

Groton Daily Independent

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



Help Wanted

Dairy Queen in Groton has openings for part-time team members – day hours during the school year and can be year round, if desired. Flexible scheduling. Stop in to apply. 11 East Hwy 12, Groton, SD.

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



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Dell Rapids 7 - 3 Groton

📍 Home 🏆 Tournament 📅 Friday July 27, 2018

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
DLRP	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	7	5	4
GRTN	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	2

BATTING

Dell Rapids	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
J Roemen (...)	3	1	0	0	1	0	2
J Holm (2B)	4	1	1	3	0	1	2
E Price (SS,...)	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
M Gillogly (...)	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
K Miller (CF)	2	1	0	0	2	1	1
E Story (C,...)	4	0	0	0	0	3	3
T Dahler (LF)	3	1	1	0	0	0	1
J Rechtenb...	3	1	2	0	0	0	1
T Kolbeck	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
T Wood (RF)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
L Stone (P,...)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	26	7	5	4	4	8	6

2B: M Gillogly, J Holm, **TB:** T Dahler, M Gillogly 2, J Holm 2, J Rechtenbaugh 2, **HBP:** T Dahler, M Gillogly 3, **LOB:** 6

PITCHING

Dell Rapids	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Roemen	5.0	3	1	1	0	6	1
E Story	1.2	0	1	1	1	2	0
L Stone	0.0	1	1	0	0	1	0
J Rechtenba	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	7.0	4	3	2	1	9	1

WP: J Roemen, **P-S:** E Story 29-18, L Stone 6-4, J Roemen 80-56, J Rechtenbaugh 3-3, **WP:** L Stone, J Roemen, **HBP:** E Story, **BF:** E Story 7, L Stone 2, J Roemen 19, J Rechtenbaugh

Groton	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
A Sippel (2B)	4	0	1	1	0	1	0
B Keith (SS)	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
B Shabazz (...)	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
L Thorson (1B)	3	1	1	1	0	2	0
H Schallar...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A Morris (P)	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
P Johnson...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
W Locke (C)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
K Blackman...	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
D Shabazz (...)	2	1	0	0	0	2	1
A Jones (3B)	3	1	0	0	0	2	2
Totals	26	3	4	2	1	9	5

HR: L Thorson, **TB:** L Thorson 4, A Morris, B Shabazz, A Sippel, **SAC:** W Locke, **HBP:** D Shabazz, **LOB:** 5

Groton	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Morris	3.2	4	5	5	2	6	0
P Johnson	1.2	1	0	0	1	1	0
D Shabazz	0.2	0	2	2	1	0	0
Totals	7.0	5	7	7	4	8	0

LP: A Morris, **P-S:** D Shabazz 16-6, A Morris 87-53, P Johnson 27-15, **WP:** D Shabazz 3, **HBP:** D Shabazz, A Morris 3, **BF:** D Shabazz 4, A Morris 20, P Johnson 7

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Alex Morris started the game against Dell Rapids in Redfield today. (Photo by Tricia Keith)



Peyton Johnson takes the mound in the 5th inning. (Photo by Tricia Keith)



Wyatt Locke caught the entire game. (Photo by Tricia Keith)



Darien Shabazz comes in to close the game. (Photo by Tricia Keith)



Luke Thorson coming to home plate and after his homerun in the 2nd inning. (Photo by Tricia Keith)

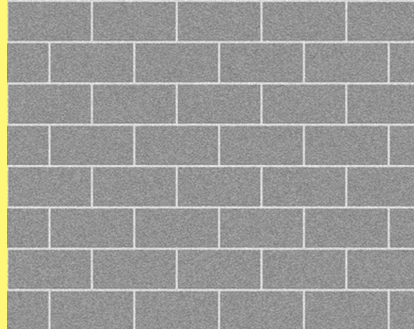
Post #39 plays McCook-Miner at 10 a.m. today at the State B Legion Tournament in Redfield

**In other first round games:
Tabor 6, McCook-Miner 1
Big Stone City 9, Redfield 4
Spearfish 6, Dakota Valley 4**

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Today in Weather History

July 28, 1986: Very intense thunderstorms developed in South Dakota and Nebraska and moved into Iowa. The first of these storms produced a tornado that crossed into Iowa south of Sioux City and slammed into a coal-burning power plant. This storm caused between 25 and 50 million dollars damage to the plant. The tornado continued across farmland, then damaged a store and flattened a motel in Sloan before lifting up.

1819 - A small but intense hurricane passed over Bay Saint Louis, MS. The hurricane was considered the worst in fifty years. Few houses were left standing either at Bay Saint Louis or at Pass Christian, and much of the Mississippi coast was desolate following the storm. A U.S. cutter was lost along with its thirty-nine crew members. The storm struck the same area that was hit 150 years later by Hurricane Camille. (David Ludlum)

1898: A severe thunderstorm produced considerable hail (some stones to 11 ounces) in Chicago, Illinois business district. Some people were hurt, not by hail, but by several hundred runaway horses spooked by the hailstones.

1930 - The temperature at Greensburg, KY, soared to 114 degrees to set a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1934 - The temperature at Grofino, ID, climbed to 118 degrees to establish a record for Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1952 - A severe storm with hail up to an inch and a half in diameter broke windows, ruined roofs, and stripped trees of leaves near Benson, AZ. The temperature dropped to 37 degrees, as hail was three to four inches deep, with drifts 46 inches high. (The Weather Channel)

1976: At 3:42 AM, an earthquake measuring between 7.8 and 8.2 magnitudes on the Richter scale flattens Tangshan, a Chinese industrial city with a population of about one million people. An estimated 242,000 people in Tangshan and surrounding areas were killed, making the earthquake one of the deadliest in recorded history, surpassed only by the 300,000 who died in the Calcutta earthquake in 1737, and the 830,000 thought to have perished in China's Shaanxi province in 1556.

1986 - Severe thunderstorms moving out of South Dakota across Iowa produce high winds which derailed eighteen piggyback trailer cars of a westbound freight train near Boone, IA. Sixteen of the cars fell 187 feet into the Des Moines River. The thunderstorms also spawned a number of tornadoes, including one which caused twenty-five to fifty million dollars damage at Sloan, near Sioux City, IA. (Storm Data)



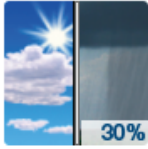




1987 - Thunderstorms in Nevada produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Searchlight, reducing visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Thunderstorms in Montana drenched Lonesome Lake with 3.78 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms drenched Wilmington, NC, with 3.33 inches of rain, bringing their monthly total 14.46 inches. Seven cities in Michigan and Minnesota reported record high temperatures for the date. Marquette, MI, hit 99 degrees, and the record high of 94 degrees at Flint MI was their tenth of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Massachusetts. Early evening thunderstorms over Florida produced wind gusts to 68 mph at Fort Myers, and evening thunderstorms in South Dakota produced nearly two inches of rain in twenty minutes at Pierpoint. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

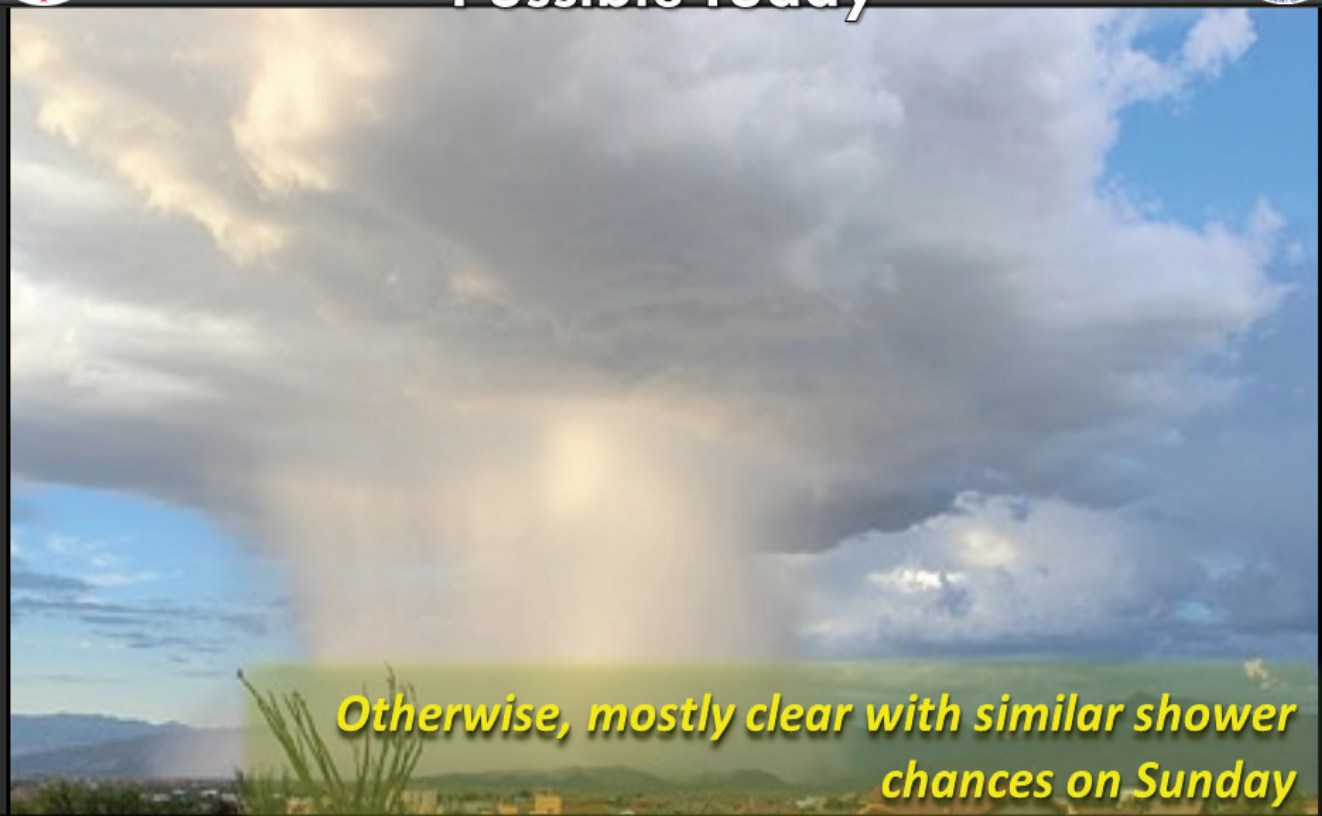
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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Chance Showers	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 78 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 85 °F



An Isolated Shower or Thunderstorm Possible Today



Otherwise, mostly clear with similar shower chances on Sunday

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 7/28/2018 5:29 AM Central

Published on: 07/28/2018 at 5:38AM

The weekend is shaping up to be pleasant with highs in the mid 70s to near 80. An isolated shower or thunderstorm may pop up in the afternoon or early evening today and Sunday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 77.0 F at 3:50 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 47.5 F at 6:31 AM

High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 1:28 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1975

Record Low: 40° in 2013

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 2.68

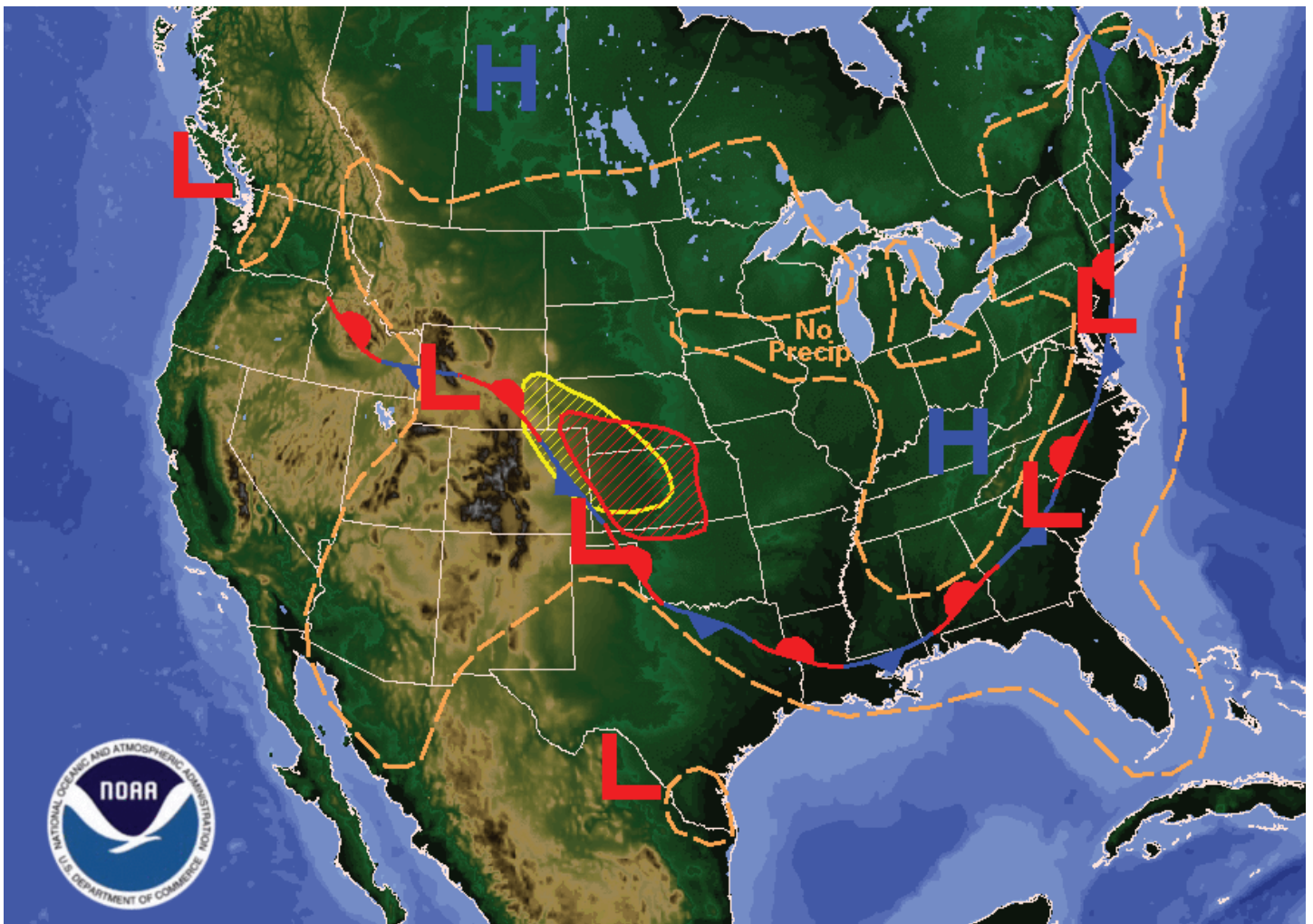
Precip to date in July: 3.99

Average Precip to date: 13.52

Precip Year to Date: 9.89

Sunset Tonight: 9:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jul 28, 2018, issued 4:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE?

Jerry and Joan took their daughter Jill to church to enjoy a night of music. The crowd was larger than usual and Jill became separated from her parents. Frightened, they went to the pastor and told him their predicament. He went to the pulpit and announced, "Jill Williams has been separated from her parents and is lost. If you hear me, Jill, will you please come to the front where your parents are waiting?"

Nothing happened. In great fear the parents went to the police and reported their daughter missing. Then after a time of prayer, the musical concert began. At the end of the concert, and as he was about to pronounce the benediction, the pastor noticed Jill sitting on the front row. Bursting with excitement, he shouted, "We've found Jill! Let's thank the Lord." He then went to Jill and said, "Why didn't you come to the front and let your parents know you were here?"

Looking surprised she said, "Did you mean me? You said Jill Williams was lost. I'm Jill Williams but I'm not lost. I'm right here. I knew where I was all the time so I thought it was some other Jill Williams you were looking for!"

Jill did not consider herself lost. She felt safe and secure where she was. Unfortunately, there are many others like her thinking they are safe and secure even though they are traveling through without the Lord. The Psalmist wrote, "I have strayed like a lost sheep." He was aware of his condition and recognized that he was lost. Knowing this, he wanted to get back to his "Shepherd."

Prayer: Lord, we often think we are where You want us to be. May we take time to make sure we are with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:176 I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

01-32-40-49-63, Mega Ball: 20, Megaplier: 3

(one, thirty-two, forty, forty-nine, sixty-three; Mega Ball: twenty; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$168 million

South Dakota sobriety program helping people

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Jeff Hauser, 39, recently took one more breathalyzer for old time's sake.

"For nostalgia," Hauser said. "Then I never want to come back here again."

The Pennington County 24-7 Sobriety Program recently held an open house to its new facility adjacent to the Volunteers for America offices, the Rapid City Journal reported. Hauser actually worked as an electrician to renovate the building, and with lemonade and cookies set out to welcome guests, he was back one more time.

"It was a time of my life I've moved past," said Hauser. He participated in the program after a DUI conviction. Now, he's living sober with a renewed sense of purpose in his faith.

"I was like Jonah," he said, "just running."

The Pennington County 24-7 has opened its new location. The proletarian sensibilities of the center, like a rental car waiting line, fit the pragmatic purpose. Every morning, roughly 400 men and women who are on supervised release or parole come in to take a breathalyzer. They return at night. It can take as little as a minute. During a week, some also provide a urine sample. Other participants download information from a bracelet called a SCRAM that samples sweat for vapors that could reveal alcohol.

"It's a great jail diversion program," said Sheriff Kevin Thom, who toured the facility.

Operational since 2005, 24-7 is a pathway for parolees or folks on bond awaiting a court date. They can remain with families or hold down jobs while staying out of jail. According to Brian Mueller, chief deputy with the county, the facility runs itself, fiscally speaking. Breathalyzers cost participants \$1. Urine analyses cost \$10. SCRAMS require \$6 a day.

It can get expensive over the course of months or maybe years.

"Only a few times, maybe twice, can I remember people being taken away who can't pay their fees," said Lucas Oyler, program director.

Violators — those who test positive or miss a required test — can be taken into custody or a warrant is issued for their arrest. But, generally, offenders are allowed limited grace; sometimes, if they miss a night test and they show up in the morning, they're given a verbal warning. A missed payment can be picked up next time, too, Oyler said.

"Once they let me run across the street to use the ATM," said Hauser.

In 2014, a Montana state judge ruled the testing fees required by the 24/7 Sobriety Program before a defendant is tried in that state were unconstitutional. However, a year later, the state's supreme court unanimously upheld the program as constitutional.

Some sobriety literature sat at the ready on the table inside the doorway, but Mueller said at this time

24/7 does not provide treatment services.

"The state is still looking for ways to shore up our services on that end."

Hauser admitted he failed a couple of tests and ended up overnight in jail. But, eventually, the cold confines of a jail cell was enough of a consequence to straighten out his alcohol use.

"I wanted to be," here he ran his arm out in a straight line, "just like that."

As he left the facility, dozens of people were lined up outside to come in at 5:30 p.m. for their nightly check. Hauser was all smiles.

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

South Dakota apartments to be energy efficient, affordable

By PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Copper Pass apartments in eastern Sioux Falls are the first of their kind in South Dakota.

When the Copper Pass building opens to tenants in September, it will represent a new way forward for energy efficient design in a state. The building will be South Dakota's first multi-family housing structure designed to meet international Passive House standards — a rigorous energy efficiency credential that only a couple of other projects in the state have attempted to earn, the Argus Leader reported.

Designed and built in coordination with the governor's office and state housing officials, the 30-unit apartment is energy efficient and affordable, developed by Sioux Falls-based developer Costello Companies.

"It just goes along with the Costellos, their vision," Costello co-owner Joan Franken said. "It's important to them to be as green as possible, to leave it better than what you found."

Copper Pass is still under construction at 3630 S. Sparta Ave., rising above a mostly undeveloped swath of Sioux Falls a few blocks east of Harmodon Park.

Copper Pass will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom rentals. Units are reserved for families who qualify for federal low-income housing guidelines, earning 60 percent of median income or less.

Not only is it a byproduct of years of planning and design, Copper Pass will be part of a yearslong experiment in energy efficiency.

The building will be the first of three.

Copper Pass is designed to be even more efficient. Builders worked on the design and modeled it with help from the Passive House Institute of the U.S.

Costello's second building, which will be called Majestic Ridge, will be Energy Star certified. The developer is installing monitoring devices in both to track energy efficiency and see if the utility savings of Passive House design makes a difference on the bottom line.

All 900 units built by Costello since 2007 are Energy Star certified, Franken said, using energy performance standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Copper Pass started with encouragement from state officials, who hand-picked Costello to test the "Passive House" standard.

State officials selected VanDeWalle Architects to design the building. They facilitated training for Katie Krantz, the VanDeWalle partner who created the plans for Copper Pass. Krantz spent four weeks taking online classes, plus a week in Portland to become certified in Passive House design.

Many of the elements she used to design Copper Pass go far beyond what local and state governments require, Krantz said.

The entire building is essentially wrapped in extra insulation, from floor to roof. The windows are triple pane and should feel just as warm to the touch as the walls, Krantz said.

Then there are other elements, such as an energy recovery ventilation system designed to bring in fresh air, sealant applied between beams for air-tightness and a flat roof with solar panels designed to both reflect heat and offset energy use by tenants.

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

South Dakota university system has new leader

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Board of Regents has selected a new leader for the state's public university system.

Paul Beran was named Friday as the chief executive officer and executive director during a regents' meeting in Pierre.

"Our board was impressed with Dr. Beran's track record of accomplishment and has a lot more for him to do here," Board President Kevin Schieffer said. "We have a full agenda for Paul in advancing South Dakota higher education initiatives and building on the strong foundation in place today."

Beran is currently the chancellor at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. For the past 17 years, Beran has served as a university CEO in Arkansas and Oklahoma public university systems. He was also formerly president of Northwestern Oklahoma State University and its three campuses, according to the Argus Leader.

Besides policy making and advocating for the university system, Beran will lead the regents in selecting institutional presidents and superintendents, evaluate them and make recommendations to the board about performance and compensation.

"This position has great opportunity, and South Dakota is positioned extremely well to move forward in a ... collaborative way," Beran said at the meeting. "We can really make a difference in people's lives in higher education."

The South Dakota system has six public universities, three university centers and schools for the deaf, blind and visually impaired. The system serves nearly 37,000 students.

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

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

33-month sentence for possessing explosives

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A North Dakota man prohibited from possessing explosives has been sentenced in South Dakota to 33 months in prison.

The U.S. Attorney for South Dakota says 33-year-old Nathaniel Johnson, of Dickinson, was found last year with an explosive mix containing ammonium and sodium nitrate, most likely shipped from Mexico.

Johnson has a criminal record and was banned from possessing the explosives. He pleaded guilty to charges in April.

Accessory to drug deal in homicide case is sentenced

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A woman accused of being an accessory to a drug deal in a double homicide in Sioux Falls has received a suspended sentence and plans to testify against others charged in the case.

Twenty-eight-year-old Maria Shantel LeClaire pleaded guilty Thursday to being an accessory to distributing a controlled substance and received a five-year suspended sentence.

Although LeClaire knew about a planned drug deal between Manuel Frias, Cory Zephier, Samuel Crockett and Crystal Habben last January, her attorney says she didn't know it would turn into a robbery.

The Argus Leader reports police say Crockett was held up by Zephier, grabbed his gun from his waistband and shot him. Frias then shot Crockett, who died at the hospital. Zephier died at the scene.

Frias and Habben are due in court in September.

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

Nebraska legal battle speeds up on proposed pipeline route

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The developer of a proposed oil pipeline through Nebraska has won its bid to speed up the legal battle over its route through the state.

The Lincoln Journal Star reports that the Nebraska Supreme Court granted the motion Tuesday from TransCanada to advance the case to oral arguments and to expedite it. The court could hear arguments as early as October.

The state Public Service Commission voted Nov. 20 to approve a slightly longer, alternative route over the 275-mile preferred route TransCanada had requested for the Keystone XL pipeline.

Landowners fighting the pipeline who took legal action objected to any speedup of the legal process.

The \$8 billion, 1,179-mile (1,897-kilometer) pipeline would deliver oil from Canada to Texas Gulf Coast refineries. The pipeline would cross parts of Montana, South Dakota and most of Nebraska to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect to an existing pump station.

No mystery to Supreme Court nominee Kavanaugh's gun views

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh says he recognizes that gun, drug and gang violence "has plagued all of us." Still, he believes the Constitution limits how far government can go to restrict gun use to prevent crime.

As a federal appeals court judge, Kavanaugh made it clear in a 2011 dissent that he thinks Americans can keep most guns, even the AR-15 rifles used in mass shootings.

Kavanaugh's nomination by President Donald Trump has delighted Second Amendment advocates. Gun law supporters worry that his ascendancy to America's highest court would make it harder to curb the proliferation of guns. Kavanaugh has the support of the National Rifle Association, which posted a photograph of Kavanaugh and Trump across the top of its website.

The Supreme Court has basically stayed away from major guns cases since its rulings in 2008 and 2010 declared a right to have a gun, at least in the home for the purpose of self-defense.

Gun rights advocates believe Kavanaugh interprets the Second Amendment right to bear arms more broadly than does Kennedy. As a first step, some legal experts expect Kavanaugh would be more likely to vote for the court to hear a case that could expand the right to gun ownership or curtail a gun control law.

Kavanaugh would be a "big improvement" over Kennedy, said Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America. Kennedy sided with the majority in rulings in 2008 and 2010 overturning handgun possession bans in the District of Columbia and Chicago, respectively, but some gun rights proponents believe he was a moderating influence.

"Kennedy tended to be all over the map" on the Second Amendment, Pratt said.

Former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, the Arizona Democrat who was gravely wounded in a 2011 shooting at a constituent gathering, said in a written statement that Kavanaugh's "dangerous views on the Second Amendment are far outside the mainstream of even conservative thought."

She predicted that Kavanaugh would back the gun lobby's agenda, "putting corporate interests before public safety."

In his 2011 dissent in a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Kavanaugh argued that the district's ban on semi-automatic rifles and its gun registration requirement were unconstitutional.

That case is known as "Heller II" because it followed the Supreme Court's 2008 decision in District of Columbia v. Heller striking down the city's ban on handguns in the home.

Kavanaugh said the Supreme Court held that handguns are constitutionally protected "because they have not traditionally been banned and are in common use by law-abiding citizens."

"Gun bans and gun regulations that are not longstanding or sufficiently rooted in text, history, and tradition are not consistent with the Second Amendment individual right," he wrote in a point rejected by the majority.

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Critics contend Kavanaugh's analysis is flawed because AR-15s were not around during the early days of the republic.

In his dissent, Kavanaugh wrote that he had lived and worked in Washington for most of his life and was "acutely aware of the gun, drug, and gang violence that has plagued all of us."

He said few government responsibilities are more significant than fighting violent crime. "That said, the Supreme Court has long made clear that the Constitution disables the government from employing certain means to prevent, deter, or detect violent crime," he wrote.

He said it was unconstitutional to ban the most popular semi-automatic rifle, the AR-15, since it accounted for 5.5 percent of firearms by 2007 and over 14 percent of rifles produced in the U.S. for the domestic market.

He said semi-automatic rifles had been commercially available since at least 1903, "are quite common in the United States" and the Supreme Court said in a 1994 ruling that they "traditionally have been widely accepted as lawful possessions."

Semi-automatic rifles were used in several mass shootings in recent years, including the February killing of 17 people at a Florida high school.

Kavanaugh rejected the majority's reasoning that semi-automatic handguns were sufficient for self-defense, saying: "That's a bit like saying books can be banned because people can always read newspapers."

He belittled the description of the guns as "assault weapons," saying that handguns could be called the "quintessential 'assault weapons' because they are used much more than other guns in violent crimes.

He was equally dismissive of Washington's gun registration protocol, saying it had not been traditionally required in the nation and "remains highly unusual today."

Still, Kavanaugh supported the ban on full automatics or machine guns, reasoning that they "were developed for the battlefield and were never in widespread civilian use."

In 2016, Kavanaugh dissented when two of his colleagues lifted an order blocking the city from enforcing a limit on issuing licenses to carry concealed firearms.

The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence said the dissent shows Kavanaugh believes the district's "good reason" requirement for concealed-carry permit applicants is unconstitutional. His views on that subject drew more scrutiny after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 days ago in a Hawaii case that people have the right to openly carry guns in public for self-defense.

Phil Mendelson, a Democrat and chairman of the D.C. Council, said Kavanaugh's dissent made clear that "his views on gun control are on the extreme side." Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, a Democrat and professor of constitutional law at George Washington University, said she's "worried about the shift to the right, for sure."

Some legal experts believe Kavanaugh's confirmation make it more likely the court will hear another potentially groundbreaking Second Amendment case. Only four of nine justices need to vote in favor of reviewing a case.

UCLA law school professor Adam Winkler, author of "Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America," said Kavanaugh could become that crucial fourth vote because three justices — Neil Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito Jr. — all have voiced support for the court to take on Second Amendment cases.

Still, it takes five justices to win a case and Chief Justice John Roberts may turn out to be as reluctant as Kennedy to further define the law.

Georgia State University law professor Eric Segall said the court's recent silence on gun laws has fueled speculation that neither the conservative justices nor their liberal colleagues knew how Kennedy would vote. Segall suspects the Supreme Court would be more likely to review a Second Amendment case if Kavanaugh is confirmed because there is less uncertainty about where he stands compared to Kennedy.

"The lower courts are just all over the place, reaching different results on different gun laws. The court has to provide guidance at some point, and it will," Segall said.

Neumeister reported from New York.

More reporting on the Supreme Court and Kavanaugh can be found at: <http://apne.ws/IHcZXad>

US prelate McCarrick resigns from College of Cardinals

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis has accepted U.S. prelate Theodore McCarrick's offer to resign from the College of Cardinals following allegations of sexual abuse, including one involving an 11-year-old boy, and ordered him to conduct a "life of prayer and penance" in a home to be designated by the pontiff until a church trial is held, the Vatican said Saturday.

Francis acted swiftly after receiving McCarrick's letter of resignation Friday evening, after recent weeks have brought a spate of allegations that the 88-year-old prelate in the course of his distinguished clerical career had sexually abused both boys and adult seminarians. The revelations posed a test of the pontiff's recently declared resolve to battle what he called a "culture of cover-up" of similar abuse in the Catholic's church's hierarchy.

McCarrick had been already removed from public ministry since June 20, pending a full investigation into allegations he fondled a teenager over 40 years ago in New York City. A man, who was 11 at the time of the first alleged instance of abuse, says a sexually abusive relationship continued for two more decades. McCarrick has denied the initial allegation.

The prelate rose steadily up the U.S. Church's ranks, from auxiliary bishop in New York City, to bishop in Metuchen, New Jersey, to archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, and then to Archbishop of Washington, D.C., the nation's capital, the city where the papal ambassador to the United States is based.

While most of the scandals involving pedophile clergy have involved rank-and-file priests, some cases involved bishops, and there are a few involving cardinals, including a current case in Australia of one of Pope Francis' closest advisers, Cardinal George Pell, who now faces a criminal trial in his homeland.

In the case of Scottish Cardinal Keith O'Brien, accused by former seminarians in 2013 of sexual misconduct, Francis only accepted his resignation after the Vatican's top abuse prosecutor conducted a full investigation, two years after the first revelations came out.

But the Holy See's announcement about McCarrick said that Francis was taking action, by isolating McCarrick and ordering penance even before "accusations made against him are examined in a regular canonical trial." In addition, Francis, "ordered his suspension from the exercise of any public ministry," indicating he was approving the measure already in effect since last month.

A Catholic University canon law expert, Kurt Martens, noted that this was the first time an order of penance and prayer had been issued before a church trial could take place.

Since he is over 80, McCarrick was already no longer eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a pope. But being a "prince of the church," as cardinals are sometimes called, is a top honor of the church, and those elevated to that rank are called upon to advise the pope.

Bishops have been implicated in the sexual abuse scandals that have stained the Catholic church's reputation worldwide for decades now, but often for their roles in covering up for pedophile priests by shuffling them from parish to parish and keeping the faithful in the dark about the allegations about clergy whose pastoral duties often bring them into contact with minors.

Earlier this month, an Australia bishop became the most senior Roman Catholic cleric to be convicted of covering up child sex abuse. Adelaide Archbishop Philip Wilson was sentenced to 12 months in detention by an Australian court in a landmark case welcomed by some abuse survivors as a strong warning to institutions that fail to protect children.

Nicole Winfield contributed to this report.

Frances D'Emilio is on twitter at www.twitter.com

On trade policy, Trump is turning GOP orthodoxy on its head

By KEVIN FREKING, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's trade policies are turning long-established Republican orthodoxy on its head, marked by tariff fights and now \$12 billion in farm aid that represents the type of government intervention GOP voters railed against a decade ago.

President George W. Bush increased the number of countries partnering with the United States on free trade agreements from three to 16. President Ronald Reagan signed a landmark trade deal with Canada that was later transformed into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and expanded to include Mexico. Both those Republican presidents also enacted tariffs, but their comments on trade were overwhelmingly positive.

"We should beware of the demagogues who are ready to declare a trade war against our friends, weakening our economy, our national security and the entire free world, all while cynically waiving the American flag," Reagan said in a 1988 radio address.

Trump, by comparison, has called NAFTA "the worst trade deal maybe ever signed anywhere," and his administration has opted to use tariffs as a tool intended to leverage more favorable agreements with virtually every major U.S. trading partner. He shredded the trade agreement the Obama administration tried to work out with Pacific Rim nations that had strong backing from farm groups and chief executives from major U.S. corporations.

Republicans also have altered the priority of tackling the national debt, an issue the GOP hammered President Barack Obama on as the country struggled to recover from the 2008 economic crisis. "Our nation is approaching a tipping point," GOP Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, now the House speaker, said in January 2011 when the national debt hit \$14 trillion.

Today, the Congressional Budget Office projects the \$21 trillion debt will rise to more than \$33 trillion in 10 years. That estimate notes that the tax cut lawmakers passed in December would increase economic output, but add \$1.8 trillion to the deficit over the coming decade.

The GOP's evolving priorities are not lost on some in the party. Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., who lost a close primary election this year after butting heads with Trump on some issues, said he finds it "perplexingly destructive" for the GOP brand.

"It takes a long while to build a brand, but brands can be diminished or destroyed in relatively short order, and I think the administration is destroying bedrock cornerstones to what the party has historically stood for," Sanford said. "There is no conversation on the debt, deficit and government spending these days. That has been a cornerstone."

Sanford made headlines as South Carolina governor when he said he would reject stimulus money approved during the financial crisis because he did not think the country should go into debt to fund recovery efforts.

"Here we are now with a hypothetical \$12 billion bailout package and you don't hear a word," Sanford said. "That is quite a transition in not so many years from decrying what the Obama administration had done with bailouts to now endorsing the idea of bailouts."

Trump, in a Friday interview with Fox News' Sean Hannity's radio show, said the strong economy would help the U.S. reduce the deficit. "The economy, we can go a lot higher ... We have \$21 trillion in debt. When this really kicks in we'll start paying off that debt like water. We'll start paying that debt down."

The administration's plan on the bailout announced last week would borrow money from the Treasury to pay producers of soybeans, sorghum, corn, wheat, cotton, dairy, and hogs. Many farmers have criticized Trump's tariffs and the damage done to commodity prices and markets.

Some GOP lawmakers are expressing concerns. "I didn't come up here to start new government programs," said Sen. John Kennedy, R-La.

But it's unlikely that the Republican-controlled Congress will try to block the administration's agricultural aid plan.

"I'm looking at this and saying, 'You're going to single out one sector?' What about the manufacturing

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sector? What about the energy sector?" said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "Where do you draw the line? I've got some real concerns."

But others praised the move. GOP Rep. Mike Conaway of Texas, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, called it "welcome relief."

"This is the right fight to have, but in the meantime, our producers have got to live as this fight is going on," Conaway said of a trade dispute with China that has prompted the imposition of tariffs by both nations.

Conaway said the president has reshaped the way Republicans think about trade.

"He's kind of changed the narrative of the conversation that it's really not OK to let other people take advantage of America," Conaway said.

Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., said it's clear the GOP has changed over the past two years with Trump in office.

"This is the party of Trump. He calls the plays and they line up and they execute the play," Kildee said.

But Kildee also opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal that the Obama administration was trying to work out with Japan, Vietnam, Singapore and others. He and many other Democrats described past trade deals such as NAFTA as hurting workers in their home districts. So why the criticism of Trump and the efforts he has undertaken on trade?

Kildee said he would prefer a more deliberative approach and a multilateral approach that doesn't fray longstanding alliances.

"Simply engaging on the issue of trade doesn't mean he's doing it right," Kildee said.

The president's meetings with lawmakers in the past week and his trade advisers' visits to Capitol Hill are acknowledgements that many GOP lawmakers are worried about where Trump is headed — and what it could mean in the November election as farmers, bourbon makers and manufacturers who use imported steel and aluminum deal with the fallout.

A possible breakthrough with the European Union announced Wednesday at the White House appears to have eased their concerns and given the president more time to work out new deals.

"The fact the EU was here today and good talks happened, I think that points to there's proof it's working," said Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash. "That's not just wishful thinking. I think we can see that."

Reach Kevin Freking at <https://twitter.com/APKFreking>

Pressure mounting, former Trump 'fixer' turns aggressive

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, MICHAEL R. SISAK and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The hiring of a Washington insider to be a public attack dog. Tantalizing leaks to the media. Puzzling allegations of actions that could fell a president. Talk of more to come.

What is Michael Cohen up to?

President Donald Trump's ex-lawyer has largely stayed out of the spotlight in the months since federal agents raided his office and hotel room and seized scores of records about his work for Trump. But this week, he has taken a sharply more aggressive and public turn, seeming to wage open warfare with the White House while weighing whether to cooperate with investigators. The moves suggest Cohen is looking for a way out of looming trouble. But his behavior doesn't quite line up with a clear strategy, legal experts say. And if his signals are aimed at Trump, they've largely served to infuriate the president.

Three days after Cohen's new lawyer, Lanny Davis, released a tape of Cohen and Trump talking about paying for Playboy model Karen McDougal's silence, the relationship splintered further Friday. That was after a CNN report that Cohen was willing to tell special counsel Robert Mueller that Trump knew in advance of a 2016 meeting at Trump Tower in which the Republican candidate's eldest son sought damaging information from a Russian lawyer about Hillary Clinton.

Trump on Friday vehemently repeated his denial that he knew about the meeting, which is at the center of Mueller's probe, tweeting "NO," he "did NOT know of the meeting with my son, Don jr."

CNN cited anonymous sources saying Cohen was willing to share his information with Mueller, who is investigating possible collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia. Cohen does not have any evidence

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such as audiotapes verifying his claims, CNN's sources said.

Cohen's camp has denied being the source of the CNN report, the basic substance of which The Associated Press independently confirmed.

The specter of the potentially damaging information, which would run counter to months of denials and point toward a willingness to collude with a foreign power by Trump himself, again raised the possibility of what Cohen could deliver to prosecutors if he decides to cooperate.

Cohen has not yet decided to work with the federal prosecutors from the Southern District of New York, according to two people familiar with his thinking but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

The Justice Department has been investigating Cohen for months, raiding his home, office and hotel room in April in search of documents related to a \$130,000 payment the attorney facilitated before the 2016 election to Stormy Daniels, an adult-film actress who says she had sex with Trump in 2006. If Cohen, who specialized in making deals and making Trump's problems go away, were to cut a deal, he would do so with an eye toward eliminating or cutting his potential punishment.

His lawyer, Davis, a Democrat once known as a fierce defender of President Bill Clinton, would not comment on whether Cohen was fishing for a deal.

"My observation is that it was an evolution that caused him to decide once Donald Trump was president that he had to tell truth and change his life," Davis told the AP. "He hit the reset button on his life and what he had done previously."

Those close to Cohen describe the lawyer, who has been holed up in a Manhattan hotel after a pipe burst in his apartment, as bewildered at the fast-moving events around him as he tries to look out for his family and make decisions about their future. Cohen has also been badly hurt by the president's public anger and is determined to hit back, according to two people familiar with this thinking.

There has been some speculation that Cohen may be angling for a pardon from Trump, who has begun wielding — and discussing — the presidential power frequently of late. But a person close to Cohen downplayed the possibility.

Most people in comparable legal peril would be encouraged to stay out of the spotlight and communicate directly with prosecutors, not through the press, experts said.

Robert Mintz, a former federal prosecutor now in private practice, said Cohen "seems to be taking a page out of President Trump's playbook by having his lawyers aggressively respond in the media to attacks on his credibility and reputation." It's a "high stakes gambit" that could backfire if he's angling to become a cooperator, Mintz said.

"Prosecutors prefer to strike cooperation deals quietly and in private because they want to save the impact of any valuable testimony and information that a cooperating witness can offer until trial," he said.

Moreover, should Cohen choose to cooperate with investigators, including Mueller, it's not clear what information he has that they could not gather for themselves or have not already learned on their own.

The Mueller team has been at work for 14 months. Defendants looking for lenient deals through their cooperation usually have better luck if they come through the government's door earlier in an investigation.

Additionally, Cohen has made no public mention of Trump's knowledge of the Trump Tower meeting. If he mentioned the crucial detail to House investigators it was not included in their massive report on the matter.

That inconsistency was seized upon by Rudy Giuliani, the president's attorney. Giuliani, who called Cohen "an honest, honorable lawyer" as recently as May, has made a sport out of bashing Cohen in recent days. On Friday he called Cohen "an incredible liar who's got a tremendous motive to lie now because he's got nothing to give."

Cohen frequently recorded his conversations, and prosecutors are believed to have dozens of them, including discussions with journalists, according to Davis.

Trump has been seething at Cohen since the recent tape's release, raging to confidants that he could not believe he was being betrayed by someone he worked with for a decade, according to a person familiar with the situation but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

The president publicly aired his grievances with a Friday tweet about Cohen, though he did not name him: "Sounds to me like someone is trying to make up stories in order to get himself out of an unrelated jam (Taxi cabs maybe?). He even retained Bill and Crooked Hillary's lawyer. Gee, I wonder if they helped him make the choice!"

Cohen says on the tape with Trump that he's already spoken about the McDougal-story payment with the Trump Organization's finance chief, Allen Weisselberg, on "how to set the whole thing up." The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that Weisselberg, who had intimate knowledge of the president's finances, has been issued a subpoena.

When asked about that and other matters, the normally press-friendly Davis on Friday did an abrupt about-face and told the AP he was now "completely barred from talking to the media."

Tucker reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Tom Hays and Jake Pearson contributed reporting.

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Wildfire destroys 500 structures, nearly levels community

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and LORIN ELENI GILL, Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — In the small northern California community of Keswick, only a handful of homes remain.

The air is thick with the smell of smoke and chemicals. The rubble of people's lives still smoldered a day after the so-called Carr Fire moved through Shasta County like a freight train.

The flames so thoroughly ate up homes that it's difficult to tell how many once stood above the pile of ash and smoking rubble that remains.

Somewhere in there was the home of Shyla and Jason Campbell.

Jason Campbell, a firefighter, was six hours away battling a wildfire burning near Yosemite Valley when the Carr Fire moved in on his home and family.

Shyla Campbell, 32, said it was nearly 2 a.m. Thursday when she got an official alert to evacuate.

"It's huge flames, it's coming up the hill, and everyone's out and we're watching it, then it goes down, and everyone's like, 'Oh it's going out,'" she said. "And I'm like, 'No, it's going down the mountain and it's going to come back up the next ridge.'"

She was right.

The family spent the night at a hotel. When Jason Campbell returned from the blaze he was fighting on Friday, he found his own home had gone up in flames, along with an RV and a boat.

The Campbells' home of five years is among at least 500 structures that officials say were destroyed by the fire, which also swept through the historic Gold Rush town of Shasta and hit homes in Redding, a city of 92,000 about 100 miles south of the Oregon border.

"It's tough," Shyla Campbell said Friday from the city of Shasta Lake. "I just have to figure out where we're going to stay. We're just trying to stay away from the fire."

So are about 37,000 people who remain under evacuation orders Friday. Nearly 5,000 homes in the area were being threatened by the 75-square-mile (194-square-kilometer) blaze, which is just 5 percent contained.

Thousands of people scrambled to escape before the walls of flames descended from forested hills onto their neighborhoods Thursday.

Residents who gathered their belongings in haste described a chaotic and congested getaway as the embers blew up to a mile ahead of flames and the fire leaped across the wide Sacramento River and torched subdivisions in Redding.

Redding police chief Roger Moore was among those who lost their homes, the Los Angeles Times reported.

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Greg and Terri Hill evacuated their Redding home of 18 years Thursday night with little more than their medications, photo albums, clothes and firearms, assuming they'd be back in a few days.

But when they returned Friday, virtually nothing was left of their home but fine particles of ash.

The remains were smoldering so hot, they couldn't get too close to see if anything survived.

"It's pretty emotional," Terri Hill said. "I know it's just stuff. A lot of memories. But we'll make new memories and get new stuff. Everybody's safe."

The Hills fled before they were told to, knowing danger was afoot when the power went out and helicopters suddenly began flying low over their home.

Liz Williams loaded up two kids in her car and then found herself locked in bumper-to-bumper traffic with neighbors trying to retreat from Lake Redding Estates.

She eventually jumped the curb onto the sidewalk and "booked it."

"I've never experienced something so terrifying in my life," she said. "I didn't know if the fire was just going to jump out behind a bush and grab me and suck me in."

The flames moved so fast that firefighters working in oven-like temperatures and bone-dry conditions had to drop efforts to battle the blaze at one point to help people escape.

The fire, which created at least two flaming tornados that toppled trees, shook firefighting equipment and busted truck windows, took "down everything in its path," said Scott McLean, a spokesman for Cal Fire, the state agency responsible for fighting wildfires.

Two firefighters were killed in the blaze, Redding fire inspector Jeremy Stoke and a bulldozer operator whose name wasn't immediately released. He was the second bulldozer operator killed in a California blaze in less than two weeks.

Fire officials warned that the blaze would probably burn deeper into urban areas before there was any hope of containing it, though it either changed direction or was stopped before it could burn into the core of the city.

Elsewhere in the state, large fires continued to burn outside Yosemite National Park and in the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles near Palm Springs.

Gill reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Noah Berger in Redding; Olga Rodriguez and Janie Har in San Francisco; Don Thompson in Sacramento; Amanda Lee Myers, Brian Melley and John Antczak in Los Angeles; and Alina Hartounian in Phoenix also contributed to this report.

Science Says: Record heat, fires worsened by climate change

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** and **FRANK JORDANS**, Associated Press

Heat waves are setting all-time temperature records across the globe, again. Europe suffered its deadliest fire in more than a century, and one of nearly 90 large fires in the U.S. West burned dozens of homes and forced the evacuation of at least 37,000 people near Redding, California. Flood-inducing downpours have pounded the U.S. East this week.

It's all part of summer — but it's all being made worse by human-caused climate change, scientists say. "Weirdness abounds," said Rutgers University climate scientist Jennifer Francis.

Japan hit 106 degrees on Monday, its hottest temperature ever. Records fell in parts of Massachusetts, Maine, Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon, New Mexico and Texas. And then there's crazy heat in Europe, where normally chill Norway, Sweden and Finland all saw temperatures they have never seen before on any date, pushing past 90 degrees. So far this month, at least 118 of these all-time heat records have been set or tied across the globe, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The explanations should sound as familiar as the crash of broken records.

"We now have very strong evidence that global warming has already put a thumb on the scales, upping the odds of extremes like severe heat and heavy rainfall," Stanford University climate scientist Noah Diffenbaugh said. "We find that global warming has increased the odds of record-setting hot events over more than 80 percent of the planet, and has increased the odds of record-setting wet events at around

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half of the planet.”

Climate change is making the world warmer because of the build-up of heat-trapping gases from the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil and other human activities. And experts say the jet stream — which dictates weather in the Northern Hemisphere — is again behaving strangely.

“An unusually sharply kinked jet stream has been stuck in place for weeks now,” said Jeff Masters, director of the private Weather Underground. He says that allows the heat to stay in place over three areas where the kinks are: Europe, Japan and the western United States.

The same jet stream pattern caused the 2003 European heat wave, the 2010 Russian heat wave and fires, the 2011 Texas and Oklahoma drought and the 2016 Canadian wildfires, Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann said, pointing to past studies by him and others. He said in an email that these extremes are “becoming more common because of human-caused climate change and in particular, the amplified warming in the Arctic.”

Climate scientists have long said they can’t directly link single weather events, like a heat wave, to human caused climate change without extensive study. In the past decade they have used observations, statistics and computer simulations to calculate if global warming increases the chances of the events.

A study by European scientists Friday found that the ongoing European heat wave is twice as likely because of human-caused global warming, though those conclusions have not yet been confirmed by outside scientists. The World Weather Attribution team said they compared three-day heat measurements and forecasts for the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland with historical records going back to the early 1900s.

“The world is becoming warmer and so heat waves like this are becoming more common,” said Friederike Otto, a member of the team and deputy director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.

Erich Fischer, an expert on weather extremes at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich who wasn’t part of the analysis said the authors used well-established methods to make their conclusions.

Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb said the link between climate change and fires isn’t as strong as it is with heat waves, but it is becoming clearer.

A devastating fire in Greece — with at least 83 fatalities — is the deadliest fire in Europe since 1900, according to the International Disaster Database run by the Centre for the Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters in Brussels, Belgium.

In the United States on Friday, there were 89 active large fires, consuming nearly 900,000 acres, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. So far this year, fires have burned 4.15 million acres, which is nearly 14 percent higher than average over the past 10 years.

The first major science study to connect greenhouse gases to stronger and longer heat waves was in 2004. It was titled “More intense, more frequent and longer lasting heat waves in the 21st century.” Study author Gerald Meehl of the National Center for Atmospheric Research said Friday that now it “reads like a prediction of what has been happening and will continue to happen as long as average temperatures continue to rise with ever-increasing emissions of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels. It’s no mystery.”

Borenstein reported from Washington, Jordans from Berlin.

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: @borenbears . His work can be found here .

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Trump and Putin raise possibilities of another meeting

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rarely has an RSVP been so complicated.

President Donald Trump is open to visiting Moscow — if he gets a formal invitation from Vladimir Putin, the White House said. Russian President Putin said he's game for a trip to Washington — but his answer came only after Trump retracted his invitation for a fall sit-down.

The awkward back and forth is the latest round of summit drama flowing from the two leaders' controversial first meeting in Helsinki this month. It underscores Trump's eagerness to forge a warmer relationship with Putin, though the Russian does not appear to share the urgency and Trump's allies in Washington are watching with frustration.

Trump's tentative yes to a Moscow trip comes even as lawmakers are still pushing for details about what he and Putin discussed in Helsinki. The president has been widely criticized for failing to publicly denounce Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election and appearing to accept Putin's denials of such activity.

Trump's response to the criticism — an abruptly announced invitation for a second meeting in Washington in the fall — got an ice-cold reception from Republicans in Congress facing tough elections in November. Moscow was lukewarm and did not immediately accept.

Then National Security Adviser John Bolton said Wednesday that plans for a fall visit would be delayed until 2019. He cited special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election meddling as the reason, using Trump's favorite term for the probe: "witch hunt."

But the possibility of a Trump trip to Moscow emerged Friday after Putin said he was ready to invite Trump — or to visit Washington if conditions are right.

"I understand very well what President Trump said: He has the wish to conduct further meetings," Putin said while traveling in Johannesburg. "I am ready for this. We are ready to invite President Trump to Moscow. By the way, he has such an invitation, I told him of this. I am prepared to go to Washington, but, I repeat, if the appropriate conditions for work are created."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders responded that Trump "looks forward to having President Putin to Washington after the first of the year, and he is open to visiting Moscow upon receiving a reciprocal formal invitation."

But it's just talk at this point.

It's part of "a power game between Putin and Trump," said Dr. Alina Polyakova of the Brookings Institution. She said the Kremlin basically drove the entire process in Helsinki, and "we're seeing that again now."

Trump is hardly in a strong position because "the Helsinki summit was such a fiasco," said James Goldgeier of the Council on Foreign Relations.

A Putin visit to Washington between now and January "could have a lot of poor optics," he said, and "it's really hard to see the upside" of a Trump trip to Moscow.

The spectacle of Trump in the Russian capital — the site of unproven salacious allegations in an anti-Trump dossier compiled by a former British spy — was likely to raise eyebrows and alarm on Capitol Hill.

Just two days earlier, lawmakers from both political parties unsuccessfully demanded details of the Helsinki meeting from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who stonewalled nearly all those inquiries at a contentious hearing by maintaining that the president has a right to private conversations.

Since Helsinki, Trump has tried to walk back at least some of his comments. And Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that despite Trump's public statements that allegations of Russian interference are "a hoax" he accepts that Russia did meddle in the 2016 election.

Trump met Friday with his national security team to discuss threats to the 2018 congressional midterm elections, the first such session he has convened amid warnings from intelligence officials that Russia is again intent on interfering in the U.S. democratic process.

The White House released a statement saying Trump "made it clear that his Administration will not tolerate foreign interference in our elections from any nation state or other malicious actors."

Republican lawmakers have made it clear they are not eager to see Putin, who intelligence officials say

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was aware of the 2016 interference, just weeks before Election Day 2018.

Putin "will not be welcome" at the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said such invitations are reserved "for allies."

The Republican leaders appear to be increasingly relying on public signals, rather than private phone calls or Oval Office chats, to catch the White House's attention and communicate with Trump — especially when they are at odds with the president's approach or policies.

Ryan has said he did not speak to the president in the days after the Helsinki summit.

Moscow has portrayed its tensions with Washington as a result of Trump being hobbled by domestic political disputes and a widespread "Russophobia" perpetrated by holdovers from the Obama years - echoing Trump's penchant to blame his predecessor for many problems.

By saying that he's willing to go to Washington if conditions are "appropriate," Putin underlines that stance and effectively puts pressure on Trump to try to stamp out opposition. His invitation for Trump to come to Moscow - whether the invitation has been formally tendered or is only in spirit - also appears to pressure Trump to show whether he is bold and disruptive enough to buck intense criticism at home.

AP writers Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin and Darlene Superville in Washington and Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

NTSB: Recordings show change in weather before boat sank

By JIM SALTER and JOHN HANNA, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Video and audio recordings from a fatal tourist boat accident in Missouri show that the lake went from calm to deadly dangerous in a matter of minutes, the National Transportation Safety Board said Friday.

The NTSB cited preliminary findings gathered from the video recorder camera system salvaged by divers after the duck boat sank July 19 at Table Rock Lake near Branson. Seventeen of the 31 people on board died, including nine family members from Indianapolis.

The material was examined at a lab in Washington, but the agency has not yet analyzed the findings and no conclusions about the cause of the accident, one of the nation's worst maritime accidents in recent decades, can be drawn.

The findings, though, paint a chilling picture of the final few minutes before the boat went under.

The captain and driver boarded the vessel at 6:27 p.m. The excursion begins on land at a terminal in Branson. Normally, the vessel tours the popular country music and entertainment community first before going to the lake for about a 20-minute boat ride. The driver drives the vehicle on land, and the captain takes over on the water.

But the video recordings show that at 6:28 p.m., someone briefly stepped onto the rear of the vehicle and told the crew to take the water portion of the tour first. A minute later, with passengers boarding, the captain made a reference to looking at the weather radar prior to the trip.

The vessel arrived at the lake a few minutes before 7 p.m. and the captain briefed passengers on the location of emergency exits and life jackets, then demonstrated use of life jackets and pointed out the location of life rings.

The vessel entered the water around 6:55 p.m. at a time when the water appeared calm, the NTSB said. In fact, over the next five minutes the captain allowed four different children to sit in the driver's seat.

But suddenly just after 7 p.m., whitecaps rapidly appeared on the water and winds increased, the NTSB said. The captain returned to the driver's seat.

The driver lowered plastic side curtains and at 7:01 p.m. the captain made a comment about the storm.

At 7:03 p.m. the captain made a call on a handheld radio but the content was unintelligible. A minute later, an electronic tone associated with the bilge alarm activated, until about a minute later when the captain reached down and the alarm stopped.

The captain made another call on a handheld radio at 7:05 but the content was again unintelligible.

Over the next couple of minutes, water splashed inside the passenger compartment.

At 7:07 p.m. an electronic tone associated with the bilge alarm activated again.

At 7:08 p.m. the inward-facing video recording ended as the vessel was still on the surface of the water. Ripley Entertainment, the owner of Ride the Ducks of Branson, declined to comment about the video.

A private inspector who examined 24 duck boats for Ripley Entertainment in August, including the one that sank, said that when the bilge alarm went off, it would be a sign that, "There's a significant amount of water in the hull."

"It just wasn't getting evacuated," said Steve Paul, owner of Test Drive Technologies in the St. Louis area.

Hanna reported from Topeka, Kansas.

Return of possible remains marks 1st step in Korea diplomacy

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR, AHN YOUNG-JOON and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Friday for "fulfilling a promise" to return the remains of U.S. soldiers missing from the Korean War, as a U.S. military plane made a rare trip into North Korea to retrieve 55 cases said to contain remains.

Close to 7,700 U.S. soldiers remain unaccounted for from the 1950-53 Korean War, and about 5,300 of those were lost in North Korea.

North Korea's move signals a positive step in Trump's diplomacy with Pyongyang, and may restart efforts to send U.S. teams into the country to search for additional war dead.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis cautioned that the transfer of remains "is separate" from what has so far been troubled efforts to negotiate the complete denuclearization of North Korea. But he said it was a step in the right direction following the Trump-Kim summit in Singapore.

"This is obviously a gesture of carrying forward what they agreed to in Singapore and we take it as such," Mattis told reporters Friday. "We also look at it as a first step of a restarted process. So we do want to explore additional efforts to bring others home."

Despite soaring rhetoric about denuclearization before the Singapore meeting, the summit ended with only a vague aspirational goal for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula without describing when and how that would occur.

Subsequent talks between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and senior North Korean officials got off to a rocky start earlier this month, with the North accusing the Americans of making "unilateral and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization. On Wednesday, Pompeo said a great deal of work remains ahead of a North Korea denuclearization deal, but he declined to provide any timeline.

Trump, addressing reporters on the South Lawn, said Vice President Mike Pence would greet the families and the remains of the soldiers.

"We have many others coming, but I want to thank Chairman Kim in front of the media for fulfilling a promise that he made to me, and I'm sure that he will continue to fulfill that promise as they search and search and search," Trump said.

"These incredible American heroes will soon lay at rest on sacred American soil," he added.

Pence, the son of a Korean War combat veteran, said in a statement that he will participate in the ceremony when the remains arrive in the U.S. United Nations Command said the remains will be flown to Hawaii immediately after a full honors ceremony in Seoul on Wednesday.

"It is deeply humbling to be part of this historic moment," Pence said. "We will never forget the sacrifices these brave service members and their families made for our nation and our freedoms."

Early Friday morning in Korea, a U.S. Air Force C-17 transport plane made a rare trip into North Korea to retrieve 55 cases of what are believed to be remains from the Korean War. The aircraft then flew from Wonsan to Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, near the South Korean capital of Seoul.

At the air base, U.S. servicemen and a military honor guard lined up on the tarmac to receive the remains, which were carried in boxes covered in blue U.N. flags. Officials in North Korea had no comment

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on the handover, which came on the 65th anniversary of the end of the Korean War.

Once the cases arrive in Hawaii, a series of forensic examinations will be done to determine if the remains are human and if the dead were American or allied troops killed in the conflict.

Mattis underscored that looming question, saying "we don't know who's in those boxes." But he said the gesture is important for families of the fallen, which could include any of the allies that also fought in the war.

"We have families that when they got the telegram, have never had closure," Mattis said. "They've never gone out and had the body returned."

More than 36,000 U.S. troops died in the conflict, including those listed as missing in action.

The repatriation of remains could be followed by stronger North Korean demands for fast-tracked discussions to formally end the war, which was stopped with an armistice and not a peace treaty. South Korea's Defense Ministry also said the North agreed to general-level military talks next week at a border village to discuss reducing tensions across the countries' heavily armed border.

The remains are believed to be some of the more than 200 that North Korea has held in storage for some time, and were likely recovered from land during farming or construction. The vast majority of the war dead, however, have yet to be located and retrieved from cemeteries and battlefields across the countryside.

Efforts to recover American war dead had been stalled for more than a decade because of a standoff over North Korea's nuclear program and a previous U.S. claim that security arrangements for its personnel working in the North were insufficient.

From 1996 to 2005, joint U.S.-North Korea military search teams conducted 33 recovery operations that collected 229 sets of American remains. The last time North Korea turned over remains was in 2007, when Bill Richardson, a former U.N. ambassador and New Mexico governor, secured the return of six sets.

Washington has said Pyongyang wouldn't get sanctions relief and significant security and economic rewards unless it firmly commits to a process of completely and verifiably eliminating its nuclear weapons. There are lingering doubts about whether Kim would ever agree to fully relinquish his nukes, which he may see as a stronger guarantee of survival than whatever security assurance the United States could offer.

Ahn reported from Pyeongtaek, South Korea. Kim reported from Seoul and Baldor from Washington. AP journalists Eric Talmadge in Pyongyang, North Korea, Kim Yong-ho in Pyeongtaek, Foster Klug in Seoul, and Ken Thomas and Sagar Meghani in Washington contributed to this report.

CBS looks into misconduct claims amid report on CEO Moonves

By ALEXANDRA OLSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS said Friday it is investigating personal misconduct claims after the company's chief executive, Les Moonves, was the subject of a New Yorker story detailing sexual misconduct allegations.

The media company said independent members of its board of directors are "investigating claims that violate the company's clear policies" regarding personal misconduct.

CBS Corp.'s stock fell 6 percent — its worst one-day loss in nearly seven years — as the reports of the misconduct allegations began to circulate around noon Friday, triggering investor concerns Moonves might be forced to step down. The CBS chief has been a towering figure in television for decades, credited with turning around a network that had been mired for years at the bottom ratings.

The New York-based company did not mention Moonves by name but said it issued a statement in response to the New Yorker article, which was published on the magazine's website late Friday. The article was written by Ronan Farrow, who wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning story last year for the same magazine uncovering many of the allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

The article says six women who had professional dealings with Moonves say he sexually harassed them between the 1980s and late 2000s. Four of the women described forcible touching or kissing during business meetings, it says, while two said that Moonves physically intimidated them or threatened to derail their careers.

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Among the women quoted in the article were the actress Ileana Douglas, writer Janet Jones and producer Christine Peters. Farrow told The Associated Press that all the women quoted in the article had to overcome "a lot of fear of retaliation to tell very serious stories of sexual misconduct about Les Moonves."

Moonves acknowledged in a statement that there were times decades ago when he may have made some women uncomfortable by making advances. But he says, "Those were mistakes, and I regret them immensely."

He said that he never misused his position to harm or hinder anyone's career.

The New Yorker article also said a culture of misconduct extended from Moonves to other parts of the corporation, including CBS News. It said men in that division who were accused of sexual misconduct were promoted, even as the company paid settlements to women with complaints.

CBS said that once the investigation by its independent board members is completed, the full corporate board will review the findings and "take appropriate action."

It took issue in a statement with the New Yorker article, however, for not accurately representing "a larger organization that does its best to treat its tens of thousands of employees with dignity and respect."

Moonves is the latest media giant to become embroiled in sexual misconduct allegations since the downfall of Weinstein in October triggered the #metoo social media movement.

In November, CBS fired veteran news host Charlie Rose over allegations he had groped women, walked naked in front of them and made lewd phone calls. Rose has apologized for his behavior but questioned the accuracy of some of the claims.

In December, Moonves joined a meeting of chief executives of nearly every major Hollywood studio, TV network and record label to establish a commission to comb sexual misconduct in the industry. They agreed to fund the Commission On Sexual Harassment and Advancing Equality in the Workplace, and chose Anita Hill to chair it.

The allegations come as CBS is in the middle of a legal battle with its controlling shareholder, National Amusements, which has been pushing for a merger with Viacom, also controlled by National Amusements.

CBS and Viacom were once part of the same company, known as Viacom, but were split in 2005 into separate entities, both controlled by Sumner Redstone. His daughter, Shari Redstone, has been pushing to reunite the companies under one corporate umbrella. Moonves has been opposed to the deal.

CBS said its current "management team has the full support of the independent board members" in the ongoing litigation involving National Amusements. The legal case is being played out in Delaware court.

National Amusements jumped into the controversy with a statement denying what it called "the malicious insinuation that Ms. Redstone is somehow behind the allegations of inappropriate personal behavior by Mr. Moonves or today's reports."

"Ms. Redstone hopes that the investigation of these allegations is thorough, open and transparent," the company said.

Moonves, one of the most powerful executives in media, has led CBS for two decades, including the 12 years since it split from Viacom.

He revived the company, which operates the CBS network, Showtime and other entities, with hit shows like "NCIS" and "The Big Bang Theory."

He also introduced separate streaming CBS and Showtime services as more people "cut the cord" and watch TV online. The network consistently tops in prime-time ratings.

While CBS's stock took a hit, Viacom's rose sharply as investors anticipated that a combination of CBS and Viacom could become more likely should Moonves be forced out. Viacom closed up 4.6 percent.

Moonves was the No. 2 highest paid CEO of a major public company in 2017, according to an analysis by The Associated Press and Equilar, an executive data firm. He made \$68.4 million last year, behind only chip maker Broadcom's CEO.

Before joining CBS, he was president of Warner Bros. Television, where he oversaw the development of hit TV shows "Friends" and "ER."

Moonves, who is married to TV personality and CBS producer Julie Chen, was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame in 2013. He also won the Milestone Award from the Producers Guild of America

that year.

Associated Press Technology Writer Mae Anderson contributed to this report.

Judge credits, faults administration on family reunification

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, COLLEEN LONG and AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A federal judge commended the Trump administration for reunifying families in its custody with their children after being separated at the U.S.-Mexico border, while faulting it for leaving hundreds of families still apart and warning that a better system must be in place.

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw said the government gets “great credit” after reunifying more than 1,800 children 5 and over with parents or sponsors by Thursday’s court-imposed deadline.

He pointed out that many of the families were reunited while in custody then turned his attention to 431 children whose parents have been deported.

“The government is at fault for losing several hundred parents in the process and that’s where we go next,” the judge said.

Sabraw ordered the government and the American Civil Liberties Union, which represents the parents, to submit written updates every Thursday on still-separated families.

The order signaled slightly looser oversight than Sabraw imposed last month with frequent hearings to make sure his deadline was met.

In late June, the judge gave the government 14 days to reunify children under 5 and 30 days to reunite children 5 and older with their families.

Sabraw said the “problem” could not be repeated, describing how Homeland Security, Health and Human Services and Justice departments didn’t have a system to keep track of the families that were separated when the administration introduced a “zero tolerance” policy toward illegal entry.

“Each (department) was like its own stovepipe, each had its own boss, and they did not communicate,” he said. “What was lost in the process was the family.”

Sabraw didn’t rule immediately on a request by the ACLU to give parents a week to decide whether or not to seek asylum after the group is notified that the family is reunited. As a result, a temporary halt on deportations remained in place.

Earlier Friday, Homeland Security officials said they had reunified all eligible parents with children — but noted many others were not eligible because they had been released from immigration custody, are in their home countries or chose not to be reunited.

More than 1,800 children 5 and older had been reunited with parents or sponsors as of Thursday. That included 1,442 children who were returned to parents who were in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody, and another 378 who were released under a variety of other circumstances.

On a parallel legal front, a federal judge in Los Angeles said Friday that she will appoint an independent monitor to evaluate conditions for immigrant children in U.S. border facilities in Texas following a spate of reports of spoiled food, insufficient water and frigid conditions faced by the youngsters and their parents.

Judge Dolly M. Gee said she reached her decision after seeing a “disconnect” between U.S. government monitors’ assessment of conditions in facilities in Texas’ Rio Grande Valley and the accounts of more than 200 immigrant children and their parents detailing numerous problems.

“It seems like there continue to be persistent problems,” she said during a hearing on a longstanding settlement in a case focusing on the care of children in government custody. “I need to appoint an independent monitor to give me an objective viewpoint about what is going on at the facilities.”

Peter Schey, an attorney who represents immigrant children detained by the U.S. government, said problems have worsened with children now spending three to six days in U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities, where they were previously held one to three days.

“We’ve seen an intensification with all the chaos the administration has caused,” said Schey, who has long requested an independent monitor.

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Sarah Fabian, a Justice Department attorney, opposed the appointment without having an opportunity to respond to the accounts of children and parents collected by immigrant advocates at facilities in June and July. She said border authorities, for example, provide water fountains and jugs in cells and that facility conditions must comply with agency policies.

Both sides have until Aug. 10 to agree on a proposed monitor. If they can't, each will make suggestions to the judge and she will choose.

Long reported from Washington and Taxin reported from Los Angeles.

World gazes at total lunar eclipse, longest of this century

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Curiosity and awe have greeted a complete lunar eclipse, the longest one of this century and visible in much of the world.

The so-called "blood moon," when it turns a deep red, was visible at different times in Australia, Africa, Asia, Europe and South America when the sun, Earth and moon lined up perfectly, casting Earth's shadow on the moon.

The total eclipse lasted 1 hour and 43 minutes, with the entire event lasting closer to four hours.

Rio de Janeiro's spectators cheered when the blood moon emerged from the fog. Hundreds of people watched at a fort overlooking the iconic Copacabana beach and Sugarloaf Mountain. The local planetarium set up telescopes for astrology fans.

"These telescopes are fantastic. It's one thing to see pictures of the planets in a book and another to see it in real life," said Ana Selma Ferreira, a 46-year old lawyer who brought her children to the spectacle.

Across Africa people turned to the sky, watching the reddish shadow slide up the moon's surface. In Somalia, some hurried to mosques for special prayers. In South Sudan, some dared to take photos in a war-torn country where using a camera in public is discouraged.

In Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, people at an open-air restaurant admired a rare clear view during the rainy season, comparing a live NASA webcast to what they saw above. Then clouds rolled in.

"Dem yelebesech chereka," some murmured — Amharic for "blood moon."

"The reason that the moon turns red is because atmospheric scattering causes red light to pass through the atmosphere and the composition of the atmosphere can change if volcanic eruptions or forest fires occur," said Tom Kerss, an astronomer with the Royal Observatory Greenwich.

"And the density of dust increasing in the atmosphere can cause the moon to appear a particularly deep red, and indeed it has the same effect on our sunsets and sunrises."

In a special treat, Mars is also at its closest approach to Earth this week since 2003, making it appear bigger and brighter.

Excited skywatchers on social media shared photos of the bright planet just to the right of the moon.

North America missed out on Friday's lunar eclipse but can look forward to the next one on Jan. 21, 2019, according to NASA.

Associated Press writers Elias Meseret in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Abdi Guled in Mogadishu, Somalia and Sam Mednick in Juba, South Sudan contributed.

Senators spar on access to Kavanaugh's staff secretary work

By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a decade after he served as what's been called the president's "inbox and outbox," Brett Kavanaugh's role as White House staff secretary to President George W. Bush has become a flashpoint as Republicans push his confirmation to the Supreme Court.

Democrats want to see records from the time, portraying the potentially millions of documents as vital to understanding his approach to the law. Republicans disagree and have accused Democrats of using the issue to try to delay Kavanaugh's confirmation.

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The debate could interfere with Republicans' goal of swiftly confirming President Donald Trump's pick for the court in time for the start of the new term Oct. 1. With the Senate control slimly held by Republicans 51-49, Democrats can't block Kavanaugh's nomination outright if Republicans hold together. Instead, Democrats are trying to delay the proceedings in hopes that time spent reviewing the judge's record could unearth fresh concerns to sway senators' opinions and upend voting.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee tasked with holding hearings on Kavanaugh's nomination, said this week that Democrats' "bloated demands are an obvious attempt to obstruct the confirmation process." And on Friday, after negotiations with Democrats failed to produce a consensus on what documents should be sought ahead of a hearing on Kavanaugh's nomination, Grassley went ahead with a request to the Bush library for documents related to his work for the White House. The request seeks documents from Kavanaugh's time in the White House Counsel's office but not from his time as staff secretary.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Thursday that Kavanaugh himself has portrayed his three years as Bush's staff secretary, from July 2003 to May 2006, as "the most interesting and, in many ways, among the most instructive" to his work as a federal appeals court judge. Schumer said if Kavanaugh sees it that way, "why shouldn't the American people see what instructed him?"

For his part, Schumer on Friday released a letter to former president Bush calling on him to authorize the release of "the complete record of Judge Kavanaugh's service in the White House." And Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., Democrats' leader on the Judiciary Committee, said her own request for the staff secretary documents was being blocked by the National Archives.

As staff secretary, Kavanaugh was the person who controlled the flow of documents to and from the president, including ensuring relevant people weighed in and channeling the president's questions and comments on that material to the right people. He was also a key part of the president's speechwriting process, helped put together legislation and worked on drafting and revising executive orders, he has said. He also traveled with the president, at points sitting in on meetings between the president and foreign leaders.

While Kavanaugh was staff secretary, Bush made a range of controversial decisions, including signing into law a partial-birth abortion ban and backing a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Democrats say that time is relevant to Kavanaugh's views and philosophy as a judge.

But Republicans argue the staff secretary documents aren't useful because Kavanaugh's job wasn't to provide his own advice but to ensure others' views were presented to the president. They say the papers contain the most sensitive White House documents, advice sent directly to the president. And they say the up-to-1 million pages of records they do expect to release will be the largest number of documents produced in connection with a Supreme Court nomination.

Karen Hult, a political science professor at Virginia Tech and the co-author of a paper on the staff secretary position for which Kavanaugh was interviewed in 2008, took a middle-ground view of the staff secretary documents' value to lawmakers. Hult said the documents could include Kavanaugh's notes and memos he wrote or commented on that went directly to the president or chief of staff, but she said it could be difficult to distill Kavanaugh's own views from them. Kavanaugh's judicial opinions would be more helpful in that respect, she said.

Still, "I wouldn't say it's a waste of time," she said of looking at the documents. "I would say it's not a high-priority use of time."

Kavanaugh, meanwhile, has described his role as staff secretary as being an "honest broker for the president, someone who tries to ensure that the range of policy views on various subjects are presented to the president in a fair and even-handed way." In an interview with Hult's co-author, Kathryn Dunn Tenpas, Kavanaugh said it was important that he maintain "strict neutrality and impartiality" in bringing disagreements about the wording of proposals or decisions to the president.

Kavanaugh also said that during his tenure they started weekly meetings with Bush and a few others to discuss speeches. He said that allowed him to "better perform my function as referee" between speech-

writers and policy advisers.

The debate over the staff secretary documents has been heated all week. On the Republican side, Grassley has said the most valuable documents revealing Kavanaugh's legal thinking are his more than 300 judicial opinions, while the staff secretary documents are the "least relevant" to his legal thinking. Describing the staff secretary position as the "inbox and outbox of the Oval Office," he said the occupant's job is not to "provide his own substantive work product" but to ensure the president "sees memos and policy papers" produced by other White House offices. Reviewing the documents would be a "waste of time" and taxpayers' money, he said.

On the Democratic side, Schumer has said that there is "simply no basis to withhold Judge Kavanaugh's staff secretary record" from senators' review. He accused Republicans of being against transparency. He said Wednesday of the position Kavanaugh is nominated for: "This is one of the most important positions in the world and certainly in America. Shouldn't we know everything?"

Associated Press Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Follow Jessica Gresko on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jessicagresko>

Panicked evacuees drove over yards, curbs to escape fire

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and LORIN ELENI GILL, Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — Jim Chapin had dined out after work Thursday, confident that a distant wildfire would not reach his neighborhood while he was away.

But when the 79-year-old Redding, California, resident got home around 7:30 p.m., police were telling people to hurry up and go. Chapin's wife gathered prescriptions and the dogs and left. He stayed behind to hose down the roof and fallen leaves.

A half-hour later, fire was burning trees behind his neighbors' homes and winds were whipping branches, burning leaves, garbage can lids and other debris. He feared he would be hit in the head.

"Everybody else had left," Chapin said. "There was just all kinds of debris flying around in the air. Hot embers and hot leaves coming down all over the yard. I figured I better get out of here."

He jumped in his car and almost immediately was in gridlock. Drivers honked, jumped the curb and cut off other cars. There was no way for firefighters to get into the Lake Redding Estates subdivision, which has just one way in and out.

"Some people were panicking so much they were driving up on people's yards just to get around other cars," Chapin said. "It was crazy."

Chapin was among thousands to flee the deadly Carr Fire that exploded Thursday night, jumped the Sacramento River and raced into the western outskirts of Redding, a city of about 92,000, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of the Oregon border. In Chapin's neighborhood of about 700 residents, an Associated Press reporter counted 66 destroyed homes.

The fire in rural Shasta County turned so quickly that a reporter at KRCR-TV in Redding choked up as she reported live on the devastation before the station had to go off air. Journalists at the Record Searchlight newspaper tweeted they were reporting without electricity.

Some people had time to pack up belongings, even helping neighbors load up vehicles and say goodbye. They gathered a wedding dress, handmade quilts made by a grandmother and pets. Other departures were more hurried and many reported clogged roads.

"One of the things we love about living in Redding is there's no real traffic, so to be bumper-to-bumper on these little streets we zip up and down most times is pretty surreal," said Kim Niemer, community services director with the city's recreation department.

Niemer had the foresight Thursday to collect family mementos, papers and her grandmother's quilts. She left around 9 p.m., an hour before an evacuation notice was issued, and joined a line of vehicles, some carrying boats and RVs.

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Anna Anderson left shortly after Niemer did, but her departure was more rushed. When she heard a highway patrol officer holler, "this is mandatory evacuation, you must leave!" through a megaphone, the Redding resident knew it was time to go.

Anderson, her parents, and two teenage children raced around their four-bedroom house to gather their belongings. Outside, fierce winds blew ash into their eyes as they packed up the car with their two cats, clothes and pictures.

They spent the night on the floor of the Redding Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"Fires happen a lot here, but this is the closest that it's ever gotten for us," said Anderson, 36, a clerk at the Superior Court of California in Shasta County.

The family was able to check their still-standing house Friday. They watched as firefighting planes flew directly overhead. As they left for a second time around noon, the National Guard had arrived.

"I went through it again, crying my eyes out, leaving again," she said.

On Thursday morning, west Redding resident Alayne Rodriguez received a call at work from her husband, Rafael, that their apartment complex was being evacuated. It turned out to be faulty information, but it gave the couple warning.

With the fire edging closer, they fetched their Goldendoodle, Jack, and packed the car with computers, legal documents and a few photo books. Rodriguez, 26, grabbed the dress she wore at their 2014 wedding.

They helped neighbors pack and left shortly after 7 p.m., not even half an hour before her neighborhood received its order to evacuate.

"Because the fire spread so quickly, it added a tinge of panic to our decision making," Rodriguez said.

Chapin returned to hard-hit Lake Redding Estates on Friday and cried when he found his home still standing.

"I thank the man upstairs for that," Chapin said.

Gill reported from San Francisco. AP reporter Janie Har contributed from San Francisco.

Trump and Putin's RSVP's: Yes, for sure, if, if if. ...

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rarely has an RSVP been so complicated.

President Donald Trump is open to visiting Moscow — if he gets a formal invitation from Vladimir Putin, the White House said Friday. Russian President Putin said he's game for a trip to Washington — but his answer came only after Trump retracted his invitation for a fall sit-down.

The awkward back and forth is the latest round of summit drama flowing from the two leaders' controversial first meeting in Helsinki this month. It underscores Trump's eagerness to forge a warmer relationship with Putin, though the Russian does not appear to share the urgency and Trump's allies in Washington are watching with frustration.

Trump's tentative yes to a Moscow trip comes even as lawmakers are still pushing for details about what he and Putin discussed in Helsinki. The president has been widely criticized for failing to publicly denounce Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election and appearing to accept Putin's denials of such activity.

Trump's response to the criticism — an abruptly announced invitation for a second meeting in Washington in the fall — got an ice-cold reception from Republicans in Congress facing tough elections in November. Moscow was lukewarm and did not immediately accept.

Then National Security Adviser John Bolton said Wednesday that plans for a fall visit would be delayed until 2019. He cited special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election meddling as the reason, using Trump's favorite term for the probe: "witch hunt."

But the possibility of a Trump trip to Moscow emerged Friday after Putin said he was ready to invite Trump — or to visit Washington if conditions are right.

"I understand very well what President Trump said: He has the wish to conduct further meetings," Putin said while traveling in Johannesburg. "I am ready for this. We are ready to invite President Trump to

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Moscow. By the way, he has such an invitation, I told him of this. I am prepared to go to Washington, but, I repeat, if the appropriate conditions for work are created."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders responded that Trump "looks forward to having President Putin to Washington after the first of the year, and he is open to visiting Moscow upon receiving a reciprocal formal invitation."

But it's just talk at this point.

It's part of "a power game between Putin and Trump," said Dr. Alina Polyakova of the Brookings Institution. She said the Kremlin basically drove the entire process in Helsinki, and "we're seeing that again now."

Trump is hardly in a strong position because "the Helsinki summit was such a fiasco," said James Goldgeier of the Council on Foreign Relations.

A Putin visit to Washington between now and January "could have a lot of poor optics," he said, and "it's really hard to see the upside" of a Trump trip to Moscow.

The spectacle of Trump in the Russian capital — the site of unproven salacious allegations in an anti-Trump dossier compiled by a former British spy — was likely to raise eyebrows and alarm on Capitol Hill.

Just two days earlier, lawmakers from both political parties unsuccessfully demanded details of the Helsinki meeting from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who stonewalled nearly all those inquiries at a contentious hearing by maintaining that the president has a right to private conversations.

Since Helsinki, Trump has tried to walk back at least some of his comments. And Pompeo told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that despite Trump's public statements that allegations of Russian interference are "a hoax" he accepts that Russia did meddle in the 2016 election.

Trump met Friday with his national security team to discuss threats to the 2018 congressional midterm elections, the first such session he has convened amid warnings from intelligence officials that Russia is again intent on interfering in the U.S. democratic process.

The White House released a statement saying Trump "made it clear that his Administration will not tolerate foreign interference in our elections from any nation state or other malicious actors."

Republican lawmakers have made it clear they are not eager to see Putin, who intelligence officials say was aware of the 2016 interference, just weeks before Election Day 2018.

Putin "will not be welcome" at the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said such invitations are reserved "for allies."

The Republican leaders appear to be increasingly relying on public signals, rather than private phone calls or Oval Office chats, to catch the White House's attention and communicate with Trump — especially when they are at odds with the president's approach or policies.

Ryan has said he did not speak to the president in the days after the Helsinki summit.

Moscow has portrayed its tensions with Washington as a result of Trump being hobbled by domestic political disputes and a widespread "Russophobia" perpetrated by holdovers from the Obama years - echoing Trump's penchant to blame his predecessor for many problems.

By saying that he's willing to go to Washington if conditions are "appropriate," Putin underlines that stance and effectively puts pressure on Trump to try to stamp out opposition. His invitation for Trump to come to Moscow - whether the invitation has been formally tendered or is only in spirit - also appears to pressure Trump to show whether he is bold and disruptive enough to buck intense criticism at home.

AP writers Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin and Darlene Superville in Washington and Jim Heintz in Moscow contributed to this report.

Former New York Assembly Speaker gets 7 years in prison

By LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Sheldon Silver, a former New York Assembly speaker who brokered legislative deals for two decades before criminal charges abruptly ended his career, was sentenced Friday to seven years in prison by a judge who said political corruption in the state must end.

The punishment, announced by U.S. District Judge Valerie E. Caproni, amounts to five fewer years in prison than she gave him after he was initially convicted in the case in 2015.

She noted that the conviction of the 74-year-old Democrat came in a year in which Joseph Percoco, a once-close aide to Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and former New York State Senate leader Dean Skelos, a Republican, also were convicted at corruption trials.

Until 2015, Cuomo, Silver and Skelos made up what was known in Albany as “three men in a room” who every year negotiated the state budget and important legislation behind closed doors.

The judge said the trials meant that “corruption cases have touched either directly or indirectly all of the infamous ‘three men in a room.’”

“This has to stop,” Caproni said. “New York has to get its act together.”

Before announcing the prison term and a \$1.75 million fine, Caproni said Silver seemed to have aged more than would be normal in the last three years while his case has proceeded.

She said “further reflection” led her to the conclusion that the original sentence was longer than necessary. Still, she said: “This crime was driven by unmitigated greed.”

Caproni said Silver “wanted to seem to be a man of the people while he was using his public position to line his pockets.” She added that she believes Silver knows “in his heart of hearts that he did something both venal and criminal.”

Given a chance to speak, Silver, requesting mercy, said: “Going forward, I feel I will continue to be ridiculed and shamed.”

Silver’s original conviction was tossed out by an appeals court, but he fared no better at a second trial this spring. A jury once again found him guilty of taking nearly \$4 million in return for legislative favors he performed for a cancer researcher and real estate developers.

In a letter to the judge, Silver had begged for mercy.

“I pray I will not die in prison,” Silver wrote, saying he was “broken-hearted” that he damaged the trust people have in government.

“The work that has been the focus of most of my life has become dirty and shameful,” Silver had said in his letter. “Everything I ever accomplished has become a joke and a spectacle. ... I beg for your mercy so that I can somehow go out into the world again to atone to everyone I have hurt.”

Prosecutors had argued that Silver “repeatedly corrupted the great power of his office for personal profit” and should get at least a decade in prison.

After the sentencing, U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said in a statement he hoped the “fittingly stiff sentence sends a clear message: brokering official favors for your personal benefit is illegal and will result in prison time.”

The judge said Silver can begin serving his sentence on Oct. 5 if she does not grant his request to be free pending appeal.

First elected in 1976, Silver served as speaker for 21 years, resigning after his 2015 arrest from a seat that served lower Manhattan.

His sentencing comes 10 days after Skelos and his son, Adam, were convicted of extortion, wire fraud and bribery at a retrial for each of them.

Like Silver, Skelos and his son also were granted a new trial after the Supreme Court narrowed public corruption law as it reversed the conviction of former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell. They also were convicted at a retrial.

Skelos served in the Senate from 1985 to 2015 and became Senate leader in 2008.

Over 30 New York state lawmakers have left office under a cloud of criminal or ethical allegations since 2000. More than a dozen have been convicted of charges including authorizing bribes to get on a ballot,

diverting money meant for community programs into a campaign and skimming funds from contributions to a Little League baseball program.

DNA to X-ray: Military has variety of tools to ID remains

By MALCOLM RITTER, AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. military remains released by North Korea on Friday will be sent to a military lab in Hawaii, where they'll enter a system that routinely identifies service members from decades-old conflicts.

Identifications depend on combining multiple lines of evidence, and they can take time: Even after decades, some cases remain unresolved.

Dog tags found with the remains can help, and even scraps of clothing can be traced to the material used in uniforms. Teeth can be matched with dental records. Bones can be used to estimate height. And the distinctive shape of a clavicle bone can be matched to records of X-rays taken decades ago to look for tuberculosis, said Charles Prichard, a spokesman for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

If a DNA analysis is called for, samples are sent to a military DNA lab at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Tiny samples of bone or teeth, no bigger than the amount of bone in the last joint of the pinkie finger, are enough to yield usable DNA, said Timothy McMahon, who oversees the Dover lab as director of Defense Department DNA Operations.

Each sample is sanded to remove surface contamination, ground to the consistency of baby powder, and then treated with a substance that dissolves the bone and leaves the DNA for analysis. That DNA is then compared with genetic samples from living people who are related to the missing.

The military has been collecting DNA from such family members since 1992, and has reached the relatives of 92 percent of the 8,100 service members who were listed as missing at the end of the Korean War, McMahon said.

The goal is to find bits of DNA in common between the known relatives and the unidentified remains, suggesting both belong to a particular lineage. One analysis develops a profile that combines what's found at 23 spots in the DNA, for example.

By analyzing different kinds of DNA, lab scientists can look for markers passed down by generations of women, or of men, or of both sexes. The lab once linked remains to a great-great-great-great-grandniece who initially had no idea she was related to the missing service member, McMahon said.

Once a link is made, the lab estimates how strongly it suggests the remains belong to a particular person, and send the results back to Hawaii. There, it's combined with the other lines of evidence.

"We're just one spoke in a wheel to make the identification," McMahon said. "We all work together."

Since Oct. 1, the Hawaii lab has identified 25 service members from the Korean War, part of the 119 identifications made overall in that time period, Prichard said. For the 12 months before that, 42 sets of remains from the Korean War were accounted for, which includes briefing the relatives in person, out of 183 overall.

The agency identifies remains from not only the Korean War, but also World War II through the first Gulf War in Iraq.

How long does it take?

If a clavicle bone can be matched to an X-ray, it might be done in just three days, Prichard said. But in other cases, it can take decades. He noted some remains recovered from North Korea from 1990 to 2005 are still awaiting identification.

For Jan Curran, of Gilbert, Arizona, the new remains turned over by North Korea have stirred hope.

Curran has no memory of her father, naval aviator Lt. Charles Garrison, who was shot down over Korea and captured in May 1951. He died in captivity, and no remains have been identified.

Curran, 70, has spent decades working to give him a proper burial. She's attended scores of meetings for families of those missing in action in Korea. She was the driving force in the late 1990s in getting several of her family members — including her sister, an aunt, an uncle and cousins — to join her in giving DNA

samples to the military in an effort to identify her father's remains, should they be found.

Will their long wait now come to an end?

"We know it's a small chance, but we can't help but hope," she said, her voice breaking with emotion. "It would be wonderful. It's too much to hope for.

"It's amazing, after all these years, how much it can still hurt not to have him."

Margery Beck in Omaha, Nebraska, contributed to this report.

Follow Malcolm Ritter at @MalcolmRitter . His recent work can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/RitterAP>

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Immigrant families remain apart with no end in sight

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and SONIA PEREZ D., Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — As the U.S. government said it had reunited every immigrant family it could, Josefina Ortiz Corrales remained in an immigration detention center and her adopted son in the care of her elder daughter.

Paulina Gutierrez was in her hometown in Guatemala, earning less than \$2 a day preparing strings for candle wicks while praying for the quick return of her 7-year-old daughter from government custody in Arizona. She cries every night without fail as she thinks about her decision to agree to be deported in the mistaken belief that the girl would come home with her.

Hundreds of families remain separated a day after Thursday's court-ordered deadline, with no reunification in sight. Lawyers and advocates sharply criticized the U.S. government for creating a bureaucratic and legal snarl that's made it difficult to reunify families and created a scenario where some may never see their children again.

"There is no question that there may be families that are permanently separated as a result of this policy," said Michelle Brané, director of migrant rights at the Women's Refugee Commission.

The government had until the end of day Thursday to reunify more than 2,500 families separated at the U.S.-Mexico under President Donald Trump's zero-tolerance immigration policy that stoked a global outrage. The government said it had reunited more than 1,800 children over the age of 5 with parents or placed them with sponsors who are often relatives.

That leaves 700 who remain apart, including what is believed to be more than 400 cases where the parents have been deported. The government will have to come up with a plan for completing those foreign reunions by flying children back to Central America, but advocacy groups are already stepping in to fill the void.

The American Civil Liberties Union plans to start looking for all the parents on their own while going back through all of the cases of those not yet reunified to see if they could put more families back together. The advocacy group Kids in Need of Defense has deployed staff to Honduras and Guatemala to facilitate reunions.

"I think it's going to be really hard detective work," said Lee Gelernt, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney.

The government says the mothers and fathers of 120 children "waived reunification" and dozens more weren't eligible to get their children back because they had criminal records or weren't the biological parent.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials say some of the parents who were deported had the chance to take their children and declined after already paying smugglers thousands of dollars to make the dangerous journey from Central America and wanting a better life for their kids to stay in the U.S.

"And once their children are here, they are generally not going to give up the opportunity for their children to remain in the country," said Matthew Albence, the executive director of ICE's enforcement and

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removal operations.

Many parents say that's not true.

Several have told The Associated Press and immigration lawyers that they were told in detention to sign paperwork that they didn't fully understand.

Gutierrez, 26, says she crossed the Rio Grande about two months ago with her 7-year-old daughter, Antonia. Under the terms of the Trump administration's zero-tolerance policy, she was subject to arrest and prosecution for entering the country without permission.

She was eventually sent to a detention center in Arizona. She accuses immigration agents of lying to her so that she would agree to be deported.

"If not, you will spend months here," she recalled agents telling her. "They said, 'It's not us who want to do this to you. It's the president who is ordering this.'"

Gutierrez does video chats with her daughter, regularly looks back at photos of her and hopes she can be returned by her 8th birthday.

The ACLU this week filed affidavits from several attorneys that detail what it considers flawed procedures, including limited phone access and strict visitation policies, language barriers and being given only a few minutes to decide whether to leave their children in the United States.

One lawyer, Luis Cruz, said in a filing that he met five fathers who were on a government list of parents who had relinquished their rights to reunify with their children. The fathers all said they had signed a government form despite not being able to read or write in Spanish or English. Many adults from Central America, including Gutierrez, are from indigenous communities and Spanish is their second language.

Other parents are still in the United States, but in immigration detention. Their children have been released to sponsor relatives.

Lawyers following the process say that has included an undetermined number of parents who the government is detaining because they were previously deported and then tried to re-enter the country.

Illegally re-entering the U.S. after a prior deportation is a felony. But in some cases, parents who had been deported before and returned to the U.S. were released and reunited with children who were in government shelters.

Sara Ramey of the San Antonio-based Migrant Center for Human Rights says the government appears to be refusing to release some parents with immigration records if their children are with a sponsor.

Ramey is representing two mothers held at a Texas detention center whose children are with sponsors, including Ortiz, who entered the U.S. from Honduras in December with her 4-year-old son and sought asylum.

An immigration judge ordered Ortiz's removal from the country in 2004. Ortiz says she went back on her own and only returned to seek asylum because her partner attacked her and police did not try to protect her.

Her son was placed with her adult daughter in Austin, Texas.

In a phone interview from the detention center, Ortiz said she only talked to her son once a week because otherwise he becomes too agitated.

"I ask for immigration to forgive me," she said. "I ask that they let me see my family, my son, because he is suffering very much. We have never been apart."

Perez reported from Joyabaj, Guatemala. Associated Press writers Gisela Salomon in Miami and Colleen Long in Washington contributed to this story.

Bad week in social media gets worse; Twitter hammered

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cracking down on hate, abuse and online trolls is also hurting Twitter's standing with investors.

The company's stock plunged Friday after it reported a decline in its monthly users and warned that the

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number could fall further in the coming months. The 20.5 percent plunge comes one day after Facebook lost 19 percent of its value in a single day.

Twitter says it's putting the long-term stability of its platform above user growth. That leaves investors seemingly unable to value what the biggest companies in the sector, which rely on their potential user reach, are worth.

Twitter had 335 million monthly users in the quarter, below the 339 million Wall Street was expecting, and down slightly from 336 million in the first quarter. That overshadowed a strong monthly user growth of 3 percent compared with the previous year.

The company said its monthly user number could continue to fall in the "mid-single-digit millions" in the third quarter.

While Friday was Twitter's second-worst loss since it went public in November 2013, the stock has still doubled in value over the last 12 months.

Long criticized for allowing bad behavior to run rampant on its platform, Twitter has begun to crack down, banning accounts that violate its terms and making others less visible.

Twitter is now attempting to rein in the worst offenders after years as one of the Wild West corners of the internet.

At the same time, it must convince people it's the go-to platform in social media, even though it is dwarfed right now by Facebook.

Facebook has more than 2.23 billion users while its apps WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger each have over 1 billion.

Twitter on Friday reiterated its efforts to "to invest in improving the health of the public conversation" on its platform, making the "long-term health" of its service a priority over short-term metrics such as user numbers.

As part of these efforts, Twitter said that as of May, its systems identified and challenged more than 9 million accounts per week that are potentially spam or automated, up from 6.4 million in December 2017. The company has previously disclosed these numbers.

A Washington Post report put the total number of suspended accounts in May and June at 70 million. The Associated Press also found that Twitter suspended 56 million such accounts in the last quarter of 2017. While Twitter maintains that most of these accounts were dormant and thus not counted in the monthly user figure, the company also warned that its cleanup efforts could affect its counted user base without giving specific numbers.

"We want people to feel safe freely expressing themselves and have launched new tools to address problem behaviors that distort and distract from the public conversation," CEO Jack Dorsey said in a prepared statement.

Twitter's market value dropped by more than \$6 billion Friday, to around \$26 billion. Investors still value Facebook at \$503 billion. Facebook lost \$119 billion in value on Thursday.

Twitter's second-quarter net income hit \$100.1 million, after a loss last year during the same period. It's the company's third profit in a row, the third it has ever posted.

Per-share, the San Francisco company's net income was 13 cents, or 17 cents adjusted, in line with expectations, according to a poll by Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue of \$710.5 million, up 24 percent and edging out expectations of \$696 million.

Elements of this story were generated by Automated Insights (<http://automatedinsights.com/ap>) using data from Zacks Investment Research. Access a Zacks stock report on TWTR at <https://www.zacks.com/ap/TWTR>

Emails: Lawyer who met Trump Jr. tied to Russian officials

By RAPHAEL SATTER, AP Cybersecurity Writer

LONDON (AP) — The Moscow lawyer said to have promised Donald Trump's presidential campaign dirt on his Democratic opponent worked more closely with senior Russian government officials than she previously let on, according to documents reviewed by The Associated Press.

Scores of emails, transcripts and legal documents paint a portrait of Natalia Veselnitskaya as a well-connected attorney who served as a ghostwriter for top Russian government lawyers and received assistance from senior Interior Ministry personnel in a case involving a key client.

The data was obtained through Russian opposition figure Mikhail Khodorkovsky's London-based investigative unit, the Dossier Center, that is compiling profiles of Russians it accuses of benefiting from corruption. The data was later shared with journalists at the AP, the Swiss newspaper Tages-Anzeiger, Greek news website Inside Story and elsewhere.

The AP was unable to reach Veselnitskaya for comment. Messages from a reporter sent to her phone were marked as "read" but were not returned. A list of questions sent via email went unanswered.

Veselnitskaya has been under scrutiny since it emerged last year that Trump's eldest son, Donald Jr., met with her in June 2016 after being told by an intermediary that she represented the Russian government and was offering Moscow's help defeating rival presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Veselnitskaya has denied acting on behalf of Russian officialdom when she met with the Trump team, telling Congress that she operates "independently of any government bodies."

But recent reporting has cast doubt on her story. In an April interview with NBC News, Veselnitskaya acknowledged acting as an "informant" for the Russian government after being confronted with an earlier batch of emails obtained through the Dossier Center.

The new documents reviewed by AP suggest her ties to Russian authorities are close — and they pull the curtain back on her campaign to overturn the sanctions imposed by the U.S. on Russian officials.

The source of the material is murky.

Veselnitskaya has previously said that her emails were hacked. Khodorkovsky told AP he couldn't know where the messages came from, saying his group maintained a series of anonymous digital drop boxes.

The AP worked to authenticate the 200-odd documents, in some cases by verifying the digital signatures carried in email headers.

In three other cases, individuals named in various email chains confirmed that the messages were genuine. Other correspondence was partially verified by confirming the nonpublic phone numbers or email addresses they held, including some belonging to senior Russian officials and U.S. lobbyists.

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

Veselnitskaya's role in the drama over the Trump campaign's Russian connections is rooted in her fight against Bill Browder, the American-born British businessman who has become a leading critic of the Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Browder's decade-plus crusade against the Kremlin has so enraged Russian officials that Putin demanded his extradition to Moscow during his press conference with President Trump in Helsinki earlier this month.

The feud took off in 2009, when a lawyer working for Browder, Sergey Magnitsky, died in a Moscow prison under suspicious circumstances. Magnitsky had been investigating a multimillion dollar embezzlement scheme allegedly involving Russian tax officials when he was arrested, and Browder turned his death into a cause celebre, successfully lobbying Congress to pass the Magnitsky Act, a 2012 law that slapped the officials implicated in the scandal with visa bans and asset freezes.

Moscow has responded with a ban on U.S. adoptions of Russian orphans and by an unrelenting campaign against Browder, who says he's been the subject of more than a half-dozen attempts to extradite him to Russia through Interpol.

Browder has refused to back down, pushing for copycat legislation across the world. Veselnitskaya has taken the counteroffensive, battling him in court across Europe and the U.S. and organizing a media and

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lobbying campaign to undercut his credibility in Washington.

Veselnitskaya told Congress last year that her interest in Browder was “all part of my job defending a specific person” — her client Denis Katsyv, who Browder accuses of laundering money through the company Prevezon.

But the documents obtained through the Dossier Center show she both received Russian government support and provided assistance to high-level authorities in Moscow.

When Swiss officials investigating Prevezon arrived in Moscow on September 2015 to interrogate Katsyv, for example, they were met not just by Veselnitskaya but by Lt. Col. A. V. Ranchenkov, a senior Interior Ministry official previously known for his role investigating the Russian punk band Pussy Riot.

Ranchenkov devoted a chunk of the interview to questions about the legality of Browder’s actions, according to a transcript of the interrogation reviewed by AP.

The Russian Interior Ministry did not return messages seeking comment.

Two years later, the emails show, Veselnitskaya was mixed up in the Russian government’s attempt to extract financial information from Browder’s former law firm in Cyprus.

An Oct. 31, 2017, email shows Veselnitskaya’s office preparing a draft version of Russian Deputy General Prosecutor Mikhail Alexandrov’s affidavit to Cypriot authorities. “This is needed by tomorrow,” she wrote a subordinate.

Two weeks later, a finalized version of the same document was sent by a Russian diplomatic staffer to a Cypriot counterpart, the Dossier Center’s files show.

Browder said this reinforced the idea that Veselnitskaya was enmeshed with Russian officialdom.

“If her office is drafting replies for Russian-Cyprus law enforcement cooperation, in my opinion that effectively shows that she’s an agent of the Russian government and not an independent lawyer as she claims,” he said in a telephone interview.

In a written statement, the Russian Embassy in Cyprus called the AP’s questions a “provocation” and said that it had “no idea who is Nataliya Veselnitskaya and what she sends or doesn’t send to the Cypriot Officials.”

Alexandrov, reached at the prosecutor-general’s office, refused to speak to the AP.

‘MY ANTENNAE WERE OUT’

Veselnitskaya tried to extend her influence to the United States.

The emails obtained through the Dossier Center show her at the center of a multipronged lobbying operation aimed at halting Browder’s momentum in Washington.

One prong was aimed at building a grassroots support for the effort to overturn the Magnitsky Act, or at least create the illusion of one.

A potential ally in this effort was the Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption Including Neighboring Countries, or FRUA, a charity that supports families who adopt children from former Soviet bloc nations.

Jan Wondra, the organization’s chairman, said she attended a meeting in Washington on June 8, 2016, with a group of people including Rinat Akhmetshin, a Russian-American lobbyist who was working with Veselnitskaya to overturn U.S. sanctions against Russia.

The group told her they had evidence that the Magnitsky Act had been propelled by bogus claims spread by Browder and his allies, Wondra said, a revelation the group said could lead to the overturning of the Russian adoption ban.

Wondra told the AP she was suspicious and feared that the lobbyists wanted FRUA’s endorsement for their own purposes.

“My antennae were out. I looked at this as an attempt to put public pressure on Congress to rescind all or a part of the Magnitsky Act,” she said, emphasizing that she spoke only for herself, not her organization. “The conclusion I drew was that FRUA should not participate. And we didn’t.”

Akhmetshin, who would join Veselnitskaya at the Trump Tower meeting the next day, declined comment.

While the lobbyists were wooing Wondra, Veselnitskaya was overseeing the creation of a new organiza-

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tion called the Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative Foundation, or HRAGI, which billed itself as a grass-roots group devoted to overturning the Russian adoption ban.

A Bloomberg report shows the organization was in fact funded by Russian friends of Katsyv — something Veselnitskaya appeared eager to keep secret.

“Is it possible to open a Fund account here in Russia, so we can collect money from donations and then pay them into an account anonymously in the U.S?” she wrote Mark Cymrot, a lawyer at the U.S. law firm BakerHostetler, in a March 17, 2016, email.

Cymrot represented Prevezon, the Katsyv-owned company accused by Browder of being a conduit for the ill-gotten money Magnitsky was tracking before he died. But Cymrot did more than just fight Veselnitskaya’s corner in American court; he also helped her undercut Browder’s crusading image in the American media.

For this, Cymrot turned to Fusion GPS, a private intelligence firm that prepared a 660-odd page media dossier on Browder for circulation to journalists.

Fusion also was tasked with background research for Veselnitskaya’s work convincing elected representatives to push back against Browder’s campaign in Washington, where the Global Magnitsky Bill, an enlarged version of the 2012 law, was wending its way through Congress.

The emails capture Cymrot writing to Fusion to ask for damning material on Browder to send to a senior staffer on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

“Any articles critical of Browder,” Cymrot told Fusion, saying the staffer had asked for “anything we have that could be helpful.”

“Time is of the essence,” he added, noting that the global bill was only two days from the beginning of the amendment process.

Cymrot said his work did not constitute lobbying.

“You’re misinterpreting what occurred,” he said in a telephone interview. When pressed for details, he asked for questions in writing. When these were provided, he did not respond. BakerHostetler also did not respond to written questions.

Whatever Cymrot’s role, Veselnitskaya’s modest American lobbying effort came to naught. The Global Magnitsky Act cleared the Committee on Foreign Affairs amid overwhelming bipartisan support. It was signed into law on Dec. 23, 2016.

BLOWBACK

The campaign to knock the wind out of Browder’s sails began to draw blowback as the political climate changed.

On July 16, 2016, Browder filed a formal complaint with the Justice Department accusing Cymrot, Akhmetshin, Fusion founder Glenn Simpson and many of their colleagues of acting as unregistered agents for Russia.

In October 2016, a judge threw BakerHostetler off the Prevezon case on the grounds of conflict of interest, since the firm had previously represented Browder. It eventually was replaced by Los Angeles-based Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan.

After Trump’s election in November, the once-discreet Fusion was thrust into the white-hot center of Trump’s Washington when it was revealed that the private intelligence company had commissioned the dossier containing explosive claims about the future president’s behavior in Russia.

Republican politicians seized on Browder’s 2016 complaint about Fusion to try to undermine the dossier’s authors, accusing Simpson, for example, of secretly working on behalf of the Russian state, or of letting his work for Prevezon overlap with his opposition research on Trump.

Simpson denied the charges in his testimony before Congress. In a statement Thursday, Fusion’s lawyer Joshua A. Levy said the company had provided litigation support — not lobbying — and that its Trump research had survived determined Republican efforts to discredit it.

Others in Veselnitskaya’s orbit took a little time to get their story straight, a document obtained through the Dossier Center suggests.

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The April 2017 document initially has Robert Arakelian, the owner of the HRAGI organization working to overturn the adoption ban, explaining that he is exempt from the requirement to register as a foreign agent and saying he created the organization "at the request of Denis Katsyv."

The document's tracked changes suggest a BakerHostetler lawyer rewrote the charity's origin story wholesale, deleting the reference to Katsyv and saying instead that the adoption group was established after Arakelian met Akhmetshin, the lobbyist, and "learned that the law is unjust and based on false information provided to members of the United States Congress."

The BakerHostetler lawyer then inserted a sentence explaining that there were no agreements between the adoption group, Katsyv, Prevezon "or any other foreign persons or principals from the Russian Federation."

The only foreign link, the document said, was an "informal representation" by Veselnitskaya. Arakelian didn't return an email seeking comment.

"A BAD LIGHT"

As the rewriting of the document shows, BakerHostetler was still involved with Prevezon and its entourage despite the judge having ordered the firm off the case months before.

Faith Gay of Quinn Emanuel told Veselnitskaya on May 1, 2017, that she was still in touch with BakerHostetler even though the firm couldn't officially participate in trial preparations.

"We have been trying to talk with them informally as much as possible," she wrote.

Gay no longer works for the firm and declined comment when approached by the AP. But several emails show her former colleagues copying counterparts at BakerHostetler on trial-related matters, as well as BakerHostetler lawyers offering their feedback throughout the first half of 2017.

Cymrot defended his continued work on Prevezon, saying the lawyers at Quinn Emanuel needed help navigating the complex case they had taken on right up until the moment Prevezon settled with the government on May 19, 2017.

"It was all under the transition period," he said in his interview.

Cymrot refused to divulge whether he or others at BakerHostetler were paid for their work, calling that information privileged.

Worries about the behind-the-scenes assistance becoming public would prove a source of concern after news of Veselnitskaya's meeting at Trump Tower became public.

Within weeks, she, Akhmetshin, Simpson and others were called before Congress and investigators subpoenaed their emails. Quinn Emmanuel warned Veselnitskaya that the email exchanges could be damaging and urged her to declare them off-limits.

Releasing the messages could result in "a question being raised about BakerHostetler representing Prevezon's interests well beyond the district court's disqualification of them as Prevezon's counsel," one lawyer wrote.

Veselnitskaya initially shrugged off the issue.

"I can see no reason to worry," she wrote on Aug. 18.

But five days later, senior Quinn Emanuel lawyer Faith Gay reemphasized the point, arguing that the documents should be kept secret "as it seems to us that it could be your friends at BakerHostetler in a bad light."

Quinn Emanuel did not respond to a list of questions.

Veselnitskaya's final response isn't captured in the messages obtained through the Dossier Center, but she appears to have relented.

The emails between BakerHostetler, Fusion and congressional staffers were never made public. Instead, a two-page email log was produced labeling the material "confidential communication performed at the direction of counsel in anticipation of litigation."

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

The emails obtained by AP leave some unanswered questions.

In particular, the Dossier Center's investigation turned up almost no messages about the Trump Tower meeting, its lead-up or its aftermath. The group said it received only a few messages dealing with the media queries when the meeting became public in mid-2017.

That could lend credence to arguments by the Trump campaign and Veselnitskaya that both sides quickly realized the get-together was a waste of time.

"I wanted to go away as soon as possible," she told Congress. "And I felt Trump Jr. wanted the same too."

The messages also carry no hint of the Trump dossier, and nothing in the material challenges Simpson's testimony that Fusion's work for Prevezon was kept separate from its work on Trump.

Finally, there's no mention in the documents of the Russian hack-and-leak operation that began rattling the Democrats immediately following Veselnitskaya's visit.

The only hints of cyberespionage in the documents appear to revolve around concerns that Veselnitskaya or members of her entourage might have their messages hacked by others.

About a week before the Trump Tower meeting, for example, Veselnitskaya's translator warned Arakelian, the owner of HRAGI, the adoption group, that their emails were vulnerable and suggested switching to more secure channels.

"We need to think about how to send files via Telegram, Signal or PGP," he said.

Angela Charlton, Francesca Ebel and Varya Kudryavtseva in Moscow, Justin Myers in Chicago and Desmond Butler in Washington contributed to this report.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Raphael Satter's father, David Satter, is a Russia specialist who has been critical both of the Kremlin and of the Fusion GPS-commissioned dossier on President Donald Trump. He was involved in a 2011 arbitration claim against filmmaker Andrei Nekrasov over the production of a documentary. A subsequent film by Nekrasov, which was critical of British investor Bill Browder, was promoted by Natalia Veselnitskaya.

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Judge: Gag order unlikely against porn star's lawyer

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge said Friday he is unlikely to issue a gag order stopping a lawyer for porn actress Stormy Daniels from discussing her lawsuit against President Donald Trump with reporters and the public.

U.S. District Judge S. James Otero made the comment during a hearing held a day after the attorney, Michael Avenatti, said he now represents three additional women who had relationships with Trump and were paid "hush money" before the 2016 presidential election.

Otero did not immediately issue a decision on the gag order requested on behalf of Michael Cohen, a longtime personal lawyer for Trump. The motion said Avenatti had been running a "smear campaign" against Cohen.

His lawyer, Brent Blakely, argued that Avenatti's frequent interviews and near-daily tweets about Trump and Cohen could taint future jurors.

"Like a small-town carnival magician who attempts to confuse the audience with smoke and mirrors, Avenatti attempts to somehow justify his conduct by pulling the First Amendment out of his tiny bag of tricks while at the same time pointing his finger at others," Blakely wrote in requesting the order.

Otero said the constitution is "neither a trick nor an illusion" and told Blakely that his request was "serious business."

The judge said he had some concerns about statements that Avenatti has made about Cohen, but said

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the bar for a gag order was high and it didn't seem as though Cohen had met that burden. He did not immediately issue a decision on issuing the order.

The judge is also considering whether to continue delaying Daniels' case because Cohen is under federal investigation in New York.

Avenatti disclosed that he had additional clients at a community forum in West Hollywood, but he would not provide additional details.

However, asked if he had evidence that the women had relationships with Trump, Avenatti said: "Yes."

He said he was "not at liberty to share" the evidence because he didn't have permission from his clients to disclose specifics. But Avenatti said the women, who contacted him months ago, were "paid hush money prior to the 2016 election."

He called on Trump and Cohen to come forward and disclose information about the women and their supposed relationships with Trump.

"They should release the information to the American people now," Avenatti said. "Enough with the games."

Trump's attorney, Charles Harder, would not comment when asked about the allegations on Friday.

Cohen's lawyer, Lanny Davis, declined to comment Friday but cautioned against believing everything that a lawyer says in the heat of a legal battle.

"Mr. Avenatti is an aggressive attorney doing his job in the middle of litigation," Davis said. "I have been there, done that. An attorney in litigation is just that, and until the litigation is over, I'm not going to comment on the words used."

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, has said she had sex with Trump in 2006, when he was married, but Trump has denied it.

Days before the 2016 presidential election, she was paid \$130,000 to stay silent in a deal handled by Cohen. She is suing to invalidate the nondisclosure agreement.

Daniels also sued Cohen last month, alleging he colluded with her former lawyer to get her to appear on Fox News and falsely deny a sexual tryst with Trump.

Associated Press writer Michael R. Sisak in New York contributed to this report.

US economy grew at a brisk 4.1 percent rate last quarter

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy accelerated last quarter at an annual rate of 4.1 percent, the government estimated Friday, as consumers spent tax-cut money, businesses stepped up investment and exporters rushed to ship their goods ahead of retaliatory tariffs.

President Donald Trump said he was thrilled with what he called an "amazing" growth rate — the strongest quarterly figure since 2014 — and said it wasn't "a one-time shot." But most economists took issue with that forecast, saying the pace of growth in the April-June quarter won't likely last in the months ahead.

The Commerce Department said the gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services produced in the United States — posted its best showing since a 4.9 percent annual increase in the third quarter of 2014.

Trump, who has repeatedly attacked the Obama administration's economic record, had pledged during the 2016 presidential race to double annual economic growth to 4 percent or more. And at a White House appearance Friday with his top economic advisers and Vice President Mike Pence, the president boasted that "we've accomplished an economic turnaround of historic proportions."

He predicted that the economy would fare "extraordinarily well" in the current July-September quarter and that growth for 2018 as a whole would be the best in 13 years.

But forecasters cautioned that the April-June pace was due mainly, though not entirely, to temporary factors. Most analysts are forecasting that growth this year could reach 3 percent, which would be the best since a 3.5 percent gain in 2005. But many think the annual 4.1 percent growth rate last quarter is

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likely the high point for any one quarter. Many think annual growth in the second half of this year will be 2.5 percent to 3 percent.

"We believe quarter two will represent a growth peak as the boost from tax cuts fades, global growth moderates, inflation rises, the Fed tightens monetary policy and trade protectionism looms over the economy," said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics.

The latest GDP figure was nearly double the 2.2 percent growth rate in the first quarter, which was revised up from a previous estimate of 2 percent annual growth.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity, reached a 4 percent annual growth rate after a lackluster 0.5 percent rate in the first quarter. Consumers began spending their higher take-home pay on autos and other big-ticket items, spurred by the \$1.5 trillion tax cut Trump pushed through Congress in December.

Another key factor that bolstered growth was a rush by exporters of soybeans and other products to move their shipments to other countries before retaliatory tariffs in response to Trump's tariffs on imports took effect. Exports surged at a 9.3 percent annual rate in the second quarter, while imports grew at a scant 0.5 percent rate.

Trump called the narrowing of the trade deficit "one of the biggest wins in the report."

The narrowing trade deficit added a full percentage point to growth last quarter, though economists have expressed concern that a full-blown trade war between the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies, will hurt growth in both countries.

Business investment grew at a solid 7.3 percent annual rate. Government spending also posted a solid gain, rising at a 2.1 percent annual rate. The result was boosted by a budget deal at the start of the year that added billions to defense and domestic spending. But housing, which has struggled this year, shrank at a 1.1 percent annual rate after an even sharper 3.4 percent annual decline in the first quarter.

"The second quarter was a strong quarter, but it was juiced up by the tax cuts and higher government spending," said Mark Zandi, chief economist Moody's Analytics.

Zandi forecast that growth for 2018 will reach 3 percent, which would be the best rate since before the Great Recession. In 2019, he expects solid 2.6 percent growth. But in 2020 — a presidential election year — Zandi is forecasting growth of just 0.9 percent, a pace so slow it will raise the threat of a recession.

"We will come pretty close to stalling out in 2020 because the growth we are seeing now is not sustainable," Zandi said.

The GDP report released Friday included a revision of previous years' figures. The revisions showed that growth in 2017 came in at 2.2 percent, slightly below the 2.3 percent previously reported.

The current economic expansion, which began in June 2009, is now the second-longest on record but also the weakest. The GDP revisions didn't change that narrative. Annual growth has averaged just 2.2 percent since mid-2009 through the end of last year, the same as previously reported.

Tech stocks lead market lower again as Twitter takes a dive

By ALEX VEIGA, AP Business Writer

Technology companies led a slide in U.S. stocks Friday, adding to the market's losses from another tech-driven sell-off a day earlier.

Twitter plunged more than 20 percent, its second-biggest loss since going public in 2013, after the social media network said its monthly users declined in the second quarter.

While technology stocks made up much of the market's drop, smaller-company stocks fell more than the rest of the market. The losses outweighed gains in banks and phone companies.

Even so, the S&P 500, the market's benchmark index, had its fourth weekly gain in a row.

The week ended largely as it began, with investors focused on a cavalcade of company earnings reports, most of which have topped Wall Street's forecasts.

"There were clearly high expectations coming into second-quarter earnings and we've seen where companies have performed well relative to those expectations, they've typically been rewarded, and where

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they have fallen short of those expectations, either in current quarter or future guidance, is where you're seeing (selling) occur," said Bill Northey, senior vice president at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

The S&P 500 index fell 18.62 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,818.82. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 76.01 points, or 0.3 percent, to 25,451.06. The Nasdaq composite index, which is heavily weighted with technology companies, lost 114.77 points, or 1.5 percent, to 7,737.42. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 32.02 points, or 1.9 percent, to 1,663.34.

This was the busiest stretch of the second-quarter earnings season, with roughly a third of companies in the S&P 500 reporting results. While some companies posted results that fell short of analysts' forecasts, most delivered better-than-expected results and favorable outlooks.

Of the 49 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 that had issued quarterly results as of Friday, some 65 percent reported earnings and revenue that beat analysts' forecasts, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

That's reinforced the underlying perception in the financial markets that the U.S. economy is performing strongly and that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates again next week.

The government said Friday that the U.S. economy surged in the April-June quarter to an annual growth rate of 4.1 percent. That's the fastest pace since 2014, driven by consumers who began spending their tax cuts and exporters who rushed to get their products delivered ahead of retaliatory tariffs.

The economic snapshot had been widely expected, so it didn't have a noticeable impact on the market or the sell-off in technology stocks.

For the second straight day a social media company led a steep decline in the technology sector. Twitter plummeted 20.5 percent to \$34.12 after the company disclosed user totals and a forecast that disappointed investors.

Snap, the company behind the Snapchat messaging app, slid 4 percent to \$12.83. Facebook shares gave up 0.8 percent to \$174.89 a day after the social media giant led a slide in technology stocks that snapped the S&P 500's three-day winning streak.

Facebook's steep drop, which erased nearly \$120 billion of the company's market value, was brought on by its warning to investors that it sees slower revenue growth ahead. With Friday's losses, Facebook shares came within a hair's length of finishing in a bear market, which is defined as a drop of 20 percent from a recent peak.

Other technology companies also had a rough day.

Intel skidded 8.6 percent to \$47.68 after the chipmaker's latest quarterly report left analysts concerned about the company's profit margins and key businesses.

Computer hard drive companies contributed to the technology sector losses. Western Digital lost 7.7 percent to \$71.13, while Seagate Technology slid 5 percent to \$54.69.

CBS dropped 6.1 percent to \$54.01, the biggest one-day loss for the stock in more than six years, following reports of sexual misconduct allegations against its CEO, Les Moonves.

Investors bid up shares in companies that reported solid quarterly results.

Expedia Group surged 9.5 percent to \$137.79 after the online travel portal's quarterly earnings topped analysts' forecasts. Chipotle Mexican Grill climbed 5.7 percent to \$472.30 after the restaurant chain said sales online and at established stores improved in its latest quarter.

Amazon.com rose 0.5 percent to \$1,817.27 after the online retailer reported its biggest profit ever as its advertising and cloud computing businesses kept growing.

Benchmark U.S. crude lost 92 cents, or 1.3 percent, to settle at \$68.69 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 25 cents to close at \$74.29.

Bond prices rose, sending yields lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 2.96 percent from 2.97 percent late Thursday.

The dollar slipped to 111 yen from 111.23 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1656 from \$1.1645.

Gold lost \$2.70 to \$1,223 an ounce. Silver was little changed at \$15.49 an ounce. Copper fell 2 cents to \$2.80 a pound.

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In other energy futures trading, heating oil slid 2 cents to \$2.16 a gallon. Wholesale gasoline was little changed at \$2.16 a gallon. Natural gas added 4 cents to \$2.82 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Major indexes in Europe finished higher. Germany's DAX added 0.4 percent and the CAC 40 in France gained 0.6 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 picked up 0.5 percent. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.6 percent. The Kospi in South Korea picked up 0.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index edged 0.1 percent lower.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 28, the 209th day of 2018. There are 156 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 28, 1945, the U.S. Senate ratified the United Nations Charter by a vote of 89-2.

On this date:

In 1794, Maximilien Robespierre, a leading figure of the French Revolution, was sent to the guillotine.

In 1914, World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

In 1932, federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand payments they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing, which had limited people to one pound of coffee every five weeks since it began in Nov. 1942.

In 1945, a U.S. Army bomber crashed into the 79th floor of New York's Empire State Building, killing 14 people.

In 1959, in preparation for statehood, Hawaiians voted to send the first Chinese-American, Republican Hiram L. Fong, to the U.S. Senate and the first Japanese-American, Democrat Daniel K. Inouye, to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced he was increasing the number of American troops in South Vietnam from 75,000 to 125,000 "almost immediately."

In 1976, an earthquake devastated northern China, killing at least 242,000 people, according to an official estimate.

In 1984, the Los Angeles Summer Olympics opened.

In 1989, Israeli commandos abducted a pro-Iranian Shiite (SHEE'-eyet) Muslim cleric, Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid (AHB'-dool kah-REEM' oh-BAYD'), from his home in south Lebanon. (He was released in January 2004 as part of a prisoner swap.)

In 1995, a jury in Union, South Carolina, rejected the death penalty for Susan Smith, sentencing her to life in prison for drowning her two young sons (Smith will be eligible for parole in 2024).

In 2002, nine coal miners trapped in the flooded Quecreek (KYOO'-kreek) Mine in Somerset, Pennsylvania, were rescued after 77 hours underground.

Ten years ago: President Bush received Pakistan's new prime minister, Yousuf Raza Gilani (gee-LAH'-nee), at the White House, praising him as a reliable partner in confronting terrorism. Four suicide bombers believed to be women struck a Shiite pilgrimage in Baghdad and a Kurdish protest rally in northern Iraq, killing at least 57 people and wounding nearly 300.

Five years ago: Pope Francis' historic trip to his home continent of South America ended after a marathon week in Brazil. In southern Italy, 39 people were killed when a tour bus plunged into a ravine. An armed thief stole a \$136 million diamond collection from a jewelry show at the Carlton International Hotel in Cannes, France. Actress-singer Eileen Brennan, 80, died in Burbank, California.

One year ago: The Senate voted 51-49 to reject Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's last-ditch effort to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care overhaul with a trimmed-down bill. John McCain, who was about to begin radiation and chemotherapy treatments for a brain tumor, joined two other GOP senators in voting "no" on the repeal effort. President Donald Trump announced he was appointing Homeland Se-

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curity Secretary John Kelly to be his chief of staff. Defrocked priest Paul Shanley, who was at the center of Boston's Roman Catholic clergy sex abuse scandal, was released from prison at the age of 86. British baby Charlie Gard died, a week shy of his first birthday; his parents had fought for the right to take him to the United States for an experimental medical treatment for a rare genetic disease that left him brain-damaged but doctors opposed the request, saying the treatment wouldn't help him and might cause him to suffer.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Darryl Hickman is 87. Ballet dancer-choreographer Jacques d'Amboise is 84. Musical conductor Riccardo Muti is 77. Former Senator and NBA Hall of Famer Bill Bradley is 75. "Garfield" creator Jim Davis is 73. Singer Jonathan Edwards is 72. Actress Linda Kelsey is 72. TV producer Dick Ebersol is 71. Actress Sally Struthers is 71. Actress Georgia Engel is 70. Rock musician Simon Kirke (Bad Company) is 69. Rock musician Steve Morse (Deep Purple) is 64. Former CBS anchorman Scott Pelley is 61. Alt-country-rock musician Marc Perlman is 57. Actor Michael Hayden is 55. Actress Lori Loughlin is 54. Jazz musician-producer Delfeayo Marsalis is 53. Former hockey player turned general manager Garth Snow is 49. Actress Elizabeth Berkley is 46. Singer Afroman is 44. Country musician Todd Anderson (Heartland) is 43. Rock singer Jacoby Shaddix (Papa Roach) is 42. Country singer Carly Goodwin is 37. Actor Jon Michael Hill is 33. Actor Dustin Milligan is 33. Actor Nolan Gerard Funk is 32. Rapper Soulja Boy is 28. Pop/rock singer Cher Lloyd (TV: "The X Factor") is 25.

Thought for Today: "It is impossible to write ancient history because we lack source materials, and impossible to write modern history because we have far too many." — Charles Peguy (pay-GEE'), French poet and writer (1873-1914).