

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.

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Groton Post #39 suffered its second loss in the State B American Legion Baseball Tournament being played in Redfield. McCook/Miner defeated Groton in six innings, 17-7.

McCook/Miner 17 - 7 Groton

📍 Home 🏆 Tournament 📅 Saturday July 28, 2018

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
MCKN	1	2	3	6	0	5	17	12	4
GRTN	0	0	0	2	3	2	7	4	1

BATTING

McCook/Miner	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
C Gassman...	5	3	3	0	0	1	2
K Gassman...	4	1	1	2	1	3	3
S Arend (RF...	3	1	1	0	0	2	3
D Klinkha...	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
K Tuschen (...)	2	3	0	0	3	0	0
T Kingsbury...	2	2	0	0	1	0	3
H Matthaei...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
M Kramer (C	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
E Kiser (C	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
P Clevelan...	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
B Klinkham...	4	2	2	3	0	0	5
C Schmitt (1B	3	0	2	3	0	0	1
A Stoltz (1B	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
K Carmicha...	4	1	2	0	0	0	2
Totals	31	17	12	11	8	8	9

2B: C Gassman, P Cleveland, K Gassman, **TB:** C Schmitt 2, K Carmichael 2, C Gassman 4, B Klinkhammer 2, P Cleveland 2, S Arend, K Gassman 2, **HBP:** A Stoltz, H Matthaei, M Kramer 2, B Klinkhammer, **LOB:** 9

PITCHING

McCook/Miner	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
T Kingsbury	2.2	0	0	0	3	5	0
C Gassman	1.0	1	2	2	2	2	0
K Tuschen	0.1	0	3	3	1	0	0
D Klinkham...	2.0	3	2	1	2	3	0
Totals	6.0	4	7	6	8	10	0

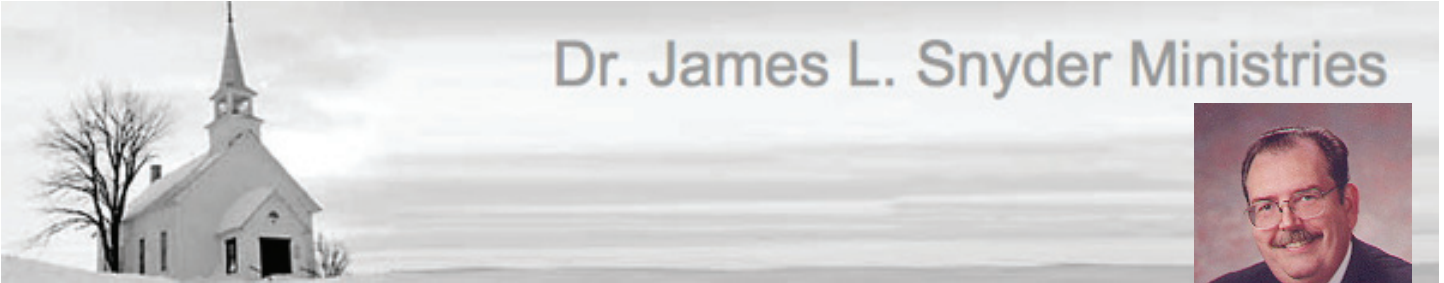
Groton	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB
A Sippel (2B	1	1	0	0	3	1	1
B Keith (SS	4	1	0	0	0	1	2
B Shabazz (...)	2	1	1	0	1	0	1
L Thorson (...)	2	1	0	0	2	2	3
A Morris (C	3	1	1	1	0	1	2
W Locke (3...	2	0	0	1	1	1	1
K Blackman...	2	1	0	1	0	1	4
A Jones (P,...	2	1	1	0	1	1	0
D Shabazz (...)	2	0	1	0	0	1	0
H Schallar...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	21	7	4	3	8	10	9

2B: A Jones, **TB:** D Shabazz, A Jones 2, A Morris, B Shabazz, **HBP:** A Morris, B Shabazz, W Locke, K Blackman 2, **LOB:** 9

Groton	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
P Johnson	2.1	4	6	6	3	2	0
A Jones	1.1	5	6	6	1	1	0
W Locke	2.0	3	5	0	4	4	0
L Thorson	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	6.0	12	17	12	8	8	0

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



I Think I Now Know How Noah Felt

Looking out the living room window the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sighed very deeply and said, "When will this stinking rain stop?"

I chuckled to myself very carefully not to let it come up to the surface of my face to let on to anybody in the room.

She turned around and said to me, "I am just about done with all this rain."

With a fake grimace on my face I said, "I don't know, but I'm done with it too."

I had to walk away at that point because I could not control the chuckles that were rising to the level of my face.

When I got some control of my emotions I thought to myself, this must be how Noah felt. Whenever it rains as it has been doing lately, I usually think of Noah. Only this time I was thinking of Noah's wife.

Listening to my wife talk about the rain, I could not help but think maybe this is exactly what Noah's wife was saying to him.

"Noah," his wife said, "when will this stinking rain stop?" Then I can imagine her saying, "I can handle one day of rain or maybe two, but this is getting to be ridiculous."

After all, Noah's wife was just like anybody else's wife especially the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

Knowing my wife like I do, I know she likes to be in control. From the moment she gets up in the morning until she goes to bed at night, she likes to be in control. When something is going on that she cannot control, then we have a different situation.

Could that be said of Noah's wife? This rain was coming down day after day after day for 40 days and 40 nights. Nothing had ever happened like that before. I believe Noah's wife was a little frustrated with the fact that she was not in control with the rain.

My wife gets up every morning with a large list of things she wants to accomplish during the day. I need to be careful because sometimes she has one of her "Honey-Do-Lists" for you know who. She is very productive in her day and she hardly sits down to rest. She is proactive all day long.

When she decides to do something, she does it no matter what.

Now, for the last several weeks it has been raining just about every day. She enjoys yard work and even mowing. Now with the rain, it has disrupted her schedule.

The fact that she cannot control the rain carries with it a little hidden giggle inside of me. She takes pride in planning her day and fulfilling her plan to the letter. She is in control of everything.

Everything, that is, except the rain. I know the rain is playing with her.

Several times, especially this past week, the morning started out bright and sunny with barely a cloud in the air. When my wife saw that, she was very excited.

"Finally," she said almost hysterically, "I can do some mowing."

With that, she was laughing and very excited and prepared to go out to do some mowing.

I think there was a cloud hidden somewhere watching for her because as soon as she got outside and got the mower running the rain started to come.

With a great deal of haste she put the mower away and come inside to dry off.

As soon as she was inside and got dried off a little bit, the rain stopped, the clouds faded away and the sun was shining. She looked out and with a big smile on her face said, "Finally, this rain is over."

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She got outside, got the lawn mower out and ready to go and was mowing for five minutes and as I watched I could see that smile on her face. Nothing she enjoys more than riding that lawnmower and making the lawn look beautiful.

Suddenly, I heard thunder in the distance and then came the rain.

As quickly as possible, she put the lawnmower away and ran inside dripping with rain. I did my best to get out of her way because this was not one of her "Happy Moods."

For the rest of the day she was working in her craft room and I heard her under her breath say, "Rain, rain go away and never come back any other day." I sympathize with her because the rain had kept me from doing some things I wanted to do.

If rain is the only thing my wife cannot control she is a very lucky person. I, for instance, cannot control very many things in my life. I would like to, but it just is not in the cards for me.

I cannot imagine Noah sitting in that ark for over a year not being able to control anything. That is the essence of what faith is all about. If I can control a situation, why do I need God?

I need to exchange my pride for faith in God. It reminds me of one of my favorite Bible verses. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

The best things in my life are those that are beyond my control where I can begin to see God at work in that situation.

Highway 12 / Brown County 14 Construction

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation will begin work to add roadway lighting and signals at the Highway 12 and Brown County 14 intersection on Tuesday, July 31, 2018.

At some instances during the project there may be a lane closure, but US Highway 12 will remain open to through traffic. Starting July 31, Brown County 14 will be closed for regrading and facilitation of the signal construction for about 20 working days.

This work is part of a nearly \$884,000 contract with Ringgenberg Electric, Inc. to do work on Highway 12 & Brown County 14 in the Aberdeen region.

The completion date for the intersection improvements is Sept. 15, 2018.

For complete road construction information, visit www.safetravelusa.com/sd or dial 511.

“Curious George: The Golden Meatball” to be performed at the Granary

The Granary Rural Cultural Center is hosting Aberdeen’s Storybook Land Theatre on Friday, August 3 at 1pm. The group will perform their new musical, “Curious George: The Golden Meatball,” based on the popular children’s series by Margaret and H.A. Rey. Everyone’s favorite curious little monkey is back once again with a brand new adventure, as he climbs and swings his way to saving the annual All-You-Can-Eat Meatball Day. Audiences all over northeastern South Dakota are invited to free performances of this “a-peeling” musical, suitable for audiences of all ages.

For driving directions to the Granary go to www.granaryfinearts.org. This show is free and open to the public.

Curious George first appeared in the 1939 book “Cecily G. and the Nine Monkeys” and has since gone on to appear in countless books, live-action productions, movies and even children’s toys.

Broadway World calls this production “a great opportunity for kids to enjoy theater” and “an incredibly cute story with the children watching blown away and having an absolute blast”.

The cast of “Curious George: The Golden Meatball” is made up entirely of the Storybook Land Theater summer cast: Haven Brunes, Julia Friedrichsen, Tylan Glover, Rachel Morrison, Brian T. Schultz, Isaac Seaton, Briggs Tople and Claire Vetter.

Storybook Land Theatre, a program of Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry, is in its 30th season of free, family-friendly performances. Partnering with Aberdeen Community Theatre’s Young People’s Theatre, under the direction of ACT Associate Artistic/Managing Director Brian T. Schultz, SBLT performs eight different shows in eight weeks in the Storybook Land Castle in Aberdeen’s Wylie Park. Performances are typically held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, June through August.

This is the second year SBLT has added a touring element to its programming. Through funding from 3Mgives, SBLT is able to bring “Curious George: The Golden Meatball,” to rural communities surrounding Aberdeen at no cost.

“We had such great success with our touring production of ‘Junie B. Jones the Musical,’ last year,” explained Schultz. “We’re so pleased to be able to offer this opportunity yet again. We’re looking forward to meeting up with old friends that we made on the road last year, plus meeting some new friends.

“None of this would be possible without the support of 3M,” Schultz added. “We appreciate so much the opportunity to partner with a forward-thinking local corporation that is committed to youth and the arts. This will be a tremendous experience not only for the communities we visit, but the actors that are part of the SBLT company. This is invaluable professional experience for them, too.”

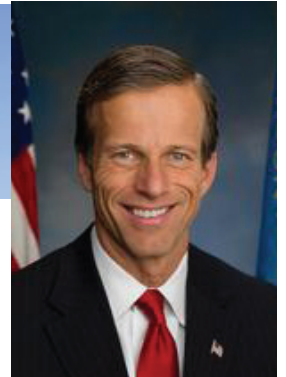
Schultz hopes the touring element of SBLT’s programming is something that will be able to continue for several years to come.

3Mgives’ purpose is to promote stronger and more sustainable communities through donations, investments and through their 3M volunteers. Since its inception, 3Mgives has invested \$1.45 billion in cash and in-kind support globally, according to the 3Mgives 2016 annual report.



Pictured in back, left to right are Isaac Seaton and SBLT Director Brian T. Schultz; in the middle row are Haven Brunes, Claire Vetter and Julia Friedrichsen; in front are Briggs Tople, Tylan Glover and Rachel Morrison. (Courtesy photo)

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The Global Race Toward 5G

There are a lot of common items in our day-to-day lives that use wireless technology to send information from one location to another. If you're in your home, you probably have a TV, and that TV likely has a remote control. You probably have a mobile phone or another mobile device, like a tablet or laptop, that requires Wi-Fi to connect to the internet. Maybe you're wearing an Apple Watch or Fitbit, too.

If you're in your car, you might be listening to your favorite radio station or using your vehicle's navigation system or auto-parking feature. All of these items, and more, require spectrum, the airwaves over which these systems communicate, to function accurately and effectively.

Try for a moment to envision these airwaves as if you could physically see them travel from one location to another. With that in mind, if you were listening to Kickin' 100.5 FM on the radio, the station would broadcast from its tower to your radio on that particular frequency or airwave. If you turned to Hot 104.7 FM, same thing, only it would use its own distinct frequency. They can't broadcast on the same airwave, because if they did, Garth Brooks would blend with Justin Bieber, creating an interesting tune, to say the least.

Not all spectrum is the same. Some spectrum is best suited for mobile phones, and some works better for Wi-Fi. It doesn't matter what kind of spectrum it is, though, it's all important to how things function around us.

As chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the federal agencies that regulate spectrum in the United States, I recently held a hearing to explore America's leadership in the race toward 5G mobile broadband technology, which will help deliver speeds one hundred times faster than current mobile phone technology. It's critical that the United States wins the race to 5G, but making sure innovators and entrepreneurs have access to more spectrum is going to be critical to our success.

I'm glad the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other key government agencies have taken important steps toward achieving that goal, but even today, only a relatively small amount of the spectrum needed to deploy 5G has been specifically identified. Not only is that putting us behind our global competitors, like China and South Korea, but I believe it's a serious threat to American leadership of this next-generation technology.

I've been focusing on the race toward 5G for years and have pursued legislation that would help give America a competitive edge. My MOBILE NOW Act, which was signed into law earlier this year, lays critical groundwork for this new wireless broadband technology, and I hope South Dakota can be a leader in this space, too.

Several FCC officials, including Chairman Ajit Pai and Commissioners Brendan Carr and Mike O'Rielly, have visited South Dakota with me to see firsthand everything our state can offer. I'm hopeful that with partners like them, all of whom will play a crucial role in implementing my MOBILE NOW Act, we can put America's best foot forward and cross the finish line before anyone else.

Being pioneers in this technological revolution will strengthen our economy, help businesses succeed, and give consumers access to the world's best mobile technology, enabling all the latest advancements in precision agriculture, telehealth, autonomous vehicles, and beyond, continuing to make our lives easier, safer, and simpler.

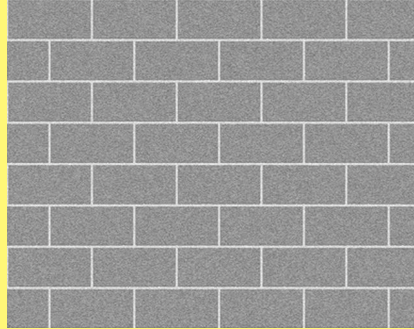
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Wolfgram installed at St. John's and Zion Lutheran churches

On July 22, 2018, Pastor Andrew Wolfgram was installed as the minister of St. John's Groton and Zion Andover. In addition to Pastor A. Wolfgram, there were twelve other pastors as well as members of the two congregations in attendance.

Those is the picture above are as follows:

Back Row: Rev. Bret Bierman, pastor of Trinity Mansfield, St. John's rural Aberdeen, and St. Paul's Stratford; Rev. Samuel Bobby, senior pastor at St. Paul Aberdeen; Rev. David Otten, pastor at Emmanuel Gettysburg and Christ Lutheran Lebanon as well as the Secretary of the SD District of the LCMS; Rev. Josiah Fitch, assistant pastor at St. Paul Aberdeen; and Rev. Tim Koch, pastor at Concordia Cresbard and Immanuel Wecota.

Middle Row: Rev. Jordon Andreasen, pastor at Our Savior's Aberdeen and St. John's Columbia; and Rev. Larry Johnson, retired, former pastor at Emanuel Sisseton and Zion Waubay.

Front Row: Rev. Hyle Anderson, retired, former pastor at St. Paul's Aberdeen; Rev. Raymond Pomplun, retired, former pastor at Our Savior's Aberdeen and St. Paul's Leola/Good Shepherd Ipswich; Rev. Larry Hintz, Pastor A. Wolfgram's uncle and a retired pastor living in Appleton, WI; Rev. Andrew Wolfgram, St. John's newly installed minister; Rev. Lester Wolfgram, pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND, and father of Pastor Andrew Wolfgram; and Tim Rynearson, Pastor at Peace Lutheran Brookings and Redeemer Flandreau and second vice president of the SD District of the LCMS. (Courtesy Photo)

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Today in Weather History

July 29, 1896: A destructive hailstorm originated in the central part of Edmunds County near Ipswich, passing southeast. This storm destroyed crops and broke glass in many windows along a path to the eastern portions of Spink County.

July 29, 2003: Winds of 70 mph, to over 100 mph caused damage in and around Redfield east to Frankfort and south to Tulare. The winds and hail damaged many roofs, crops, outbuildings, downed power lines, and poles, and also downed many branches and trees. In Redfield, a trailer home with two occupants were rolled three to four times over 75 feet. The trailer home rolled over a pickup truck and damaged it. Much of the contents in the trailer home were damaged, and the trailer home itself was a total loss. The people inside the home received minor injuries. A garage was also blown apart in Redfield with the car damaged inside. At the grain elevator in Redfield, several vehicle windows were broke out by airborne sand and rocks. A street light was ripped from the concrete in Redfield. East of Redfield, a 70-foot silo of over 70 tons was crumbled to the ground and a large tractor shed was blown apart with damage to the contents. Wind equipment by Redfield measured winds at 106 mph before the power went out.

July 29, 2006: Record heat and high humidity affected central, north central, and northeast South Dakota for the end of July. Heat indices rose to 105 to 115 degrees across the area. Record high temperatures were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, Timber Lake, and Aberdeen. Pierre rose to 111 degrees on each of the three days. Mobridge rose to 111 degrees on the 28th and 112 degrees on the 30th. Several record highs of 108 and 109 degrees were set at Timber Lake and Kennebec in the three-day period. Aberdeen set a record high of 106 on the 30th.

1958: The U.S. Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space.

1960: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds, possibly as high as 100 mph to central Oklahoma. Eight planes and several hangars were damaged at Wiley Post Airfield, while two aircraft and additional hangars were damaged at Will Rogers World Airport. The winds caused seven injuries in the area, including two youths who were injured by flying debris.

2004: A record-setting flash flood occurred over part of the Greenville, South Carolina, during the morning hours. Six to eight inches of rain fell just east of Berea, a northwestern suburb, which caused the Reedy River through downtown Greenville crested 9 feet above flood stage. This crest was the highest level since 1908.

1926 - A hurricane came inland near Daytona Beach, FL. The hurricane caused 2.5 million dollars damage in eastern Florida, including the Jacksonville area. (David Ludlum)

1939 - The temperature at Lewiston, ID, hit 117 degrees to establish an all-time record high for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1943 - On a whim, and flying a single engine AT-6, Lieutenant Ralph O'Hair and Colonel Duckworth were the first to fly into a hurricane. It started regular Air Force flights into hurricanes. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Thunderstorms in Minnesota spawned a tornado which moved in a southwesterly direction for a distance of thirty miles across Rice County and Goodhue County. Trees were uprooted and tossed about like toys, and a horse lifted by the tornado was observed sailing horizontally through the air. Thunderstorms drenched La Crosse, WI, with 5.26 inches of rain, their second highest 24 hour total of record. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hot weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Williston, ND, reported a record high of 108 degrees. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the eastern U.S., and in southeastern Texas. Richland County, SC, was soaked with up to 5.5 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary)

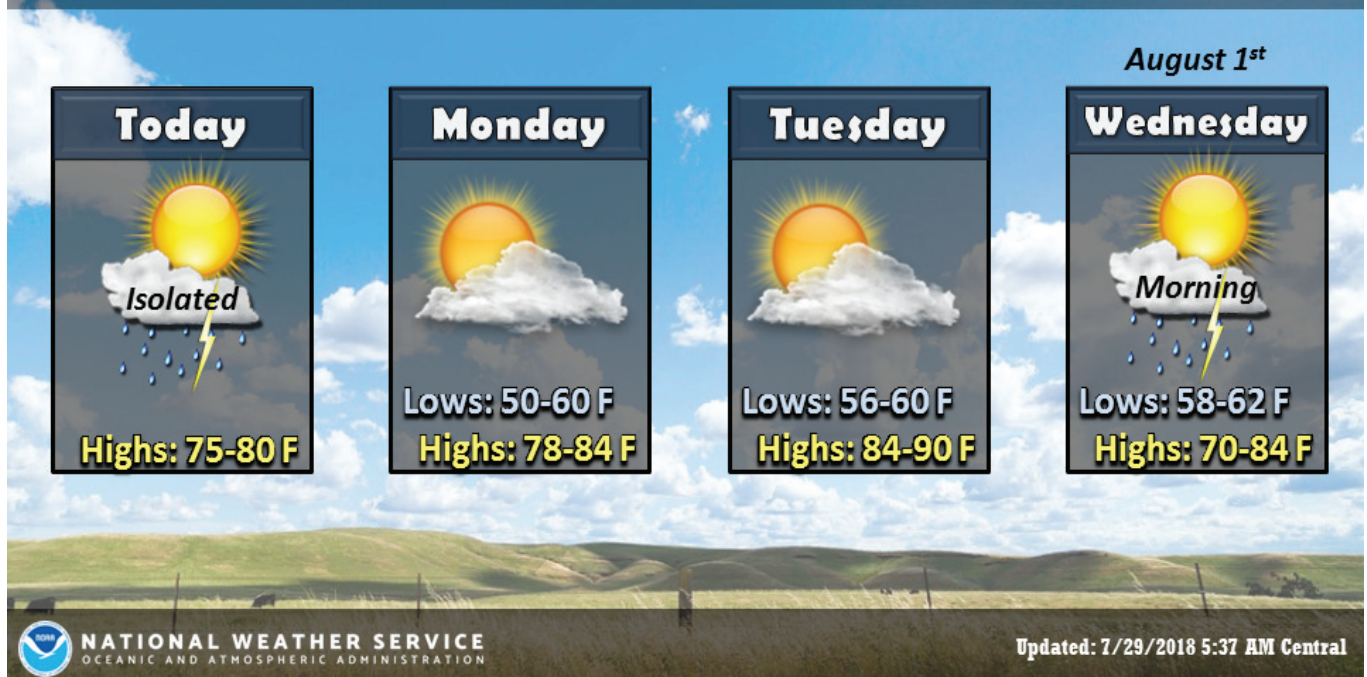
1989 - Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the southwestern U.S. Yuma, AZ, experienced their most severe thunderstorm of record. Strong thunderstorm winds, with unofficial gusts as high as 95 mph, reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust and sand. Yuma got nearly as much rain in one hour as is normally received in an entire year. The storm total of 2.55 inches of rain was a record 24 hour total for July. Property damage due to flash flooding and high winds was in the millions. (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Sunny then Chance Showers	Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 79 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 74 °F

Afternoon Showers/Storms Possible



Published on: 07/29/2018 at 5:41AM

A few storms may develop by mid-day, with below normal temperatures once again. The last day of July may be a bit steamy, but a cold front cools the area down by mid-week.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.4 F at 4:11 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 51.7 F at 6:20 AM

High Gust: 10.0 Mph at 4:25 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1933, 1917

Record Low: 42° in 2014, 1899

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 2.77

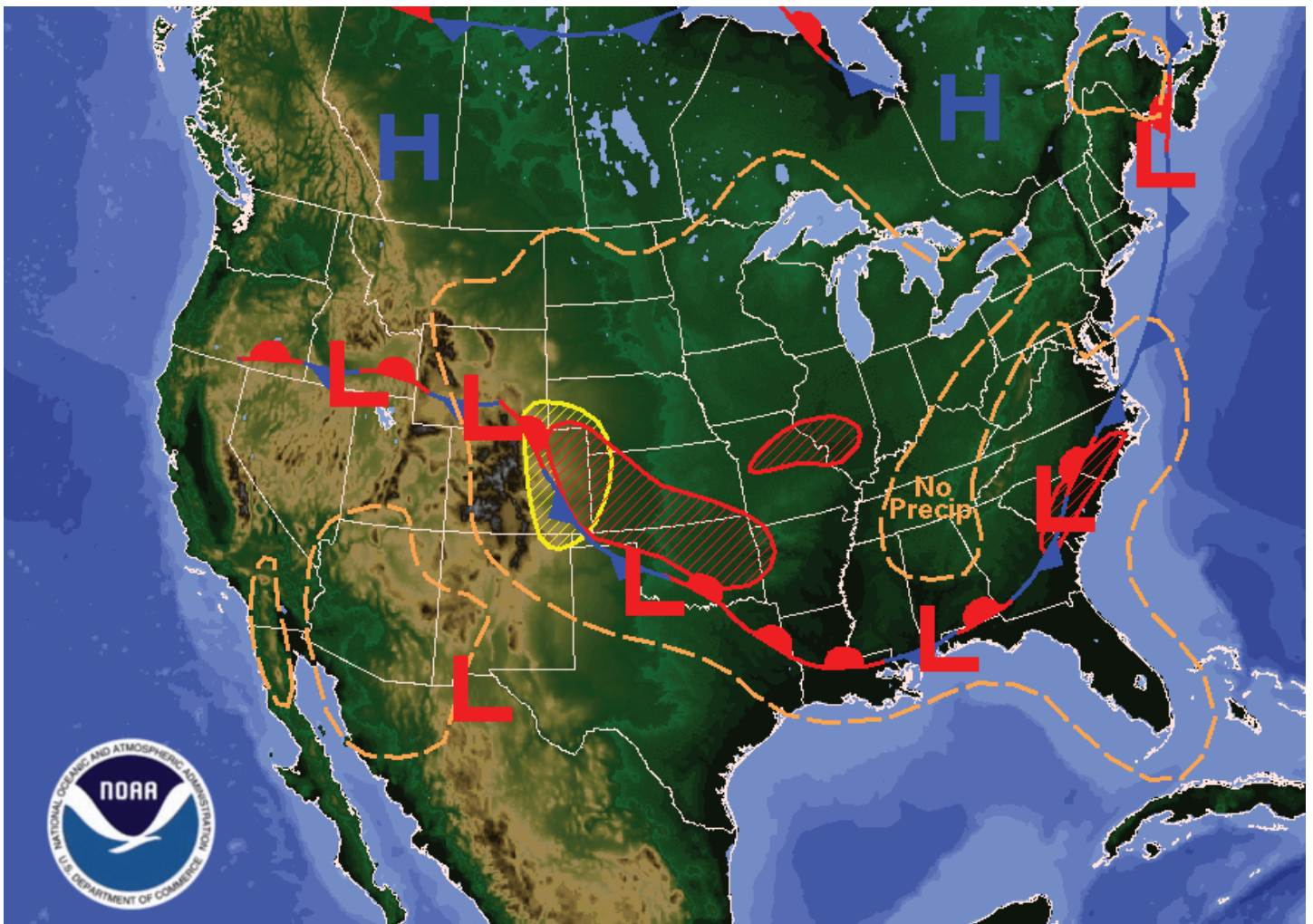
Precip to date in July: 3.99

Average Precip to date: 13.61

Precip Year to Date: 9.89

Sunset Tonight: 9:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:16 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Jul 29, 2018, issued 4:52 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WILL WE EVER FIND PEACE?

Our planet seems to be wrapped in wars, rumors of wars and the fear that we will never be able to end the threats and actions of terrorists. Caution and fear is now a way of life and the hope for a calm and peaceful life is gone forever. We are reminded that "the war to end all wars" really did not meet our expectations. We live from one day to the next expecting that a new war might begin at any moment. Then, there are the "wars" between people.

"I am for peace!" cried the Psalmist. He knew and had experienced the horror of war. He was as we are, "war weary" and wanted things to be different. Notice that just before he called for peace he wrote, "Too long have I lived among those who hate peace." What did he mean when he said he lived among people who would choose war over peace? Do some people actually want a war-filled world?

War is the result of deception and deceit, greed and covetousness. It is a reflection of those who have not accepted the peace that comes from God through Christ. It had its beginning in the self-centeredness of Adam and Eve and has infected every individual since then. We see it not only among nations but between individuals: "If you have it and I don't, I'll take it and make it mine!"

All of this is a result of the infectious nature of sin. Whether the "war" is between individuals or nations, its effect will last until Christ returns. Then, we'll have peace.

What are we to do until then? Allow the peace of God to dwell in our hearts and control our lives. His peace will protect us from those who refuse His grace and mercy.

Prayer: Lord, we long for Your peace - in our hearts and in Your world. Come quickly and calm our every fear. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 120:7 I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
06-09-12-25-29
(six, nine, twelve, twenty-five, twenty-nine)
Estimated jackpot: \$149,000

Lotto America
02-13-38-39-51, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 3
(two, thirteen, thirty-eight, thirty-nine, fifty-one; Star Ball: ten; ASB: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$5.54 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball
22-27-46-56-65, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2
(twenty-two, twenty-seven, forty-six, fifty-six, sixty-five; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$168 million

Wrong man released from South Dakota jail turns himself in

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say an inmate who was mistakenly released from the Minnehaha County Jail has turned himself in.

Authorities say Adrian Ray Watson was released Monday after jail staff confused him with another inmate who has a similar name. Jail officials say Watson surrendered to authorities late Thursday night.

Watson was being held on charges including robbery, simple assault and petty theft.

WDAY-TV reports the other Adrian Watson that was supposed to be released was freed Monday shortly after the error was discovered.

Rapid City golf course closes indefinitely

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A nine-hole golf course in southeast Rapid City that was run by the local YMCA has closed.

Rapid City YMCA leader Roger Gallimore told the Rapid City Journal that the course was “a great tool for building character” but operating costs became too great of a burden. The YMCA has seen its operating losses grow annually since 2007.

The YMCA spent about \$60,000 more maintaining the course than it recouped in course fees last year, Gallimore said.

“You really hate to see it go, but again, this one was just not sustainable,” he said. “We had a great run.”

The YMCA notified the city in January that it would no longer operate the course, said city spokesman Darrell Shoemaker.

The decision comes 15 years after the course faced a funding issue. Gallimore and former Mayor Jim Shaw reached an agreement where the city contributed funds to the course from 2004 to 2006, Shoemaker said.

The city was the owner of the property while the YMCA was the operator. The goal was to help the

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YMCA as it searched for grants and additional funding.

"This was a great partnership, and if nothing else, we managed to lengthen the life of the course," Galimore said.

Parks Division Manager Scott Anderson said officials are in the early stages of identifying uses for the property and many ideas have been submitted. A group of disc golfers attended a Parks and Recreation advisory board meeting in March to request the creation of a disc golf course, according to meeting minutes.

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

Sioux Falls developer's \$13M renovation depends on city land

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls developer wants to spend \$13 million to renovate a downtown apartment building but the plans hinge on obtaining a small but crucial piece of city-owned land.

Green Acre Companies is interested in doubling the size of a subsidized rental apartment complex downtown, the Argus Leader reported. The plans call for 90,000-square-foot building that will offer retail, restaurants, apartments with floor-to-ceiling windows and a rooftop patio.

But the renovation project depends on buying and building on a plot of city-owned land. It would require Sioux Falls to declare the property surplus and sell it to Green Acre.

Owners and tenants in a neighboring building, Equity Square, oppose the project. Equity Square's owner, Riverview Square LLC, is prepared to fight the surplus designation.

The city property includes a permanent easement giving Equity Square's tenants access to parking and a loading dock. Green Acre promised Equity Square it would continue to have that access, but Equity Square isn't convinced.

Josh Aberson of Green Acre said he believes Equity Square owners are concerned that the new building would block their views.

The City Council will consider the dispute on Aug. 7.

Sioux Falls Planning Director Mike Cooper said the parcel of land doesn't serve a purpose in the city's plans for downtown, making it a prime candidate for a surplus designation.

"The only use of it is for the access, but there would still be that requirement even if the property is sold," Cooper said. "The city has no interest in terms of developing it or expanding it as a city purpose."

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

Investigation: South Dakota water quality permits lacking

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The state of South Dakota hasn't updated the water quality permits for one-third of facilities that pump waste into the state's waterways.

An Argus Leader investigation found more than 120 cities and companies have been discharging waste water into rivers and lakes while leaving water pollution largely unchecked.

Some of the permits have languished for more than a decade. The newspaper found that of the eight Sioux Falls-based water discharge facilities, only the state penitentiary has an effective permit.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources engineering manager Albert Spangler says there weren't enough people to issue permits in recent years, resulting in an extensive backlog.

Additional state funding this year has allowed the agency to chip away at the backlog of permits but progress is slow.

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

Rising backlash as US firms seek Trump's steel tariff waiver

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. companies seeking to be exempted from President Donald Trump's tariff on imported steel are accusing American steel manufacturers of spreading inaccurate and misleading information, and they fear it may torpedo their requests.

Robert Miller, president and CEO of NLMK USA, said objections raised by U.S. Steel and Nucor to his bid for a waiver are "literal untruths." He said his company, which imports huge slabs of steel from Russia, has already paid \$80 million in duties and will be forced out of business if it isn't excused from the 25 percent tariff. U.S. Steel and Nucor are two of the country's largest steel producers.

"They ought to be ashamed of themselves," said Miller, who employs more than 1,100 people at mills in Pennsylvania and Indiana.

Miller's resentment, echoed by several other executives, is evidence of the backlash over how the Commerce Department is evaluating their requests to avoid the duty on steel imports. They fear the agency will be swayed by opposition from U.S. Steel, Nucor and other domestic steel suppliers that say they've been unfairly hurt by a glut of imports and back Trump's tariff.

U.S. Steel said its objections are based on detailed information about the dimensions and chemistry of the steel included in the requests. "We read what is publicly posted and respond," said spokeswoman Meghan Cox. Nucor did not reply to requests for comment.

The 20,000-plus waiver applications that the Commerce Department has received illustrate the chaos and uncertainty ignited by Trump's trade war against America's allies and adversaries. It's a battle that critics of his trade policy, including a number of Republican lawmakers, have warned is misguided and will end up harming U.S. businesses.

Trump and European leaders agreed this past Wednesday not to escalate their dispute over trade, but the tariff on steel and a separate duty on aluminum imports remains in place as the U.S. and Europe aim for a broader trade agreement. The metal taxes would continue to hit U.S. trading partners such as Canada, Mexico and Japan even if the U.S. and the EU forge a deal.

Miller bristled over insistence by Nucor and U.S. Steel that steel slab is readily available in the United States. "That's just not true," he said.

His company isn't the only one looking overseas for a product described as being consistently in short supply. California Steel Industries, a mill east of Los Angeles in Fontana, described the slab shortage as "acute" on the West Coast and declared that its waiver request is critical to its survival.

Aiming to rebuild the U.S. steel industry, Trump relied on a rarely used 1962 law that empowers him to impose tariffs on particular imports if the Commerce Department determines those goods threaten national security. He added a twist: Companies could be excused from the tariff if they could show, for example, that U.S. manufacturers don't make the metal they need in sufficient quantities.

But there are hurdles to clear on the path to securing an exemption. A single company may have to file dozens of separate requests to account for even slight variations in the metal it's buying. That means a mountain of paperwork to be filled out precisely. If not, the request is at risk of being rejected as incomplete. All this can be time consuming and expensive, especially for smaller businesses.

The requests are open to objections. The Commerce Department posts the exemption requests online to allow third parties to offer comments — even from competitors who have an interest in seeing a rival's request denied. But objections are frequently being submitted just as the comment period closes, undercutting the requester's ability to fire back.

Willie Chiang, executive vice president of Plains All American Pipeline, told the House Ways and Means subcommittee on trade last week that his company had no opportunity to respond to objections that contained "incorrect information" before the Commerce Department denied its exclusion request. Chiang didn't say who submitted the inaccurate information.

"The intent here is to restrict imports on a broad scale," said Richard Chriss, executive director of the American Institute for International Steel, a free trade group opposed to tariffs. "It wouldn't make sense

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from the administration's perspective to design a process that readily granted exclusions."

The Commerce Department declined to comment for this story.

Department officials have so far made public only a small number of their rulings.

An analysis of the numbers by the office of Rep. Jackie Walorski, an Indiana Republican and one of the most vocal opponents of the steel tariff on Capitol Hill, shows that 760 requests have been approved while 552 have been denied. The department hasn't yet approved a waiver request that triggered objections, according to Walorski's review.

The congresswoman's office also examined the more than 5,600 publicly available comments and found they were submitted on average about four days before the end of the 30-day comment period. More than 50 percent of the comments weren't delivered until 48 hours or less before the comment window closed. It took department an average of nine days to post comments online after receiving them, according to the analysis. The most prolific commenters were Nucor and U.S. Steel with 1,064 and 1,009, respectively.

A waiver request Seneca Foods Corporation submitted for tinned steel it had already agreed to purchase from China was among the denials. U.S. Steel had objected, calling the tinned plate a "standard product" that's readily available in the United States. In fact, U.S. Steel said it currently supplies the material to Seneca Foods, the nation's largest vegetable canner.

The New York-based Seneca Foods declined to comment. But in its waiver application, the company said domestically-made tinned plate "is of inferior quality to imported material." Seneca Foods also said it's unclear, at best, if U.S. suppliers have the ability or willingness to expand their production in the long term to meet the company's annual demand for the material.

Philadelphia-based Crown Cork & Seal, a manufacturer of metal packaging for food and beverages, submitted a sharply worded attachment to its waiver application that anticipated pushback from domestic manufacturers. American steel mills, the document said, cannot meet aggregate demand for tinned plate and have no plans to increase their capacity.

"We anticipate the U.S. mills will attempt to rebut this statement when they object to this exclusion request, but we encourage the Department of Commerce to see through their manipulative attempt to exploit the rules of the exclusion request process," the application said.

Daniel Shackell, Crown Cork & Seal's vice president for steel sourcing, said he's not optimistic about the company's chances of getting all 70 of its waiver requests approved. Eight have been granted so far primarily because the metal specified in those requests is not made in the United States. Twelve others have been denied, leaving 50 still to be decided.

"It's hard not to interpret that the Commerce Department wants domestic suppliers to have an edge," Shackell said.

Jay Zidell, president of Tube Forgings of America, a small company in Portland, Oregon, said he's filed 54 exclusion requests and U.S. Steel has objected to 38 of them. U.S. Steel declared it is "willing and ready to satisfy" Tube Forgings' demands for carbon steel tubing. But Zidell said the comments ignored past problems with metal quality and workmanship that led his company to sever a prior relationship with U.S. Steel.

Still, he's worried the Commerce Department won't approve all of the requests. Tube Forgings already has spent \$600,000 on tariffs, he said, and may be on the hook for much more than that.

"The entire system is just screwed up," Zidell said.

Cambodians vote in election with main opposition silenced

By **SOPHENG CHEANG** and **JERRY HARMER**, Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — With the main opposition silenced, Cambodians voted in an election Sunday virtually certain to return to office Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has been in power for more than three decades.

Although 20 parties contested the polls, the only one with the popularity and organization to mount a credible challenge, the Cambodian National Rescue Party, was dissolved last year by the Supreme Court.

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Charging that the polls were neither free nor fair, the CNRP's former leaders had urged people not to vote in what was dubbed a "Clean Finger" campaign because those who did cast ballots had to dip a finger in indelible ink, a practice meant to thwart multiple voting.

Local and foreign rights groups, along with several Western governments, had agreed that the polls would not be credible.

According to figures released by National Election Committee chairman Sik Bun Hok about two hours after the polls closed, some 6.7 million people turned out to vote, or roughly 80 percent of the 8.3 million registered voters.

The figure, if correct, would suggest that the promotion by opposition forces of a poll boycott was ineffective. In the last general election in 2013, voter turnout was 6.6 million, or 68.5 percent of 9.7 million registered voters.

Preliminary election results are expected later Sunday night.

Hun Sen said on his Facebook page that he welcomed the big turnout, and congratulated his countrymen for exercising their right to vote.

Opposition forces, who had already judged the polls not to be free and fair because of the exclusion of the only credible challenger, can point to two reasons for the alleged failure of the boycott movement.

In rural areas where the majority live, the failure to vote — signified by having no fingers dipped in indelible ink — made voters subject to retaliation by local officials who carry out civic functions, such as land registration. There had been reports during the campaign of threats against anyone who planned to boycott the vote.

Voters in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital and an opposition stronghold, were less susceptible to such threats because of their higher visibility and safety in numbers.

Doubts are also likely to be raised about the actual turnout figures, because several established poll-watching groups — as well as national contingents from the United States and the European Union — declined to take part because they felt the polls were not legitimate. One of the bigger Cambodian groups participating in poll-watching was led by one of Hun Sen's sons.

After the polls closed, exiled opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who had earlier urged Cambodians not to vote, slammed the election.

"For the Cambodian people, unable to make a real choice because of the absence of the CNRP, the result of this false election conducted in a climate of fear is a betrayal of the popular will," Sam Rainsy posted on his Facebook page.

Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party was alarmed by the results of the 2013 election, when the race was close enough for the opposition to claim that it would have won had it not been for manipulation of the voter registration process.

Along with fracturing the political opposition — including pressuring Sam Rainsy into exile and jailing his successor, Kem Sokha — Hun Sen's government also silenced critical voices in the media. Over the past year, about 30 radio stations shut down, and two English-language newspapers that provided serious reporting were gutted, one forced to close and the other put under ownership friendly to the government.

Just ahead of the polls, the government ordered the temporary blocking of 17 websites, citing regulations prohibiting media from disseminating information that might affect security. The blocked websites included those of the U.S. government-funded Voice of America as well as local media.

Hun Sen, whose 33 years in power make him among the world's longest-serving national leaders, promised peace and prosperity at a rally on the last day of campaigning on Friday, but attacked the opposition's boycott call and called those who heed it "destroyers of democracy." Hun Sen and his wife cast their ballots south of the capital shortly after polling stations opened on Sunday.

Hun Sen, 65, has said he intends to stay in power for at least two more five-year terms.

He was a member of the radical communist Khmer Rouge during its successful five-year war to topple a pro-American government, then defected to Vietnam during Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot's 1975-79 genocidal regime that left nearly 2 million Cambodians dead. He became prime minister in 1985 in a Vietnamese-

backed single-party communist government and led Cambodia through a civil war against the Khmer Rouge, which eased off with the 1991 Paris Peace Accords that also installed a democratic political framework.

Associated Press writer Grant Peck in Bangkok contributed to this report.

Strong quake hits Indonesian island, killing at least 14

By NINIEK KARMINI and ALI KOTARUMALOS, Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A strong and shallow earthquake early Sunday killed at least 14 people and injured more than 160 on Indonesia's Lombok island, a popular tourist destination next to Bali, officials said.

The quake damaged more than 1,000 houses and was felt in a wider area, including on Bali, where no damage or casualties were reported.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck at a depth of only 7 kilometers (4.4 miles). Shallow earthquakes tend to do more damage than deeper ones.

East Lombok district was the hardest hit with 10 deaths, including a Malaysian tourist, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman for Indonesia's Disaster Mitigation Agency. The number of casualties could increase as data was still being collected from other locations on the island, he said.

At least 162 people were injured, including 67 hospitalized with serious injuries, Nugroho said.

The quake caused blackouts in East Lombok and North Lombok districts and triggered a large landslide from Mount Rinjani, an active volcano. Rescuers were evacuating more than 800 tourists from the mountain.

In East Lombok and the provincial capital of Mataram, the quake lasted about 10 seconds, causing residents to flee their homes onto streets and fields, Nugroho said. He said most of the fatalities and injuries were caused by falling slabs of concrete.

Photos released by the disaster agency showed damaged houses and the entrance to the popular Mount Rinjani National Park, which was immediately closed for fear of landslides.

Television footage showed residents remaining outside, fearing aftershocks, as the injured were being treated on mattresses taken out of their partially damaged houses and patients were wheeled out of a hospital.

Eka Fathurrahman, the police chief in East Lombok, said the Malaysian woman who died was part of a group of 18 Malaysian tourists who had just visited Mount Rinjani when the quake jolted their guesthouse and toppled a concrete wall. Six other people were injured at the guesthouse.

Fathurrahman said many injured people who were treated outside a damaged clinic were evacuated to the main hospital farther away after more ambulances reached the devastated location in East Lombok's Sembalun village.

"Residents refused to enter their houses as prolonged aftershocks are still being felt," he said.

Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency recorded more than 130 aftershocks.

Like Bali, Lombok is known for pristine beaches and mountains. Hotels and other buildings in both locations are not allowed to exceed the height of coconut trees.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Palestinian protest icon Tamimi released from Israeli prison

By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press

NABI SALEH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian protest icon Ahed Tamimi returned home to a hero's welcome in her West Bank village on Sunday after Israel released the 17-year-old from prison at the end of her eight-month sentence for slapping and kicking Israeli soldiers.

Ahed and her mother, Nariman Tamimi, were greeted with banners, cheers and Palestinian flags as they entered their home village of Nabi Saleh.

Ahed was arrested in December after she slapped two Israeli soldiers outside her family home. Her

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mother filmed the incident and posted it on Facebook, where it went viral and, for many, instantly turned Ahed into a symbol of resistance to Israel's half-century-old military rule over the Palestinians.

With her unruly mop of curly light-colored hair, the Palestinian teen quickly became a local hero and an internationally recognizable figure.

Her supporters see a brave girl who struck two armed soldiers in frustration after having just learned that Israeli troops seriously wounded a 15-year-old cousin, shooting him in the head from close range with a rubber bullet during nearby stone-throwing clashes.

In Israel, however, she is seen by many either as a provocateur, an irritation or a threat to the military's deterrence policy — even as a "terrorist." Israel has treated her actions as a criminal offense, indicting her on charges of assault and incitement. Her eight-month sentence was the result of a plea deal.

In Nabi Saleh, supporters welcomed Tamimi home Sunday with Palestinian flags planted on the roof of her home. Hundreds of chairs were set up for well-wishers in the courtyard.

"The resistance continues until the occupation is removed," Ahed said upon her return. "All the female prisoners are steadfast. I salute everyone who supported me and my case."

From her home, Ahed headed to a visit to the grave of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. She laid a wreath and recited a prayer from the Quran, the Muslim holy book, and was then taken with her family to a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at his headquarters in Ramallah.

"I will continue this path and I hope everyone will," she said. "The prisoners are fine and we hope the struggle for their release continues."

Her father, Bassem Tamimi, said he expects her to take a lead in the struggle against Israeli occupation but she is also weighing college options. He said she completed her high school exams in prison with the help of other prisoners who taught the required material. He said she initially hoped to attend a West Bank university but has also received scholarship offers from abroad.

Since 2009, residents of Nabi Salah have staged regular anti-occupation protests that often ended with stone-throwing clashes. Ahed has participated in such marches from a young age, and has had several highly publicized run-ins with soldiers. One photo shows the then 12-year-old raising a clenched fist toward a soldier towering over her.

In a sign of her popularity, a pair of Italian artists painted a large mural of her on Israel's West Bank separation barrier ahead of her release. Israeli police say they were caught in the act along with another Palestinian and arrested for vandalism.

Abbas, after meeting Ahed on Sunday, called her "a symbol for the Palestinian struggle for freedom and independence."

"The popular and peaceful style of struggle that Ahed Tamimi and her village and nearby villages have been practicing, proves to the world that our people will remain steadfast in this land, defending it no matter how much needs to be sacrificed," he said.

Tamimi's scuffle with the two soldiers took place Dec. 15 in Nabi Saleh, which is home to about 600 members of her extended clan.

At the time, protests had erupted in several parts of the West Bank over President Donald Trump's recognition 10 days earlier of the contested city of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. She was arrested at her home four days later, in the middle of the night.

Ahed was 16 when she was arrested and turned 17 while in custody. Her case has trained a spotlight on the detention of Palestinian minors by Israel, a practice that has been criticized by international rights groups. Some 300 minors are currently being held, according to Palestinian figures.

Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. Palestinians are increasingly disillusioned about efforts to establish a state in those territories, after more than two decades of failed negotiations with Israel.

Israeli Cabinet minister Uri Ariel said the Tamimi case highlighted what could happen if Israel lets its guard down.

"I think Israel acts too mercifully with these types of terrorists. Israel should treat harshly those who hit

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its soldiers," he told The Associated Press. "We can't have a situation where there is no deterrence. Lack of deterrence leads to the reality we see now ... we must change that."

Northern California wildfire raging into its fourth day

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of dazed evacuees struggled to keep their emotions in check while trying to take care of themselves and their pets as a deadly wildfire in Northern California raged into its fourth day.

Anna Noland, 49, was evacuated twice in three days before learning through video footage that the house she last saw under dark and windy skies had burned.

She expected to spend Saturday night at a shelter at Simpson College in Redding while she searches for another place to live.

"I think I'm still in shock," Noland said. "It's just unbelievable knowing you don't have a house to go back to."

Noland is among the 38,000 people evacuated after the Carr Fire roared into the outskirts of Redding in Shasta County, leaving five people dead, including two firefighters, a woman and her two great-grandchildren, ages 4 and 5.

"My babies are dead," Sherry Bledsoe said through tears after she and family members met with Shasta County sheriff's deputies.

A vehicle problem ignited the fire Monday, but it wasn't until Thursday that the fire exploded and raced into communities west of Redding before entering city limits.

On Saturday, it pushed southwest of Redding, the largest city in the region, toward the tiny communities of Ono, Igo and Gas Point, where scorching heat, winds and bone-dry conditions complicated firefighting efforts.

The fire, which grew slightly Saturday to 131 square miles (340 square kilometers), is the largest fire burning in California. Nearly 5,000 structures were threatened and the fire was just 5 percent contained.

The latest tally of 536 destroyed structures was up from 500 earlier in the day, and sure to rise. A count by The Associated Press found at least 300 of those structures were homes.

Bonnie and Jerry Kieffaber grabbed most of their medications when they left their home in Redding on Thursday, but they forgot his insulin. Days later, police won't let them back inside because it's still too dangerous.

Bonnie Kieffaber, 69, says being away from home is expensive.

"All of our food was there, and now we're draining our checking account trying to keep gas in the car and buy food too," she said while grabbing a hot meal at a Red Cross shelter.

"It's exhausting," she said. "The heat and the stress of it all, and praying for everybody and all of our friends."

The firefighters killed in the blaze included Don Ray Smith, 81, of Pollock Pines, a bulldozer operator who was helping clear vegetation in the path of the wildfire. Redding fire Inspector Jeremy Stoke was also killed, but details of his death were not released.

Sherry Bledsoe's two children, James Roberts, 5, and Emily Roberts, 4, were stranded with their great grandmother Melody Bledsoe, 70, when walls of flames swept through the family's rural property Thursday on the outskirts of Redding.

The three were among more than a dozen people reported missing after the furious wind-driven blaze took residents by surprise and leveled several neighborhoods.

Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko said he expects to find several of those people alive and just out of touch with loved ones. Officers have gone to homes of several people reported missing and found cars gone — a strong indication they fled.

About 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Redding, two blazes prompted mandatory evacuations in Mendocino County. The two fires, burning 30 miles (50 kilometers) apart, started Friday and were threat-

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ening more than 350 buildings.

Authorities also issued evacuation orders in Napa County, famous for its wine, when several structures caught fire, the Napa Valley Register reported. The blaze had blackened 150 acres and was at 10 percent containment.

Throughout the state, Cal Fire officials said more than 10,000 firefighters were on the line, making progress on 14 large wildfires.

Big fires also continued to burn outside Yosemite National Park and in the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles near Palm Springs. Those fires had burned nearly 100 square miles (260 square kilometers).

Yosemite Valley remained closed to visitors and won't reopen until Friday.

In Shasta County, Matt Smith, a Forest Service pilot with 13 years' experience as a smokejumper, says he used hoses to save his house in the well-kept neighborhood of Lake Redding Estates.

Burned and twisted bicycle frames, refrigerators, and piles of rubble were still smoking Saturday around his property.

Smith said he arrived home Thursday as evacuees were racing out.

"Save it for your family, save it for your family," he says he reminded himself during two adrenalin-filled hours.

As a former firefighter, he said he always kept an escape route in mind — possibly his neighbor's pool.

On Saturday, he had a blistering burn on his hand from grabbing his propane tank and wrestling it away from the house and into the front yard. His nose and ear also had burns.

"The good news is that our house is here. The bad news is that our neighborhood is devastated," he said.

—
Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Martha Mendoza in Redding; Olga Rodriguez and Janie Har in San Francisco; Don Thompson in Sacramento; Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles also contributed to this report.

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 some of the deadliest 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 Anthony Kennedy, the justice he would replace. 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 bans on handgun possession 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

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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.

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 would make it more likely the court would hear another potentially groundbreaking Second Amendment case. Only four of nine justices need to vote in favor of reviewing a case.

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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>

2 children, great-grandmother perish in California wildfire

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — The death count from a Northern California wildfire rose to five Saturday after two young children and their great-grandmother who had been unaccounted for were confirmed dead.

"My babies are dead," Sherry Bledsoe said through tears after she and family members met with Shasta County sheriff's deputies.

Bledsoe's two children, James Roberts, 5, and Emily Roberts, 4, were stranded with her grandmother Melody Bledsoe, 70, when walls of flames swept through the family's rural property Thursday on the outskirts of Redding.

The three were among more than a dozen people reported missing after the furious wind-driven blaze took residents by surprise and leveled several neighborhoods.

Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko said he expects to find several of those people alive and just out of touch with loved ones. Officers have gone to homes of several people reported missing and found cars gone — a strong indication they fled.

The fire sparked Monday by a vehicle in forested hills had scorched 131 square miles (340 square kilometers) by late Saturday, up slightly from 127 square miles (327 square kilometers) in the morning. It pushed southwest of Redding, the largest city in the region, toward the tiny communities of Ono, Igo and Gas Point, where scorching heat, winds and bone-dry conditions complicated firefighting efforts.

It's now the largest fire burning in California.

Two firefighters were killed in the blaze, including a bulldozer operator who was helping clear vegetation in the wildfire's path. He was identified as Don Ray Smith, 81, of Pollock Pines. Redding fire Inspector Jeremy Stoke was also killed, but details of his death were not released.

About 38,000 people were under evacuation orders, 5,000 homes were threatened and the fire was just 5 percent contained.

The latest tally of 536 destroyed structures was up from 500 earlier in the day, and sure to rise. A count by The Associated Press found at least 300 of those structures were homes.

Meanwhile, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Redding, two blazes prompted mandatory evacuations in Mendocino County. The two fires, burning 30 miles (50 kilometers) apart, started Friday and were threatening more than 350 buildings.

Cal Fire officials said more than 10,000 firefighters were on the line, making progress on 14 large wildfires across California.

President Donald Trump issued an emergency declaration for the state Saturday, allowing counties af-

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fectured by wildfires to receive federal assistance.

Big fires also continued to burn outside Yosemite National Park and in the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles near Palm Springs. As of Saturday afternoon, those fires had burned more than 100 square miles (260 square kilometers). Yosemite Valley remained closed to visitors and won't reopen until Friday.

In the Redding area, authorities were investigating reports of looting in evacuated areas.

Police Chief Roger Moore said people were reportedly driving around evacuation zones and busting down doors of houses still standing. Sheriff Bosenko announced at a community meeting that authorities had made their first looting arrest, a parolee. Anxious residents cheered.

About 100 law enforcement officers and 260 National Guard soldiers were helping with evacuations and providing security in empty neighborhoods.

Moore was among the many people who lost homes.

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

They returned Friday to find little more than ash.

"It's pretty emotional," Terri Hill said. "But we'll make new memories and get new stuff. Everybody's safe."

The so-called Carr Fire wiped out forest around much of Whiskeytown Lake, burning dozens of boats docked at a marina and then swept through the historic Gold Rush-era town of Shasta and destroyed nearly all of Keswick, a hamlet just west of Redding.

The fire blew across the Sacramento River and burned a path to the property where Melody Bledsoe was living with her great-grandchildren.

Bledsoe's husband, Ed, who had the couple's only car, had gone to buy supplies before any evacuation order was issued, family members said.

His great-grandson phoned him at the store to say the flames were approaching and "we need your help," according to Jason Decker, who is dating one of Bledsoe's granddaughters.

Bledsoe rushed home, but was turned back by police because the fire was raging. He spent Friday searching in vain for the three at shelters while Decker's girlfriend posted desperate messages on social media for any help locating them.

Decker rode his motorcycle up to view the property and found smoldering ruins too hot to enter.

"It looked like a war zone," he said. "I couldn't smell death in the air, which is good."

While he discussed the worst-case scenario of the three staying put as the flames closed in, Decker held out some hope Saturday morning until he got the word they were dreading.

"We got horrible news. I have to go," he said and hung up.

Melley reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Martha Mendoza in Redding; Olga Rodriguez and Janie Har in San Francisco; Don Thompson in Sacramento; Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles also contributed to this report.

Fire victims: 2 firefighters, great-grandmother, children

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — Two young children and their 70-year-old great-grandmother died in the wildfire that swept into the city of Redding with devastating speed, their family said Saturday, and a bulldozer operator who died working to contain the fire was identified as an 81-year-old man from a small community east of Sacramento.

A tearful Sherry Bledsoe confirmed the deaths of her grandmother, Melody Bledsoe, and her children, James Roberts, 5, and Emily Roberts, 4.

The fatalities brought the death toll to five since the so-called Carr Fire started burning Monday. It exploded Thursday, jumped the Sacramento River and entered the Redding city limits.

The bulldozer operator was identified by the Shasta County Sheriff's Department as Don Ray Smith of Pollock Pines. He was overtaken by flames while on the job and his body was found Thursday.

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Authorities previously identified another firefighter fatality as Redding Fire Department Inspector Jeremy Stoke, who was killed on the job Thursday night. Details have not been released.

Donna Araiza, founder of the Alyssa Araiza "Wings of Angels" organization for seriously ill children, said Stoke regularly donated to her group, as well as the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"He and his wife, Alyson, were always supporting us," Araiza told the Record Searchlight, Redding's daily newspaper. "He was a generous and a good man."

The Bledsoes lived near the Keswick Estates neighborhood, and their home, like many around it, was reduced to ashes. The tragedy leaves Ed Bledsoe without his wife and the great-grandchildren he doted on.

"He lost everything. Everything. You can't lose more than family. And then you lose everything on top of that?" said Don Kewley, whose girlfriend is one of the Bledsoes' granddaughters. "The man's got the shirt on his back and the pants on his waist. Like that's it."

Ed Bledsoe had headed out for supplies Thursday thinking the flames were far away, but while shopping he received a desperate call from his great-grandson. The boy said he had to come back to the home.

Flames were closing in.

"We need your help," the boy said, according to Jason Decker, who is the boyfriend of another Bledsoe granddaughter.

Kewley said the family believed the area was not in imminent danger and Melody Bledsoe had no car.

Ed Bledsoe rushed home, but was turned back by police. The fire was raging and there were walls of flames.

Decker took the day off work Friday and drove his motorcycle to the home to look for members of the family but only found the smoldering remains of the house.

A day later, what remained of the Bledsoe property was surrounded with crime scene tape.

Decker said his own children played with James and Emily and they had trick-or-treated together.

"I don't even have any more tears to cry," Decker said. "But I keep finding them."

Melley reported from Los Angeles.

Pope accepts resignation of McCarrick after sex abuse claims

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In a move seen as unprecedented, Pope Francis has effectively stripped U.S. prelate Theodore McCarrick of his cardinal's title following allegations of sexual abuse, including one involving an 11-year-old boy. The Vatican announced Saturday that Francis ordered McCarrick to conduct a "life of prayer and penance" before a church trial is held.

Breaking with past practice, Francis decided to act swiftly on the resignation offered by the emeritus archbishop of Washington, D.C., even before the accusations are investigated by church officials. McCarrick was previously one of the highest, most visible Catholic church officials in the United States and was heavily involved in the church's yearslong response to allegations of priestly abuse there.

Francis received McCarrick's letter offering to resign from the College of Cardinals on Friday evening, after a spate of allegations that the 88-year-old prelate had for years sexually abused boys and had sexual misconduct with adult seminarians.

The pope then ordered McCarrick's "suspension from the exercise of any public ministry, together with the obligation to remain in a house yet to be indicated to him, for a life of prayer and penance until the accusations made against him are examined in a regular canonical trial," the Vatican said.

The McCarrick case posed a test of the pontiff's recently declared resolve to battle what he called a "culture of cover-up" of similar abuses in the Catholic church's hierarchy.

McCarrick had already been removed from public ministry since June 20, pending a full investigation into allegations that he fondled a teenager more than 40 years ago in New York City. McCarrick has denied these allegations.

Another alleged victim, James , says McCarrick exposed himself to him when he was 11 and continued

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a sexually abusive relationship with him for more than two decades. McCarrick has not responded publicly to these accusations.

Asking to be identified by only his first name to protect his family's privacy, James told The Associated Press on Saturday that he hopes the pope's approval of McCarrick's resignation will help other victims "become free."

"Basically, truth always prevails," said James, who lives in Virginia. "Thankfully, everybody in today's world is more understanding of the harm done by individual priests, and now we can start to heal," he added.

McCarrick's alleged sexual misconduct with adults was reportedly brought to the Vatican's attention years ago, including before McCarrick was appointed to the prestigious archbishop post in the U.S. capital in 2000 by then-pontiff John Paul II.

Two dioceses in New Jersey, Newark and Metuchen, say they have settled two of three complaints of misconduct by McCarrick toward adults.

The Vatican on Saturday didn't say where McCarrick would be confined nor when a church trial might begin, and its brief statement did not even allude to the grave accusations against the prelate.

McCarrick rose steadily and swiftly up the U.S. church's ranks, from auxiliary bishop in New York City, to bishop in Metuchen, to archbishop of Newark, and then to Archbishop of Washington, D.C.

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

Other U.S. Catholics who follow sexual abuse scandals hailed stripping McCarrick of his cardinal's rank as an unprecedented shift in how the Vatican has dealt with allegations against top churchmen.

"The Vatican almost never moves at this speed," said Terence McKiernan, of BishopAccountability.org. Inc., a Massachusetts-based group that tracks clergy sexual abuse cases.

The pope appears to "understand the gravity of the situation and further harm to the Catholic church's status," he told the AP.

McKiernan wondered if the church investigation will reveal who among its hierarchy knew about the sex allegations against McCarrick and whether the Vatican will move to punish those clerics as well. He noted that the Vatican statement didn't spell out why the pope was disciplining the cardinal.

"We're still in the old world," McKiernan said, referring to the Vatican's avoidance of details about the abuse allegations against McCarrick. "(Still) it's a remarkable development."

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, and after the prelate himself relinquished the privileges that come with a cardinal's rank.

O'Brien, who died earlier this year, still remained a cardinal, however.

The Rev. James Martin, editor-at large at America Magazine, which covers church issues, noted in a tweet that Bernard Law was allowed to stay a cardinal after he resigned as Boston archbishop, following revelations that he had sanctioned the systematic cover-up of pedophile priests while presiding over that U.S. diocese.

After resigning from his Boston post, Law was transferred to a prestigious job at a Rome basilica, an appointment that triggered outrage from many abuse survivors. That happened under Pope John Paul II, who was widely considered to have underestimated the scope of the sex abuse scandals worldwide.

One of Francis' closest advisers, Cardinal George Pell, is the highest-ranking Catholic in the world to be charged in the church's global abuse scandal. The 77-year-old faces trial in his native Australia on decades-old child sex abuse allegations. Pell has denied wrongdoing. Details of the allegations haven't been made public.

Bishops have been implicated in the sexual abuse scandals that have stained the Catholic church's reputation worldwide for decades, most 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.

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

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an Australian court in a landmark case seen as a strong warning to institutions that fail to protect children.

Critics of the Vatican's handling of abuse cases point out that despite recommendations from its advisory panel, the Holy See still hasn't set up a tribunal or other system to deal with accused bishops or cardinals.

It still is unclear just what church tribunal would decide McCarrick's case.

"That system is going to (have to) be created exactly for this most embarrassing and prominent case," McKiernan said.

Richmond, Virginia-based reporter Sarah Rankin and Rome-based reporter Nicole Winfield contributed to this report.

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

Police: Texas mall robbery suspects nabbed; no shots fired

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Glass cases being smashed during an attempted robbery Saturday at a jewelry store in a popular Texas mall were misconstrued as gunfire and sent people running for the exits, authorities and witnesses said.

All known suspects in the attempted robbery at the La Plaza Mall in McAllen were taken into custody, the city's police chief, Victor Rodriguez, said in a statement that the city government posted on Twitter.

Madeline Madden, a 17-year-old from McAllen, told The Monitor of McAllen that she was inside Glitz and Glamour, a boutique just across from the mall, when she saw people rush out of the mall and into the parking lot.

She said one frightened couple ran into the boutique seeking safety.

"The man and his wife came in with their kids and asked if they were going to lock the door, and they told us what happened ... that there had been a shooting," Madden said. "They were trying to get away. The wife was crying and the man looked really nervous. They had a newborn and a toddler with them, and the toddler was crying. Someone else came and had cuts all over them from falling. We had to lock the doors and wouldn't let anyone else into the store."

Dozens of other people could be seen running from the mall while many others inside rushed to the exits or sought cover amid the confusion.

Several law enforcement agencies responded to the scene, including officers from the McAllen Police Department, Hidalgo County sheriff's office and Texas Department of Public Safety.

McAllen police Lt. Joel Morales declined to release any additional information, citing the ongoing investigation, but Rodriguez told The Monitor that seven people were taken into custody. It's not clear what charges may be pending against them.

The mall was closed as authorities responded to the robbery, but it reopened later Saturday.

The mall is one of the primary shopping centers in the Rio Grande Valley. McAllen is near the border with Mexico and about 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of the Gulf Coast.

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.

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"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 on 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 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.

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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>

Egypt court sentences 75 to death over 2013 sit-in

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court sentenced 75 people to death on Saturday, including top figures of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood group, for their involvement in a 2013 sit-in, state media reported.

The Cairo Criminal Court referred the sentences to the Grand Mufti — the country's top theological authority — for his non-binding opinion as is the norm in capital cases. Though non-binding, the formality gives a window of opportunity for a judge to reverse an initial sentence.

The sentences are subject to appeal.

Sentencing for more than 660 others involved in the case was scheduled for Sept. 8, the Al-Ahram news website reported. Those sentences, too, are subject to appeal.

Of the 75 defendants referred to the Mufti, 44 are jailed and 31 are at large. The court normally hands down the maximum sentence for fugitives but a re-trial is typically held after they are caught.

The case involves a total 739 defendants, including the Muslim Brotherhood's Supreme Guide Mohamed Badie and photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid. The charges range from murder to damaging public property. Neither Badie nor Abu Zeid were sentenced to death in this case.

The 2013 sit-in, in Rabaa al-Adawiya Square in Cairo, supported former Islamist President Mohammed Morsi who was militarily ousted following mass protests against his divisive one-year rule. Morsi hailed from the Brotherhood.

The sit-in was violently dispersed on Aug. 14, 2013. More than 600 people were killed. Months later, Egypt designated the Brotherhood a terrorist organization.

Egyptian authorities have since launched a severe crackdown on Brotherhood members and supporters, arresting many and trying them on terror-related charges.

Egyptian courts have held mass trials and handed down death sentences for hundreds of people, drawing international condemnation.

In 2014, an Egyptian judge sentenced 529 of Morsi's supporters to death. A retrial was later ordered after several proceedings.

Rights groups have repeatedly criticized such mass sentencings in Egypt and called on authorities to ensure fair trials.

International rights groups also denounced the mass trial of the 2013 sit-in. Amnesty International described it in a statement last month as a "grotesque parody of justice" and called on authorities to drop all charges against those arrested for protesting peacefully.

UK lawmakers recommend tougher rules on Facebook

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The U.K. government should increase oversight of social media like Facebook and election campaigns to protect democracy in the digital age, a parliamentary committee has recommended in a scathing report on fake news, data misuse and interference by Russia.

The interim report by the House of Commons' media committee to be released Sunday said democracy is facing a crisis because the combination of data analysis and social media allows campaigns to target voters with messages of hate without their consent.

Tech giants like Facebook, which operate in a largely unregulated environment, are complicit because they haven't done enough to protect personal information and remove harmful content, the committee said.

"The light of transparency must be allowed to shine on their operations and they must be made responsible, and liable, for the way in which harmful and misleading content is shared on their sites," committee Chairman Damian Collins said in a statement.

The study was due to be published Sunday, but a copy was leaked on Friday by Dominic Cummings, the director of the official campaign group backing Britain's departure from the European Union.

Social media companies are under scrutiny worldwide following allegations that political consultant Cambridge Analytica used data from tens of millions of Facebook accounts to profile voters and help U.S. President Donald Trump's 2016 election campaign. The committee is also investigating the impact of fake news distributed via social media sites.

Collins ripped Facebook for allowing Russian agencies to use its platform to spread disinformation and influence elections.

"I believe what we have discovered so far is the tip of the iceberg," he said, adding that more work needs to be done to expose how fake accounts target people during elections. "The ever-increasing sophistication of these campaigns, which will soon be helped by developments in augmented reality technology, make this an urgent necessity."

The committee recommended that the British government increase the power of the Information Commissioner's Office to regulate social media sites, update electoral laws to reflect modern campaign techniques, and increase the transparency of political advertising on social media.

Prime Minister Theresa May has pledged to address the issue in a so-called White Paper to be released in the fall. She signaled her unease last year, accusing Russia of meddling in elections and planting fake news to sow discord in the West.

The committee began its work in January 2017, interviewing 61 witnesses during 20 hearings that took on an investigatory tone not normally found in such forums in the House of Commons.

The report criticized Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg for failing to appear before the panel and said his stand-ins were "unwilling or unable to give full answers to the committee's questions."

One of the committee's recommendations is that the era of light-touch regulation for social media must come to an end.

Social media companies can no longer avoid oversight by describing themselves as platforms, because they use technology to filter and shape the information users see. Nor are they publishers, since that model traditionally commissions and pays for content.

"We recommend that a new category of tech company is formulated, which tightens tech companies' liabilities, and which is not necessarily either a 'platform' or a 'publisher,'" the report said. "We anticipate that the government will put forward these proposals in its White Paper later this year."

The committee also said that the Information Commissioner's Office needs more money so it can hire technical experts to be the "sheriff in the Wild West of the internet." The funds would come from a levy on the tech companies, much in the same way as the banks pay for the upkeep of the Financial Conduct Authority.

"Our democracy is at risk, and now is the time to act, to protect our shared values and the integrity of our democratic institutions," the committee said.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 29, the 210th day of 2018. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader ("fuehrer") of the National Socialist German Workers Party.

On this date:

In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1967, an accidental rocket launch on the deck of the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen. (Among the survivors was future Arizona senator John McCain, a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander who narrowly escaped with his life.)

In 1974, singer Cass Elliot died in a London hotel room at age 32.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

In 1980, a state funeral was held in Cairo, Egypt, for the deposed Shah of Iran, who had died two days earlier at age 60.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in a glittering ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's bodyguard, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida. (Hill was executed in Sept. 2003.)

In 2004, Sen. John Kerry accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Boston with a military salute and the declaration: "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty."

In 2006, the U.S. command announced it was sending 3,700 troops to Baghdad to try to quell sectarian violence sweeping the Iraqi capital.

Ten years ago: Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens was indicted on seven felony counts of concealing more than a quarter of a million dollars in house renovations and gifts from a powerful oil contractor. (A jury later found the longtime Republican lawmaker guilty of lying on financial disclosure forms, but a judge subsequently dismissed the case, saying prosecutors had withheld evidence.) Disgraced ex-NBA official Tim Donaghy admitted that he'd brought shame on his profession as a federal judge sentenced him to 15 months behind bars for a gambling scandal. Army scientist Bruce E. Ivins, 62, named as a top suspect in anthrax mailing attacks in 2001, died at a hospital in Frederick, Md., after deliberately overdosing on Tylenol.

Five years ago: The U.S. launched a fresh bid to pull Israel and the Palestinians into substantial negotiations with a dinner meeting in Washington hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry. The FBI said authorities had rescued 105 young people and arrested 150 alleged pimps and others in a three-day sweep in 76 cities.

One year ago: U.S. and South Korean forces conducted joint live-fire exercises in response to North Korea's second launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile; experts said the North Korean launch showed that a large portion of the United States was now within range of North Korea's arsenal.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 86. Actor Robert Fuller is 85. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 82. Actor David Warner is 77. Actress Roz Kelly is 76. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 72. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 69. Actor Mike Starr is 68. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 65. Style guru Tim Gunn is 65. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 65. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 65. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nellie Kim is 61. Actor Kevin Chapman is 56. Actress Alexandra Paul is 55. Actor/

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comedian Dean Haglund is 53. Country singer Martina McBride is 52. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 51. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 50. Actor Tim Omundson is 49. Actor Ato Essandoh is 46. Actor Wil Wheaton is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 45. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 45. Actor Stephen Dorff is 45. Actor Josh Radnor is 44. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 41. Actress Rachel Miner is 38. Actress Allison Mack is 36. Actress Kaitlyn Black is 35. Actor Matt Prokop is 28. Actress Cait Fairbanks is 25.

Thought for Today: "Charity looks at the need and not at the cause." — German proverb.