

Groton Daily Independent

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“A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.”

-Winston Churchill



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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.

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204



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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The annual Make A Wish poker run was held Saturday. One of the stops was at the Groton Dairy Queen. There were 200 to 215 bikers that took part in the poker run.

Correcting Vision with Polished Crystals, Venetian Glass, and Laser Beams By Richard P. Holm, MD

The oldest known lens was found in the ruins of the ancient Mesopotamian city of Nineveh and was made from polished rock crystal. The Greek playwright Aristophanes mentions the use of such a lens to burn holes in parchment in one of his plays. Allegedly, Pliny the physician used a similar lens to cauterize wounds. A thousand years later monks started using "reading stones" which were sliced off sections of polished quartz spheres. Sometime in the latter half of the 1200s the monks put these reading stones up on their noses in what today we would recognize as spectacles.

It was in Venice, Italy, where glassmaking was (and still is) an art, that convex reading and magnifying glasses were refined. About three hundred years later, concave lenses were used to help the near-sighted Pope Leo the 10th. He apparently wore his special spectacles to aid him while hunting. It took just about three hundred more years for bifocals to be invented by America's own Benjamin Franklin.

It was in the mid 1800s that a protective lens was made to fit directly over the eyeball of a man who had lost his eyelid from skin cancer. This first "contact lens" protected his eye from drying out, which would have resulted in blindness. Over the next 150 years, contact lenses came into commercial use and moved from blown, to ground, to molded glass lenses and then to a whole variety of hard, then soft, plastic lenses.

The knowledge of refracting light with lenses has, more recently, brought us to correct vision by surgically altering the shape of the cornea with laser beams. Where will we go next?

Watch On Call with the Prairie Doc® most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central on SDPTV and follow the Prairie Doc® on Facebook and YouTube for free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library.

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings have started training camp, and the team's first preseason game is less than two weeks away. Today, we wrap up the roster breakdown by covering special teams. Before we get to that, however, let's go through some news and notes that have come out of training camp so far.

Both Stefon Diggs and Anthony Barr have reported to camp and are participating in practices even though they haven't received contract extensions yet. There was some worry that the players could hold out to demand new contracts, but luckily we won't have to worry about it.

So far, the only players to miss practice time are second-year center Pat Elflein (ankle and shoulder surgeries in the offseason) and wide receiver Stacy Coley (groin strain sustained in practice). All other players are good to go, including running back Dalvin Cook. Cook is 10-months removed from a knee injury that ended his season, but he looks as sharp as ever and is running without a knee brace.

With the sudden passing of offensive line coach Tony Sparano, the Vikings decided to promote two assistant coaches – Clancy Barone and Andrew Janocko – to co-offensive line coaches. The team discussed bringing in an outside coach to fill the role, including former Vikings head coach Mike Tice, but the team decided to keep it in-house because of the short amount of time before the season starts.

Ok, back to the roster breakdown.

Kicker

Daniel Carlson was drafted by the Vikings in the fifth-round of the draft. Carlson has excellent range and accuracy, and he didn't miss an extra point in college. He has the inside track to the kicking position since the team spent draft capital on him, but he has some competition in incumbent kicker Kai Forbath.

Forbath was ninth in the NFL with 32 made field goals last season, but he was 16th in field goal percentage (84%, 32 of 38). Forbath was decent kicking field goals, but he was one of the worst in the league when it came to kicking extra points. He missed five extra points last season, and his 87% conversion rate was worst in the NFL.

Punter

Ryan Quigley is the only punter on the Vikings roster, so unless the team brings in competition, he will once again handle punting duties for the team. I am surprised the team didn't elect to bring any competition at the position, because Quigley ranked 29th in the NFL, averaging only 39.2 net yards per punt. However, he did pin opposing teams inside their own 20-yard line on 29 of 71 punts and didn't have a single punt go into the endzone for a touchback.

Returner

The Vikings have said the plan to start training camp is to have Marcus Sherels once again return punts, and rookie first-round pick Mike Hughes will have the inside track to be the team's primary kick returner. Sherels was eighth in the NFL last season, averaging 9.5 yards per punt return (among players with at least 10 attempts).

Long snapper

Kevin McDermott will again be the Vikings' long snapper. Entering his fourth season with the Vikings, McDermott has only missed one regular-season game with the team.

Don't miss next week's article, where we will have a training camp update as well as a preview for the Vikings' first preseason game against the Denver Broncos. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL).

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Head into the lab with Time Lab VBS 2018, where kids discover Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Present! The Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church will be hosting Vacation Bible School Monday, August 6th through Friday, August 10th from 6:15 pm to 8:30 p.m. All children ages 3 years through 6th grade are welcome to attend. The church is located at 706 N. Main Street in Groton. No pre-registration is necessary. Contact Adam Franken at 605-216-6368 or Pastor Josh Jetto at 605-397-2696 if any questions.

Groton Garden Club

The Groton Garden Club met at the home of Arlis Kluess with Marj Overacker on July 16 assisting nine members answered roll call with a favorite keepsake. Reports from the district meeting held in Aberdeen, July 14, were given. Velma Witt of Andover-Bristol was re-elected secretary treasurer. The 2019 district meeting will be held in Aberdeen with the date to be announced and hosted by Milbank. Yard of the week winners were chosen and will be announced in the newspapers. All members did the weeding at the circle in the park this morning on July 17. August 20th meeting will be held at the home of Mark Overacker with Eunice McColister assisting and Laurie Mitchell giving the program.

KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Applying Lessons from Tax Reform to Healthcare

In December, President Trump signed our historic tax cuts bill. As a result, the average South Dakota family of four will see their after-tax incomes rise by \$2,400. How? We made it so the first \$24,000 a couple makes is now tax free. We doubled the Child Tax Credit to \$2,000 per child. We eliminated the marriage penalty and built in pro-growth reforms that produced higher wages, lower utility bills, and a booming job market.

Just like Ronald Reagan did in the 1980s, we've proven the true value of tax cuts and are ready to do even more. This July, we targeted additional tax cuts toward the healthcare system, passing a series of bills in the House to reduce Obamacare's burden.

Under Obamacare, we pay a 2.3 percent tax on medical devices, which include everything from powered wheelchairs to replacement heart valves to examination gloves. This tax has led to an estimated 22,000 job losses between 2013 and 2015 and as much as a \$2 billion reduction in research budgets. The House-passed bill, which I helped introduce, would repeal this tax.

Additionally, we passed provisions I wrote to delay the Health Insurance Tax (or HIT). This tax is supposedly paid by health insurance companies, but like any tax, consumers ultimately pay. The tax costs families and small businesses an estimated \$400 per year, although the overall economic impact is much higher. According to one recent survey, 80 percent of respondents reported concerns about the HIT's impact on small businesses and 74 percent said the tax "puts affordable health care further out of reach for hard-working Americans."

As we pursue additional tax cuts, we also need to make sure the agency responsible for implementing them is accountable. The IRS has been plagued by scandal and mismanagement for years, and work to correct previous indiscretions continues. In late-July, the House passed legislation I authored to bring a bit more commonsense to the agency's hiring and firing process.

In 2016, the Treasury Department reported that over a 15-month period, the IRS had rehired more than 200 people who had previously been terminated for misconduct or performance issues. Some had mishandled sensitive taxpayer information; others had abused taxpayer resources; one even had "DO NOT REHIRE" stamped on their employment folder and still was rehired.

We need to know there is integrity in the IRS, and when they rehire people who have already mishandled our most sensitive data, that trust is broken. My bill to prohibit this practice passed the House unanimously, so I'm hopeful we have the momentum needed to get through the Senate as well.

We've seen tax cuts work. In the last few months alone, economic growth has exploded, work opportunities have expanded, and wages have risen. The same principles that worked there will work in healthcare. I believe Obamacare needs to be repealed, and I've voted to do that. But until a majority of Congress can agree on repeal, we need to lift the tax burden on healthcare.

Of course, we began doing that through tax reform by eliminating the individual mandate, but more must be done. With this recent legislation, the House has voted to remove two of the largest remaining Obamacare taxes. This, combined with my IRS integrity measures, would be yet another step in the right direction.

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A New System to Serve ALL of our Students

Nearly 50 cents of every state tax dollar goes to education. That includes funding for our public universities, technical schools, and the state Department of Education, but the majority is used to fund our K-12 system. Given that education makes up such a large portion of our budget, we need to routinely evaluate how we are doing as a state. We should often ask ourselves this question: Are we sufficiently preparing our students for what comes next?

About a year ago, we pulled together data that indicated the answer to this question, for most of our high school students, is "No." Of our students who start 9th grade, 80-90 percent will finish. About 70 percent of those will enroll in post-secondary education. This is less than two-thirds of those who started 9th grade. Of those who enroll at a tech school or university, only 50-60 percent will graduate. Thus, only a fraction of our students who started 9th grade will earn a degree. In other words, our current system is only working for a minority of our students.

We need to do better.

We have long emphasized the four-year degree path over other valid options – like technical degrees and certificates, associate degrees and industry-recognized credentials. This focus has led some of our students to be disengaged and unaware of good alternative options. This disengagement, coupled with large-scale economic changes, is forcing us to think differently about the high school experience in South Dakota.

After I met with several superintendents to discuss these issues and former Education Secretary Don Kirkegaard gathered input from education leaders across the state, we decided to propose new high school graduation requirements. While our old requirements met the needs of some students quite well, many of our students are not finding relevance between what they learn in school and their expectations for, and experiences in, the "real world." At the same time, employers tell us they are struggling to find workers who possess the skills they need – all of which is leading to a gap between employer needs and worker skills.

These new graduation requirements offer students the flexibility to explore various types of career paths. They were designed to empower school districts, school counselors and student support networks to help our young people find meaningful, personalized pathways to success through graduation and beyond. The new requirements are not a value judgment about the "right way" to success. Nor do they put students into tracks. Implemented well, they are about each student finding his or her own right way and making that informed choice.

Under the new requirements, every student must still take four units of English, but an aspiring engineer might take a technical writing class instead of a language arts elective. Every student must still take three units of math, but an aspiring accountant might take a business math class instead of geometry. Every student will still be required to take three units of science, but an aspiring nurse might be able to take an advanced biology class instead of physics. Any student who seeks to go directly into the workforce after high school can find that path through these requirements. A student seeking to enter a university and progress to postdoctoral work years down the road can also lay that foundation through these requirements. The new system serves our future nurses and welders as well as our aspiring teachers and doctors.

Students need to be well-versed in a variety of subject areas throughout their high school years. But they also need to start thinking about what they will do after graduation – looking for that intersection of aptitude, interests and workforce opportunity. These new requirements will help our students – ALL of our students – to do just that.

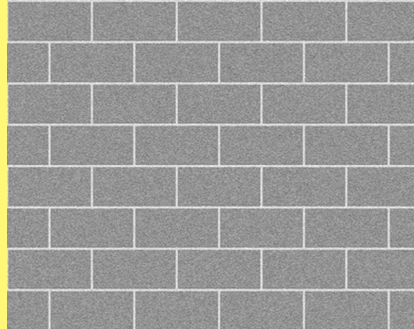
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What's going on in state government this week

Public Meetings:

Tuesday, July 31, 10:30 a.m. CDT, Watertown – The South Dakota Board of Technical Education will meet in the Lake Area Technical Institute Student Center, fourth level, 1201 Arrow Ave., in Watertown. An agenda is posted at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=192>.

Thursday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Professional Administrators Practices and Standards Commission will meet at the MacKay Building, Conference Room 3, 800 Governors Drive, in Pierre. A proposed agenda will be posted at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=80>.

Friday, August 3, 3 – 5 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – The Department of Social Services' Psychologists Board of Examiners will hold a teleconference meeting. For more information and the call-in number, please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=81>.

You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Wednesday, July 25- Thursday, August 2- The South Dakota Department of Agriculture will be collecting pesticide containers at the following locations. For a full schedule of container pick up times and locations, please visit http://sdda.sd.gov/ag-services/pesticide-program/container-recycling-waste-pesticide-collection-program/Gallery/2018collections_Final.pdf. For more information on these collections, please contact SDDA at 605-773-4432.

Wednesday, July 25- Britton, 4 Seasons Coop, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. CDT

Thursday, July 26- Brookings, Brookings Regional Landfill 8 a.m.- 1 p.m. CDT

Monday, July 30- Wessington Springs, Agtegra Cooperative, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. CDT

· Tuesday, July 31- Mitchell, Davison Co Extension, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. CDT

Monday, July 30, to Thursday, August 2: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, July 30:

· 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Burke – 221 E. 8th St. 605-280-4306

· 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Mission – 315 N. Lincoln St. 605-280-4308

· 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – 725 N. LaCrosse St. #200 605-280-4307

Tuesday, July 31:

· 2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Highmore – 116 1st St. SW 605-280-4308

· 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Vets Home) 2500 Minnekahta Ave. 605-280-4307

· 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Miller – 415 W. 1st Ave. 605-280-4306

· 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Rosebud – Veterans Affairs Bldg. 605-280-4308

Wednesday, August 1:

· 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – 725 N. LaCrosse St. #200 605-280-4307

Thursday, August 2:

· 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – 200 E. Center St. 605-360-7819

Wednesday, Aug. 1 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

· Wednesday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – at 811 E. 10th St. Registration required.

For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.

Wednesday, Aug. 1, to Thursday, Aug. 2 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services

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is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

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

· Thursday, Aug. 2, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Britton – at Marshall County Community Hall, or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, July 31 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Wednesday, August 1 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Britton, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Faulkton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Fort Thompson, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Thursday, August 2 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

Armour, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Lower Brule, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 10 – 11 a.m. CDT – The Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) and South Dakota Retailers Association (SDRA) are providing a free webinar, "Youth in the Workforce: Fact or Fiction." The webinar will cover the state's efforts to help engage youth with job shadowing and mentor opportunities, make informed career decisions, and demonstrate the importance of soft skills. Register online at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/735648433640179459>.

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – Somerset Court will be conducting walk-in interviews at the Rapid City Job Service, 2330 N. Maple Ave. Positions include maintenance assistant, registered nurses, kitchen staff and certified medication aide. For more information, call 605.394.2296.

Wednesday, Aug. 1, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – Best Western Kelly Inn will hold walk-in interviews at the Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. Positions available include laundry, housekeeping, breakfast bar attendant and maintenance. For more information, call 605-668-2900.

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

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A New Direction at the VA

We are fortunate to live in the United States, where our men and women in uniform sacrifice so much to defend our liberty. We owe our servicemembers and veterans a debt of gratitude that we can never fully repay. However, one thing we can do is uphold the promises our nation has made to them over the last several generations, and we can do that by making improvements and changes within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The Senate recently confirmed Robert Wilkie to be the VA Secretary. Prior to his confirmation, Mr. Wilkie served as Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. He has also served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Mr. Wilkie has had firsthand experience dealing with the VA, as his father was wounded three times while serving in Vietnam. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I had the opportunity to meet with him prior to his confirmation and ask important questions during his hearing before the committee. It is clear that he is well-qualified to lead the VA, especially at a time when the agency is attempting to improve its mission of serving our nation's veterans.

With 360,000 employees, the VA is the second-largest federal agency. It is also, unfortunately, one of the most scandal-ridden and mismanaged agencies. We remember in 2014 when the VA admitted that veterans were waiting on average 115 days just to see a doctor. More recently, we've heard about the new VA hospital in Colorado that is more than \$1 billion over budget because the contractor failed to account for the size of medical equipment during construction and the rooms were too small to fit everything. Not to mention the project was years behind schedule.

Mr. Wilkie has a tough job ahead of him as he seeks to clean up the VA and improve care for veterans. In the past, the agency has shown protectionism for bad employees instead of taking care of veterans. Under Wilkie's leadership, we hope to see that change. He understands how critical it is that we provide healthcare and other services to veterans across the country, and he understands the challenges he is facing. I believe he is the right person at this time to lead the VA and make certain that care of veterans is priority number one for all VA employees.

When I had the opportunity to question Mr. Wilkie at his confirmation hearing, I shared with him my concerns regarding the recently-enacted VA MISSION Act, including the 40-mile rule change that could hurt rural veterans, the "gatekeeper" provision that requires a veteran to get approval from a VA employee to seek care outside of the VA, and a "VA BRAC," which could jeopardize the future of the Hot Springs VA facility. I told him that I am ready to work hand-in-hand with the VA to address these issues as they implement the VA MISSION Act.

The men and women who have sacrificed so much in service to our nation deserve to know that the VA will support them and make good on our country's promises to them. The care of veterans is my number one priority. I believe that it is Mr. Wilkie's main concern as well, and I look forward to working with him as he takes on the challenges of managing the VA.

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Today in Weather History

July 30, 1981: Operation Skywarn organized by the National Weather Service in Bismarck four years ago had a perfect opportunity to put the training into operation on this day. A spotter 20 miles west of Bismarck identified a rotating wall cloud 10 minutes before a tornado touchdown. The strong tornado was rated as having F3 strength, leaving behind an 18-mile long path of destruction. The force of the storm drove a stick between a tire and rim. A 6-inch steel beam was twisted and found near the high tension tower which had been toppled.

July 30, 2001: Strong winds of 81 mph blew much of the roof off of the bowling alley in Mobridge. Some flying debris also damaged a trailer home. Many trees were snapped in two or uprooted, and many power lines were downed. High winds brought down tree branches and also knocked the power out for several hours in Pollock.

July 30, 2010: Very heavy rains of 5 to 10 inches caused the Rosehill Dam to break in the early morning hours in southeast Hand County. Flash flooding began around 1 am CDT with two campers being swept up around 130 am CDT. The two campers clung to a tree until they could be rescued around 6 am CDT. They were both injured with one camper being treated for hypothermia and other airlifted to Sioux Falls to be treated for broken ribs and head trauma. The dam broke at 330 am CDT with the spillway breaking at 420 am CDT. There was between a 100 to 150-foot hole left by the dam break. The flash flooding continued downstream on Sand Creek causing damage to area farms, filling basements, and flooding many roads.

1949 - The state record for Connecticut was established when the town of Greenville registered an afternoon high of 102 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1965 - The temperature at Portland, OR, reached 107 degrees to equal their all-time record high. (The Weather Channel)

1970: Hurricane Celia was born in the northwest the Caribbean Sea on this day. The hurricane would be one of the worst ever to hit Texas and would reach Texas late on August 3. The storm reached its peak as it made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas, as a strong Category 3 hurricane. Hurricane Celia is currently the last major hurricane to make landfall on the middle Texas Coast.

1979 - A forty-minute hailstorm bombed Fort Collins, CO, with baseball to softball size hail. Two thousand homes and 2500 automobiles were damaged, and about 25 persons were injured, mainly when hit on the head by the huge stones. A three month old baby died later of injuries. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Afternoon highs of 105 degrees at Aberdeen SD, 102 degrees at Bismarck, ND, and 102 degrees at Pueblo, CO, were records for the date. Pueblo, CO, reported just .09 inch of rain for the first thirty days of the month. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A dozen cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Downtown Baltimore, MD, hit 103 degrees, marking a record eight days of 100 degree heat for the month, and ten for the year. The high of 101 degrees at Billings, MT, marked a record seventeen days of 100 degree heat for the year. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the northeast, with nearly fifty reports of large hail or damaging winds in Pennsylvania and New York State. A tree fell on a car at Erie, PA, injuring four persons. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms over central Missouri deluged Columbia with 5.98 inches of rain causing flash flooding. Daytime thunderstorms in Kentucky drenched Paducah with 1.73 inches of rain in less than half an hour. Evening thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 78 mph east of Moccasin, MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

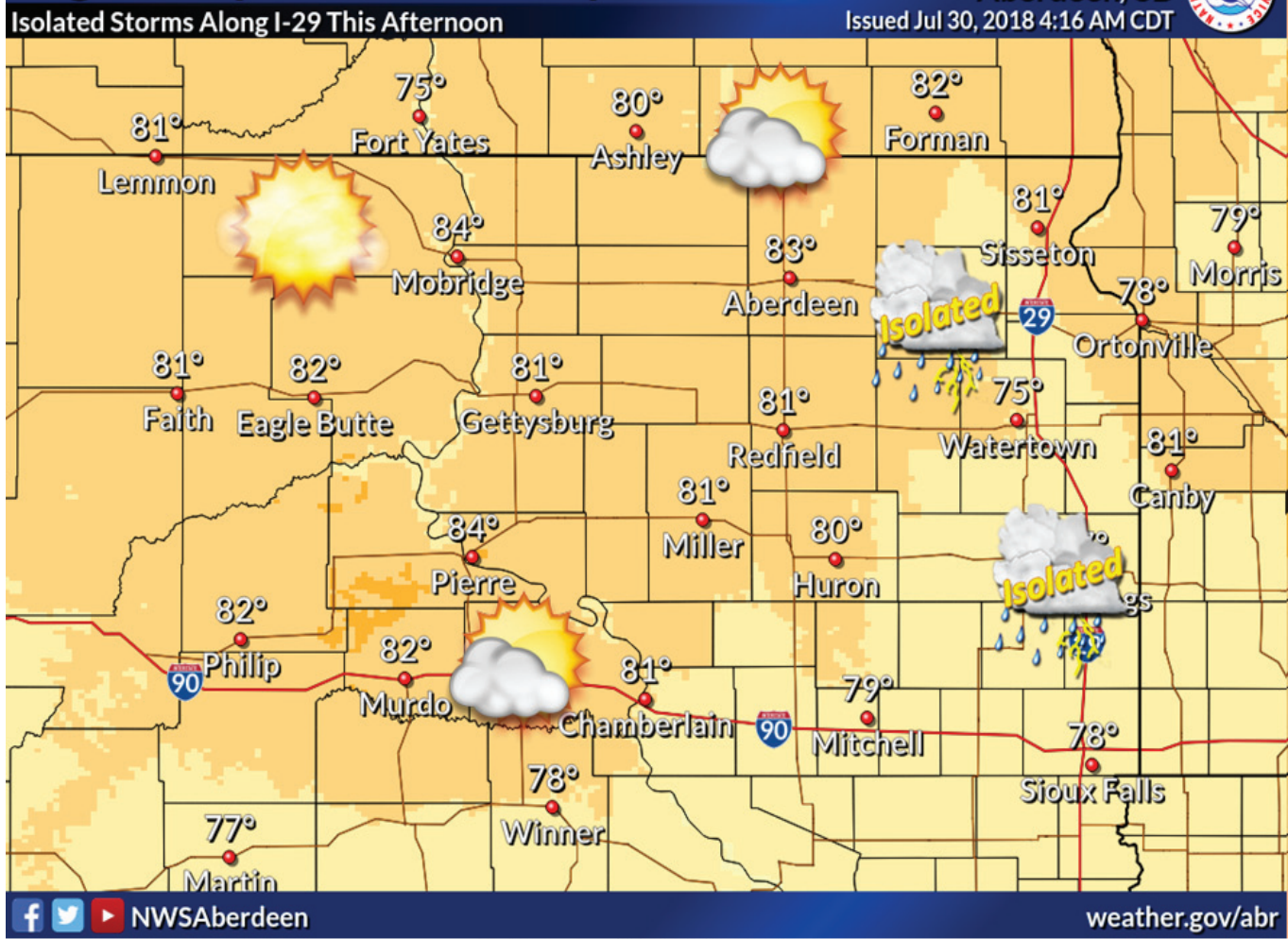
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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 83 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 84 °F

High Temperatures Today

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD
Issued Jul 30, 2018 4:16 AM CDT



   NWSAberdeen weather.gov/abr

Published on: 07/30/2018 at 4:38AM

Isolated showers and thunderstorms will be possible along and east of the I-29 corridor this afternoon through early evening. High temperatures will reach the 80s for most locations.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80.6 F at 2:54 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 53.0 F at 6:27 AM

High Gust: 13.0 Mph at 4:18 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 2006

Record Low: 39° in 1971

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 2.86

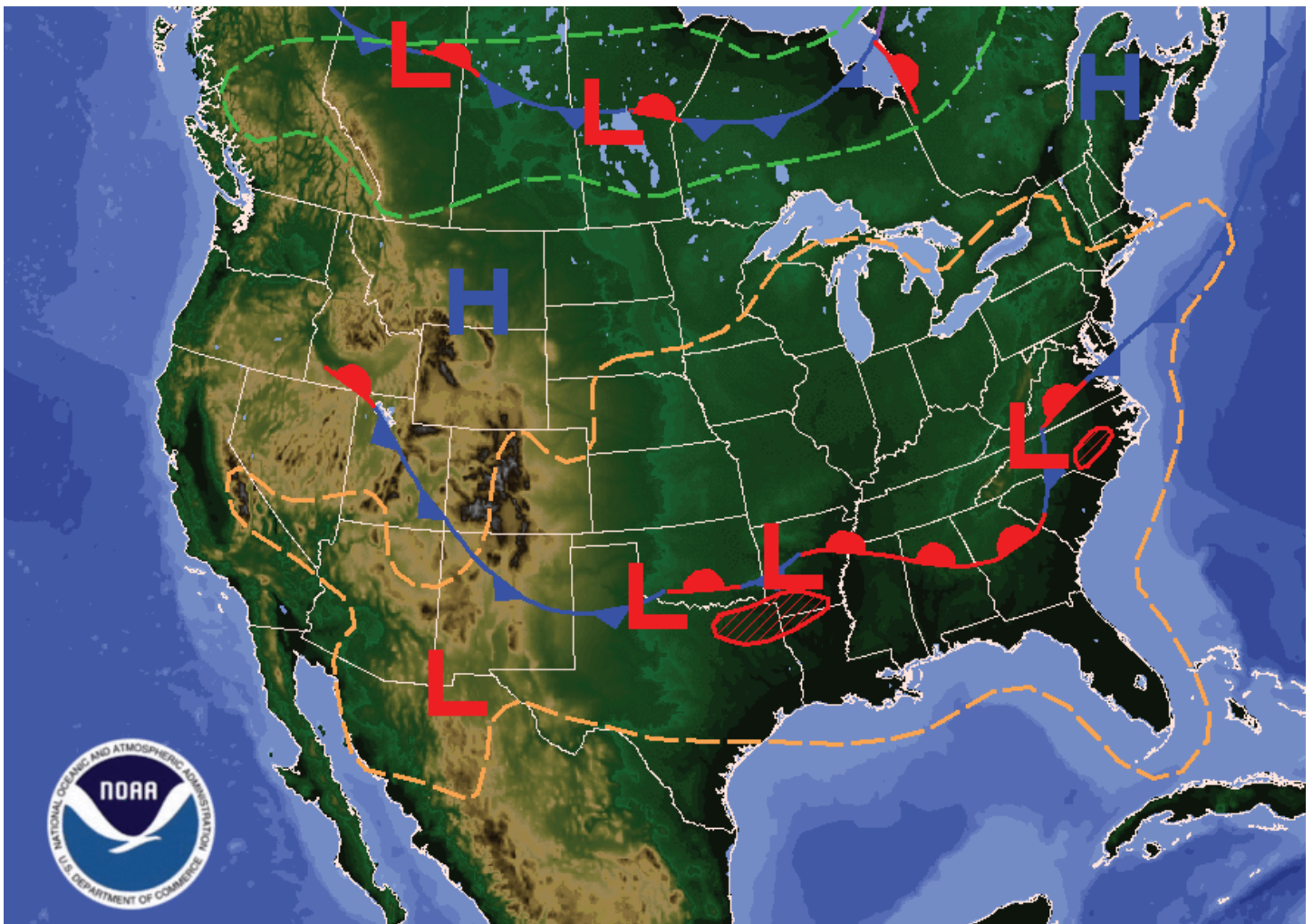
Precip to date in July: 3.99

Average Precip to date: 13.70

Precip Year to Date: 9.89

Sunset Tonight: 9:04 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:17 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Jul 30, 2018, issued 4:50 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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LOOK UP AND BE LIFTED UP!

Wherever we look, we find people who are filled with despair and discouragement. Their hearts have been broken and their optimism beaten down. Issues and problems have overcome them. Everywhere they went and everywhere they looked they heard the same message: "Give up! There's nothing here for you."

No doubt most of us have felt that way.

When the lights go out at the end of the day and we are surrounded by darkness and fear; when there is no place to hide and no arms to embrace us; when we think that we have tried everything and there's nothing left for us to hope for; does anyone anywhere have a word of advice or comfort for us?

Indeed there is: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Notice the words: "lift up!"

All too often it is all too easy to "give up" and not "look up." But the Psalmist reminds us that our God transcends the uncertainties and difficulties, the pain and suffering, the loss and grief of this world. We are on the earth but must look up to heaven. We need help far beyond our own limited resources and the resources of others. We need wisdom that exceeds human wisdom. Unfortunately, we are all infected with a false sense of self-sufficiency.

But when we lift our eyes to heaven, we lift them up to the one Who created the universe. What love He has to bestow upon us and what strength is ours for the asking.

Prayer: Lord, may we turn our eyes and ears, minds and hearts heavenward and find Your joy and peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains — where does my help come from?

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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

News from the Associated Press

Beekeepers in South Dakota aim to rescue, relocate honeybees

By ALEX PORTAL, Black Hills Pioneer

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Honeybees are a lot like South Dakotans. They're hard-working and industrious, they have an agricultural based economy, they all strive to work for the greater good, and they're pretty easygoing until their home or loved ones are threatened. So it makes sense that South Dakota is the second largest honey producer in the country, based on a 2016 USDA study.

That means South Dakota has a lot of bees. Sometimes those bees can show up in some very inconvenient places, and that's where the Crowley family can come to the rescue.

Carl and Kiah Crowley, owners of Sunrise Hives, and their 8-year-old son, Rowan, are beekeepers who live in Spearfish. They are committed to responsible honey harvesting and honeybee preservation. The Crowleys not only raise honeybees in their hives in St. Onge, they also rescue and relocate honeybees from unwanted areas like homes and businesses. Recently, they were called out to Recreation Station, Inc. in Spearfish to help them with an unwanted swarm.

"We had a (group) of bees that was just swarming around one of our palm trees here at our new store," Shawn Darling, owner of Recreation Station, Inc., said. "One of the guys that works here called somebody that he knew from Sunrise Hives, and they came out and did whatever they do."

What they do is actually a very simple and gentle method of relocation, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

"He (Carl) literally just set a (bee) box down right next to it," Kiah Crowley said. "And they just came walking in single file."

The Crowleys explained that honeybees swarm when they're looking for a location to start a new hive. When an established hive becomes too crowded to sustain the population, drones will be sent out to scout for a new location, and once a location is found, the drones return for the queen. The drones lead the queen to their new home, and around 60 percent of the hive will follow. The remaining 40 percent are left with a new queen born out of royal jelly, and the old hive is repopulated while the new hive continues to grow. The queen is the key, Carl said.

"So that colony (at Recreation Station, Inc.), they obviously swarmed from somewhere," he explained. "Finally made it to the tree, it was shook off the tree onto the rock, and wherever the queen is located in there, wherever she falls to, or if you can physically shake her into a box, and then you can set the box down, and then those bees that are up flying around in the tree, lost, they will actually smell her, and by the end of the day, all the bees will be in that box."

According to the Crowleys, it's a simple matter of providing the bees with what they're looking for: A safe place to protect their queen and grow their colony.

"They say they won't even really sting you," Kiah said. "They're just so worried about (the queen) and trying to protect her, they're not even worried about anything else."

Of course the Crowleys don't recommend just anyone walk into a swarm of bees and try to locate the queen. They say if people notice a hive in an unwanted area such as a home or business, they should contact a local beekeeper. The Crowleys themselves are always happy to come to a location where honeybees are spotted and relocate them at no cost.

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

Rapid City still recovering from May flood

By SAMUEL BLACKSTONE, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — On May 18, Om Siwakoti was in his second story apartment above the Lazy U Motel when the rain started cascading down in sheets. Minutes later, he was waist deep in rushing water

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trying to pry open a latch so the backed up waters could drain into a channel behind his motel and cease seeping through the air conditioning units and into the rooms lining the motel's southern side.

Across town, Vicki Koebernick and Monte Rohrbach were scrambling about their home as the basement and garage flooded and 27 inches of water sloshed over their backyard lawn. From the back door, they watched as the rising waters stopped half an inch short of overwhelming their deck and pouring through their back door.

A few blocks southeast, JoAnn Wilkins was peering through her back screen door as rain waters overtopped the open drainage channel behind her backyard and crawled toward her home.

"It was like a raging river," she recalled.

Since the short-lived deluge's end, Siwakoti, Wilkins, Koebernick and Rohrbach have assessed the damage to their properties. For Koebernick and Rohrbach, the damage is close to \$100,000 — the county assessment of property and home is \$178,200. Newfound cracks in their foundation — presumably due to pressure from the oversaturated ground — are their biggest concern.

For Siwakoti, the damage to 11 of his motel rooms will cost around \$30,000 without taking into account the lost revenue from the weeklong closure of the rooms and forced relocation of his tenants.

Wilkins was left relatively unscathed, though the flood waters entered her home for the first time since she bought the home in 1973, forcing her to replace the padding beneath her one-year-old carpeting. But her neighbor, Chelsea Van Wyk, wasn't as fortunate. She estimates that new flooring and fencing will cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Koebernick and Rohrbach have flood insurance, though they have yet to hear how much of their losses will be covered. Van Wyk, within the 100-year flood plain and with a federally backed mortgage, has flood insurance, too. But the storm and subsequent surface water flooding were never deemed a flood, meaning she will likely be on her own in covering the losses. Atop Mount Rushmore Road and far from any flood plain — and in an area that would seem safe despite a major flood event — Siwakoti has no coverage.

"It's a lot of money," he told the Rapid City Journal. "I don't know what to do. When there is rain, I never sleep."

At around 6:15 p.m. on May 18, rain droplets began to descend on Rapid City. In less than an hour the storm had continued eastward, leaving behind a car in a detention pond, another in a drainage channel, and inches of water in countless basements and homes. The National Weather Service's official rainfall count was 1.79 inches, but in the Robbinsdale area and the city's Meade Hawthorne Drainage Basin — the city has 21 separate drainage basins — residential rain gauges tallied up to 4.5 inches.

The city was quick to categorize the storm as a 100-year flood rain event — a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year — citing a report from Sperlich Consulting, a Rapid City-based engineering firm that designed the new Robbinsdale Park detention cell where a car ended up following the storm.

But that distinction was only for the Meade Hawthorne Drainage Basin where the properties of Siwakoti, Wilkins, Koebernick and Rohrbach reside. Other areas of the city received much less rain. Nonetheless, phones were ringing off the hook for local restoration businesses like ServPro over the next few days.

"We were to the point where we were almost running out of equipment," said Brian Munsell, a marketing manager at ServPro in Rapid City.

Within a 24-hour period following the storm, ServPro received more than 20 calls for service. Sump pump failures were common, Munsell said, and properties in the Gap and Robbinsdale area were especially hit hard. Basement flooding and leaks from roofs were common. The calls, Munsell said, have yet to really subside in what has been an unusually wet year for the area.

Through July 9, 17.93 inches of rain have fallen on downtown Rapid City. In an average year — calculated based on rainfall figures from 1981 to 2010 — the area experiences 19.79 inches annually.

"This year is kind of an anomaly," Munsell said of the calls for service.

Though Wilkins had never experienced flooding in her home since she and her late husband bought the 233 East Flormann St. house in 1973, flooding to her yard and the general area is not novel. An open, concrete drainage channel snakes through the development before making an abrupt, 90-degree turn just west of Wilkins' and Van Wyk's homes. It then continues east behind their backyards before disappear-

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ing into an underground culvert at Elm Avenue. During heavy storms, the channel oftentimes overflows, especially at the turn, where the water's force slams into the channel wall and becomes backed up.

"Pretty much any time there's a substantial rainfall, there's some sort of flooding," said Van Wyck in an interview. "Whether it gets into the homes or not, it's at least in the yards."

Dick Towne, who from 2008 to 2017 lived at 230 East Meade St. — outside the floodplain, directly across the channel from Van Wyck's home and just south of the 90-degree turn — before selling the home to his son, Nick, said his yard and garage was flooded about every two years, costing him thousands of dollars in landscaping and cleanup.

Eventually, Towne went to the city to voice his complaints and ask for some type of mitigation from the persistent overflowing of the channel. A 2014 Sperlich Consulting study was one result, which recommended constructing 3-foot-tall berms and interlocking retaining walls on either side of the channel to contain the water. Those improvements, the study notes, would only prevent flooding for a two-year storm event.

"It will be reiterated that the proposed channel improvements do not provide enough capacity to contain the 10-year and 100-year storm events," the study reads with italicized, underlined emphasis.

In practice, though, the city only installed retaining walls on the southeast side of the channel, protecting Towne's property but essentially diverting the water onto Van Wyck and Wilkins' properties. Towne readily admits that the fix caused Van Wyck and Wilkins' misery, calling the walls a "band-aid" fix for his property — and one that didn't protect the home during the May 18 storm, when the yard and garage again flooded — that exacerbated the issue for his neighbors.

"The city knew about the concerns," Towne said. "The city drafted a plan to fix it. They started the plan. It went so far and then it stopped for lack of money."

Towne noted that the city knows the true fix: burying the open channel beneath the road. But, at an estimated cost of \$10 to \$11 million, that project seems unlikely to begin anytime soon, says city Public Works Director Dale Tech.

"We're financially constrained," Tech said in an interview. "We have more needs than we have funding."

On July 10, Tech gave a presentation on the history of drainage development in Rapid City to the city's Public Works Committee. In essence, Tech said, the city and its developers' drainage plans were piecemeal, inadequate and shortsighted. Maintenance of the city's existing drainage infrastructure also lagged far behind the needs, creating the current situation.

"When it (the Meade Hawthorne Drainage Basin) was developed, the standard for drainage at the time was really nonexistent," Tech said. "Storm flows were expected to run down streets or wherever and that's the way that area was developed. Over the last ... forever, there's never been anybody maintaining any of the existing drainages that we have in this town."

Tech said drainage issues exist throughout the city, noting that the city is currently prioritizing the Gap near West Boulevard and 11th and 12th streets, an area city engineer Mary Bosworth called a "dangerous situation" in the same interview. The city is also looking at Fairlane Avenue, which experienced heavy flooding on May 18, washing one car into the Robbinsdale detention pond and moving other cars down the street. Installing a storm sewer beneath the road is planned, with the project going to bid at the end of the year.

"And that's more of that money," Tech said, referencing the Fairlane project and the city's drainage assessment fee, which was instituted in 2013 and collected its first fees in 2015 following a citizen task force that Towne served on alongside former city Public Works Director Terry Wolterstorff. The fee collects about \$2.4 million each year for the city's stormwater drainage utility fund, of which \$1 million goes to maintenance, leaving just \$1.4 million for new projects.

"\$1.4 million doesn't get you much," Tech said.

The Robbinsdale detention cell — which can hold three times the amount of water as the previous cell, or the equivalent of a football field topped with 25 feet of water, according to a Sperlich Consulting engineer — cost about \$1.2 million but was a bargain as it was on undeveloped land and required no relocation of utilities or underground street work, Tech said. Putting the open channel underground would be

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much more costly.

"You have to remove all the existing infrastructure and replace it all," he said. "It's not just as simple as burying a culvert underground. You're completely obliterating the entire street. They want something done and that's completely understandable. The thing about putting a pipe underground is there's going to be a storm that exceeds the capacity of whatever you put in the ground, so it's going to cause surface flooding no matter what."

Tech noted one startling finding in his presentation: There are only about 200 flood insurance policies in Rapid City. Around 35 percent of those are outside the flood plain, Tech added.

His advice: no matter your location, if your property is at risk of flooding, get flood insurance.

"We encourage folks, if you think you have any risk of flooding on your property, you should have flood insurance," Tech said. He also said property owners need to take responsibility for their yards and consider home drainage improvement projects like, say, French drains, extended storm gutters, or berms to divert water from their property.

"You've got to do what you need to do to protect your own property," he said.

Farmers Insurance agent Randy Horsley scoffs at such advice and has another theory for what's causing flooding issues in the Robbinsdale area and Meade Hawthorne drainage basin.

"This isn't a flood that was caused by nature," Horsley said in a Journal interview. "This is something that was manmade."

Horsley, along with Towne and Van Wyck, believe the recently completed Mount Rushmore Road project, which lies within the Meade Hawthorne drainage basin, compounded the flooding issues. Towne said he went to the city with concerns about how the road project would affect homeowners downstream early in its construction phase. The city cast him aside.

"They said 'Oh, it won't affect you.' Well, it did, because this is the worst event now that we've had," Towne said. "Every square inch of pavement allows moisture to runoff faster."

Horsley, who wrote the Lazy U Motel policy last year, noted that in the previous 15 to 20 years, the Lazy U Motel never had the flooding issues it had on May 18. Former Lazy U Motel owner Verlyn Bourne confirmed that in a Journal interview.

"We never had the problem they had this year," Bourne, who sold the motel to Siwakoti on Aug. 15, 2017, said. "This is a brand new thing."

When told of Tech's comment that city infrastructure isn't designed to handle such unpredictable rain events, Horsley said that was unacceptable.

"If your infrastructure can't handle two to three inches of rain coming down in an hour's period, what is it supposed to handle?" he asked. "That's unacceptable to me for a new project. You did this project last year and you're telling me that your infrastructure is already being defeated the first year it was ever even put together?"

He said expecting Rapid Citians to buy flood insurance when they're outside the flood plain, like the Lazy U Motel, is unrealistic.

"We were told the first time this was brought up, the board mentioned that 'Well, they should have had a flood policy,' he said. "That's a ridiculous thing to say coming from an insurance agent."

Aside from the cost of flood insurance and the potential that insurance may not cover the damage if a flood isn't declared, telling citizens that they may need to carry insurance because of a road project's effects begs for litigation, Horsley said.

"If the city actually deliberately tried to tell all the constituents that you need to get a flood policy because our mess-up is probably going to cause you problems, good luck not getting sued by every insurance company that handles South Dakota," he said. "That's not going to fly."

Horsley said he has three clients who experienced flooding damage from the May storm and has heard of nearly a dozen other property owners who experienced damages.

"The individual people I've talked to, all they want is it paid for because insurance isn't," he said.

Typical clauses within homeowners and flood insurance policies exclude coverage for damages caused by water from a backed up sewer, drain or sump pump, damages from underground water pressing, flowing

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or seeping into foundations and basements, and damages from flood, surface water, waves, tides, tidal waves or the overflow of a body of water. Some of those situations can ultimately be covered by insurance if a policyholder wants to pay extra for that coverage, Horsley said.

Mike Carlson, Rapid City engineer for the South Dakota Department of Transportation, said the prospect of being sued by citizens or insurance agencies is nothing new to the state, which handled the design and construction of the Mount Rushmore Road project. The state has deep pockets and individuals/companies sometimes try to get a small slice.

"Anything that we did, did not cause any significant increase in runoff. I don't see that we impacted anything at all," he said.

The project moved some sidewalks and parking lots and widened the road slightly, Carlson admitted but the area was already impervious to precipitation. He cited the city's statement and Sperlich Consulting's report calling the storm a 100-year event.

"There are no city streets that can handle an event of that size," he said.

The state designs roads and drainage infrastructure for 25-year storm events, but Rapid City requires designs to handle 100-year storm events. So, when the state undertakes a project in Rapid City, the city picks up the tab for the cost of the additional design and infrastructure work.

"We can only protect them (citizens) so far and if you have a huge event, our system cannot handle it, and there's nothing that we can do," he said. "As long as we do what's nationally accepted, there is no liability. But that doesn't mean they still won't sue us."

Van Wyck is currently investigating the possibility of suing the city or state for the damages to her property. Kobernick and Nick Towne could also potentially be plaintiffs in the case. Wilkins, for now, seems uninterested in joining. Her husband worked for the city for 40 years and she's wary of biting the hand that helped feed her family and buy her home.

"It was a good living, so why do we want to do anything against the city and what would you get anyways besides nothing but years of heartache?" Wilkins said this week from her kitchen. "I thought 'C'mon, just put a few cement things up there," she added, referencing the retaining walls.

One of Horsley's clients on Clark Street who experienced flood damage recently had his renter's insurance claim paid because a neighbor's drain clogged during the storm, causing water to back up and enter his apartment. With a paid claim, Farmers now has to decide whether it will subrogate — suing a third party responsible for the loss that Farmers experienced from the paid claim — and if so, whether the city, state or some other entity is responsible. For now, Horsley is in wait-and-see mode.

As for the city, at the conclusion of Tech's July 10 presentation, he noted that a yearlong study of the Meade Hawthorne Drainage Basin was scheduled and funded for 2019, with a request for proposals from potential firms expected this fall. The intention of the study, estimated to cost \$110,000, is to evaluate the drainage basin design plans, storm sewer designs and identify future drainage projects to prevent flooding to the area.

But even with the study, any effective, long-term remediation seems distant.

"The funding level we have, it's going to take many, many decades to make huge differences in town," Tech conceded at the end of his presentation.

Towne, Van Wyck and Wilkins are hopeful that in the meantime, the city may complete small, short-term mitigation projects like diverting water overflowing the channel's 90-degree turn onto Michigan Avenue and East Meade Street, where a double-wide box culvert was installed beneath the road in 2007.

Following the storm, Wilkins said she sat in her living room watching the local news when Tech appeared on the screen. In an interview, he noted that the city's drainage issues extended throughout town and many were of a higher priority than the problems she, Van Wyck, Towne and others in their area had experienced.

"I wonder what's more important than to save a couple houses," she said. "I would just like them to try something. I like living here and I don't want to move. Can't afford to."

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

Authorities ID Indiana man killed in motorcycle crash in SD

ZELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in South Dakota have released the name of an Indiana man killed in a motorcycle crash in Faulk County last week.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety identifies the victim as 55-year-old Joseph Finck of Griffith, Indiana.

The Highway Patrol says Finck went into the ditch off U.S. Highway 12 on Tuesday afternoon, about 2 miles west of Zell. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Authorities say Finck was wearing a helmet, but the investigation indicated that the helmet came off when the motorcycle crashed.

He was alone on the bike.

South Dakota man fights to preserve family barn amid dispute

PUKWANA, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man is fighting several legal battles to preserve his family's nearly century-old barn in a central county amid a dispute with relatives.

Bret Healy recently spoke to Brule County commissioners to request that they keep his family barn from being taken down by his brother, Bryce Healy, The Daily Republic reported . The 53-year-old is involved in a civil case to determine how much of a claim he has on the barn.

But Bret Healy isn't allowed on the barn property after he was charged with simple assault last year over an incident with his other brother, Barry Healy, and sister-in-law, Brandy Healy, who live by the barn. Bret Healy said the incident was exaggerated.

More than a year after the alleged assault took place, Bryce Healy posted on Facebook that he would be dismantling the barn and selling its wood.

Healy's attorney, Chris McClure, said he thinks the post was aimed at trying to provoke Bret Healy.

Both Bryce and Barry Healy declined to comment.

Bret Healy, who legally cannot go near the barn, has appealed to the state Supreme Court, the police, the Brule County Commission and even insurance companies over the barn dispute.

"I'm trying to protect my family legacy and that 99-year-old barn that represents that legacy," Healy said.

Deputy State's Attorney David Larson said Healy's conflicts lie with his family but he's trying to drag more people into it.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

South Dakota school to get \$10M performing arts center

BERESFORD, S.D. (AP) — A school district in southeastern South Dakota is planning a project that includes a \$10 million performing arts center attached to the high school.

The Beresford School District's Watchdog Legacy Project is currently in the funding stages, the Yankton Press & Dakotan reported .

Superintendent Brian Field announced in May that the project involves adding 47,000 square feet, remodeling 3,800 square feet and removing the multipurpose room in favor of the 750-seat Grace Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"The theater will include a 75-foot fly loft and grid for staging sets, as well as wings to enhance performances," Field said. "The layout of the theater will include natural acoustics, along with a high quality sound, lighting and technology system, along with a modified orchestra pit."

The project also includes an auxiliary gym and a fitness center with its own parking and entrance.

Jared Olson is the business manager for the school district. He says the plan to finance the project has three parts, said Jared Olson, the district's business manager. The first phase involves raising between \$1.5 and \$3 million locally in donations and pledges. The project has raised about \$500,000 so far.

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The second phase involves a bond issue of about \$11 million, which at least 60 percent of the district's voters must approve. The district would then fund any remainder with capital outlay certificates, which would be paid off annually for 20 years.

The board could adopt a bond resolution Aug. 13 if fundraisers can meet the \$1.5 million mark in time. Voters could see a ballot issue on the proposed bond issue as early as October.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Opposition says Cambodian election was death of democracy

By SOPHENG CHEANG and JERRY HARMER, Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The ruling party of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen congratulated itself Monday on its election victory, while the opposition party unable to contest the polls said they marked the death of democracy in the Southeast Asian country, making its government and any dealings with it illegitimate.

Sok Eysan, the spokesman for Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party, described Sunday's vote on a public message sent over the Telegram chat application as a "brilliant victory" and said the country would move forward "under the umbrella of peace and political stability."

Although 20 parties contested the election, the only one with the popularity and organization to mount a real challenge, the Cambodian National Rescue Party, was dissolved last year by the Supreme Court in a ruling generally seen as political and ensuring that Hun Sen would extend his 33 years in power by another five-year term.

The opposition CNRP, in a statement issued Monday by some of its former leaders in Jakarta, Indonesia, said that following the "sham election ... what was left of a democracy in name only has been replaced with an outright dictatorship."

The statement predicted that in reaction to the polls, foreign countries would apply punitive sanctions that would cripple the economy.

Declaring Hun Sen's government illegitimate, it warned "governments and businesses across the world that the agreements, deals and accords signed as of today by Cambodia's de facto regime will have no legal validity and will be revised by the future democratic government of Cambodia."

Provisional but complete results issued Monday by the state National Election Committee showed Hun Sen's party winning 4,875,189, or 76.8 percent, of a total 6,349,389 valid ballots cast. Under the election's system of proportional representation, the party is almost certain to take more than 100 of the 125 seats in the National Assembly.

There were almost 600,000 spoiled ballots, generally interpreted to have been cast as protests by voters who wished to keep their identities secret.

The committee said it would announce full totals on Aug. 11, with the final official count to be released on Aug. 15, along with seat allocations in the assembly and the names of the new lawmakers.

The disbanded CNRP's former leaders had urged people not to vote in what was dubbed a "clean finger" campaign because those who cast ballots had to dip a finger in indelible ink, a practice meant to thwart multiple voting.

But its campaign fizzled, if the official turnout tallies are accurate. According to the National Election Committee, more than 6.8 million registered voters, or 82.2 percent, cast ballots.

Criticism of the election as unfree and unfair came from Western governments and other groups.

The United States said it regretted the "flawed elections" and would consider its response, including expanding visa restrictions that were announced in December.

A statement from the White House press secretary's office said the U.S. was disappointed in the government's decision to disenfranchise voters, citing the exclusion of the principal opposition party, the jailing and banning of its officials, and threats to punish nonvoters.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a statement that Hun Sen's moves to eliminate his political

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opponents had reversed more than 25 years of progress toward democracy in Cambodia.

"Australia is concerned the election took place in an environment where not all political parties, civil society organizations and media could operate freely," Bishop said. She added that Australia will continue to urge the Cambodian government to take steps to allow free and open political debate without violence and intimidation.

A veteran Indonesian politician and lawyer who has championed human rights said the Cambodian election was a "sign of danger" for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that could set back democracy across the region.

Former Indonesian Attorney-General Marzuki Darusman, who currently heads the U.N. Fact-finding Mission on Myanmar investigating abuses by security forces in Rakhine state, said Indonesia as one of the world's largest democracies must "seriously address" the Cambodian situation.

He told a news conference held by the disbanded CNRP in Jakarta that "I think we're looking at a possible domino effect of what is happening in Cambodia across ASEAN as a whole if this is not addressed."

Associated Press writers Grant Peck in Bangkok and Stephen Wright in Jakarta, Indonesia, contributed to this report.

What does Mueller have? Manafort trial offers glimpse

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The trial of President Donald Trump's onetime campaign chairman will open this week with tales of lavish spending, secret shell companies and millions of dollars of Ukrainian money flowing through offshore bank accounts and into the political consultant's pocket.

What's likely to be missing: answers about whether the Trump campaign coordinated with the Kremlin during the 2016 presidential election, or really any mention of Russia at all.

Paul Manafort's financial crimes trial, the first arising from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, will center on his Ukrainian consulting work and only briefly touch on his involvement with the president's campaign.

But the broader implications are unmistakable.

The trial, scheduled to begin Tuesday with jury selection in Alexandria, Virginia, will give the public its most detailed glimpse of evidence Mueller's team has spent the year accumulating. It will feature testimony about the business dealings and foreign ties of a defendant Trump entrusted to run his campaign during a critical stretch in 2016, including during the Republican convention. And it will unfold at a delicate time for the president as Mueller's team presses for an interview and as Trump escalates his attacks on an investigation he calls a "witch hunt."

Adding to the intrigue is the expected spectacle of Manafort's deputy, Rick Gates, testifying against him after cutting a plea deal with prosecutors, and the speculation that Manafort, who faces charges in two different courts and decades in prison if convicted, may be holding out for a pardon from Trump.

"Perhaps he believes that he's done nothing wrong, and because he's done nothing wrong, he's unwilling to plead guilty to any crime whatsoever — even if it's a lesser crime," said Jimmy Gurule, a Notre Dame law professor and former federal prosecutor. "Obviously, that's very risky for him."

Manafort was indicted along with Gates in Mueller's wide-ranging investigation, but he is the only American charged to opt for a trial instead of cooperating with the government. The remaining 31 individuals charged have either reached plea agreements, including ex-White House national security adviser Michael Flynn, or are Russians seen as unlikely to enter an American courtroom. Three Russian companies have also been charged.

Prosecutors in Manafort's case have said they may call 35 witnesses, including five who have immunity agreements, as they try to prove that he laundered more than \$30 million in Ukrainian political consulting proceeds and concealed the funds from the IRS.

Jurors are expected to see photographs of his Mercedes-Benz and of his Hampton property putting

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green and swimming pool. There's likely to be testimony, too, about tailored Beverly Hills clothing, high-end antiques, rugs and art and New York Yankees seasons tickets.

The luxurious lifestyle was funded by Manafort's political consulting for the pro-Russian Ukrainian political party of Viktor Yanukovich, who was deposed as Ukraine's president in 2014.

Lawyers have tangled over how much jurors will hear of his overseas political work, particularly about his ties to Russia and other wealthy political figures.

At a recent hearing, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III, who will preside over the trial, warned prosecutors to restrain themselves, noting the current "antipathy" toward Russia and how "most people in this country don't distinguish between Ukrainians and Russians." He said he would not tolerate any pictures of Manafort and others "at a cocktail party with scantily clad women," if they exist.

Prosecutor Greg Andres reassured the judge that "there will be no pictures of scantily clad women, period," nor photographs of Russian flags.

"I don't anticipate that a government witness will utter the word 'Russia,'" Andres said.

While jurors will be hearing painstaking detail about Manafort's finances, they won't be told about Manafort's other criminal case, in the nation's capital, where he faces charges of acting as an unregistered foreign agent and lying to the government.

Nor will they hear about the reason he's been jailed since last month after a judge revoked his house arrest over allegations that he and a longtime associate attempted to tamper with witnesses in the case. And they won't learn that Manafort's co-defendant in the Washington case is a business associate named Konstantin Kilimnik, who lives in Russia and who U.S. authorities assert has connections to Russian intelligence.

Trump and his lawyers have repeatedly sought to play down Manafort's connection to the president, yet the trial won't be entirely without references to the campaign.

Mueller's team says Manafort's position in the Trump campaign is relevant to some of the bank fraud charges. Prosecutors plan to present evidence that a chairman of one of the banks allowed Manafort to file inaccurate loan information in exchange for a job on the campaign and the promise of a job in the Trump administration. The administration job never materialized.

The trial will afford the public its first glimpse of a defense that so far has focused less on the substance of the allegations than on Mueller's authority to bring the case in the first place. At one point, his defense lawyers sued Mueller and the Justice Department, saying they had overstepped their bounds by bringing a prosecution untethered to the core questions of Mueller's investigation — whether Russia worked with the Trump campaign to tip the election.

Ellis rejected that argument despite having initially questioned the special counsel's motives for bringing the case. He noted that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller, had explicitly authorized Mueller to investigate Manafort's business dealings. Mueller's original mandate was to investigate not only potential collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, but also any other crimes arising from the probe.

"When a prosecutor looks into those dealings and uncovers evidence of criminal culpability," said Stanford law professor David Alan Sklansky, "it doesn't make sense to ask him to avert his eyes."

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP> and Chad Day at <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Zimbabwe votes for first time without Mugabe on ballot

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA and FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabweans on Monday were voting peacefully in their first election without Robert Mugabe on the ballot, a contest that could bring international legitimacy and investment or signal more stagnation if the vote is seriously flawed.

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About 5.5 million people were registered to vote in this southern African nation anxious for change after economic and political paralysis during the nearly four-decade rule of the 94-year-old Mugabe.

Long lines formed outside many polling stations in Harare, the capital, and elsewhere. Anyone in line as of the 7 p.m. closing time could still vote.

"I want to do this and get on with my business. I am not leaving anything to chance. This is my future," said Emerina Akenda, a first-time voter.

Thousands of election monitors fanned out across the country to observe a process that the opposition said was biased against them despite electoral commission assurances that it will be credible.

The two main contenders were 75-year-old President Emmerson Mnangagwa, a former deputy president who took over after Mugabe stepped down under military pressure last year, and 40-year-old Nelson Chamisa, a lawyer and pastor who became head of the main opposition party a few months ago after the death of its leader Morgan Tsvangirai.

Mugabe on Sunday called Chamisa the only viable candidate and rejected Mnangagwa and the ruling party, saying that "I cannot vote for those who have tormented me."

Piercing whistles and cheers greeted Chamisa as he voted outside Harare, who declared on Twitter that "minus the ballot mischief ... Victory is certainly certain!" He said he hoped voting in rural areas, where most of Zimbabwe's voters are and where the ruling party usually holds away, will be fair.

Mnangagwa urged Zimbabweans to be peaceful, tweeting: "We are one people, with one dream and one destiny. We will sink or swim together." He voted and told reporters he took Mugabe's criticism in stride, saying: "He is a citizen ... He can engage me anytime."

A record of more than 20 presidential candidates and nearly 130 political parties were participating. If no presidential candidate wins 50 percent of the vote, a runoff will be held Sept. 8.

"This is a critical moment in Zimbabwe's democratic journey," said Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Liberian president and a leader of one of the international observer missions.

"The elections today provide an opportunity to break with the past," Sirleaf said at a polling station in Harare. "The lines and voter enthusiasm we are seeing this morning must be matched by an accurate count and their choice must be honored."

Past elections were marred by violence, intimidation and irregularities, but Mnangagwa, a former enforcer for Mugabe who says he now represents change, has promised that this election will be free and fair.

The presence of Western election monitors for the first time in years is an indicator of a freer political environment, though concerns have been raised about state media bias toward the ruling party as well as a lack of transparency with the printing of ballot papers.

European Union election observers were seen at one polling station in Harare, checking the voting process. African Unions attended the opening of polling stations elsewhere.

Even though it was a public holiday, some government offices were open so that those who had lost identity cards could get replacements and then cast their ballots.

Inside polling stations, voters were given three ballot papers: one for their presidential pick, another for member of parliament and a third for local councilor. Polling officers helped voters put each ballot paper in the right box.

"We need change because we have suffered a lot here," said 65-year-old Mable Mafaro while voting in Harare. "We have suffered a lot. That's all."

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Bodycam video released in fatal police shooting of black man

By YOUSSEF RDDAD, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Authorities in Minneapolis released body camera video from two police officers in the fatal shooting of a 31-year-old black man, with the footage showing the man shot from behind after a frenetic foot chase and what appeared to be a gun in his hand.

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Officers Justin Schmidt and Ryan Kelly were responding to a 911 call of a man firing a gun into the air on the city's north side June 23. The video released Sunday shows them pulling their cruiser up and a man — Thurman Blevins — seated on a curb near a woman with a child in a stroller. As the officers pull up, one says, "He's got a gun!" Blevins jumps up and runs, as the officers yell "Stop, stop! Put your hands up! I will (expletive) shoot you!"

In a chase that takes less than a minute, Blevins yells back, "I didn't do nothing bro," "Please don't shoot" and "Leave me alone." An enhanced version of the video has a red circle drawn around Blevins' hand to highlight what appears to be a gun.

After the chase turns down an alley, Blevins is shot, still running.

Investigators said both Kelly and Schmidt fired their weapons. An autopsy showed Blevins was shot multiple times.

Investigators have said the officers arrived to find Blevins sitting with a woman on a curb before he ran, carrying a black and silver gun. A gun was recovered at the scene. Some witnesses had disputed Blevins was armed, saying he was carrying a bottle or a cup. He appeared to have something in each hand when he first ran.

Sydnee Brown, a cousin of Blevins, told the Star Tribune that the video confirms her belief that he was not a threat to police.

"He didn't deserve to die," Brown said. "He wasn't a threat when (the officers) approached him. They didn't view him as a human being."

The two officers are on paid administrative leave. A protest of Blevins' death was planned for Tuesday afternoon at the Hennepin County Government Center.

Blevins' death prompted earlier demonstrations and community advocates demanded transparency and urged the swift release of body camera footage.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said in June that the body camera video would be released after the Blevins family was consulted and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension had finished interviewing key witnesses.

Frey said Blevins' family viewed the video about an hour before it was released publicly. He called Blevins' death "tragic," but declined to comment on what the footage showed.

"I know that right now in our city there's a lot of pain," he said. "Pain in many cases that I cannot understand."

Blevins' relatives previously called for both officers to face criminal charges .

The city released raw footage from both officers' cameras, as well as what it called a "stabilized" video that includes footage from both officers produced by the National Center for Audio and Video Forensics in Beverly Hills, California. Officials said that footage had gone through a process to identify pixels from each frame and aligned them to help limit shaking.

In Minnesota, investigative data is typically nonpublic until an investigation concludes. But state laws allow for the release of material like body camera footage if it's deemed a benefit to the public or if it dispels "widespread rumor or unrest."

Blevins' family and other community members had pushed for the prompt release of the footage, and Frey had pledged to do so as soon as possible. Video from past high-profile police shootings in the state has usually not been released until after long investigations by the BCA.

Chief Medaria Arradondo said he could not comment while the investigation is pending.

Kelly has been with the police department since 2013 and Schmidt joined in 2014. Both had served in the military and had been recognized numerous times for their work as police officers, according to redacted personnel files. They also both have had complaints against them: Kelly has had five complaints, all closed without discipline, while Schmidt has had three complaints against him, including two that were closed without discipline and one that remains open. Details about the complaints were not released.

Minneapolis has been rocked by two high-profile fatal police shootings in recent years, including the November 2015 shooting of Jamar Clark, 24, and last year's shooting of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, 40. Officers in the Clark case were not charged, and trial is pending for the officer who shot Damond.

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At Stoneman Douglas, football season comes with heavy hearts

By TIM REYNOLDS, AP Sports Writer

PARKLAND, Fla. (AP) — The first practice of the new season was over, and the only sound on the campus of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School was dozens of football players screaming in delight.

At 2:15 a.m., they were having a water balloon fight.

Finally, on a campus known for tragedy, there was joy.

The Eagles — now ambassadors for a school and a community that in many ways is still reeling from the Feb. 14 massacre that left 17 people dead, including assistant football coach Aaron Feis, who was killed while trying to use his body to shield students from the cascade of bullets — took the field for practice at 12:01 a.m. Monday, since under Florida rules teams could begin their fall workouts on July 30.

So they didn't wait a minute longer.

"This is the only thing we have to show our respect," Eagles coach Willis May Jr. said. "This is the way we can show our respect to those guys, with our great effort and with our great attitudes. Be leaders within the school. I hope we see all that from these kids this year."

Douglas has had the "midnight madness" practice on opening day several times before, but this was different. A uniformed sheriff's deputy was on campus throughout the evening, his patrol vehicle parked adjacent to the field during practice. The site of the shootings — the 1200 building — is still there, cordoned off by a chain-link fence. Many want it leveled, but for now it stands because it's essentially evidence, a crime scene.

Players, when they left the locker room, had to pass the 1200 building on their way to the field for practice. Barely anyone seemed to look its way.

"Our community is still very much in the traumatized healing process," said Parkland Mayor Christine Hunschofsky, who sat in the bleachers with about 100 other people for the middle-of-the-night practice. "This is not a sprint. This is absolutely a marathon. And we will never forget. No one who was here will ever forget. But we also have to look at a way forward."

The reminders are everywhere.

There is one locker with a door painted gold in the locker room — it belonged to Joaquin "Guac" Oliver, one of the 17 victims who was buried in the jersey of Miami Heat star Dwyane Wade. The fence around the 1200 building is partially covered by banners with messages of support from neighboring schools. Inside the cafeteria, where parents reported for the preseason meeting, another banner still hangs. It's from the students of Columbine High School, where a similar tragedy took place in 1999.

On the field, there are more banners with reminders to play for Feis and how to be "MSD Strong." The shirts most of the coaches wore had some reminder of the shooting.

Put simply, there's no escaping it.

A school that was a sanctuary is now, in many ways, a memorial.

"Are we perfect? Are we happy all the time? How can we be?" said Johanna Feis, the younger sister of the slain coach, whose desk remains next to May's and hasn't been issued to anyone else. "I'm not OK at this moment, but we're pushing through, so we are OK."

The Eagles obviously did not want this attention.

They did not want to be asked to play a Canadian team in Georgia on Sept. 1 to open the season, but now view it as a great opportunity. They did not want to see Feis, athletic director Chris Hixon, cross country coach Scott Beigel — all victims on Feb. 14 — honored with the Best Coach award at the ESPYs. They did not want to turn Feis' name into a motivational acronym, the letters in football parlance now standing for "Fearless, Emotion, Intensity and Sacrifice."

They would rather see things go back to normal, whatever that was before the afternoon of Feb. 14.

"You represent this high school," May told his team just before practice started. "Every time you put that Douglas on, make it count for something. Make it mean something. When somebody faces us this year, one thing I want them to know is, you ain't getting an injured Eagle. You're not facing an injured Eagle that's just going to let you roll over them. You better bring the best you got."

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The reminders notwithstanding, boys were being boys Sunday night as they waited for practice. They had a team meeting in the bleachers to go over fundraising plans, and whooped for joy when it came time to tape a promotional video. Back in the locker room afterward, some laid on the hard tile floor, others chilled on benches, virtually everyone on their phones. Some coaches had pizza.

It was loud and festive.

It was football season. And for a couple hours, it felt normal again.

"I just want to make sure the kids will be OK," said Johanna Feis, who comes to most practices and helps the program with some clerical work like putting together the roster. "It's difficult to be here. But at the end of the day, it's nice that I can go sit in my brother's chair. These kids, they loved my brother so much and they still do. And I think it's amazing. They know they're making him proud."

50 years on, McDonald's isn't messing with its Big Mac

By CANDICE CHOI, AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — McDonald's is fighting to hold onto customers as the Big Mac turns 50, but it's not messing with the makings of its most famous burger.

The company is celebrating the 1968 national launch of the double-decker sandwich whose ingredients of "two all-beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions and a sesame seed bun" were seared into American memories by a TV jingle. But the milestone comes as the company reduces its number of U.S. stores. McDonald's said Thursday that customers are visiting less often. Other more trendy burger options are reaching into the heartland.

The "Golden Arches" still have a massive global reach, and the McDonald's brand of cheeseburgers, chicken nuggets and french fries remains recognizable around the world. But on its critical home turf, the company is toiling to stay relevant. Kale now appears in salads, fresh has replaced frozen beef patties in Quarter Pounders, and some stores now offer ordering kiosks, food delivery and barista-style cafes.

The Big Mac remains unchanged, showing just how much McDonald's and the rest of fast-food have evolved.

"Clearly, we've gotten a little more sophisticated in our menu development," McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook said in a phone interview.

As with many of its popular and long-lasting menu items, the idea for the Big Mac came from a franchisee.

In 1967, Michael James "Jim" Delligatti lobbied the company to let him test the burger at his Pittsburgh restaurants. Later, he acknowledged the Big Mac's similarity to a popular sandwich sold by the Big Boy chain.

"This wasn't like discovering the light bulb. The bulb was already there. All I did was screw it in the socket," Delligatti said, according to "Behind the Arches."

McDonald's agreed to let Delligatti sell the sandwich at a single location, on the condition that he use the company's standard bun. It didn't work. Delligatti tried a bigger sesame seed bun, and the burger soon lifted sales by more than 12 percent.

After similar results at more stores, the Big Mac was added to the national menu in 1968. Other ideas from franchisees that hit the big time include the Filet-O-Fish, Egg McMuffin, Apple Pie (once deep-fried but now baked), and the Shamrock Shake.

"The company has benefited from the ingenuity of its small business men," wrote Ray Kroc, who transformed the McDonald's into a global franchise, in his book, "Grinding It Out."

Franchisees still play an important role, driving the recent switch to fresh from frozen for the beef in Quarter Pounders, Easterbrook says. They also participate in menu development, which in the U.S. has included a series of cooking tweaks intended to improve taste.

Messing with a signature menu item can be taboo, but keeping the Big Mac unchanged comes with its own risks. Newer chains such as Shake Shack and Five Guys offer burgers that can make the Big Mac seem outdated. Even White Castle is modernizing, recently adding plant-based "Impossible Burger" sliders at some locations.

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A McDonald's franchisee fretted in 2016 that only one out of five millennials has tried the Big Mac. The Big Mac had "gotten less relevant," the franchisee wrote in a memo, according to the Wall Street Journal.

McDonald's then ran promotions designed to introduce the Big Mac to more people. Those kind of periodic campaigns should help keep the Big Mac relevant for years to come, says Mike Delligatti, the son of the Big Mac inventor, who died last year.

"What iconic sandwich do you know that can beat the Big Mac as far as longevity?" said Delligatti, himself a McDonald's franchisee.

California wildfires claim more lives; crews make progress

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — Thousands more fled their homes after wildfires surged near a small lake town in Northern California while a deadly blaze farther north slowed slightly as crews stretched to their limits across the state fight flames that have claimed the lives of both firefighters and civilians.

Residents of the waterfront town Lakeport fled Sunday after a major flare-up of two fires that combined across Mendocino and Lake counties destroyed at least four homes. Lakeport, home to about 5,000, is around 120 miles north of San Francisco.

More than 4,500 buildings were under threat, officials said. The two fires had blackened 47 square miles (122 square kilometers), with minimal containment.

About 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast, officials near Redding struck a hopeful tone for the first time in days as a massive fire slowed following days of explosive growth.

"We're feeling a lot more optimistic today as we're starting to gain some ground rather than being in a defensive mode on this fire all the time," said Bret Gouvea, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's incident commander on the blaze around Redding, a city about 230 miles (370 kilometers) north of San Francisco.

County Sheriff Tom Bosenko said authorities found a sixth victim of the blaze at a home that was consumed by flames, though he declined to say where. The victim's identity was not released.

The sheriff's department is also investigating seven missing persons reports, Bosenko said. Redding police have an additional 11 reports of missing people, though many of them may simply not have checked in with friends or family, said Redding police Sgt. Todd Cogle.

The so-called Carr Fire that affected Redding — a city of about 92,000 people — was ignited by a vehicle problem on Monday about 10 miles (16 kilometers) west of the city. On Thursday, it swept through the historic Gold Rush town of Shasta and nearby Keswick fueled by gusty winds and dry vegetation. It then jumped the Sacramento River and took out subdivisions on the western edge of Redding.

Redding Police Chief Roger Moore kept up an around-the-clock work schedule despite learning that his home was one of those destroyed. He was finally able to shave on Saturday when his wife brought him a razor, he said.

Moore was helping evacuate people from his River Ridge neighborhood in western Redding when the flames became unbearable.

"I saw everything around it ignite, and I go, 'It's gone,'" Moore said.

At least one person was arrested on suspicion of stealing from evacuated homes and authorities were keeping watch for other potential looters, said Deputy Travis Ridenour, whose home also burned.

"Lost our house like so many others," Ridenour wrote on Facebook. "Still out watching over the ones still standing. No looting on my watch."

The latest tally showed at least 657 homes destroyed and another 145 damaged, with the fire having consumed 149 square miles (386 square kilometers).

After days of fortifying the areas around Redding, fire crews were increasingly confident that the city would escape further damage. The fire had not grown inside the city limits since Saturday, Gouvea said.

Some of the 38,000 people forced to evacuate said they were frustrated because they didn't know whether their homes were standing or were destroyed. Authorities had not reopened any evacuated neighborhoods

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where fires raged due to safety and ongoing investigations and urged people to be patient, saying they would soon let residents back.

Fed up, on Sunday morning Tim Bollman hiked 4 miles (6 kilometers) on trails up steep terrain to check on the Redding home he built for his wife and two sons 13 years ago. He found rubble.

"There's not even anything to pick up," he said. "It's completely gone."

Keswick, a mountain town of about 450 people, was reduced to an ashy moonscape of blackened trees and smoldering rubble.

The terrain surrounding nearby Whiskeytown Lake — usually filled in July with vacationers swimming in the clear water — was burned, burning or seemingly about to burn Sunday. A heavy haze hung low over the water, where some of the docked boats had melted. Firefighters and utility repair crews drove up and down the once-scenic highway, while California Department of Transportation water trucks sprayed roadsides in hopes of preventing potential wildfires from burning across the road, which can cost several million dollars to repair.

The fatalities included two firefighters and a woman and her two great-grandchildren.

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

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

The sixth victim, who was not identified, did not evacuate despite receiving an evacuation warning, Bosenko said.

It is the largest fire burning in California, threatening more than 5,000 structures. The flames were just 5 percent contained, though Gouvea said he expected that number to climb.

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.

The fire around Redding was among 17 significant blazes in the state on Sunday that had forced roughly 50,000 people from their homes, said Lynne Tolmachoff, a Cal Fire spokeswoman.

About 12,000 firefighters were battling the fires, she said.

Meanwhile officials said a second firefighter died fighting a huge blaze to the south near Yosemite National Park. Brian Hughes, 33, was struck by a tree and killed while working as part of a crew removing brush and other fuel near the so-called Ferguson Fire's front lines, national parks officials said.

Originally from Hawaii, Hughes had been with California's Arrowhead Interagency Hotshots for four years and reached the rank of captain. Earlier this month, firefighter Braden Varney was killed when the bulldozer he was operating overturned while he was fighting the flames near the national park. At least seven other firefighters have been injured since that blaze broke out July 13.

Some evacuations were lifted but officials said Yosemite Valley, the heart of tourism in the park, will remain closed until Aug. 3.

A big fire continued to burn in the San Jacinto Mountains east of Los Angeles near Palm Springs, but officials lifted evacuation orders for several communities after reporting significant progress by firefighters.

Thanawala reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writers Martha Mendoza in Redding and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Times publisher asks Trump to reconsider anti-media rhetoric

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — The publisher of The New York Times said Sunday he "implored" President Donald Trump at a private White House meeting this month to reconsider his broad attacks on journalists, calling the president's anti-press rhetoric "not just divisive but increasingly dangerous."

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In a statement, A.G. Sulzberger said he decided to comment publicly after Trump revealed their off-the-record meeting to his more than 53 million Twitter followers on Sunday. Trump's aides had requested that the July 20 meeting not be made public, Sulzberger said.

"Had a very good and interesting meeting at the White House with A.G. Sulzberger, Publisher of the New York Times. Spent much time talking about the vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media & how that Fake News has morphed into phrase, "Enemy of the People." Sad!" Trump wrote.

Hours after that exchange, Trump resumed his broadside against the media in a series of tweets that included a pledge not to let the country "be sold out by anti-Trump haters in the ... dying newspaper industry."

Sulzberger, who succeeded his father as publisher on Jan. 1, said his main purpose for accepting the meeting was to "raise concerns about the president's deeply troubling anti-press rhetoric."

"I told the president directly that I thought that his language was not just divisive but increasingly dangerous," he said.

Sulzberger said he told Trump that while the phrase "fake news" is untrue and harmful, "I am far more concerned about his labeling journalists 'the enemy of the people.' I warned that this inflammatory language is contributing to a rise in threats against journalists and will lead to violence."

Sulzberger, who attended the meeting with James Bennet, the Times' editorial page editor, said he stressed that leaders outside the U.S. are already using Trump's rhetoric to justify cracking down on journalists.

"I warned that it was putting lives at risk, that it was undermining the democratic ideals of our nation, and that it was eroding one of our country's greatest exports: a commitment to free speech and a free press," the publisher said.

Sulzberger added that he made clear that he was not asking Trump to soften his attacks against the Times if he thinks the newspaper's coverage is unfair. "Instead, I implored him to reconsider his broader attacks on journalism, which I believe are dangerous and harmful to our country," he said.

Trump reads the Times and gives interviews to its reporters. But the president — who, like all politicians, is concerned about his image — also regularly derides the newspaper as the "failing New York Times." However, the Times' ownership company in May reported a 3.8 percent increase in first-quarter revenue compared to the same period in 2017.

The president, who lashes out over media coverage of him and the administration that he deems unfair, has broadly labeled the news media the "enemy of the people" and regularly accuses reporters of spreading "fake news" — the term he often uses for stories he dislikes.

Hours after his tweet about the Sulzberger meeting, Trump renewed his criticism of the media in a series of posts in which he accused reporters of disclosing "internal deliberations of government" and said that can endanger "the lives of many." He did not cite examples but wrote "Very unpatriotic!" and said freedom of the press "comes with a responsibility to report the news ... accurately," a sentiment that journalists share.

Trump also claimed that 90 percent of the coverage of his administration is negative, leading to an "all time low" in public confidence in the media. He cited the Times and The Washington Post, two favorite targets, and claimed, "They will never change!"

Last week, Trump told hundreds of people attending the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Kansas City, Missouri: "Don't believe the crap you see from these people, the fake news," as he gestured toward journalists at the back of the room.

He also told them to remember "what you're seeing and what you're reading is not what's happening."

Sulzberger said he accepted the meeting because Times publishers have a history of meeting with presidential administrations and other public figures who have concerns with the publication's coverage of them.

After Sulzberger took charge, Trump tweeted that his ascension gave the paper a "last chance" to fulfill its founder's vision of impartiality.

In the January tweet, Trump urged the new publisher to "Get impartial journalists of a much higher standard, lose all of your phony and non-existent 'sources,' and treat the President of the United States FAIRLY, so that the next time I (and the people) win, you won't have to write an apology to your readers for a job poorly done!"

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Tension between the administration and the news media was put on display last week after the White House told a CNN correspondent that she could not attend a Rose Garden event that was open to all credentialed media.

The correspondent, Kaitlan Collins, said she was barred because she asked Trump questions he did not like at a press event in the Oval Office earlier that day. The White House said Collins was barred because she refused to leave the Oval Office after being repeatedly asked to do so. Other journalists who were in the room at the time disputed the White House account.

Anthony Scaramucci, who spent 11 days as White House communications director last year before he was fired over an obscenity-laced tirade against other staffers in an interview, said he disagreed with the decision to put Collins in the "penalty box." He told CNN's "State of the Union" the order to bar Collins likely came from Trump because "he likes to be respected."

Vice President Mike Pence, in a separate interview, said the administration believes in freedom of the press.

"But maintaining the decorum that is due at the White House I think is an issue that we'll continue to work for," he said in a taped interview broadcast Sunday on Fox Business Network.

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Crews lament longer fire season that spawns erratic blazes

By MARTHA MENDOZA, Associated Press

ANDERSON, California (AP) — Exhausted and hungry, some 12,000 firefighters are working 24-hour shifts battling deadly California wildfires and becoming resigned to fire seasons that start earlier, burn longer and unleash increasingly unpredictable blazes.

"There's a lot going on up here, endless fires, and they're all characteristically pretty much the same — windy, hot and dry," firefighter James Sweeney said before heading out for a meal and a nap.

Sweeney, from St. Petersburg, Florida, is a "hotshot," part of an elite team of highly trained wildland firefighters who spend fire season battling the fiercest blazes in the country.

Weary after more than a day on the fire lines, the 43-year-old said when his Gila, New Mexico-based crew does leave California, he expects to go north into Oregon, where new fires are kicking up.

"These days it's crazy," he said. "We give up our whole life all summer."

Crews made progress this weekend on the Carr Fire near Redding, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) north of San Francisco. But it was still threatening thousands of homes and was not expected to be fully contained until mid-August at the earliest.

For many of the firefighters slamming down 9,000-calorie meals between shifts, the nonstop effort has become routine.

Last year, a fast-moving series of fires in Santa Rosa, just north of San Francisco, and elsewhere in Northern California killed 44 people and destroyed more than 8,000 structures. Last December's Thomas Fire near Santa Barbara burned almost 282,000 acres (440 square miles), becoming the largest wildfire in California history.

In his 19 years on the job, Cal Fire Capt. Chris Anthony said the most significant change is that hotter, drier conditions now mean that firefighters are trained to take a "tactical pause" to reconsider before charging in against the flames.

"Fire has become a lot more unpredictable," he said. "In the past we could plan, but these days a fire can take a sudden and deadly turn."

That's what happened Thursday, when the fire near Redding pivoted and exploded in size, taking down hundreds of homes and killing five people, two of them firefighters. Another firefighter was killed earlier in the month battling a giant fire near Yosemite National Park.

Firefighter Jason Campbell was on the front lines Thursday near Yosemite when the Carr Fire destroyed his home, an RV and a boat near Redding. Redding Police Chief Roger Moore also lost his home.

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Capt. Jarrett Grassl, a 19-year veteran who works for the Higgins Fire District in Northern California, said his crew ran into homeowners trying to save their own properties. The threat to homes reflects the shrinking divide between wilderness and urban areas.

"Every year it seems to be a bigger problem," Grassl said Saturday, in 110-degree weather with zero precipitation.

Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko said he can see the fatigue on the faces of the firefighters when they come in to refuel.

"What really helps to encourage them is a thank you," Bosenko said Sunday. "Maybe something posted near the fence that gives them encouragement ... that is a big plus for the firefighters that are coming in to recover."

Fighting wildfires is almost always dangerous and grueling, but experienced firefighters said the Carr Fire has been even hotter, drier and more erratic than they are accustomed to.

Crews used shovels, hoses and chain saws to corral giant walls of flame that burned through canyons and up steep gulches. The air was thick with smoke and dust as they hauled heavy gear up and down unstable hillsides, grabbing gulps of water whenever they could. They largely worked in silence, with the sound of crashing tree limbs and roaring flames drowning out radios.

Nevada County Fire Capt. Nathan Menth calls California's weather system "the prolonged summer." Replenishing fire hose gear after spending the night protecting a Redding neighborhood, he said he was surprised by how quickly the fire spread.

"The winds came in," he said. "It was out of control."

But 13 years into his career, that chaos is something he's come to expect.

There was one small bright spot in his last shift. As flames leaped from one pine to the next, creating a canopy of fire, his team stopped its truck in a driveway near scattered oak trees, expecting the wildfire to continue unchecked.

"But this one oak, it slowed it down," he said. "I don't know why, but it just didn't torch off. And that allowed us to turn the fire from those homes, to be proactive instead of reactive."

After prison release, Palestinian teen considers law study

By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press

NABI SALEH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian teen Ahed Tamimi, who became an international symbol of resistance to Israeli occupation after slapping two soldiers, walked out of an Israeli prison Sunday and told throngs of journalists and well-wishers that she now wants to study law to defend her people.

The curly haired 17-year-old said that "resistance continues until the occupation is removed," but refrained from saying she would slap soldiers again. The teen, who is on probation, said her eight months in prison were tough and helped her appreciate life.

At an outdoor news conference near her family home, she spoke against the backdrop of a large model of a slingshot that was "loaded" with a pencil rather than a stone, apparently to highlight education as one of the possible Palestinian tactics.

Underlying her case are clashing narratives about Israel's half-century rule over the Palestinians, the extent of permissible Palestinian resistance to it and the battle for global public opinion.

Tamimi's 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, 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. In liberal circles, the hard-charging prosecution of Tamimi was criticized as a public relations disaster because it turned her into an international icon.

Her release comes at a time when Palestinian hopes for an independent state appear dimmer than ever. Israeli-Palestinian talks on setting up a state in lands captured by Israel in 1967 — the West Bank, the

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Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — have been deadlocked since hard-line Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in 2009. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas suspended contacts with the U.S. after President Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December in what Palestinians denounced as a display of blatant pro-Israel bias. Abbas, meanwhile, has stepped up financial pressure on Gaza, controlled since 2007 by his bitter domestic rival, the Islamic militant Hamas.

Many Palestinians are disillusioned by their leaders in both political camps and feel exhausted after years of conflict with Israel. Alternatives have arisen, including calling for a single state for both peoples between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean, but haven't gained a mass following.

In this context, the idea of so-called popular resistance — regular demonstrations, including stone-throwing by unarmed protesters — has only caught on in a few West Bank villages, including Nabi Saleh, home to the extended Tamimi clan.

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 said they were caught in the act along with another Palestinian and arrested for vandalism. On Sunday, Israel canceled the visas of the two Italians and ordered them to leave the country within three days, police said.

Ahed and her mother Nariman — also arrested in December in connection with the same incident — were released Sunday morning from a prison in northern Israel. They were driven by bus to the West Bank and were given a hero's welcome in Nabi Saleh.

"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, kissed the headstone — twice at the request of photographers — and recited a prayer from the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

She was then taken with her family to a meeting with Abbas at his headquarters in Ramallah.

The 83-year-old Abbas praised her as a symbol of resistance to occupation — even as he faces growing domestic criticism for not walking away from continued security coordination between his forces and Israeli troops against Hamas, a shared foe.

In an afternoon news conference, Ahed said that she completed her high school exams in prison, with the help of other prisoners. Palestinian inmates typically organize study courses to complete high school and even university degrees.

"I will study law to defend my people and defend my Palestinian cause in international forums," she said.

She said her prison experience was tough, and that she missed her old life in the village and her friends. She said she underwent three lengthy interrogations without a female officer present, in violation of Israel's own rules.

At one point Sunday, Ahed received a call from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who congratulated her on her release, said her father.

Tamimi's scuffle with the two soldiers took place Dec. 15 in Nabi Saleh.

At the time, protests had erupted in several parts of the West Bank over 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.

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

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

'Mission: Impossible _ Fallout' shoots to No. 1

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After six movies, 22 years, countless bruises and a broken ankle, Tom Cruise's death-defying "Mission: Impossible" stunts continue to pay off at the box office.

"Mission: Impossible — Fallout" easily took the No. 1 spot on the domestic charts this weekend. Paramount Pictures estimates that it earned \$61.5 million from 4,386 North American theaters.

Not accounting for inflation, it's a best for the long-running franchise, which has grossed \$2.8 billion worldwide, and one of Cruise's biggest too (just shy of "War of the Worlds"' \$64.9 million debut in 2005). Internationally, the film earned \$92 million from 36 markets which is also a franchise best.

Directed by Christopher McQuarrie, "Fallout" has scored some of the best reviews in the series and has been in the news cycle for almost a year. Talk about the film started early, in August of 2017, when Cruise broke his ankle performing a stunt in London with video to prove it.

"Paramount was strategically perfect in their marketing and publicity game," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "They showed how important a star's presence is in marketing the movie early on. Tom Cruise broke his ankle and they made that into a positive for the movie — it fed the Tom Cruise 'Mission: Impossible' mystique."

Second place went to "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," which fell 57 percent in its second weekend in theaters, to earn \$15 million. It was a much steeper decline than the first film, which dropped only 36 percent between its first and second weekends.

Denzel Washington's "The Equalizer 2" slid to third with \$14 million in weekend two, and "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation" took fourth with \$12.3 million.

The animated "Teen Titans Go! To the Movies," a feature spinoff of the Cartoon Network television show about Robin and some of the lesser-known DC superheroes, was the only major film to open against "Fallout." The Warner Bros. release earned \$10.5 million and landed in fifth place.

The film earned positive reviews from critics and younger audiences, but also faced a fair amount of animated competition from both "Hotel Transylvania 3" and "Incredibles 2," which is still going strong in its seventh weekend and headed toward the \$1 billion mark. As of Sunday the Disney/Pixar sequel had earned an estimated \$996.5 million globally.

But although \$10.5 million might seem on the lower side, "Teen Titans" also cost only \$10 million to produce.

"Family movies like this will play for a lot of weeks," said Warner Bros.' domestic distribution president Jeff Goldstein. "The whole objective of this movie was to work with our cousins in other Warner units for brand identification."

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

1. "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," \$61.5 million (\$92 million international).
2. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$15 million (\$26.6 million international).
3. "The Equalizer 2," \$14 million (\$1.9 million international).
4. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," \$12.3 million (\$31 million international).
5. "Teen Titans Go! To the Movies," \$10.5 million (\$1 million international).
6. "Ant-Man and The Wasp," \$8.4 million (\$11.5 million international).
7. "Incredibles 2," \$7.2 million (\$20 million international).
8. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," \$6.8 million (\$10.9 million international).

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9. "Skyscraper," \$5.4 million (\$17.7 million international).
10. "The First Purge," \$2.2 million (\$4.5 million international).

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

1. "Hello Mr. Billionaire," \$129.5 million.
2. "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," \$92 million.
3. "Detective Dee: The Four Heavenly Kings," \$42.9 million.
4. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," \$31 million.
5. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$26.6 million.
6. "Incredibles 2," \$20 million.
7. "Skyscraper," \$17.7 million.
8. "Ant-Man and The Wasp," \$11.5 million.
9. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," \$10.9 million.
10. "Illang: The Wolf Brigade," \$5.2 million.

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

Trump willing to shut down government over border security

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Sunday that he would consider shutting down the government if Democrats refuse to vote for his immigration proposals, including a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

Republicans, trying to protect their majority in Congress, are playing down the chance of a shutdown as the November election nears. Trump, however, isn't backing away from the idea.

"I would be willing to 'shut down' government if the Democrats do not give us the votes for Border Security, which includes the Wall!" Trump tweeted. "Must get rid of Lottery, Catch & Release etc. and finally go to system of Immigration based on MERIT!

"We need great people coming into our Country!" Trump said.

Trump returned to the idea of shutting down the government over the border wall after meeting at the White House last week with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to discuss the fall legislative agenda.

McConnell, asked about a shutdown during a Kentucky radio interview, said it was not going to happen. He did acknowledge, however, that the border funding issue was unlikely to be resolved before the midterm elections.

Ryan said after the meeting: "The president's willing to be patient to make sure that we get what we need so that we can get that done." He added that money for the wall was "not a question of if, it's a question of when."

Trump campaigned on the promise of building a border wall to deter illegal immigration and making Mexico pay for it. Mexico has refused.

Congress has given the president some wall funding but far from the \$25 billion he has requested. Trump

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wants changes to legal immigration, including scrapping a visa lottery program. In addition, he wants to end the practice of releasing immigrants caught entering the country illegally on the condition that they show up for court hearings.

Trump has also demanded that the U.S. shift to an immigration system based more on merit and less on family ties.

Democrats and some Republicans have objected to some of the changes Trump seeks.

The federal budget year ends Sept. 30, and lawmakers will spend much of August in their states campaigning for re-election. The House is now in recess, returning after Labor Day. The Senate remains in session and is set to go on break the week of Aug. 6 before returning for the rest of the month. McConnell canceled most of the Senate's recess to give senators time to work on the annual spending bills that fund government operations.

Both chambers will have a short window to approve a spending bill before government funding expires.

Trump would be taking a political risk if he does allow most government functions to lapse on Oct. 1 — the first day of the new budget year — roughly a month before the Nov. 6 elections, when Republican control of both the House and Senate is at stake.

Some Republican lawmakers doubted the government would be forced to shut down.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that he didn't think shutting down the government just before the elections would be helpful "so let's try and avoid it."

Rep. Steve Stivers, R-Ohio, chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, the campaign arm for GOP House candidates, agreed.

"I think we're going to make sure we keep the government open, but we're going to get better policies on immigration," he said on ABC's "This Week." "The president, I think, wants us to have policies that work for America and work for Americans, and I think that's what we are going to move forward with."

House Republicans released a spending bill this month that provides \$5 billion next year to build Trump's wall, a plan he supports.

Democrats have long opposed financing Trump's wall but lack the votes by themselves to block House approval of that amount. They do, however, have the strength to derail legislation in the closely divided Senate.

The \$5 billion is well above the \$1.6 billion in the Senate version of the bill, which would finance the Department of Homeland Security. The higher amount matches what Trump has privately sought in conversations with Republican lawmakers, according to a GOP congressional aide who wasn't authorized to publicly talk about private discussions and spoke on condition of anonymity.

At the White House meeting last week, Trump, Ryan and McConnell agreed that Congress is on track to enact more than half of federal spending before the new budget year begins Oct. 1, but that DHS funding, including the border wall money, doesn't have to be settled before then, according to a person familiar with the meeting who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two leading Democrats — Reps. Nita Lowey of New York and California's Lucille Roybal-Allard — called the \$5 billion a waste that "only further enables this administration's obsession with cruel attacks on immigrants."

Trump also tweeted on Sunday that there are "consequences when people cross our Border illegally" and claimed many who do so are "using children for their own sinister purposes."

Trump's tweet came several days after the government said more than 1,800 children separated at the U.S.-Mexico border under Trump's "zero-tolerance" immigration policy have been reunited with parents and sponsors. A federal judge had ordered the reunions to be completed by last Thursday, but hundreds of children remain separated. The administration says some of their parents have criminal histories.

"Please understand, there are consequences when people cross our Border illegally, whether they have children or not - and many are just using children for their own sinister purposes," Trump said.

this report.

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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

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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 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 tinplate 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 tinplate "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 tinplate 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.

3 dead, 7 wounded after gunmen in New Orleans fire on crowd

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Two armed individuals walked up to a crowd gathered Saturday evening outside a strip mall in New Orleans and opened fire, killing three people and wounding seven more, the police chief said.

The shooting happened on a busy thoroughfare about 3 miles (4.83 kilometers) from the French Quarter, police said.

Police chief Michael Harrison, speaking to reporters late Saturday in televised comments, said the two suspects believed to be wearing hoodies had a rifle and a handgun. He said they appeared to have fired indiscriminately into the crowd, striking ten people. Before fleeing they took time to stand over one person.

"We believe that they actually stood over one of the individuals and fired multiple rounds and then after that fled," he said.

Police responding to the shooting found three victims - two men and one woman - who were pronounced dead at the scene. Seven other victims - five men and two women - were taken to two separate hospitals. Four of them were driven in private vehicles, and three were transported by ambulance.

Harrison said one underwent surgery and was in critical condition; the other six were in various conditions but none were considered life-threatening.

Harrison spoke with family members and friends at the scene of the "volatile and tense situation." He called on people to come forward and help police find the killers and also asked people not to take matters into their own hands.

"This was an extremely tragic incident. A lot of people were out here tonight. A lot of people, we know, saw what happened, heard what happened. And we need more than anything for people to come forward to help the NOPD right now solve this case," Harrison said.

He said police do not know whether it was gang-related.

Lawrence Russo was buying a scratch-off ticket at nearby gas station when he heard what he at first thought were firecrackers before he realized they were gunshots. He told NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune that he heard a total of 13 to 16 shots fired.

"They never stop killing each other," he said, shaking his head as he spoke.

Near the scene of the shooting, beyond the police tape, people could be seen crying and hugging one another in comfort.

The New Orleans Advocate (<https://bit.ly/2AlrJXt>) reported that a woman stood behind the crime scene tape shouting, "Pick my brother up," as two bodies lay uncovered. NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune reported two men were trying to console two sobbing women as one of the women shouted: "That's my baby."

Mayor LaToya Cantrell said in a statement: "There is no place in New Orleans for this kind of violence. I speak for everyone in our City when I say we are disgusted, we are infuriated, & we have had more than enough. Three more lives — gone. It has to end. It's unacceptable anywhere."

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.

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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.

ICE quest for detention sites puts Trump county on tightrope

By ADAM GELLER, AP National Writer

GOSHEN, Indiana (AP) — The sermon had been preached, the last prayers offered. Now, Mike Yoder decided, the time had come to share unsettling news.

As congregants at Silverwood Mennonite Church chatted around a Sunday potluck spread, Yoder, a county commissioner for 13 years and a dairy farmer for much longer, huddled with Pastor Jeremy Shue at the edge of the hall. There was a very good chance, Yoder confided, that the nation's newest immigration detention center would soon rise from a soybean field north of town.

"One of the only positives is that it would be less of a drive to protest," Shue said.

Yoder needed no reminder of the potential for conflict. The Republican had paid close attention when nearly two-thirds of Elkhart County's voters backed Donald Trump for president after a campaign in which he lambasted immigrants. He knew just as well that the politically mixed county seat and the largest local employers had made a place for thousands of immigrants from Mexico — a significant, but uncertain, number of them in the U.S. illegally.

It was a balancing act in this part of northern Indiana, founded on sometimes conflicting views about business and faith, community and law. And the proposal for a 1,200-bed detention center put decision-makers on the tightrope.

"It was like a microcosm of all the different issues of immigration," Yoder said, "right here in this county."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has long sought to consolidate immigrants held in scattered Midwest jails. Since 2011, contractors have proposed detention centers in seven communities near Chicago, from the exurb of Crete, Illinois, to the steel center of Gary, Indiana.

"This is a game of whack-a-mole," said Fred Tsao of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, who has worked with activists to push a number of those proposals to defeat.

Local governments in Texas and California recently canceled agreements to hold detainees for ICE even

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as other communities seek the jobs and dollars that doing so can generate.

But demand for those facilities is rising. Though Trump talks up building a border wall, his administration has focused a large part of its policy on arrests away from the border and is seeking new detention sites.

ICE does not own most of these facilities. Instead, it hires companies whose for-profit lockups hold two-thirds of the immigrants detained for being in the country illegally, with others in local jails under contract. The agency spends about \$134 a day to hold each detainee, government figures show .

Last fall, ICE put out a request for new detention sites near Chicago, Detroit, Salt Lake City and St. Paul, Minnesota, as well as in South Texas, as it sought to expand capacity from 40,000 migrants to 51,000.

A proposal by CoreCivic Inc., one of the nation's largest private prison companies, put Elkhart County on that list.

The county, two hours east of Chicago, is the hub of the booming recreational vehicle industry with around 2 percent unemployment. A large Amish population has long provided many factory workers, but with 9,000 openings, "we have a lot of jobs that nobody wants," said Yoder, whose father once led RV manufacturer Jayco Inc.

Immigrants have filled much of the gap in the workforce, yet residents remain divided on issues including immigration. More than 7,000 packed an Elkhart school gym in May to cheer Trump. But the county seat of Goshen — dotted with multilingual yard signs proclaiming "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor"— is a counterweight, home to a Mennonite college and large Latino population.

The proposal for a detention center would jab at those complexities. Yoder jumped in first, trying for a dialogue instead of a dispute.

"Commissioners had a mess to deal with, and that's the reason I reached out early," Yoder said. "It didn't go as planned. Maybe that was because I was naive."

Richard Aguirre had spent months helping start an ID card program for Goshen's immigrants, many barred from obtaining driver's licenses because they were in the U.S. illegally. To Aguirre, a Goshen College administrator, it was a victory, however local.

On campus, he knew dozens of students brought to the U.S. illegally as children. The grandson of Mexican immigrants, Aguirre had childhood memories of relatives struggling to get by without work papers.

"It struck me as unfair that depending on which side of the border you were born on, you had a good life or a fairly miserable life," he said.

When Yoder heard about the detention center, he knew it might antagonize people like Aguirre. But the project would be difficult to turn down, Yoder said. It would reap jobs and taxes from a site across from the county landfill and jail. Many Republican voters would likely back it.

So he asked his pastor to arrange a meeting with Mennonite clergy, many of whom preach a message of welcoming the stranger. If a detention center was going to get built, Yoder said, maybe it would be best where clergy could minister to detainees.

He also was mindful of the county's growing Latino population and Goshen's more liberal voters. Elkhart County is about 16 percent Hispanic, drawn to a region that produces 4 of every 5 RVs in North America. In Goshen, though, nearly a third of residents are Latino, accounting for more than half of school enrollment. Downtown, taquerias mix with wine bars and antique shops.

So the same day he spoke to pastors, Yoder met with Goshen Mayor Jeremy Stutsman, Aguirre and others.

"I'd really like your help communicating calmness," the commissioner said.

"My reaction was, 'No way!'" Aguirre said.

That night, he started a Facebook page for the Coalition Against the Elkhart County Immigration Detention Center. Activists had already planned a rally to celebrate the ID cards. Aguirre recast it as a protest.

Driving toward the courthouse on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Aguirre figured icy rain would cap turnout at 60. Then he climbed to the top of the granite steps, handing a microphone to Felipe Merino, an immigration attorney and the president of Goshen's school board.

"I want you to raise your hands if you believe that we do not want an immigration detention facility in

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Elkhart County, Indiana!" Merino said.

More than 200 thrust fists from under umbrellas.

"No!" they shouted.

Listening to Yoder explain the detention center, Neil Amstutz, pastor of Waterford Mennonite Church, knew it was a proposal he could not abide.

Years before, he had served as a missionary in Bolivia and worked in San Antonio, Texas, to settle refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala, becoming fluent in Spanish. After talking with fellow Mennonite clergy, he called a Mexican immigrant pastor, Jose Luis Gutierrez, whose Pentecostal church sits alongside an apple orchard two miles from Amstutz's own.

Gutierrez's church, Comunidad Cristiana Adulam, is named for the biblical cave where King David took refuge.

"Some people from my community find that kind of protection — they feel like refugees — in the church," Gutierrez said. "It's a safe place for worship because of the language, and it doesn't matter if they have documents or not."

With another pastor, Gutierrez and Amstutz invited clergy from around the county to meet, and the group made plans for a communitywide service to oppose the detention center.

On Dec. 17, in a sanctuary decorated with candles for the holiday, an impromptu congregation filled most of the pews of Elkhart's First Presbyterian Church.

"Why are we here?" Amstutz preached. "To show that whether or not our government builds a bigger wall to keep immigrants out, God's church is about breaking down dividing walls!"

But many immigrants were increasingly apprehensive.

When 19-year-old Lizeth Ochoa first heard about the detention center, she imagined a lockup filled with criminals.

"But then I realized, oh, it's for people like me," said Ochoa.

When Ochoa was 9 months old, her mother paid a smuggler to spirit them from Mexico. They joined her father, who had already found work in Elkhart.

Now, though, her place in the U.S. felt increasingly tenuous. President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiative had eased concerns about deportation, but Trump was pulling the plug on the program. At home, she and her parents avoided talk of the detention center, fearful of upsetting her four U.S.-born siblings. But quietly, she considered what they would do if ICE officers newly assigned to Elkhart knocked on their door.

"It's been very stressful, (thinking) that my siblings might end up in foster homes because my parents and I would get deported," said Ochoa, who will be a junior next fall at Goshen College. Nearly a quarter of its 900 students are now Latino, many brought to the U.S. illegally when they were children, and so Ochoa was not alone in worrying.

Trump's election had already unsettled some in Gutierrez's congregation. Talk of a detention center renewed their uneasiness.

"If ICE can do that in this county, people are going to go away," said Luis Fraire, a mechanic who came to Elkhart from Mexico 11 years ago, married and started a family and a business.

"We are all brothers in God," he said, as fellow worshippers filtered out of Adulam one Sunday. "We pray to God because nobody else can stop this but him."

To others, a detention center was just what the county needed.

"Make sure you build it big 'cause it's going to be overflowing," George Holiday, a retired forklift driver, posted online.

In an interview, Holiday said the county had changed tremendously in recent years, with more signs in Spanish and new arrivals who don't seem to speak English. Immigrants work hard but disregard laws requiring permission to enter or stay, he said.

A decade ago, Bob Schrameyer and fellow Goshen residents lobbied police to partner with ICE, and

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pushed employers to vet workers' legal status. The problem, Schrameyer contends, is that many immigrants don't pay their fair share of taxes, while collecting welfare benefits.

When he sought tighter controls, those who disagreed argued that enforcement was the federal government's job. But when the Trump administration tried to do it, people complained about that, too, said Schrameyer, a retiree and founder of the local Citizens for Immigration Law Enforcement.

The detention center "was a no-brainer," bound to bring in new taxes, Schrameyer said.

"But the loud opponents of it were the supporters of illegal immigrants in the area and, of course, they were worried the storm troopers were coming to town," Schrameyer said.

On a recent morning, Roland Weaver put aside the trowel he was using to seal the foundation of his home, down County Road 7 from the proposed detention site. Such a facility would uphold the rule of law, he said, but there was more to it.

"We have a Constitution founded on the principles of God, and a lot of them, the illegals, they don't have that where they're from and so they can bring in their beliefs. That's what waters down what this country was founded on," said Weaver, a tiler at an RV plant.

"A lot of people say Jesus, he loved illegals and he didn't have borders when he was on this earth. But, hey, it's a different world."

At a holiday gathering in late December, Mayor Stutsman ran into retired cardiologist Mark Smucker. Talking over the proposal, the men were joined by Galen Miller, owner of a poultry company and a friend of Smucker's since childhood.

"The argument I made was if we ever solve our problems with immigration in this country, either by reform or by deporting everybody, at some point we aren't going to need an immigration detention center," Smucker said. "It seemed to me that the people in the RV manufacturing community would not like to see even more of their workers drift away."

Stutsman, a Democrat, proposed a letter of opposition. Miller agreed to reach out to executives at Elkhart's RV companies.

Back when CoreCivic had first called, Yoder said he cautioned a company official that the biggest potential pitfall would be wariness from major employers. But any concerns had largely been kept silent.

"There is this dilemma," said Jim Siegmann, former owner of a printing company who is active in business and civic circles. Many of Elkhart's business leaders, he said, are politically conservative but count on immigrant workers, though some are in the U.S. illegally.

"They know they couldn't run their businesses without them," he said.

When a small group met in Stutsman's office, several executives endorsed his letter.

Worries, though, were stretching beyond profits. Civic leaders, wary of recessions and the region's reputation as flyover country, had long invested in projects to make the county a draw for companies and workers. How did a detention center fit that script?

On a recent morning, Pete McCown, president of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, pointed from his office window to construction turning an industrial island at the junction of Elkhart's rivers into a new hub with hundreds of apartments. Construction workers clambered over a shell that will house a \$68 million community center with a natatorium for competitive swimming.

Elkhart wants jobs, McCown said. But a detention center would add positions that could be difficult to fill, while potentially labeling the county as a place to lock people up.

"We don't want that to become our identification," he said.

Stopping by the Electric Brew coffee shop in early January, Yoder ran into Aguirre.

CoreCivic officials were coming to meet business leaders, the commissioner said. Activists, whose on-line group had swelled to more than 2,000, organized a news conference, so representatives from the Nashville-based company would arrive to find their proposal in headlines.

The next morning, Jan. 17, Aguirre and others held protest signs outside Ivy Tech Community College

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as visitors in suits filed in.

Inside, CoreCivic representatives laid out their plans to executives from Thor Industries Inc. and Forest River Inc., the country's largest RV makers; parts supplier Lippert Components; and other major employers.

They and other executives declined to comment or did not respond to calls or emails. But people who attended the meeting or spoke with those who did said that after listening to CoreCivic's presentation, local executives were very direct.

"I do business here. I've been here my whole life, and I don't want you to come here," Forest River CEO Peter Liegl is said to have told the visitors.

Employers' biggest issue was that a detention center "would create concern and fear within the Latino community and would lead them to relocate," said CoreCivic spokesman Steve Owen, who attended the meeting.

"That, to me, was the defining moment," said Yoder.

The next day, Stutsman released his letter.

"Any tax dollars generated by the project wouldn't be enough to offset the long-lasting damage such a facility would do to our county," he wrote, backed by 45 CEOs and civic leaders. "Join us in showing all newcomers to our communities how welcoming we are."

Yoder counseled CoreCivic officials to think over their next move. It came the following Monday.

"After careful consideration," a company official wrote, "CoreCivic has decided to withdraw its application."

"We won!" Aguirre posted on Facebook. "We won!"

On the first Friday night of each month, Goshen residents gather around the Elkhart County Courthouse for a street festival.

In early June, an Amish couple sold kettle corn. Children scribbled their names on the sidewalk with chalk. A local band, Los Ortega, pumped Mexican dance tunes across the grass.

"I love living here," said Pepe Urzua, a roofer who arrived from Mexico eight years ago, cradling his infant daughter. "It's a place where you want to raise your kids."

Across the grass, Rob Emahiser, a salesman for a tire manufacturer, looked out over the crowd.

"I'm a Trump-loving Republican, and I love everything about this community," he said.

Emahiser raised his beer to the tax cut Trump signed into law. Then he praised Latino co-workers and neighbors for working hard and taking care of their families — and pointed out that sometimes he and the president would have to disagree.

"They wanted to build a detention center in this town," he said as a guitarist led a line of dancing Latino couples through lengthening shadows. "That's just not who we are."

Geller can be reached at ageller@ap.org or at <https://twitter.com/AdGeller>

Read more of AP's coverage of the reverberations of the Trump administration's policies on immigration here .

Harvey's devastating flooding boosts insurance in Texas

By **JUAN A. LOZANO** and **MEGHAN HOYER**, Associated Press

KATY, Texas (AP) — Little more than two months before Hurricane Harvey slammed the Gulf Coast of Texas, Alberto Castañeda let his home's flood insurance lapse. He had never filed a claim on the policy in 10 years and he needed the extra cash to expand his restaurant business.

Standing inside his suburban Houston home nearly a year later, Castañeda tallies the cost of the destructive floods to himself and his uninsured neighbors: one couple in their 70s let their home go into foreclosure; two people, overwhelmed by the difficulties of rebuilding, committed suicide; Castañeda, 52, ended up using nearly \$135,000 from his business to cover repairs to his home that Harvey submerged under more than 2 feet (60 centimeters) of water.

"It's very devastating, especially if you don't have the insurance. You feel like, 'What am I going to do?'"

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Castañeda tearfully explains.

Castañeda bought new flood insurance after Harvey, and many others in Texas have done the same. But data from states with a history of extreme weather suggests those numbers will eventually drop off, leaving residents once again vulnerable to flooding costs — a situation the Federal Emergency Management Agency says it's working to avoid.

Houston, in Harris County, suffered the brunt of Harvey when it pummeled Texas last August. Harvey dumped nearly 50 inches (130 centimeters) of rain on parts of the flood-prone city. The storm killed nearly 70 people, damaged more than 300,000 structures and caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, the top elected county official, says more than 100,000 flooded homes in Harris County didn't have flood insurance. According to FEMA, 80 percent of all households affected by Harvey weren't covered for floods.

An AP analysis found fewer than one in five properties in high-risk flood zones had coverage.

Commercial properties also found themselves in trouble.

"All of this was just a big lake," says Woody Lesikar, the manager of West Houston Airport, pointing to the runway and around 80 hangars that Harvey submersed under up to 2 feet (60 centimeters) of water. The terminal was swamped and almost a dozen planes were totaled.

He says the airport had never needed flood insurance in its more than 50-year history. A month after Harvey, the airport purchased a policy.

According to FEMA, Texas experienced a more than 18 percent increase in flood insurance policies from July 2017 to the end of May, reversing a long-term declining trend. Harris County, including hardest-hit Houston, saw a near 23 percent jump, while neighboring Fort Bend County, where Castañeda lives, saw a 54 percent increase. The number of properties insured against floods in Houston alone increased by 18 percent, rocketing it past Miami as the city with the most flood insurance policies in the country.

But experts warn the data doesn't mean a permanent upswing.

Residents tend to buy policies for a few years after big disasters then cancel because they feel the unused policy is an unnecessary expense, said Howard Kunreuther, co-director of the University of Pennsylvania's Risk Management and Decision Processes Center.

In Louisiana, after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, the number of flood insurance policies jumped from 380,000 to 490,000 in one year. That fell to 450,000 but then climbed again after catastrophic flooding in Baton Rouge and Lafayette in 2016. Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance James Donelon warns this may not last.

"Our experience over the past 10 years is that memories fade and people ... put their greatest asset at risk of being lost in the next severe rain event," Donelon says.

The year after Superstorm Sandy in 2012, flood insurance policies increased by 2 percent in New Jersey and 12.5 percent in New York. But since the end of 2013, policies have dropped by 7.4 percent in New Jersey and 8 percent in New York.

FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program has come under criticism for not doing enough to persuade home and business owners to purchase coverage. Last year, the program announced its "moonshot goal" of doubling by 2022 the number of structures in the U.S. covered by flood insurance from 4 million to 8 million.

FEMA says it has targeted areas identified using high-tech mapping tools that narrowly missed being flooded during Harvey for insurance advertising, resulting in increased coverage in Texas.

"What we're trying to drive is really a culture of preparedness," said Paul Huang, the assistant administrator for federal insurance at FEMA.

But that goal might be hard to attain. Policies nationally had been declining since 2009, and despite the bump in Texas since Harvey, coverage has continued to drop in most states, according to an AP analysis of FEMA data.

Donelon says he doesn't think the FEMA program will boost its numbers unless coverage is required on all federally backed mortgages. And he warns that congressional reauthorization of the program, which

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is saddled with \$20 billion in debt, could result in higher premiums.

Standing in his home, still without floors, cabinets or appliances, Castañeda hopes he can move back in by the end of July.

"We've bought the insurance and whatever happens, happens in the future," he says.

Hoyer reported from Washington, D.C.

Follow Juan A. Lozano on Twitter at www.twitter.com/juanlozano70

Average price of US gas slips 3 cents, to \$2.91 a gallon

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The average price of regular-grade gasoline in the U.S. fell 3 cents over the past two weeks to \$2.91.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the average price is 59 cents higher than it was one year ago.

Lundberg says the drop comes mostly from lower crude oil prices and generally weak demand for gas across the U.S.

The highest average price in the contiguous 48 states was \$3.71 in the San Francisco Bay Area. The lowest was \$2.50 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The U.S. average diesel price is \$3.17, also down 3 cents.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 30, the 211th day of 2018. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowder-laden mine shaft beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" — WAVES for short.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2001, Robert Mueller (MUHL-ur), President George W. Bush's choice to head the FBI, promised the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed, he would move forcefully to fix problems at the agency. (Mueller became FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, a week before the 9/11 attacks.)

In 2002, WNBA player Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks became the first woman to dunk in a profes-

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sional game, jamming on a breakaway in the first half of the Sparks' 82-73 loss to the Miami Sol.

In 2003, President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq.

Ten years ago: Ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-ra-jich) was extradited to The Hague to face genocide charges after nearly 13 years on the run. President George W. Bush quietly signed a housing bill he'd once threatened to veto; it was intended to rescue some cash-strapped homeowners in fear of foreclosure. Amid corruption allegations and his own plummeting popularity, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (EH'-hood OHL'-murt) announced he would resign.

Five years ago: U.S. Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was acquitted of aiding the enemy — the most serious charge he faced — but was convicted of espionage, theft and other charges at Fort Meade, Maryland, more than three years after he'd spilled secrets to WikiLeaks. (The former intelligence analyst, now known as Chelsea Manning, was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison. The sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama in his final days in office.) Former Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., 98, died in Winchester, Virginia.

One year ago: Three days after the U.S. Congress approved sanctions against Russia in response to its meddling in the 2016 U.S. election and its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the United States would have to cut the number of embassy and consulate staff in Russia by 755.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Edd (correct) "Kookie" Byrnes is 85. Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 84. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 82. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 79. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 79. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 78. Singer Paul Anka is 77. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 73. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 71. Actor William Atherton is 71. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 70. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 70. Actor Frank Stallone is 68. Actor Ken Olin is 64. Actress Delta Burke is 62. Law professor Anita Hill is 62. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 60. Country singer Neal McCoy is 60. Actor Richard Burgi is 60. Movie director Richard Linklater is 58. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 57. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 55. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 55. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 55. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 54. Actor Terry Crews is 50. Actor Simon Baker is 49. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 49. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 48. Actor Tom Green is 47. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 47. Actress Christine Taylor is 47. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 45. Actress Hilary Swank is 44. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 41. Actress Jaime Pressly is 41. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 38. Actress April Bowlby is 38. Soccer player Hope Solo is 37. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 36. Actor Martin Starr is 36. Actress Gina Rodriguez is 34. Actor Nico Tortorella is 30. Actress Joey King is 19.

Thought for Today: "Individualism is rather like innocence; there must be something unconscious about it." — Louis Kronenberger, American drama critic (1904-1980).