaching the intersection.

Vehicles detected on Highway 281 will activate a "traffic Approaching When Flashing" signal to alert drivers attempting to enter the intersection from Highway 20.

Vehicles detected on Highway 20 will activate a "Traffic Entering When Flashing" sign to alert motorists traveling along Highway 281.

The ICWS is currently scheduled to become operational on Wednesday, July 18.

## Service Notice: Fritz Klein

Mass of Christian Burial for Francis Klein, 95, will be 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 18th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Father Mike Kelly will officiate. Inurnment will follow in All Saints Catholic Cemetery, Andover under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be Tuesday at the chapel 6-7 p.m. with a wake service at 7:00 p.m.

Fritz passed away July 15, 2018 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

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BELIEVE IN**

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

## South Dakota Ends Fiscal Year With Surplus

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota state government closed the 2018 budget year on June 30 marking the seventh consecutive year with a surplus. The state general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2018 ended with lower expenditures and higher revenues than budgeted.

State agencies demonstrated fiscal restraint by spending \$10.7 million, or 0.67%, less than appropriated. Additionally, revenue for fiscal year 2018 exceeded estimates adopted by the Legislature last March by \$6.2 million, or 0.38%. In total, the state's budget for fiscal year 2018 ended with a \$16.9 million surplus.

"This marks the seventh consecutive year that we have maintained a structurally balanced budget. This was my number one priority when I took office and it still is as I finish my term as Governor," said Gov. Daugaard. "Finishing fiscal year 2018 in the black puts South Dakota's budget in a positive position as we begin the 2019 fiscal year."

Collectively, the three branches of state government spent \$10.7 million less than appropriated. Of the general fund reversions, \$8.5 million came from Executive Branch agencies, and \$2.2 million came from the Unified Judicial System, the Legislature, the Board of Regents and constitutional offices.

South Dakota's sales and use tax receipts, the state's largest revenue source, finished the fiscal year growing 4.0% over the prior fiscal year. Collections from the sales and use tax accounted for 61 percent of total general fund receipts in Fiscal Year 2018.

Other sources of revenue with notable increases were the insurance company tax and lottery revenue, which grew 9.3 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively, over FY2017. Ongoing receipts to the general fund totaled \$1,593.4 million which grew 3.4 percent compared to the previous year.

South Dakota state government ended FY2018 by transferring \$16.9 million to the Budget Reserve Fund, as required by law. The state's Budget Reserve Fund now has a \$132.4 million balance and the General Revenue Replacement Fund has a \$44.0 million balance. The combination of those two funds, totaling \$176.4 million, represents a combined reserve of 11.1 percent of the total general fund budget for FY2018.

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## Gas Prices Increasing for Majority of Motorists on the Week

July 16, 2018 - Since July 4, gas prices have increased three cents, putting today's national average at \$2.88. Since last Monday, the average is just a penny more expensive nationally while some states are seeing nearly a dime jump.

"Typically during July, gas prices have a tendency to trend cheaper. However with crude oil prices nearly \$25 more a bbl compared to last year, we are seeing an upward pricing trend," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "If this trend continues, and if we see any supply disruptions, like a hurricane, pump prices may see new three-year highs."

Today's gas price average is just two-cents cheaper than last month, but 63-cents more expensive than at the same time last year.

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.885

Yesterday Avg. \$2.885

Week Ago Avg. \$2.866

Month Ago Avg. \$2.911

Year Ago Avg. \$2.258

### Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 largest monthly changes are: New Mexico (-12 cents), Ohio (+11 cents), Arizona (-10 cents), Nevada (-10 cents), Delaware (+8 cents), Texas (-8 cents), Nebraska (-7 cents), Utah (-7 cents), California (-6 cents) and New Hampshire (-6 cents).

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: Alabama (\$2.55), Mississippi (\$2.56), South Carolina (\$2.57), Louisiana (\$2.60), Arkansas (\$2.60), Virginia (\$2.62), Tennessee (\$2.63), Oklahoma (\$2.63), Texas (\$2.64) and Missouri (\$2.66).

### Central and Great Lakes Region

The states with the highest and lowest gas averages in the Great Lakes and Central region — Michigan (\$2.99) and Missouri (\$2.66) — saw some of the nation's largest gas price jumps on the week at seven and five cents, respectively. Ohio (+6 cents), Indiana (+2 cents) and Kentucky (+2 cents) join Michigan and Missouri on the top 10 list with the largest increases this week. Iowa (-1 cent) and North Dakota (-1 cent) were the only states in the region to see prices drop, while Illinois (\$2.95) held steady. Meanwhile, Michigan and Illinois are inching closer to the \$3/gallon or more mark. Nebraska (-7 cents) has the largest decrease in gas prices of all states in the region compared to June.

With the addition of 961,000 bbl of gasoline inventories, the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast region saw the largest build of any region in the country, which likely helped to stabilize prices for most states. The large increase could help to stabilize prices in the coming week, especially if the region sees another build in inventory.

### Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NY-MEX, WTI increased 68 cents to settle at \$71.01. Concerns surrounding tightening U.S. supplies are slightly elevated following EIA's news that total crude oil stocks recorded the largest decline (12.7 million bbl) since October 2016. Oil prices may continue riding high and contribute to increased pump prices throughout the summer and possibly into the fall, especially if demand remains robust amid high export levels.



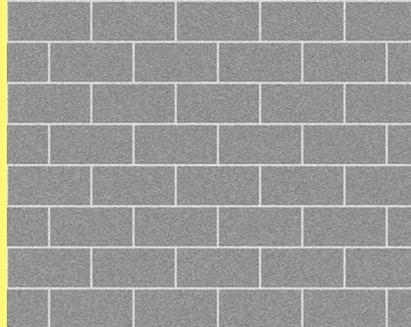
**Sun Dial Manor in Bristol  
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## Pesticide Container Recycling Collection Began July 9

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) encourages all agricultural producers and businesses to take advantage of free pesticide container recycling collection in 37 locations across the state from Monday, July 9, until Thursday, Sept. 6.

“Many solid waste facilities do not accept pesticide containers because they do not have enough staff to ensure proper preparation of containers for disposal,” said SDDA Agricultural Services Division assistant director Tom Gere. “The burning of these plastic pesticide containers is prohibited by state law. Recycling is the preferred way of disposal because containers are removed from the solid waste stream and the discarded materials can be reused.”

Only two and a half gallon containers or smaller, that previously contained crop protection products, are accepted during these collection times. Larger containers will be collected at a later arranged date and time. Labels must be removed and containers must be triple or pressure rinsed to remove contaminants. Containers are ground up and sent to a facility where the plastic is often used to make drain tiles, speed bumps, fence posts, or for other agricultural uses.

“The Pesticide Container Recycling Program is an easy option for disposal,” said Gere. “If you have a large quantity of containers, or have no collections in your area, it may be possible to have SDDA staff come directly to your location and collect containers.”

SDDA provides the Pesticide Container Recycling Program at no cost to producers or businesses. The program has collected 2,624,844 containers, with 224,597 containers collected in 2017.

For a full schedule of container pick up times and locations, please visit <https://bit.ly/2u8Fan0>. For more information on these collections, please contact SDDA at 605.773.4432.

The Aberdeen location is Winfield Warehouse, 29280 133rd St, Aberdeen, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, July 23.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at [sdda.sd.gov](http://sdda.sd.gov) or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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## Today in Weather History

July 17, 1985: An F1 tornado touched down, ten miles east of Raymond, in Clark County, destroying two cattle sheds and damaged several buildings. A garage was moved off its foundation. Heavy rains, high winds and hail up to 2.75 inches in diameter produced considerable damage to farm buildings between Raymond and Garden City. Rainfall amounts of three to six inches caused additional crop losses from erosion. In the city of Clark, some basement flooding occurred, and water ran across Highway 212 west of Clark. Some storm total rainfall amounts include; 3.77 inches in Clark; 3.15 in Clear Lake; 2.85 in Redfield; and 2.31 inches in 3 miles NE of Raymond. This thunderstorm began near Kennebec, in Lyman County, where winds gusted to 80 mph, and small hail was observed. A few trees were uprooted, and numerous branches were downed. Several car windows were broke from the winds and small hail. A half inch of rain fell in ten minutes, filling ditches. High winds continued into Spink County where extensive damage to a farm estate east of Redfield occurred. Heavy rains of three to five inches caused road and basement flooding. A damage path from wind and hail continued to Clear Lake, to the south of Gary and into Minnesota to the east of Canby. Winds gusted to 70 mph, and hail ranged from one to almost two inches in diameter. In Clear Lake, four businesses were damaged, and power poles were downed. One building had the fiberglass siding and roofing torn off. A second building had a metal roof blown off. Highway 77, south of Clear Lake was impassable due to hail on the ground.

July 17, 1993: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell in Grant County resulting in the overflow of Lake Farley into the city of Milbank. The dam held, but an emergency dike broke on the evening of the 17th releasing water into residential streets and a trailer court in Milbank. The broken barrier forced the evacuation of at least 200 people. Damage included 120 mobile homes, and 26 houses were affected by floodwaters. Also, a man died when his pickup truck hit a washout on a gravel road south of Milbank and was swept into the floodwaters of a nearby creek.

July 17, 2010: Several supercell thunderstorms moving southeast across the region brought large hail up to softball size along with damaging winds to parts of northeast South Dakota. Numerous homes, vehicles, along with thousands of acres of crops were destroyed. Hail up to the size of softballs occurred near Westport, in Brown County. Golf ball to baseball size hail fell at the National Weather Service office causing damage to several vehicles. The rear window was broken out of one of the vehicles. A supercell thunderstorm was tracking southeast across Clark County produced anywhere from a quarter to baseball size hail along with wind gusts over 70 mph from Crocker to Clark to Naples to Vienna. The large hail and winds caused extensive damage to homes, outbuildings, vehicles, and thousands of acres of crops. Many trees and gardens were also damaged or destroyed by the hail and high winds. The storm entered western Hamlin County. Winds measured at 90 mph in Hayti along with some large hail broke numerous windows out of several homes and vehicles, damaged several roofs, and downed many trees. A concrete silo was also destroyed. The highway shop lost half of its roof along with severe damage to the ceiling of a trucking business in Hayti.

1942: A great flood developed over the Smethport area in Pennsylvania, resulting in an estimated 34.50 inches of rain in just one day, including 30.60 inches in only six hours, setting a world record. The official observing site, Smethport Highway Shed, reported only 13.08 inches for the entire month because the flood consumed the gauge after 6.68" of rain. The total results from the substitution of the officially estimated amount for the amount measured.

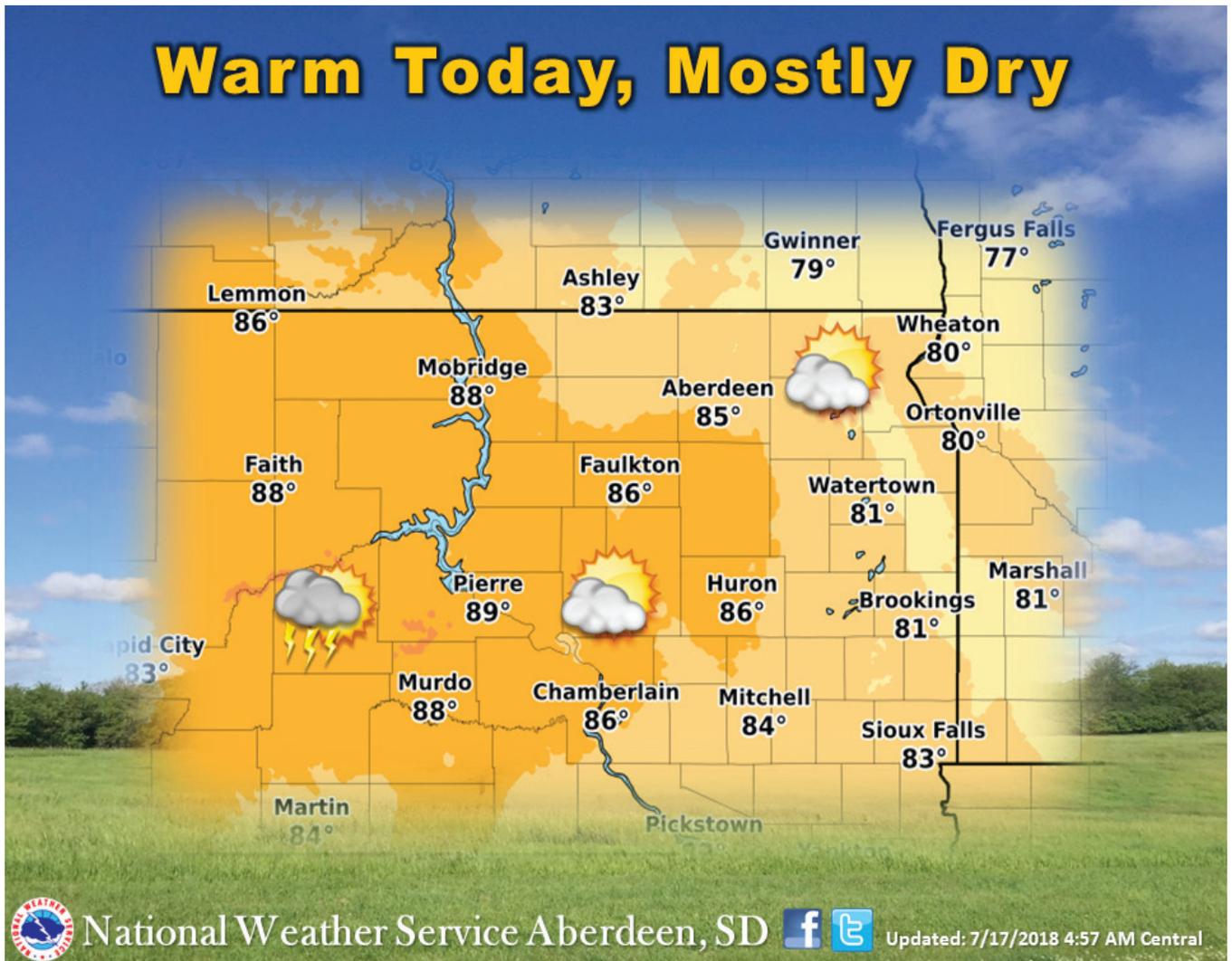
1981: Severe thunderstorm winds ripped a 10,000 square foot hole in a 90-foot high pavilion at Sea World in Orlando, FL. The storm panicked a crowd of 550 tourists. One death occurred due to injury and heart attack, and 15 people were injured. The canopy was made of fiberglass and Teflon, designed to withstand 120 mph winds.

1987: Slow moving thunderstorms caused flooding on the Guadalupe River in Texas resulting in tragic loss of life. A bus and van leaving a youth summer camp stalled near the rapidly rising river, just west of the town of Comfort, or about 50 mile northwest of San Antonio. The powerful surge of water swept away 43 persons, mostly teenagers. Ten drowned in the floodwaters. Most of the others were rescued from treetops by helicopter.

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Sunny
High: 85 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 80 °F



Published on: 07/17/2018 at 5:01AM

The weather will be quiet for the most part today, as highs rise into the 80s along with light easterly breezes. By this evening and into the overnight hours, showers and thunderstorms are expected to move across western and into central South Dakota.

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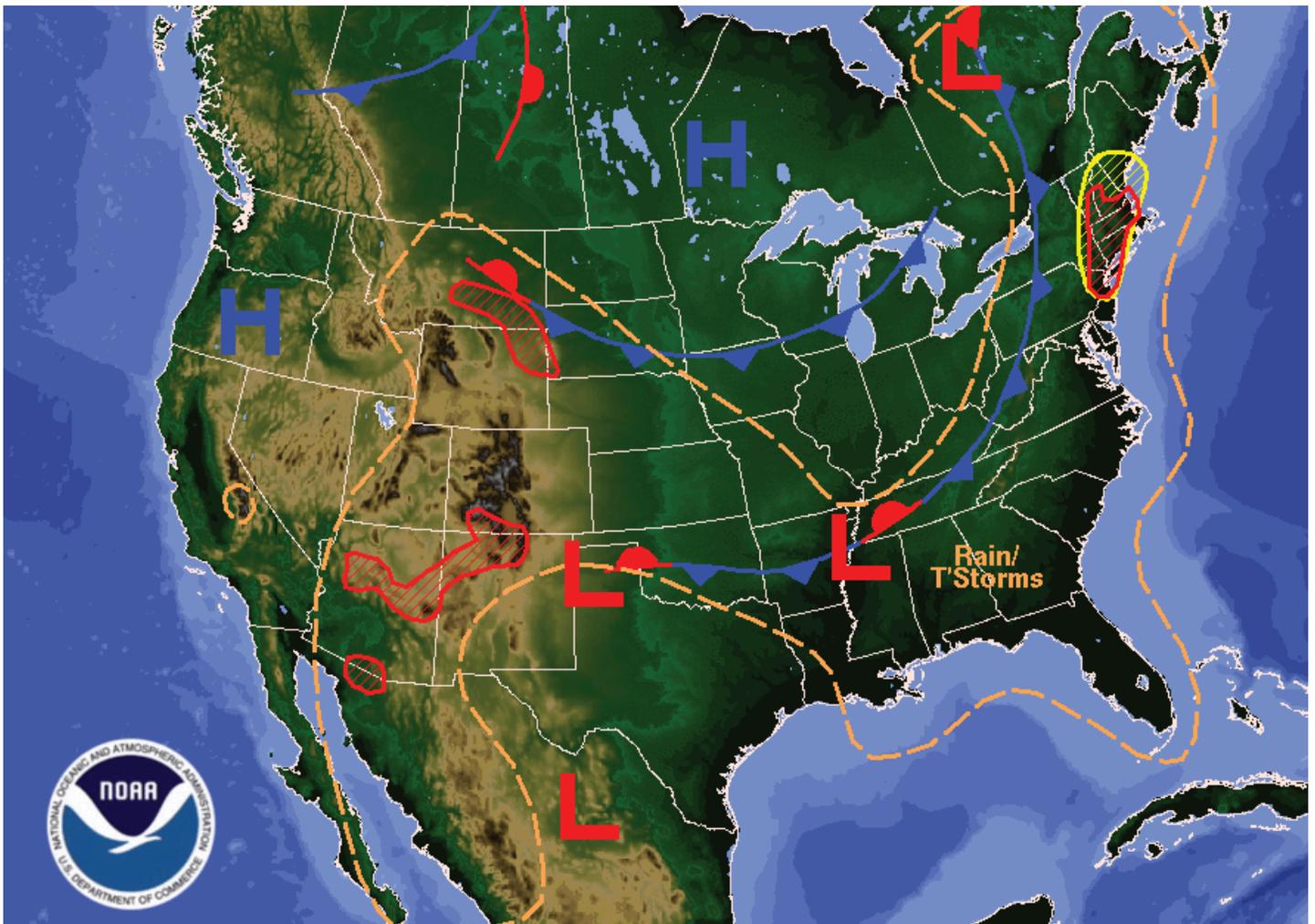
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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 85.0 F at 5:07 PM**  
**Heat Index: 87.0 at 6:36 PM**  
**Low Outside Temp: 54.5 F at 6:07 M**  
**High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 11:07 AM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 111° in 1936**  
**Record Low: 44° in 1895**  
**Average High: 84°F**  
**Average Low: 59°F**  
**Average Precip in July: 1.47**  
**Precip to date in July: 2.74**  
**Average Precip to date: 12.32**  
**Precip Year to Date: 8.55**  
**Sunset Tonight: 9:18 p.m.**  
**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:03 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jul 17, 2018, issued 4:56 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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## WHAT'S BETTER THAN GOLD?

The Island of Corregidor stands at the entrance to Manila Bay. To capture the island from the Japanese in World War II resulted in the death of many of our soldiers. It left countless others with scarred bodies and mangled limbs that made living difficult.

Once during heavy bombing, a chapel was hit and everything in it destroyed except a pulpit Bible. A soldier who had been hiding nearby discovered it and took it with him to his tent. Every night before he went to sleep, he would read it, then place his head upon it and meditate on his readings. Before falling asleep he would ask God how he could put into practice what he read.

When the soldiers were finally captured, they were transferred to a prison and were allowed to take one item with them. Many of them took a blanket. However, he chose to take his Bible.

The following months almost defy description. The conditions were merciless whether they were on ships or in prisons, in boxcars or on daylong marches with little food or water. Many dropped dead but he survived and carried his pulpit Bible with him. Nothing else mattered to him.

Finally, they were settled in a horrible camp and allowed to organize a church. One of the soldiers asked, "What are we to do without a Bible?" Hearing this he took his Bible and presented it to his commander. It gave them hope and help and thousands found the Lord as Savior.

The Psalmist wrote, "I love Your commands more than gold, more than pure gold." God, not gold, gives life.

Prayer: May we realize, Father, that only Your Word offers eternal life and a hope that brings peace and joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:127 Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold,

## 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

### **South Dakota judge blocks drug price cap measure from ballot**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota judge on Monday barred a ballot question that would have capped the price state agencies could pay for prescription drugs from appearing on the November ballot.

Circuit Judge Patricia DeVaney said in a court filing that supporters of Initiated Measure 26 didn't submit enough valid signatures to put it before voters after opponents of the measure filed a legal challenge to keep it off the general election ballot. The plan — adapted from an Ohio measure voters rejected in 2017 — would have prohibited state agencies from paying more than the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for prescription drugs.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs approved the measure in April after a random sampling found proponents had turned in more than the 13,871 valid signatures necessary for it to appear on the ballot. But opposition group South Dakotans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue challenged the validity of thousands of signatures.

DeVaney said in the filing that some signatures were invalid because petitioners failed to witness the signings or because of the omission of circulator verification documentation, among other issues. She wrote that about 55 percent of the roughly 22,000 signatures supporters submitted were valid, totaling about 12,250 names, which is short of the required threshold.

South Dakotans Against the Deceptive Rx Ballot Issue spokeswoman Sherry Kurtz-Anderson said in a statement that the measure was "about deception from the beginning."

"Proponents of this deceptive proposal took a bad idea rejected by voters in California and Ohio, funded it with contributions from an out-of-state health care organization and violated the law in attempting to qualify it for the ballot," she said.

Initiative backers didn't immediately return telephone messages requesting comment from The Associated Press. Supporters have said the proposal was meant to save taxpayer dollars and drive down the cost of prescriptions.

Kurtz-Anderson said initiative proponents lack legal standing to appeal the case. Attorney General Marty Jackley's office didn't immediately return a request for comment from the AP.

### **Vatican official to visit South Dakota over sainthood case**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Vatican official is headed to South Dakota to consider promoting the case of sainthood for a Lakota holy man who converted more than 400 people to the Catholic faith.

A bishop last year accepted a petition signed by 1,400 people that opened the cause for the canonization of Nicholas Black Elk, the Rapid City Journal reported. A Vatican official from Rome will arrive in Rapid City this month to potentially write a paper summarizing Black Elk's life and virtues to push forward the case for sainthood.

Black Elk was appointed a catechist by Jesuits in the early 1900s to evangelize on tribal lands. Black Elk taught, performed marriage ceremonies and distributed communion, said Deacon Marlon Leneau, director of Native Ministry with the Diocese of Rapid City.

"He was like St. Paul, from Wind River down to Yankton up to Standing Rock. He kind of had a circuit," Leneau said.

If the official chooses to write the paper, it'll then be voted on by a theological commission in Rome. The issue will then be sent to the pope, who may kick off the miracle reporting process.

"We've heard from friends in Rome that the Pope (Francis) really likes this cause," Leneau said.

The pope's approval would determine Black Elk as "venerable," but his sainthood depends on proving two miracles.

Miracles usually relate to some form of healing, but none have been reported for Black Elk yet. Miracles must be reported by a witness or a secondhand witness, which is an individual who was told directly by

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someone who was healed or witnessed the act of God.

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

## South Dakota ends 2018 budget year with \$16.9M surplus

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota ended the 2018 budget year with a surplus from lower-than-expected state spending and tax collections that topped officials' projections, Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office said Monday.

The Republican governor's office said in a statement that the state finished the budget year with \$16.9 million more than anticipated, marking South Dakota's seventh straight year of surplus. Daugaard said that closing the year with a surplus puts South Dakota's budget in a positive position as the state starts the 2019 budget year.

"This marks the seventh consecutive year that we have maintained a structurally balanced budget. This was my number one priority when I took office and it still is as I finish my term as governor," said Daugaard, who is wrapping up his second term and is limited from running again in the November election.

The 2018 fiscal year ended June 30. The \$16.9 million surplus went to budget reserves, which now total \$176.4 million.

The governor's office says the state collected \$6.2 million, or 0.38 percent, more than expected and spent \$10.7 million, or 0.67 percent, less than budgeted. Executive branch agencies accounted for \$8.5 million of the lower-than-expected spending, while \$2.2 million was from the Legislature, Board of Regents, state court system and constitutional offices.

Ongoing general fund receipts totaled roughly \$1.59 billion, with about 62 percent coming from sales tax collections.

## 3 killed in Goodhue County crash, including 2 young brothers

WELCH TOWNSHIP, Minn. (AP) — A crash on a highway in Goodhue County has taken the lives of two young brothers from Red Wing and a third person.

Sheriff's officials say the crash in Welch Township happened shortly before noon Saturday when a car driven by a 50-year-old Hager City, Wisconsin, man crossed the center line and collided with an SUV driven by a 68-year-old Buffalo Gap, South Dakota, woman.

KTTC-TV reports three passengers in the car were killed. Sheriff's authorities identified the victims as 5-year-old Taylor Johnson and his 8-year-old brother, Zachary Johnson, as well as 47-year-old Stacy Lande, of Hager City, Wisconsin. The driver, Robert Welch, was airlifted to a hospital in Rochester.

Officials say the driver of the SUV, Lynn Rapp, had minor injuries and was taken to a Red Wing hospital.

Information from: KTTC-TV, <http://www.kttc.com>

## House candidate Tim Bjorkman ends June with \$218K in bank

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Democratic congressional candidate Tim Bjorkman is reporting slower fundraising than his Republican opponent in the House race, but Bjorkman ended June with a bigger bank balance overall.

Federal campaign finance reports show Bjorkman, a former judge, raised about \$82,000 from May 17 through June 30, short of Johnson's roughly \$120,000 haul during that period.

But Bjorkman closed the fundraising window with nearly \$218,000 on hand compared to Johnson's roughly \$151,000 banked.

Johnson, a former public utilities commissioner who triumphed in a three-way June 5 GOP House primary, reported spending of \$275,000. Bjorkman didn't face a primary opponent and reported about \$35,500 in expenditures.

## **Badlands Motor Speedway to be auctioned in September**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Badlands Motor Speedway in Brandon may see racing again.

The Argus Leader reports the speedway will go up for auction Sept. 15. The track's future had been murky after Minnehaha County officials said the speedway had lost the grandfathered noise ordinance exemption letting it operate.

But the speedway says it received a recent letter rescinding the past notice. The minimum bid at the September auction will be \$3.15 million, but the speedway is still available to purchase immediately for the original \$9.45 million price tag.

Chuck Brennan purchased the track in 2015, renamed it Badlands Motor Speedway and upgrading the facility. But the Dollar Loan Center founder soured on his operations in South Dakota after voters in 2016 capped payday loan interest rates.

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

## **Woman gets 25 years in prison in reservation strangling case**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A woman accused of strangling another woman on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in January 2016 has been sentenced to serve 25 years in prison.

Twenty-five-year-old Elizabeth Ann LeBeau was sentenced Friday after pleading guilty earlier to second-degree murder in the death of Emily Bluebird.

Bluebird's body was found on the reservation several weeks after her death following a search by volunteers. Authorities say she was strangled with an electronics cord and hit in the head with a hammer multiple times.

LeBeau's then-boyfriend, Fred Quiver, was sentenced in May to 15 years in prison for being an accessory.

Bluebird's mother, Lucille White Dress, tells the Rapid City Journal that she believes her daughter can now rest in peace.

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

## **Priest formally charged with collection theft**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Prosecutors have formally charged a Rapid City priest who acknowledged he was responsible for stealing from the weekly collection plates.

Father Marcin Garbacz is charged with first-degree embezzlement of property and petty theft for taking money from donations at St. Therese Catholic Church in Rapid City.

KOTA-TV reports the Pennington County state's attorney says the amount taken was between \$400 and \$1,000. The Rapid City Diocese has suspended Garbacz. Police say Garbacz admitted to being responsible for the theft.

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

## **Weekend crash in Hanson County kills 29-year-old woman**

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A weekend crash in Hanson County killed a 29-year-old woman.

The Highway Patrol says the woman's car went off a rural road sometime early Sunday and ended up on its top in a creek.

The woman was pronounced dead at the scene about 2 miles east of Mitchell. Her name wasn't immediately released. She was traveling alone.

## Russia's post-summit view: Praise for Putin, pity for Trump

By ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — For Vladimir Putin, holding a summit with Donald Trump was a victory in itself. While the U.S. leader went home to widespread criticism after their Monday meeting, the Russian president came home to universal praise in Moscow — even though there were no major breakthroughs.

Yet most Russians aren't saying Putin vanquished Trump. Instead they're sympathizing with the U.S. president, portraying Trump as a victim of irrational domestic critics and aggressive journalists, because they are pinning hopes on him for improving relations over the long haul.

With U.S.-Russia tensions exceptionally high, the Kremlin set low expectations for the summit.

"Nobody in Moscow who is realistic had any illusions that this one meeting can produce any breakthroughs," said Alexander Gabuev of the Carnegie Moscow Center. "The hope was at least we can start talking to each other."

And in that, Putin got what he went for. Gabuev said Putin ably won over his domestic audiences, notably by pushing back at accusations of Russian election meddling with his own accusations against the U.S.

Russians welcomed Putin's offer to allow the FBI to interrogate Russian military intelligence officials accused of hacking the 2016 U.S. election campaign. And they especially welcomed Putin's insistence on a tit-for-tat deal aimed at discrediting U.S. sanctions against rich and powerful Russians.

And unsurprisingly, Russians welcomed Trump's suggestion that he trusts Putin more than U.S. intelligence agencies.

Russian officialdom "will be super-cautious in order not to damage Donald Trump any more than he did himself," Gabuev said.

Instead of being portrayed as a duel on the world stage, the summit was viewed in Russia as a meeting of two powerful men who discussed global problems and then had to face down a crowd of pesky journalists.

"Those who opposed the meeting will try to devalue the agreements made," said Vladimir Olenchenko of Russia's Institute of Global Economics and International Relations. "We hope that Trump will have enough political will and patience to overcome the resistance and continue dialogue with Russia."

Putin sought to emphasize areas where Moscow and Washington could find some common ground, such as the Syrian crisis.

"What makes you think that President Trump trusts me and I fully trust him?" Putin said. "He defends the interests of the United States, and I defend the interests of the Russian Federation. We are looking for ways how to narrow our differences and make our work constructive."

Observers in Moscow remain cautious about what all this means for the long term.

But the Kremlin didn't expect one meeting to bring an end to Western sanctions and a pullback of NATO forces deployed near Russia's borders. Putin is hoping the summit took a first step toward normalizing relations — and most importantly, persuading the U.S. to recognize Russia as a global player whose interests must be taken into account.

The main result of the summit "is that it happened, despite the collapse that Russian-American relations are in," Valery Garbuzov, head of the USA and Canada Institute in Moscow, told Komsomorskaya Pravda newspaper. "You can say it's not much, but neither Putin nor Trump could do more."

## Hawaii volcano boat tours continue after lava injuries

By AUDREY McAVOY and CALEB JONES, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii tour boat operators plan to continue taking visitors to see lava, but will follow the Coast Guard's revised policy and stay farther away after an explosion caused molten rock to barrel through the roof of a vessel, injuring 23 people.

The Coast Guard prohibits vessels from getting closer than 984 feet (300 meters) from where Kilauea volcano's lava oozes into the sea. The agency had been allowing experienced boat operators to apply for a special license to get closer up to 164 feet (50 meters), but it stopped allowing those exceptions Monday morning.

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A woman in her 20s was transported to Honolulu in serious condition with a broken thigh bone. The other 22 people injured were treated for minor burns and scrapes, including 12 who were treated at a hospital in Hilo.

Moku Nui Lava Tours Captain Kanoa Jones, whose boat was not involved in Monday's incident at Kilauea volcano, said not running the tours would only withhold income from local restaurants and other businesses dependent on tourism, he said.

"If we stop operating, it not only hurts us, it hurts the community," Jones said.

The Coast Guard, state and local officials were investigating what happened.

Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer 3rd Class Matthew West said the agency can't say whether it will change its safety zone rules until it finishes its investigation.

The county strictly limits access to the lava on land for safety reasons, making boat and helicopter tours the only options people have to witness volcanic spectacle in person. The ocean and aerial tours each cost about \$250.

The restrictions have deterred many travelers from visiting the Big Island in general, and Puna near the volcano in particular.

Shane Turpin, the owner and captain of the vessel that was hit, said he never saw the explosion.

He and his tour group had been in the area for about 20 minutes making passes of the ocean entry about 500 yards — which is the length of five football fields — offshore, Turpin said.

He didn't observe "any major explosions," so he navigated his vessel closer, to about 250 yards (228 meters) away from the lava.

"As we were exiting the zone, all of a sudden everything around us exploded," he said. "It was everywhere."

The U.S. Geological Survey says explosions of varying sizes occur whenever 2,000-degree (1,093-degree Celsius) lava enters much colder seawater.

Monday's large blast may have been amplified by the relatively shallow water at the point where the lava entered the sea. That's because explosions occur much closer to the surface in such spots.

In contrast, lava that entered the ocean in 2016 hit a steep slope and quickly fell to deeper parts of the sea, said Janet Babb, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

The volcano has also been pumping more lava into the water now compared to past years, Babb said. Kilauea is sending to the sea as much as 26 times the amount of lava per second than it did during the 2016-17 eruption.

Officials have warned of the danger of getting close to lava entering the ocean, saying the interaction can create clouds of acid and fine glass. Despite the hazards, several companies operate such tours. The Coast Guard said tour vessels have operated in the area going back at least 20 years.

The molten rock is coming from the Kilauea volcano, which has been erupting continuously for the past 35 years. In May, its eruption entered a new phase when it began spurting lava through newly formed fissures in a residential neighborhood. It has destroyed more than 700 homes since then. But the only serious injury over the past two months was to a man who was hit by flying lava that broke his leg.

Captain Jones said an evening boat tour left for the ocean-entry site and it was business as usual.

"It is Mother Nature," Jones said. "You never know."

## Once a Trump critic, Roby seeking redemption in Ala. runoff

By KIM CHANDLER and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

ABBEVILLE, Ala. (AP) — Rep. Martha Roby is seeking Republican redemption in an Alabama runoff election that hinges on her loyalty to President Donald Trump.

Roby is facing Democrat-turned-Trump Republican Bobby Bright on Tuesday, trying not to become the third congressional Republican to lose her job this primary season.

From the outside, the race shouldn't be close. Roby is a four-term incumbent in deep-red Alabama. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have endorsed her. And her Republican opponent supported Nancy Pelosi

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when he served as a Democrat in Congress.

But as is often the case in the Trump era, the conventional rules of politics do not apply.

Roby's political survival depends on whether Alabama voters are sufficiently convinced that she's made amends for turning her back on Trump in 2016 after he was caught bragging about sexually predatory behavior in the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape.

The remarks, she said at the time, made Trump "unacceptable" as a Republican candidate for president. She's spent much of the last two years trying to convince her red-state constituents in Alabama's 2nd Congressional District that she is a reliable vote for the administration.

Roby failed to convince a majority of Republican primary voters back in June, earning just 39 percent of the vote in the first primary contest, which forced a runoff against the second-place vote getter.

Despite her past criticism, the Trump White House has emerged as Roby's most powerful backer.

Trump himself endorsed Roby on Twitter, calling her a "reliable vote for our Make America Great Again Agenda" and bashing Bright as "a recent Nancy Pelosi voting Democrat."

Vice President Mike Pence recorded automated calls for Roby distributed to district voters beginning on Saturday. He calls Roby a reliable vote for the Trump agenda and urged voters to send her back to Congress.

"We can always count on her vote," Pence says in the call.

Armed with an endorsement from Trump, Roby has argued that she's "a conservative Republican with a proven record."

"I've worked with the administration to get conservative policies across the finish line. My opponent voted for Nancy Pelosi to be speaker," Roby said during a campaign stop at a south Alabama lumber company. She also touted her support for a border wall and opposition to abortion.

Bright, who represented the district for two years as a Democrat, argues that he's more conservative than Roby, whom he calls an establishment Republican who hasn't "stayed connected" with the heavily agrarian and military district.

"I'm not an elitist. I'm not what they refer to as a blue blood. I'm a populist. I talk with the people and so does (Trump)," said Bright, the 13th of 14 children born into a sharecropping family.

Roby has enjoyed a 5-to-1 fundraising advantage over Bright. She's used the arsenal to hammer Bright in television ads over his Democratic background — particularly his 2009 vote for Pelosi as House speaker.

A mailer distributed by Roby's campaign promotes Trump's endorsement and lists Pelosi's name five times in attacking Bright.

While many Washington Republicans expect Roby to win on Tuesday, the anticipated low turnout in the midsummer affair offers an air of unpredictability. Less than 20 percent of eligible voters are expected to participate.

## Trump returns from summit with Putin to forceful criticism

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

HELSINKI (AP) — In an extraordinary embrace of a longtime U.S. enemy, President Donald Trump openly questioned his own intelligence agencies' firm finding that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. election to his benefit, seeming to accept Russian President Vladimir Putin's insistence that Moscow's hands were clean.

The reaction back home was immediate and visceral, among fellow Republicans as well as usual Trump critics. "Shameful," "disgraceful," "weak," were a few of the comments. Makes the U.S. "look like a push-over," said GOP Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Trump's meeting with Putin in Helsinki was his first time sharing the international stage with a man he has described as an important U.S. competitor — but whom he has also praised a strong, effective leader.

His remarks, siding with a foe on foreign soil over his own government, was a stark illustration of Trump's willingness to upend decades of U.S. foreign policy and rattle Western allies in service of his political concerns. A wary and robust stance toward Russia has been a bedrock of his party's world view. But Trump made clear he feels that any firm acknowledgement of Russia's involvement would undermine the legitimacy of his election.

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Standing alongside Putin, Trump steered clear of any confrontation with the Russian, going so far as to question American intelligence and last week's federal indictments that accused 12 Russians of hacking into Democratic email accounts to hurt Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today.

"He just said it's not Russia. I will say this: I don't see any reason why it would be," Trump said.

His skepticism drew a quick formal statement — almost a rebuttal — from Trump's director of national intelligence, Dan Coats.

"We have been clear in our assessments of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and their ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy, and we will continue to provide unvarnished and objective intelligence in support of our national security," Coats said.

Fellow GOP politicians have generally stuck with Trump during a year and a half of turmoil, but he was assailed as seldom before as he returned home Monday night from what he had hoped would be a proud summit with Putin.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona was most outspoken, declaring that Trump made a "conscious choice to defend a tyrant" and achieved "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory." House Speaker Paul Ryan, who rarely criticizes Trump, stressed there was "no question" that Russia had interfered.

Even staunch Trump backer Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker, called Trump's comments "the most serious mistake of his presidency" and said they "must be corrected — immediately."

Former CIA Director John Brennan, who served under President Barack Obama, called Trump's words "nothing short of treasonous." Brennan tweeted: "Not only were Trump's comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin. Republican Patriots: Where are you???"

In a Fox News Channel interview after the summit, Putin pronounced the meetings "the beginning of the path" back from the West's past efforts to isolate Russia. "I think you see for yourself that these efforts failed, and they were never bound to succeed," he said.

As he flew home to Washington aboard Air Force One, Trump tried to clarify his position via tweet, saying: "As I said today and many times before, 'I have GREAT confidence in MY intelligence people.' However, I also recognize that in order to build a brighter future, we cannot exclusively focus on the past - as the world's two largest nuclear powers, we must get along!"

In an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity that aired later Monday, Trump said "it's a shame" that he and Putin were being asked questions about the Russia probe while they were trying to discuss issues like Syria and nuclear proliferation. "We've had a phony witch hunt deal drive us apart," he said.

In their totality, Trump's remarks amounted to an unprecedented embrace of a man who for years has been isolated by the U.S. and Western allies for actions in Ukraine, Syria and beyond. And it came at the end of an extraordinary trip to Europe in which Trump had already berated allies, questioned the value of the NATO alliance and demeaned leaders including Germany's Angela Merkel and Britain's Theresa May.

The two leaders' long-awaited summit began with a private face-to-face sitdown — just the leaders and their interpreters — that lasted more than two hours, before additional meetings joined by senior aides.

The pair had held lengthy talks before — on the sidelines of world leader meetings in Germany and Vietnam last year — but this was their first official summit and was being watched closely, especially following the announcement Friday of new indictments against 12 Russian intelligence officers accused of hacking Democratic emails to help Trump's campaign.

Asked about the indictments, Putin suggested that Moscow and Washington could jointly conduct the investigation, inviting special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators to come to Russia to interview the 12 people — an idea Trump hailed as an "incredible offer."

Putin said he'd expect the U.S. to return the favor and cooperate in the Russian probe against William Browder, a British investor charged with financial crimes in Russia. Browder, an outspoken Putin critic, was a driving force behind a U.S. law targeting Russian officials over human rights abuses.

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The summit began just 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.

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

The Russian foreign ministry responded by liking Trump’s tweet and then replying, “We agree.”

Asked whether Russia was responsible at all, Trump said “we’re all to blame” for the soured relations.

However, “that changed,” he said, “as of about four hours ago.”

Putin ridiculed as “sheer nonsense” allegations that Russian intelligence agencies had collected compromising information on Trump during his visit to Moscow years before the election, saying that he had no idea Trump was even visiting.

Trump also dismissed the idea in his interview with Hannity, adding, “If they had it, it would have been out.”

Still, Putin said he had indeed wanted Trump to win the election — a revelation that might have made more headlines if not for Trump’s performance — but had taken no action to make it happen.

“Yes, I wanted him to win because he spoke of normalization of Russian-U.S. ties,” Putin said. “Isn’t it natural to feel sympathy to a person who wanted to develop relations with our country? It’s normal.”

At the closing press conference, Putin, riding high after hosting a successful World Cup, unveiled a gift he’d brought for Trump: a red and white soccer ball, which he tossed to Trump at the neighboring lectern. Trump passed it over to his wife, and said they’d give it to their soccer-loving 12-year-old son, Barron.

Out on the streets, the summit attracted a grab-bag of protesters, with abortion-rights activists wearing artificially bulging bellies and Trump masks, anti-fascist protesters bearing signs with expletive-laden insults, and free traders, anti-war Ukrainians and gay rights supporters making their voices heard.

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

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The Trump-Putin summit news hub is active on the AP News site and the mobile app. It showcases AP’s overall coverage of the event. It can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Trump-PutinSummit>

## US arrests, accuses woman of acting as Russian agent

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 29-year-old gun-rights activist served as a covert Russian agent while living in Washington, gathering intelligence on American officials and political organizations and working to establish back-channel lines of communications for the Kremlin, federal prosecutors charged Monday.

The announcement of the arrest of Maria Butina came just hours after President Donald Trump met with Russian President Vladimir Putin and just days after special counsel Robert Mueller charged 12 Russian intelligence officials with directing a sprawling hacking effort aimed at swaying the 2016 election.

Mueller didn’t file the charge against Butina, but court papers show her activities revolved around American politics during the 2016 campaign and included efforts to use contacts with the National Rifle Association to develop relationships with U.S. politicians and gather intelligence for Russia.

Court papers also reveal that an unnamed American who worked with Butina claimed to have been involved in setting up a “private line of communication” ahead of the 2016 election between the Kremlin and “key” officials in an American political party through the NRA.

The court papers do not name the political party mentioned in the October 2016 message, but they contain details that appear to refer to the Republican Party. The documents don’t say whether the back channel was ever established.

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The NRA, which has previously been connected to Butina in public reporting and information released by members of Congress, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Butina, a Russian national who has been living in the U.S., was charged with conspiracy to act as an unregistered agent of the Russian government. A federal judge in Washington ordered her jailed until a hearing set for Wednesday, according to a statement from the Justice Department and Jessie Liu, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

In a statement, Butina's attorney, Robert Driscoll, called the allegations "overblown" and said prosecutors had criminalized mundane networking opportunities. Driscoll said Butina was not an agent of the Russian Federation but was instead in the U.S. on a student visa, graduating from American University with a master's degree in international relations.

"There is simply no indication of Ms. Butina seeking to influence or undermine any specific policy or law or the United States — only at most to promote a better relationship between the two nations," Driscoll said in a statement. "The complaint is simply a misuse of the Foreign Agent statute, which is designed to punish covert propaganda, not open and public networking by foreign students."

He said Butina's Washington apartment was raided by the FBI in April, and said she had offered to answer questions from the Justice Department and Mueller's team but the special counsel's office "has not expressed interest."

Court papers filed in support of Butina's arrest accuse her of participating in a conspiracy that began in 2015 in which an unnamed senior Russian official "tasked" her with working to infiltrate American political organizations with the goal of "reporting back to Moscow" what she had learned.

The charging documents include several emails and Twitter direct message conversations in which she refers to the need to keep her work secret or, in one case, "incognito."

Authorities did not name the Kremlin official accused of directing Butina's efforts, but details in the court papers match the description of Alexander Torshin, a Russian official who has been publicly connected to her.

Torshin, who became an NRA life member in 2012, was among a group of Russian oligarchs and officials targeted in April with Treasury Department sanctions for their associations with Putin and their roles in "advancing Russia's malign activities." Torshin, who was listed as "State Secretary-deputy Governor of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation," was designated under the sanctions as a Russian official.

The sanctions affect the targeted Russians by freezing all of their assets subject to U.S. jurisdiction and banning Americans and U.S. businesses from conducting transactions with them.

Prosecutors say Butina, at the official's direction, met with U.S. politicians and candidates, attended events sponsored by special interest groups — including two National Prayer Breakfast events — and organized Russian-American "friendship and dialogue" dinners in Washington as part of her work.

Court papers also show that after the 2016 election, Butina worked to set up a Russian delegation's visit to the 2017 National Prayer Breakfast, describing it in an email as an effort to "establish a back channel of communication." After the visit, Butina emailed the organizer of the breakfast thanking him for a gift and "for the very private meeting" that followed the breakfast.

"A new relationship between two countries always begins better when it begins in faith," Butina wrote, saying she had "important information" that would further the new relationship.

Two days later, she emailed another American who had been involved in some of the email communication surrounding the prayer breakfast and her efforts to arrange several dinners between Russians and people involved in U.S. politics.

"Our delegation cannot stop chatting about your wonderful dinner," Butina wrote. "My dearest President has received 'the message' about your group initiatives and your constructive and kind attention to the Russians."

Butina has previously surfaced in U.S. media reports related to her gun-rights advocacy.

In 2011, she founded a pro-gun organization in Russia, the Right to Bear Arms, and she has been involved in coordinating between American gun rights activists and their Russian counterparts, according

to reports in The New York Times, Time and the Daily Beast.

Butina hosted several leading NRA executives and pro-gun conservatives at her group's annual meeting in 2015, according to those reports. Among those who attended were former NRA President David Keene, conservative political operative Paul Erickson and former Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, later a strong Trump supporter.

Butina also says she met with Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker at his presidential campaign launch event in 2015, according to a report by Mother Jones magazine earlier this year.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Stephen Braun, Scott Bauer and Desmond Butler contributed to this report.

Read the criminal complaint: <http://apne.ws/fqKOKjU>

## Republicans join Democrats in condemning Trump's remarks

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Bizarre." "Shameful." "Disgraceful."

That's the swift and sweeping condemnation directed at President Donald Trump on Monday after he sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a stunning appearance in Helsinki — and that's just from the Republicans.

Lawmakers in both major parties and former intelligence officials appeared shocked, dismayed and uneasy with Trump's suggestion that he believes Putin's denial of interfering in the 2016 elections. It was a remarkable break with U.S. intelligence officials and the Justice Department. And just as alarming for some, Trump also put the two countries on the same footing when casting blame for their strained relations.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., called it "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory."

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., called it "bizarre." Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., called it "shameful." And Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., tweeted that it was a "bad day for the US."

"This was a very good day for President Putin," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. He said Trump's refusal to condemn Russian interference in the 2016 election makes the U.S. "look like a pushover."

Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, said he's seen Russian intelligence manipulate many people in his earlier career as a CIA officer. But, he tweeted, "I never would have thought that the US President would become one of the ones getting played by old KGB hands."

House Speaker Paul Ryan weighed in to say there's "no question" that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election and "no moral equivalence" between the U.S. and Russia.

"The president must appreciate that Russia is not our ally," Ryan, R-Wis., said in a statement. Russia, he said, "remains hostile to our most basic values and ideals."

Much of the Republican rebuke came from lawmakers who have been willing to openly criticize the president, a group that remains a minority in the GOP.

Many top Republicans remained on the sidelines after the Justice Department on Friday indicted 12 Russian intelligence officials for election-related hacking.

But several Republicans who don't typically buck the president raised concerns, shocked by Monday's performance.

Trump ally Newt Gingrich called it "the most serious mistake" of Trump's presidency — and one that "must be corrected — immediately."

Democrats pleaded with their GOP colleagues who have majority control of Congress to rein in the president and become a stronger legislative check on the executive branch.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., the minority leader, says never in the history of the country has an American president supported an adversary the way Trump sided with Putin. He challenged Republicans to

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move beyond words and confront the president directly by increasing sanctions on Russia and requesting testimony about the summit from Trump administration officials, among other things.

"We need our Republican colleagues to stand up for the good of this country," he said.

And House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Trump's weakness in front of Putin wasn't just "embarrassing" but also "proves that the Russians have something on the President, personally, financially or politically."

Republicans have been hesitant to fully confront a president who remains popular among GOP voters back home. But Trump's hold on the GOP is being put to the test by his willingness to align with Putin, a leader whom Republicans routinely describe as an enemy of the United States.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., repeated his earlier assessment that the Russians are "not our friends." He said he has "complete confidence in our intelligence community and the findings."

The second-ranking Republican, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, said Trump has a "delicate task" in dealing with Putin, but added that he supports the intelligence community's assessment of election meddling.

Monday's firestorm erupted when Trump, standing side by side with Putin in Helsinki, refused to say he believed that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, or to publicly condemn it. Instead, he directed his ire at Democrats and U.S. officials, calling special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russia a "disaster."

Asked if there was anything he thinks Russia should take responsibility for, Trump said, "We're all to blame."

McCain called the summit a "tragic mistake."

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, said she is "deeply troubled" by Trump's defense of Putin against U.S. intelligence agencies "and his suggestion of moral equivalence" between the two countries.

Even Graham, a sometime Trump ally, called the summit a "missed opportunity by President Trump to firmly hold Russia accountable for 2016 meddling and deliver a strong warning regarding future elections."

While some GOP lawmakers were less strident in their criticism of Trump, their discomfort was clear.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., said he was "dismayed" by Trump's stance. Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., called it "unacceptable."

Off Capitol Hill, former intelligence chiefs who served under President Barack Obama were scathing in their criticism. John Brennan, who served as CIA director, called Trump's comments "treasonous."

"Donald Trump's press conference performance in Helsinki rises to & exceeds the threshold of 'high crimes & misdemeanors.' It was nothing short of treasonous. Not only were Trump's comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin. Republican Patriots: Where are you???" Brennan tweeted.

James Clapper, who was director of national intelligence under Obama, described Trump's comments as "very, very disturbing."

"On the world stage in front of the entire globe the president of the United States essentially capitulated and seems intimidated by Vladimir Putin," Clapper told CNN.

James Comey, the FBI director fired by Trump, tweeted, "This was the day an American president stood on foreign soil next to a murderous lying thug and refused to back his own country."

At least one Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, scoffed at both parties "beating their chests" on Russia and "dumbing down" the debate, saying it's important for the U.S. to have diplomatic channels open with its adversaries if the country hopes to change behavior.

"They're making a big mistake," Paul said. He dismissed the president's critics as those who hate the president. "It's Trump derangement syndrome."

Another key Republican echoed the president's criticism of the special counsel probe.

Rep. Darrell Issa of California said he takes the charges filed by Mueller's team seriously but questions the timing coming days before the Trump-Putin meeting. "I personally would neither rule in nor rule out the validity."

But another Republican, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, warned that while Trump may feel that he can achieve a better working relationship with Putin by being nice to him, that's unlikely to work.

"The flaw in that is that President Putin is not interested in a better relationship," Rubio said at a forum

sponsored by the Atlantic. "He views politics as a battle between the strong and the weak. ... He doesn't believe in win-win scenarios. He believes in zero sum."

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

The Trump-Putin meeting news hub is active on the AP News site and the mobile app. It showcases AP's overall coverage of the event. It can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Trump-PutinSummit>

## Officials: In policy shift, US open to meeting with Taliban

By **MATTHEW PENNINGTON** and **KATHY GANNON**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is open to holding direct talks with the Taliban to encourage negotiations between the militant group and the Afghan government to end 17 years of war, U.S. officials said.

That marks a tactical shift by the Trump administration, which has previously only appeared willing to participate in discussions with the Taliban if those talks also involve the Afghan government. The U.S. officials said Monday that Afghan-to-Afghan negotiation remains the goal of any engagement with the militants.

The officials were not authorized to speak to media and requested anonymity.

The Taliban have long refused direct talks with the Afghan government, demanding instead to negotiate with Washington. The militants have persisted in that stance despite Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's unilateral extension of a holiday cease-fire last month in hopes of encouraging the militants to come to the bargaining table. With the Taliban continuing to mount deadly attacks, Ghani ordered government forces to resume military operations this month.

The unprecedented, three-day cease-fire by both sides had offered a rare glimpse of peace for Afghans during which militants fraternized with security force members.

A Taliban official in the small Gulf Arab nation of Qatar told The Associated Press on Monday that no American official or intermediary has been in touch with them to start direct talks, and it had only heard of it in the media. The administration's willingness to hold direct talks with the Taliban was first reported by The New York Times on Sunday.

The Taliban official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity because he was authorized to speak to journalists, said, "We wait for them to officially inform us." But he added that if the U.S. is interested in talks, it should take steps to get Taliban leaders off a sanctions blacklist and support the formal opening of the Taliban office in Qatar where its political representatives reside. The official reiterated the Taliban's call for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

Asked if the U.S. was willing to hold direct talks with the Taliban, the State Department said Monday, the United States "is exploring all avenues to advance a peace process in close consultation with the Afghan government."

The department added that "any negotiations over the political future of Afghanistan will be between the Taliban and Afghan government."

Last August, President Donald Trump launched an Afghanistan strategy that centered on boosting the capabilities of Afghan security forces and aiming — with help from Pakistan and other interested nations — to compel the militants to negotiate. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Afghanistan last week to reinforce its support for talks.

"The United States will support, facilitate, and participate in these peace discussions, but peace must be decided by the Afghans and settled among them. We expect that these peace talks will include a discussion of the role of international actors and forces," Pompeo said after meeting Ghani in Kabul on July 9.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan following the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, and ousted the Taliban government that had hosted al-Qaida. It has about 15,000 troops in Afghanistan, mostly for training government forces.

The conflict appears stalemated, with insurgents controlling or contesting more than 40 percent of the country. The U.N. mission in Afghanistan said Sunday that 1,692 civilians were killed in violence in the first six months of this year, the highest six-month death toll since the systematic documentation of civilian casualties started in 2009.

Gannon reported from Islamabad, Pakistan.

## Amazon's hopes its Prime Day doesn't go to the dogs

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is hoping customers don't see any more dogs, after early problems on Prime Day meant people trying to shop got only images of the cute canines delivering an apologetic message.

Amazon's website ran into some early snags Monday on its much-hyped Prime Day, an embarrassment for the tech company on the shopping holiday it created.

Shoppers clicking on many Prime Day links after the 3 p.m. ET launch in the U.S. got only images of dogs — some quite abashed-looking — with the words, "Uh-oh. Something went wrong on our end." People took to social media to complain that they couldn't order items.

By about 4:30 p.m., many Prime Day links were working, and Amazon said later Monday that it was working to resolve the glitches.

In an email to The Associated Press, it said "many are shopping successfully" and that in the first hour of the 36-hour Prime Day in the U.S., customers ordered more items than in the same time frame last year.

Still, the hiccups could mute sales and send shoppers elsewhere during one of Amazon's busiest sales periods that's also a key time for it to sign up new Prime members. Shoppers have lots of options, as many other chains have offered sales and promotions to try to capitalize on the Prime Day spending.

Analyst Sucharita Mulpuru-Kodali at Forrester Research called the glitch a "huge deal."

"This is supposed to be one of their biggest days of the year," she wrote in an email. "I am shocked this caught them off guard. But I guess the lesson is to not have a big unveil during the middle of the day when everyone comes to your site all at once."

Amazon, which recently announced that Prime membership would be getting more expensive, was hoping to lure in shoppers by focusing on new products and having Whole Foods be part of the process. It was also hoping parents would use the deals event to jump start back-to-school shopping.

Jason Goldberg, senior vice president of commerce at Publicis.Sapient, noted that the problems could turn off shoppers for a while, particularly those who planned to sign up for Prime membership.

"If you were planning to find Prime deals to lower the cost of back-to-school (purchases), you're almost certainly going back to your traditional venue of choice," he said.

Goldberg noted that it's easy for Amazon to extend deals on its own devices and brands, but trickier for it to extend deals for its third-party sellers because they signed up for different promotional slots.

While Amazon doesn't disclose sales figures for Prime Day, Deborah Weinswig, CEO of Coresight Research, had estimated that it will generate \$3.4 billion in sales worldwide, up from an estimated \$2.4 billion last year. Prime Day also lasts six hours longer than last year.

Meanwhile, other retailers like Macy's, Nordstrom, Best Buy, Walmart and Target have rolled out their own promotions, said Charlie O'Shea, lead retail analyst at Moody's.

"Brick-and-mortar retailers know that they have little choice but to continue offering their own deep discounts, which is evident in the proliferation of 'Black Friday in July' deals that are being launched earlier each year, as well as various 'price match' offers," he said in a note earlier Monday.

Amazon created Prime Day in 2015 to mark its 20th anniversary, and its success has inspired other e-commerce companies to invent shopping holidays. Online furniture seller Wayfair introduced Way Day in April, becoming its biggest revenue day ever.

Prime Day also usually helps boost the number of Prime memberships. Amazon disclosed for the first time this year that it had more than 100 million paid Prime members worldwide. It's hoping to keep Prime

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attractive for current and would-be subscribers after raising the U.S. annual membership fee by 20 percent to \$119 and to \$12.99 for the month-to-month option.

"It has been one of the best vehicles" for signing up members, said Goldberg.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: <http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

## Russian hackers used US online infrastructure against itself

By TAMI ABDOLLAH, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Exactly seven months before the 2016 presidential election, Russian government hackers made it onto a Democratic committee's network.

One of their carefully crafted fraudulent emails had hit pay dirt, enticing an employee to click a link and enter her password.

That breach of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee was the first significant step in gaining access to the Democratic National Committee network.

To steal politically sensitive information, prosecutors say, the hackers exploited some of the United States' own computer infrastructure against it, using servers they leased in Arizona and Illinois. The details were included in an indictment released Friday by special counsel Robert Mueller, who accused the GRU, Russia's military intelligence agency, of taking part in a wide-ranging conspiracy to interfere in the 2016 presidential election. The companies operating the servers were not identified in the court papers.

The Russians are accused of exploiting their access to inexpensive, powerful servers worldwide — conveniently available for rental — that can be used to commit crimes with impunity. Reaching across oceans and into networks without borders can obfuscate their origins.

The indictment painstakingly reconstructs the hackers' movements using web servers and a complex bitcoin financing operation.

Two Russian hacking units were charged with tasks, including the creation and management of a hacking tool called "X-agent" that was implanted onto computers. The software allowed them to monitor activity on computers by individuals, steal passwords and maintain access to hacked networks. It captured each keystroke on infected computers and took screenshots of activity displayed on computer screens, including an employee viewing the DCCC's online banking information.

From April to June 2016, the hackers installed updated versions of their software on at least 10 Democratic computers. The software transmitted information from the infected computers to a GRU-leased server in Arizona, the indictment said. The hackers also created an overseas computer to act as a "middle server" to obscure the connection between the DCCC and the hackers' Arizona-based server.

Once hackers gained access to the DCCC network, it searched one computer for terms that included "hillary," "cruz," and "trump" and copied select folders, including "Benghazi Investigations."

In emails, the hackers embedded a link that purported to be a spreadsheet of Clinton's favorability ratings, but instead it directed the computers to send its data to a GRU-created website.

Meanwhile, around the same time, the hackers broke into 33 DNC computers and installed their software on their network. Captured keystrokes and screenshots from the DCCC and DNC computers, including an employee viewing the DCCC's banking information, were sent back to the Arizona server.

The Russian hackers used other software they developed called X-Tunnel to move stolen documents through encrypted channels to another computer the GRU leased in Illinois.

Despite the use of U.S.-based servers, such vendors typically aren't legally liable for criminal activities unless it can be proved in federal court that the operator was party to the criminal activity.

A 1996 federal statute protects internet vendors from being held liable for how customers use their service, and except for a few exceptions, provides immunity to the providers. The law is considered a key part of the legal infrastructure of the internet, preventing providers from being saddled with the behemoth task of monitoring activity on their servers.

"The fact that someone provided equipment and or connectivity that was used to engage in data theft

is not going to be attributed to the vendor in that circumstance," Eric Goldman, a professor of law and co-director of the High Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University School of Law, said. A notable exception, however, is if federal prosecutors are bringing a criminal charge for violations of a federal criminal law.

In that case, "we're going to require a high level of knowledge of their activity or intent," Goldman said.

When the DNC and DCCC became aware they had been hacked, they hired a cybersecurity firm, CrowdStrike, to determine the extent of the intrusions. CrowdStrike, referred to as "Company 1" in the indictment, took steps to kick the hackers off the networks around June 2016. But for months the Russians eluded their investigators and a version of the malware remained on the network through October — programmed to communicate back to a GRU-registered internet address.

"We do not have any information to suggest that it successfully communicated," said Adrienne Watson, the DNC's deputy communications director.

As the company worked to kick them off, GRU officials allegedly searched online for information on Company 1 and what it had reported about its use of X-Agent malware and tried to delete their traces on the DCCC network by using commercial software known as CCleaner. Though CrowdStrike disabled X-agent on the DCCC network, the hackers spent seven hours unsuccessfully trying to connect to their malware and tried using previously stolen credentials to access the network on June 20, 2016.

The indictment also shows the reliance of Russian government hackers on American technology companies such as Twitter, to spread its stolen documents.

The hackers also accessed DNC data in September 2016 by breaking into DNC computers hosted on the Amazon Web Services' cloud. The hackers used Amazon Web Services' backup feature to create "snapshots" that they moved onto their own Amazon cloud accounts. Amazon also provides cloud computing services for various government agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency.

Follow Tami Abdollah at <https://twitter.com/latams>

## Wave of condemnation hits Trump after summit with Putin

By LISA MASCARO and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Bizarre." "Shameful." "Disgraceful."

That's the swift and sweeping condemnation directed at President Donald Trump on Monday after he sided with Russian President Vladimir Putin during a stunning appearance in Helsinki — and that's just from the Republicans.

Lawmakers in both major parties and former intelligence officials appeared shocked, dismayed and uneasy with Trump's suggestion that he believes Putin's denial of interfering in the 2016 elections. It was a remarkable break with U.S. intelligence officials and the Justice Department. And just as alarming for some, Trump also put the two countries on the same footing when casting blame for their strained relations.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., called it "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory."

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., called it "bizarre." Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., called it "shameful." And Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., tweeted that it was a "bad day for the US."

"This was a very good day for President Putin," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. He said Trump's refusal to condemn Russian interference in the 2016 election makes the U.S. "look like a pushover."

Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, said he's seen Russian intelligence manipulate many people in his earlier career as a CIA officer. But, he tweeted, "I never would have thought that the US President would become one of the ones getting played by old KGB hands."

House Speaker Paul Ryan weighed in to say there's "no question" that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election and "no moral equivalence" between the U.S. and Russia.

"The president must appreciate that Russia is not our ally," Ryan, R-Wis., said in a statement. Russia, he said, "remains hostile to our most basic values and ideals."

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Much of the Republican rebuke came from lawmakers who have been willing to openly criticize the president, a group that remains a minority in the GOP.

Many top Republicans remained on the sidelines after the Justice Department on Friday indicted 12 Russian intelligence officials for election-related hacking.

But several Republicans who don't typically buck the president raised concerns, shocked by Monday's performance.

Trump ally Newt Gingrich called it "the most serious mistake" of Trump's presidency — and one that "must be corrected immediately."

Democrats pleaded with their GOP colleagues who have majority control of Congress to rein in the president and become a stronger legislative check on the executive branch.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., the minority leader, says never in the history of the country has an American president supported an adversary the way Trump sided with Putin. He challenged Republicans to move beyond words and confront the president directly by increasing sanctions on Russia and requesting testimony about the summit from Trump administration officials, among other things.

"We need our Republican colleagues to stand up for the good of this country," he said.

And House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Trump's weakness in front of Putin wasn't just "embarrassing" but also "proves that the Russians have something on the President, personally, financially or politically."

Republicans have been hesitant to fully confront a president who remains popular among GOP voters back home. But Trump's hold on the GOP is being put to the test by his willingness to align with Putin, a leader whom Republicans routinely describe as an enemy of the United States.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., repeated his earlier assessment that the Russians are "not our friends." He said he has "complete confidence in our intelligence community and the findings."

The second-ranking Republican, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, said Trump has a "delicate task" in dealing with Putin, but added that he supports the intelligence community's assessment of election meddling.

Monday's firestorm erupted when Trump, standing side by side with Putin in Helsinki, refused to say he believed that Russia interfered in the 2016 election, or to publicly condemn it. Instead, he directed his ire at Democrats and U.S. officials, calling special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russia a "disaster."

Asked if there was anything he thinks Russia should take responsibility for, Trump said, "We're all to blame."

McCain called the summit a "tragic mistake."

Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., the daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, said she is "deeply troubled" by Trump's defense of Putin against U.S. intelligence agencies "and his suggestion of moral equivalence" between the two countries.

Even Graham, a sometime Trump ally, called the summit a "missed opportunity by President Trump to firmly hold Russia accountable for 2016 meddling and deliver a strong warning regarding future elections."

While some GOP lawmakers were less strident in their criticism of Trump, their discomfort was clear.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., said he was "dismayed" by Trump's stance. Rep. Carlos Curbelo, R-Fla., called it "unacceptable."

Off Capitol Hill, former intelligence chiefs who served under President Barack Obama were scathing in their criticism. John Brennan, who served as CIA director, called Trump's comments "treasonous."

"Donald Trump's press conference performance in Helsinki rises to & exceeds the threshold of 'high crimes & misdemeanors.' It was nothing short of treasonous. Not only were Trump's comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin. Republican Patriots: Where are you???" Brennan tweeted.

James Clapper, who was director of national intelligence under Obama, described Trump's comments as "very, very disturbing."

"On the world stage in front of the entire globe the president of the United States essentially capitulated and seems intimidated by Vladimir Putin," Clapper told CNN.

James Comey, the FBI director fired by Trump, tweeted, "This was the day an American president stood on foreign soil next to a murderous lying thug and refused to back his own country."

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At least one Republican, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, scoffed at both parties "beating their chests" on Russia and "dumbing down" the debate, saying it's important for the U.S. to have diplomatic channels open with its adversaries if the country hopes to change behavior.

"They're making a big mistake," Paul said. He dismissed the president's critics as those who hate the president. "It's Trump derangement syndrome."

Another key Republican echoed the president's criticism of the special counsel probe.

Rep. Darrell Issa of California said he takes the charges filed by Mueller's team seriously but questions the timing coming days before the Trump-Putin meeting. "I personally would neither rule in nor rule out the validity."

But another Republican, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, warned that while Trump may feel that he can achieve a better working relationship with Putin by being nice to him, that's unlikely to work.

"The flaw in that is that President Putin is not interested in a better relationship," Rubio said at a forum sponsored by the Atlantic. "He views politics as a battle between the strong and the weak. ... He doesn't believe in win-win scenarios. He believes in zero sum."

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Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Alan Fram and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

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The Trump-Putin summit news hub is active on the AP News site and the mobile app. It showcases AP's overall coverage of the event. It can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Trump-PutinSummit>

## Trump embraces longtime US foe Putin, doubting own intel

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

HELSINKI (AP) — In an extraordinary embrace of a longtime U.S. enemy, President Donald Trump on Monday openly questioned his own intelligence agencies' firm finding that Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. election to his benefit, seeming to accept Russian President Vladimir Putin's insistence that Moscow's hands were clean.

The reaction back home was immediate and visceral, among fellow Republicans as well as usual Trump critics. "Shameful," "disgraceful," "weak," were a few of the comments. Makes the U.S. "look like a push-over," said GOP Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee.

Trump's meeting with Putin in Helsinki was his first time sharing the international stage with a man he has described as an important U.S. competitor — but whom he has also praised a strong, effective leader.

His remarks, siding with a foe on foreign soil over his own government, was a stark illustration of Trump's willingness to upend decades of U.S. foreign policy and rattle Western allies in service of his political concerns. A wary and robust stance toward Russia has been a bedrock of his party's world view. But Trump made clear he feels that any firm acknowledgement of Russia's involvement would undermine the legitimacy of his election.

Standing alongside Putin, Trump steered clear of any confrontation with the Russian, going so far as to question American intelligence and last week's federal indictments that accused 12 Russians of hacking into Democratic email accounts to hurt Hillary Clinton in 2016.

"I have great confidence in my intelligence people, but I will tell you that President Putin was extremely strong and powerful in his denial today.

"He just said it's not Russia. I will say this: I don't see any reason why it would be," Trump said.

His skepticism drew a quick formal statement — almost a rebuttal — from Trump's director of national intelligence, Dan Coats.

"We have been clear in our assessments of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and their ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy, and we will continue to provide unvarnished and objective intelligence in support of our national security," Coats said.

Fellow GOP politicians have generally stuck with Trump during a year and a half of turmoil, but he was assailed as seldom before as he returned home Monday night from what he had hoped would be a proud

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summit with Putin.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona was most outspoken, declaring that Trump made a "conscious choice to defend a tyrant" and achieved "one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory." House Speaker Paul Ryan, who rarely criticizes Trump, stressed there was "no question" that Russia had interfered.

Even staunch Trump backer Newt Gingrich, the former House speaker, called Trump's comments "the most serious mistake of his presidency" and said they "must be corrected — immediately."

Former CIA Director John Brennan, who served under President Barack Obama, called Trump's words "nothing short of treasonous." Brennan tweeted: "Not only were Trump's comments imbecilic, he is wholly in the pocket of Putin. Republican Patriots: Where are you???"

In a Fox News Channel interview after the summit, Putin pronounced the meetings "the beginning of the path" back from the West's past efforts to isolate Russia. "I think you see for yourself that these efforts failed, and they were never bound to succeed," he said.

As he flew home to Washington aboard Air Force One, Trump tried to clarify his position via tweet, saying: "As I said today and many times before, 'I have GREAT confidence in MY intelligence people.' However, I also recognize that in order to build a brighter future, we cannot exclusively focus on the past - as the world's two largest nuclear powers, we must get along!"

In an interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity that aired later Monday, Trump said "it's a shame" that he and Putin were being asked questions about the Russia probe while they were trying to discuss issues like Syria and nuclear proliferation. "We've had a phony witch hunt deal drive us apart," he said.

In their totality, Trump's remarks amounted to an unprecedented embrace of a man who for years has been isolated by the U.S. and Western allies for actions in Ukraine, Syria and beyond. And it came at the end of an extraordinary trip to Europe in which Trump had already berated allies, questioned the value of the NATO alliance and demeaned leaders including Germany's Angela Merkel and Britain's Theresa May.

The two leaders' long-awaited summit began with a private face-to-face sitdown — just the leaders and their interpreters — that lasted more than two hours, before additional meetings joined by senior aides.

The pair had held lengthy talks before — on the sidelines of world leader meetings in Germany and Vietnam last year — but this was their first official summit and was being watched closely, especially following the announcement Friday of new indictments against 12 Russian intelligence officers accused of hacking Democratic emails to help Trump's campaign.

Asked about the indictments, Putin suggested that Moscow and Washington could jointly conduct the investigation, inviting special counsel Robert Mueller's investigators to come to Russia to interview the 12 people — an idea Trump hailed as an "incredible offer."

Putin said he'd expect the U.S. to return the favor and cooperate in the Russian probe against William Browder, a British investor charged with financial crimes in Russia. Browder, an outspoken Putin critic, was a driving force behind a U.S. law targeting Russian officials over human rights abuses.

The summit began just 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.

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

The Russian foreign ministry responded by liking Trump's tweet and then replying, "We agree."

Asked whether Russia was responsible at all, Trump said "we're all to blame" for the soured relations. However, "that changed," he said, "as of about four hours ago."

Putin ridiculed as "sheer nonsense" allegations that Russian intelligence agencies had collected compromising information on Trump during his visit to Moscow years before the election, saying that he had no idea Trump was even visiting.

Trump also dismissed the idea in his interview with Hannity, adding, "If they had it, it would have been out."

Still, Putin said he had indeed wanted Trump to win the election — a revelation that might have made more headlines if not for Trump's performance — but had taken no action to make it happen.

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"Yes, I wanted him to win because he spoke of normalization of Russian-U.S. ties," Putin said. "Isn't it natural to feel sympathy to a person who wanted to develop relations with our country? It's normal."

At the closing press conference, Putin, riding high after hosting a successful World Cup, unveiled a gift he'd brought for Trump: a red and white soccer ball, which he tossed to Trump at the neighboring lectern. Trump passed it over to his wife, and said they'd give it to their soccer-loving 12-year-old son, Barron.

Out on the streets, the summit attracted a grab-bag of protesters, with abortion-rights activists wearing artificially bulging bellies and Trump masks, anti-fascist protesters bearing signs with expletive-laden insults, and free traders, anti-war Ukrainians and gay rights supporters making their voices heard.

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

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The Trump-Putin summit news hub is active on the AP News site and the mobile app. It showcases AP's overall coverage of the event. It can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Trump-PutinSummit>

## Baseball's shifting culture set to play out in All-Star Game

By **BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — David Ortiz can now laugh, sort of, at the shifting culture of baseball. For Mike Trout, Nolan Arenado, Bryce Harper and most every other All-Star hitter, dealing with different defensive alignments is just part of the game.

Tune in Tuesday night and there's no telling where fans will see fielders at Nationals Park. Especially in what's become merely an exhibition — why not try a five-man outfield?

Count Joey Votto among the boppers who'd love to do away with infielders clustered on the grass.

"From someone who's really been dinged by the shift, I would welcome it," the Cincinnati first baseman said Monday. "Once they started shifting more without question, I adjusted my approach and you have to or else you get burned by it because .290 turns into .250 turns into .220 like nothing."

But the career .312 hitter can see why Major League Baseball might want to avoid delving into rules to define defensive positions.

"I like the idea of a dynamic ballplayer. It's really hard to shift against a really fast left-handed hitter for a multitude of reasons," he said. "Removing the shift may lend itself to the left-handed pull hitter that hits flyballs, groundballs and strikes out a ton. I'm not sure if Major League Baseball is excited about that."

To Ortiz, these overloaded infields are reshaping the sport. Not in a good way, either.

"It seems crazy, it seems like it's taking some fun part of the game away," the retired Red Sox slugger said Sunday before managing the Futures Game.

"It seems like there are 20 guys playing defense against you," Big Papi said, playfully estimating shifts took "like 500 hits away from me."

There's been talk that baseball, concerned that less action in the field could translate to fewer fans in the stands, might consider a rule regarding shifts.

Perhaps it would mean only two infielders on each side of the diamond. Or possibly they'd all be required to stay on the dirt.

"Maybe something where you can only shift a couple guys each inning," Arenado offered.

Of course, Max Scherzer, Jacob deGrom, Luis Severino and other aces might see it a bit differently.

"I am extremely pro-shift, especially against lefties because I pound lefties in and then change-ups away," Dodgers right-hander Ross Stripling said. "I know there are pitchers that don't like it as much. When you think about the shift it's easier to remember the ones that hurt you than the 10 that helped you."

As for the debate about shifts damaging the game, "certainly I understand it," he said.

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"We were just talking about this the other day and we looked up the research a little bit. It's led to way less singles, but more walks and more doubles," he said.

No manager employs more shifts than AL skipper A.J. Hinch of Houston, so look for second baseman Jose Altuve and shortstop Manny Machado to be moving around when Paul Goldschmidt, Matt Kemp and the other NL stars come to bat.

"The shift has transformed the game," Astros third baseman Alex Bregman said. "We did it a lot last year and won the World Series, so I guess it works."

Despite all the top talent at the plate, All-Star Games rarely turn into run-fests. They're often limited by the strong stable of pitchers each team brings, boosted by dominant relievers such as Craig Kimbrel, Josh Hader and Kenley Jansen ramped up to throw one inning apiece.

The AL won last year 2-1 at Miami on Robinson Cano's homer in the 10th inning. Not since 2007, in fact, have both teams scored more than three runs in a game.

That's the trend across baseball these days. Going into the break, there have been more strikeouts than hits in the majors. The overall batting average is .247 at the break, and it could dip to the lowest figure in nearly a half-century.

"I think offenses are down because of the shift. I see a lot of guys hit balls hard up the middle that are usually hits that are outs," Trout said.

The decrease on the scoreboard has increased calls for more radical changes — outlawing shifts, lowering the mound, forcing relievers to face more than one batter.

"This is a game of adjustments. Everybody is constantly making adjustments to you," Atlanta outfielder Nick Markakis said. "You're going to want to cry about it and not have the shift any more? I think it's silly."

No one has suggested cutting the bases to 88 feet or stretching the mound-to-plate distance beyond 60 feet, 6 inches.

Meanwhile, home runs continue to rise at a record rate. Strikeouts, too.

Harper, a six-time All-Star at 25, is caught in the vortex. Set to play in the showcase at his home ballpark, he's batting only .214 with 102 strikeouts, along with 23 homers.

How can a batter beat the shift?

"You can't," Harper said. "If you hit a ball in the hole, then you're out. If you hit a ball up the middle, you're out."

"If I have a kid, I'm not going to tell him to stay through the middle anymore because if you hit a ball up the middle, you're out," he said. "I guess guys could bunt down the first base line or third base line if they shift you the other way. But you don't get paid to bunt. If you hit it over all of them, that's how you beat it."

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

## Judge temporarily halts deportation of reunified families

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A federal judge on Monday ordered a temporary halt to deportations of immigrant families reunited after being separated at the border, as the Trump administration races to meet a July 26 deadline for putting more than 2,500 children back in their parents' arms.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw imposed a delay of at least a week after a request from the American Civil Liberties Union, which cited "persistent and increasing rumors ... that mass deportations may be carried out imminently and immediately upon reunification."

Justice Department attorney Scott Stewart opposed the delay but did not address the rumors in court.

The ACLU requested that parents have at least one week to decide whether to pursue asylum in the U.S. after they are reunited with their children. The judge held off on deciding that issue until the government outlines its objections in writing by next Monday.

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ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt told reporters that he was "extremely pleased" by the halt and that parents need time to think over with their children and advisers whether to seek asylum.

"It's hard to imagine a more profound or momentous decision," he said.

The hearing in San Diego occurred as the government accelerated reunifications at eight unidentified U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement locations. The families are scattered around the country, the adults at immigration detention centers, the children at shelters overseen by the government.

Annunciation House, a shelter in El Paso, said the government has begun transporting children in a "tremendous amount of airline flights" to El Paso and elsewhere. Director Ruben Garcia said he is preparing to take in as many as 100 reunified families a day.

Late last month, Sabraw ordered the government to reunite the thousands of children and parents who were forcibly separated at the border by the Trump administration this spring. He set a deadline of July 10 for children under 5 and gave the government until July 26 to reunite 2,551 youngsters ages 5 to 17.

On Monday, the judge commended the government for a revised plan submitted over the weekend to reunify the older children. The plan calls for DNA testing and other screening measures if red flags are raised during background checks.

Jonathan White of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, who is overseeing the government's effort, assured the judge that some reunifications of older children already occurred, and "it is our intent to reunify children promptly." He went into detail on how the process was working.

The judge praised White's testimony, saying, "What is in place is a great start to making a large number of reunifications happen very, very quickly."

"I have every confidence that you are the right person to do this," he told White.

It was a sharp change from Friday, when the government submitted a plan for "truncated" vetting that excluded DNA testing and other procedures used for children under 5. The government official said the abbreviated vetting was necessary to meet the court-imposed deadline but put children at significant risk.

Sabraw said late Friday that he was having second thoughts about his belief that the government was acting in good faith. In a hastily arranged conference call, he told administration officials that its plan misrepresented his instructions and showed "a very grudging reluctance to do things."

Sabraw said in court Monday that the initial plan was "exasperating," "completely unhelpful," and "written in a manner that seemed wholly divorced from the context of this case."

"This is not hard stuff," he said. "It's laborious, but it's not difficult to do."

Sabraw has scheduled three more hearings over the next two weeks to ensure compliance with his order.

Also Monday, advocates said in federal court in Los Angeles that immigrant children in government custody are being given poor food, kept in unsanitary conditions and face insults and threats.

The allegations came amid a long-running effort by attorneys to have a court-appointed monitor oversee the U.S. government's compliance with a decades-old settlement governing the treatment of immigrant children caught on the border.

Attorneys interviewed immigrant parents and children in June and July about their experiences in Border Patrol facilities, family detention and a youth shelter. They described much of the testimony as "shocking and atrocious."

Families described meals of frozen sandwiches and spoiled food, overflowing toilets and guards yelling at them and kicking them while they slept. Children said they were hungry and scared when their parents were taken away.

Long reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, California, and Morgan Lee in Santa Fe, New Mexico, contributed to this report.

## Chicago activist demands all footage from police shooting

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A community activist who has pushed for more police transparency said Monday that

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he's asked Chicago police for the body camera footage from all the officers at the scene where one of them fatally shot a black man over the weekend.

William Calloway said a brief video released by police showing the view from one officer's body camera does not answer crucial questions, starting with the reasons the officers approached 37-year-old Harith Augustus on Saturday afternoon just before he was shot. Calloway also said that a police spokesman's explanation that the Augustus was "exhibiting characteristics of an armed person" does not justify stopping someone in a city and state where it is legal to carry a concealed weapon.

Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said Sunday that detectives have found no documentation that Augustus had a concealed carry permit, but Calloway said there is no way officers at the scene could have known that when they approached him.

A department spokesman, Tom Ahern, said officers have the right to pat a person down on the street if they are concerned about their own safety.

"If they feel someone is acting suspiciously or they see a bulge under their shirt, if the person is evasive or refuses to answer questions, they can do a protective pat down," he said, adding that the officer must be able to "articulate why they have a reasonable suspicion" that a person could pose a threat.

"They can't start digging through their pockets... but they can pat down the outside of their clothes."

The video released by police did not include sound so it is impossible to hear what was said by either Augustus or any of the four officers at the scene. It shows one of the officers trying to grab the arm of Augustus, who spins and runs away with a clearly visible holstered gun on his hip.

"He was having a civil conversation with the black cop at first so we need to know what he and that officer were saying," Calloway said. "There needs to be (footage) from four police officers with audio."

Ahern said the department would not release any more video and any decision to do so would have to be made by the agency that investigates such incidents, the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA). In a written statement, COPA said that releasing all the video now "may jeopardize the integrity of our investigation," but that the video would be released no later than 60 days from the date of the incident.

At a news conference on Sunday to announce the release of the 51-second video, Johnson said the way the technology works is that there is a "30-second buffer period" without audio before the sound is activated. It is unclear why there is no sound throughout the entire video.

Calloway was instrumental in a legal battle that ultimately led a judge in 2015 to order the release of dash cam video showing the 2014 shooting of teenager Laquan McDonald. The release of that video of Officer Jason Van Dyke shooting the teen 16 times, sparked massive protests, cost then-Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy his job and prompted various federal and local investigations. Van Dyke is awaiting trial on first-degree murder charges.

Calloway said he will sue the city if it does not release the other videos.

Johnson said on Sunday that release of the video one day after the shooting was the quickest he had ever ordered such a disclosure. He said that he did so to avoid a repeat of the clashes between angry residents and police that took place Saturday night. Protesters threw rocks and bottles — some filled with urine — at police and officers responded by hitting some demonstrators with their batons.

After release of the shooting video, protests on Sunday evening were peaceful. But the community remains tense and a "demonstration against the police murder of Harith Augustus" organized by a group called the Chicago Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression was scheduled for Monday evening at the scene of the shooting.

This version of the story corrects the 2nd paragraph to say does not justify instead of does justify.

## Elon Musk's social media conduct may be bad for his business

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

Whether it's investors betting against his stock or reporters or analysts who ask tough questions, Elon Musk has fought back, often around the clock on Twitter.

In the past few months, the Tesla and SpaceX CEO has become a bigger, more snarling presence on social media. But when Musk called a British diver involved in the Thailand cave rescue a pedophile in front of 22.2 million Twitter followers Sunday, he may have gone one tweet too far.

The tweet, later deleted, sent investors away from Tesla stock and could expose the temperamental rocket scientist to a libel suit. In the tweets, Musk strayed from a vigorous defense of his companies into personal insult, with no facts to back it up.

"This has nothing to do with defending Tesla," said Erik Gordon, a business and law professor at the University of Michigan. "This goes over a line where he can't claim 'Well, my big sin is that I go too far in defending the company.'"

In a TV interview, British diver Vern Unsworth criticized Musk and SpaceX engineers for sending a small submarine to help divers rescue the 12 Thai soccer players and their coach from a flooded cave. The submarine was not used. Unsworth called it a "PR stunt" and said it wouldn't have worked anyway.

Musk responded with a tweet branding Unsworth a "pedo." In a second tweet, Musk said he bet the claim was true. Unsworth told CNN he is considering legal action.

A Tesla spokeswoman wouldn't comment on the tweets.

For the first four months of the year, Musk was averaging around 100 tweets per month. But the tweets spiked to about 400 per month starting in May as Musk was under pressure to raise production of the Model 3 lower-priced electric car, which starts at \$35,000.

As the spike occurred, Musk gained thousands of Twitter followers. He has almost half as many as President Donald Trump, who likewise attacks his critics with relish on Twitter.

Mark Spiegel, an outspoken hedge fund manager who has been betting on Tesla's stock falling for years, said the tweets are showing Musk's fans his true personality.

The company, which has had only two profitable quarters, is deep in debt and will have trouble meeting Musk's prediction of a profit in the second half of this year, Spiegel said.

"It's all based around this rabid Elon Musk fan base. Once that fan base starts to see what kind of person they've been worshipping, they will turn on you on a dime," he said.

Spiegel likened Musk to Trump, saying the two men have an "amazing amount of personality defects in common."

Previous comparisons with Trump have angered Musk. This spring, critic Andrew J. Hawkins tweeted that Musk was transforming into a "media-baiting Trump figure screaming irrationally about fake news."

Musk responded by lashing out at the media for the Trump comparisons, writing: "Why do you think he got elected in the first place? Because no one believes you any more."

In his defense, Musk posted on Twitter that leaders of the Thai rescue, in which all the boys and their coach were safely extracted, had asked him to build the mini-sub.

Tesla stock fell nearly 3 percent Monday to \$310.10 even though the broader market was up slightly.

Robert Drechsel, who taught media law at the University of Wisconsin, said if he were Tesla's attorney, he would advise the CEO to stop tweeting.

"You can't be doing yourself any favor minimally by creating this kind of a distraction, and at worst raising questions about your credibility," he said. "I'm certain they wish he would be a more cautious tweeter."

Big investors are in a difficult spot with Tesla, much as they were with Uber and ousted CEO Travis Kalanick, Gordon said. Like Uber, Tesla and SpaceX were built on their founder's larger-than-life personality. Tesla is worth more than \$52 billion, largely on the promise of Musk's genius.

Until recently, Twitter and Musk's personality worked well for Tesla. The company said in its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission that it doesn't need to advertise because it gets so much free media attention.

But Musk's "pedo" comment and his Twitter skirmishes with analysts, reporters and others will make investors wary, Gordon said.

"It's very dangerous if you just blurt things out," he said.

\_\_\_Associated Press graphic artist Francois Duckett, business writer Michelle Chapman and editor Charles Sheehan contributed to this report.

## **Apparent protester removed ahead of Trump-Putin conference**

**By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press**

HELSINKI (AP) — An apparent protester has been escorted out of a joint press conference between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The individual, seated with the American press corps in Helsinki, was holding a sign about nuclear weapons. He identified himself as a reporter from the liberal magazine 'The Nation.'

A U.S. Secret Service agent spoke with the unidentified man, before Finnish security physically escorted him from the room minutes before the two presidents entered to begin their press conference.

## **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 third 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 optimistic, 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.

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## **Royalty, the pope, and now Trump \_ Putin makes everyone wait**

HELSINKI (AP) — Famous for his tardiness at official talks, President Vladimir Putin did it again Monday — to U.S. President Donald Trump.

Putin long has sought to meet with Trump, but the Russian leader was 35 minutes late to arrive at their closely watched summit in the Finnish capital.

The delay followed a long tradition set since Putin's first election in 2000.

Famous victims of his lack of punctuality included Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Pope Francis among many others.

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

Some Kremlin watchers saw Putin's lack of punctuality as a deliberate tactic of trying to throw his vis-a-vis off balance, but others pointed out that it appears to be more of a personal trait than a well-calculated strategy.

Putin is also chronically late for official events in Moscow, often because he lets preceding meetings run longer than expected.

He often holds meetings in late evenings and starts his days relatively late.

## **Japan, EU sign trade deal to eliminate nearly all tariffs**

**By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer**

TOKYO (AP) — The European Union and Japan signed a landmark deal on Tuesday that will eliminate nearly all tariffs on products they trade.

The ambitious pact signed in Tokyo runs counter to President Donald Trump's moves to hike tariffs on imports from many U.S. trading partners. It covers a third of the global economy and markets of more than 600 million people.

"The EU and Japan showed an undeterred determination to lead the world as flag-bearers for free trade," Abe said at a joint news conference with European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

Tusk praised the deal as "the largest bilateral trade deal ever." He said the partnership is being strengthened in various other areas, including defense, climate change and human exchange, and is "sending a clear message" against protectionism.

The leaders did not mention Trump by name, but they did little to mask what was on their minds — highlighting how Europe and Japan have been pushed closer by Trump's actions.

The agreement was largely reached late last year. The ceremonial signing was delayed from earlier this month because Abe canceled going to Brussels over a disaster in southwestern Japan, caused by extremely heavy rainfall. More than 200 people died from flooding and landslides.

The measures won't kick in right away and still require legislative approval. But they will bring Japanese consumers lower prices for European wines, pork, handbags and pharmaceuticals. Japanese machinery parts, tea and fish will become cheaper in Europe.

The deal eliminates about 99 percent of the tariffs on Japanese goods sold to the EU. About 94 percent of the tariffs on European exports to Japan will be lifted, rising to 99 percent in the future. The difference reflects exceptions on such products as rice, which enjoys strong political protection from imports in Japan.

Overall, European farmers will benefit, Juncker said, though European consumers will be able to more easily buy luscious Kobe beef and famous Yubari melons.

The EU said the trade liberalization will help raise European exports of chemicals, clothing, cosmetics and beer to Japan. Japanese will get cheaper cheeses, such as Parmesan, gouda and cheddar, as well as chocolate and biscuits.

The imported wine and cheese could hurt sales by Japanese wineries and dairies, but Japanese consumers have historically coveted such European products.

The major step toward liberalizing trade has been discussed since 2013.

Apart from its deal with the EU, Japan is working on other trade agreements, including a far-reaching trans-Pacific deal. The partnership includes Australia, Mexico, Vietnam and other nations, although the U.S. has withdrawn.

Abe praised the deal with the EU for helping his "Abenomics" policies, designed to wrest the economy out of stagnation despite a shrinking population and cautious spending. Japan's growth remains heavily dependent on exports.

\_\_\_ Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

## Kim slams local North Koreans for unfinished power plant

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has blasted local officials over a delayed construction project, state media reported Tuesday, his second such rebuke over the economy in recent weeks.

It's unusual for state media to carry dispatches showing Kim's criticism of officials. Some experts say Kim, eager to claim economic gains, may intend to blame underlings for problems before possibly launching new economic policies.

The latest fury, as Kim negotiates with the United States over abandoning his nuclear weapons programs, came during a visit to the power plant's construction site in the northeast. After officials briefed him about the project and its delays, he was "speechless" and "extremely enraged," the Korean Central News Agency reported.

The plan originally was ordered in the early 1980s by Kim's late grandfather, North Korean founder Kim Il Sung.

"Kim pointed out that the cabinet has specified the project as a target project that should be accelerated," the KCNA report said. "He criticized the officials of the province and county for having not sent a letter to him about the situation."

Earlier this month, during visits to two textile factories, Kim also lambasted officials for poor building maintenance, failing to modernize production lines, a lack of expertise and other problems.

"Kim is probably hinting at changing his policy after confirming North Korea's economy has lots of problems during his inspection tours," said Koh Yu-hwan, a professor at Seoul's Dongguk University. "He has vowed his people won't tighten their belts again so he also may be passing the buck to officials after accusing them of being negligent."

Since taking power when his dictator father Kim Jong Il died in late 2011, Kim, 34, has promised to boost living standards and sought to project an image of youth and modernity while pushing hard to build up North Korea's nuclear capabilities.

Under his rule, the North's economy has gradually improved with the expansion of some capitalist elements such as outdoor markets. But it is still one of the poorest countries in the world, and tough U.N. sanctions imposed after its nuclear and missile tests last year could take a huge economic toll if they continue, foreign experts say.

After entering disarmament talks with the United States earlier this year, Kim met in June with President Donald Trump and agreed to commit to "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." But there has been no major progress in the North's disarmament.

U.S. and South Korean officials say they are ready to help North Korea revive its economy if it gives up its nuclear program.

## Asian stocks fall, weighed by tensions over US trade tariffs

By **ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press**

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SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian markets fell on Tuesday as mounting tensions over U.S. tariffs overshadowed data suggesting global growth was still on track.

KEEPING SCORE: South Korea's Kospi lost 0.2 percent to 2,297.64 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.0 percent to 28,247.53 in morning trading. The Shanghai Composite index tumbled 1.0 percent to 2,785.68. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dropped 0.5 percent to 6,213.30. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 bucked the regional trend, gaining 0.4 percent to 22,692.82. Shares fell in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

WALL STREET: Most U.S. indexes closed lower on Monday as investors bought banks but sold most other types of stocks, including health care and technology companies. The S&P 500 index fell 0.1 percent to 2,798.43. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.2 percent to 25,064.36 as Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, and Boeing climbed. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.3 percent to 7,805.72. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks shed 0.5 percent to 1,678.54.

TARIFF CHALLENGES: On Monday, the Trump administration brought cases against China, the European Union, Canada, Mexico and Turkey at the World Trade Organization for retaliating against American tariffs on imported steel and aluminum. The U.S. has imposed tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum on the grounds that the imported metals pose a threat to its national security. In response, the countries have counterpunched with taxes on more than \$24 billion worth of U.S. exports. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said their retaliation violates WTO rules. If the WTO agrees, it would assess the damage and calculate the tariffs that the United States would be entitled to impose in response — retaliation for the retaliation. But WTO proceedings can last years. Earlier in the day, China said it had filed a WTO challenge to Trump's proposal for a tariff hike on \$200 billion of Chinese goods.

GLOBAL GROWTH: The International Monetary Fund is keeping its forecast for global economic growth unchanged at 3.9 percent this year despite worries about rising trade tensions and higher oil prices. It still expects tax cuts to lift U.S. economic growth to 2.9 percent this year, up from 2.3 percent in 2017, but downgraded the outlook for Europe and Japan.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The recovery for equity markets takes a breather with the earnings optimism coming under question and a reminder of the concerns over trade tensions. A packed day nevertheless lies ahead which would be drivers aplenty for equities," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

NETFLIX: Netflix is adding subscribers at a slower pace than envisioned, renewing fears that its growth may sputter as the video streaming service tries to fend off fiercer competition. The company added 5.1 million subscribers in the April-June period, more than 1 million below what management had believed it could. Monday's numbers marked the first time in a more than a year that Netflix hadn't exceeded its subscriber growth projection. Its shares plunged 13.2 percent in aftermarket trading.

ENERGY: Oil prices recovered after falling more than 4 percent on official suggestions that the U.S. will take a softer stance on countries that import oil from Iran, once sanctions on its energy sector go back into effect in November. Benchmark U.S. crude added 5 cents to \$68.11 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 4.2 percent to \$68.06 in New York on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 49 cents to \$72.33 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 112.41 yen from 112.30 yen late Monday. The euro edged lower to \$1.1710 from \$1.1714.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 17, the 198th day of 2018. There are 167 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 17, 1944, during World War II, 320 men, two-thirds of them African-Americans, were killed when a pair of ammunition ships exploded at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California.

On this date:

In 1821, Spain ceded Florida to the United States.

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In 1918, Russia's Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks.

In 1936, the Spanish Civil War began as right-wing army generals launched a coup attempt against the Second Spanish Republic.

In 1938, aviator Douglas Corrigan took off from New York, saying he was headed for California; he ended up in Ireland, supposedly by accident, earning the nickname "Wrong Way Corrigan."

In 1954, the two-day inaugural Newport Jazz Festival, billed as "The First American Jazz Festival," opened in Rhode Island; among the performers the first night was Billie Holiday, who died in New York on this date in 1959 at age 44.

In 1955, Disneyland had its opening day in Anaheim, California.

In 1967, jazz composer-musician John Coltrane died in Long Island, New York, at age 40.

In 1975, an Apollo spaceship docked with a Soyuz spacecraft in orbit in the first superpower link-up of its kind.

In 1981, 114 people were killed when a pair of suspended walkways above the lobby of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel collapsed during a tea dance.

In 1996, TWA Flight 800, a Europe-bound Boeing 747, exploded and crashed off Long Island, New York, shortly after departing John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 230 people on board.

In 1997, Woolworth Corp. announced it was closing its 400 remaining five-and-dime stores across the country, ending 117 years in business.

In 2014, all 298 passengers and crew aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 were killed when the Boeing 777 was shot down over rebel-held eastern Ukraine.

Ten years ago: The FDA lifted its salmonella warning on tomatoes amid signs the record outbreak, while not over, might finally be slowing. President George W. Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (NOO'-ree ahl-MAHL'-ih-kee) held a secure video conference during which they agreed to set a "general time horizon" for bringing more U.S. troops home from the Iraq war.

Five years ago: In a heated House Judiciary Committee hearing on domestic spying, members of Congress said they'd never intended to allow the National Security Agency to build a database of every phone call in America, while top Obama administration officials countered that the once-secret program was legal and necessary to keep America safe.

One year ago: The latest Republican effort to repeal and replace "Obamacare" was dealt a fatal blow in the Senate when two more Republican senators announced their opposition to the measure. A white former Texas police officer, Roy Oliver, was indicted on a murder charge in the April shooting death of 15-year-old Jordan Edwards, who was in a car with four other black teens. A Georgia jury said CSX Transportation should pay \$3.9 million to the family of a movie worker killed on a railroad trestle in 2014 during the filming of a movie about musician Gregg Allman. Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert was released from a federal prison in Minnesota where he had served a little over a year for a banking conviction related to a child-sex-abuse scandal.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Donald Sutherland is 83. Actress-singer Diahann Carroll is 83. Rock musician Spencer Davis is 79. Sportscaster Verne Lundquist is 78. Comedian Tim Brooke-Taylor is 78. Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, is 71. Rock musician Terry "Geezer" Butler is 69. Actress Lucie Arnaz is 67. Actor David Hasselhoff is 66. Rock musician Fran Smith Jr. (The Hooters) is 66. German Chancellor Angela Merkel (AHN'-geh-lah MEHR'-kuhl) is 64. Television producer Mark Burnett is 58. Actress Nancy Giles is 58. Singer Regina Belle is 55. Rock musician Kim Shattuck is 55. Country singer Craig Morgan is 54. Rock musician Lou Barlow is 52. Contemporary Christian singer Susan Ashton is 51. Actor Andre Royo is 50. Actress Bitty Schram is 50. Actor Jason Clarke is 49. Movie director F. Gary Gray is 49. Singer JC (PM Dawn) is 47. Rapper Sole' is 45. Country singer Luke Bryan is 42. Actor Eric Winter is 42. Hockey player Marc Savard is 41. Actor Mike Vogel is 39. Actor Tom Cullen is 33. Actor Brando Eaton is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jeremih (jehr-uh-MY') is 31. Actress Summer Bishil (BIHSH'-ihl) is 30. Actress Billie Lourd is 26. Actor Leo Howard is 21.

Thought for Today: "Dreams have as much influence as actions." — Stephane Mallarme (stay-FAN' ma-lar-MAY'), French essayist and poet (1842-1898).