

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 1 of 39



- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Hanlon Brothers Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Dairy Queen Help Wanted
- 2- Miracle Treat Day ad
- 3- Work being done at Aspen Lift Station
- 4- Bull has Yard of the Week
- 5- Outdoor World
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- National Weather map
- 8 Today's Weather Almanac
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 11- News from the Associated Press

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



**Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe



605/395-6531

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.

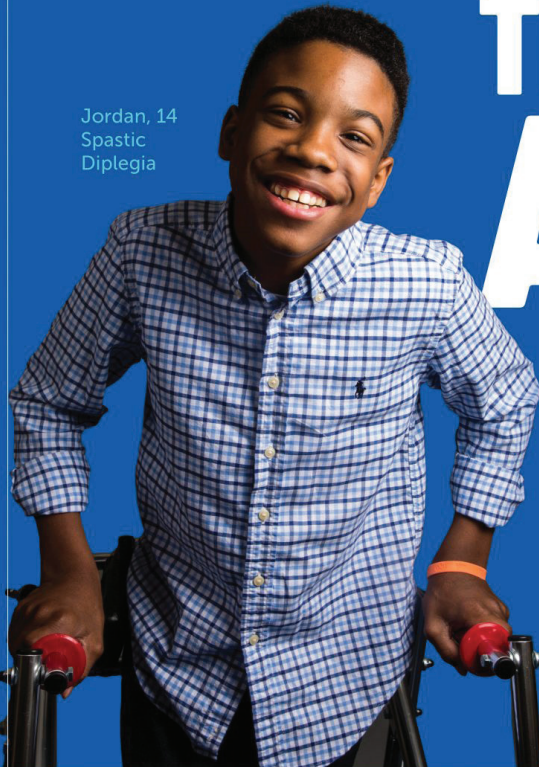
Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 2 of 39

MIRACLE TREAT DAY



Jordan, 14
Spastic
Diplegia



THURSDAY AUG 2

TOGETHER WE CREATE SMILES!



Children's
Miracle Network
Hospitals®

\$1 or more of each Blizzard® Treat pre-ordered for Miracle Treat Day at the Groton Dairy Queen will benefit the local Children's Miracle Network Hospital.



Valid Only at:
Groton DQ Grill & Chill Restaurant
11 E. Hwy 12
Groton, SD 57445
Phone: 605-397-8627

All trademarks owned or licensed by Am. D.Q. Corp. ©2018. ®, TM and ©2018 O.J of Am.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 3 of 39



The Aspen Lift Station is getting redone. It is the main liftstation that pumps the sewage to the lagoon south of Groton. A new liner is being installed in the wet well part and a new standby generator is also being installed.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 4 of 39



The Jodi Bull yard at 307 E. 4th Ave. has been chosen as this week's Yard of the Week by the members of the Groton Garden Club.



HOT WEATHER HIKING

If you plan on hiking in hot weather, freeze your water bottles the night before. In addition to hydration, the cold bottles held against your skin can help cool you down.

Sunscreen is a necessity – don't forget to apply it on your neck and ears. A floppy, wide brim hat protects the neck & ears much better than a baseball cap. Sunglasses are great for protecting your eyes from the sun.

Bring cooling towels to put around your neck and keep them wet. It's very refreshing to wipe your face, arms and legs with them when you start getting too hot.

Hot weather hiking takes a lot of energy and strength, so bring extra food. Don't be in a hurry. Take lots of breaks. Relax, have a sip of water or some food. Dip your feet in a creek or even take a swim.

Your feet might sweat more when it's hot. Wear a light pair of socks that wick away moisture and wear a pair of hiking socks on top.

It's always good in hot weather to take someone with you hiking and let others know where you are going and when you plan on returning in case of an emergency.

Check out all the great hiking clothing and gear at Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's stores or go to www.basspro.com or www.cabelas.com .

Outdoor World Tips presents free, seasonal how-to advice from Larry Whiteley, host of the award-winning Outdoor World Radio show. Each weekly tip offers practical advice to improve your outdoor skills or learn something you might not have known.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 6 of 39

Today in Weather History

August 1, 1978: A severe thunderstorm developed in west-central Beadle County during the afternoon hours and moved southeast. High winds near 80 mph and hail up to golf ball size pelted several counties along the storm path. Hail piled up to six inches deep and up to three feet in ditches. Hail remained visible in some areas up to thirty-six hours after the storm passed. Approximately 480,000 acres of crops were severely damaged or destroyed. Damage to crops and personal property were estimated to be nearly four million dollars.

August 1, 2000: A severe thunderstorm produced large hail up to golf ball size and damaging winds estimated at 90 to 110 mph across northeastern Wyoming and western South Dakota during the evening hours. The northern foothills of the Black Hills and the communities of Spearfish and Sturgis received the brunt of the storm. Considerable F0 and F1 wind damage (90 to 110 mph) occurred in and around Spearfish. The strong winds blew down trees, business and road signs, and damaged tents for the 60th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, destroying vendor merchandise and mobile homes.

1983: During the early afternoon hours, a strong microburst swept across Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Although the base anemometer was not calibrated at extreme wind speeds, the peak gust hit 149 mph. It was reported that Air Force One, with President Reagan on board, landed less than 10 minutes before the peak gust.

1986: A powerful thunderstorm produced 100 mph winds and large hail in eastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri causing 71 million dollars damage, and injuring 19 persons. It was one of the worst thunderstorms of record for Kansas. Crops were mowed to the ground in places and roofs blown off buildings along its path, 150 miles long and 30 miles wide, from near Abilene to southeast of Pittsburg.

1954 - Mount Rainier in Washington State was still covered with sixteen inches of snow at the 5500 foot level following a big snow season. (David Ludlum)

1985 - A nearly stationary thunderstorm deluged Cheyenne, WY, with rain and hail. Six inches of rain fell in six hours producing the most damaging flash flood of record for the state. Two to five feet of hail covered the ground following the storm, which claimed twelve lives, and caused 65 million dollars property damage. (Storm Data)

1986 - A powerful thunderstorm produced 100 mph winds and large hail in eastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri causing 71 million dollars damage, and injuring nineteen persons. It was one of the worst thunderstorms of record for Kansas. Crops were mowed to the ground in places and roofs blown off buildings along its path, 150 miles long and 30 miles wide, from near Abilene to southeast of Pittsburg. (The Weather Channel)






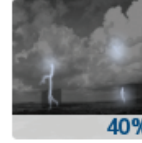

1987 - Record heat gripped parts of the Midwest. A dozen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lincoln, NE, with a reading of 105 degrees, Moline, IL, with an afternoon high of 103 degrees, and Burlington, IA, with a reading of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Two dozen cities in the Upper Midwest reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse WI with a reading of 105 degrees. Highs of 103 degrees at Milwaukee, WI, and South Bend, IN, were records for the month of August. (The National Weather Summary)

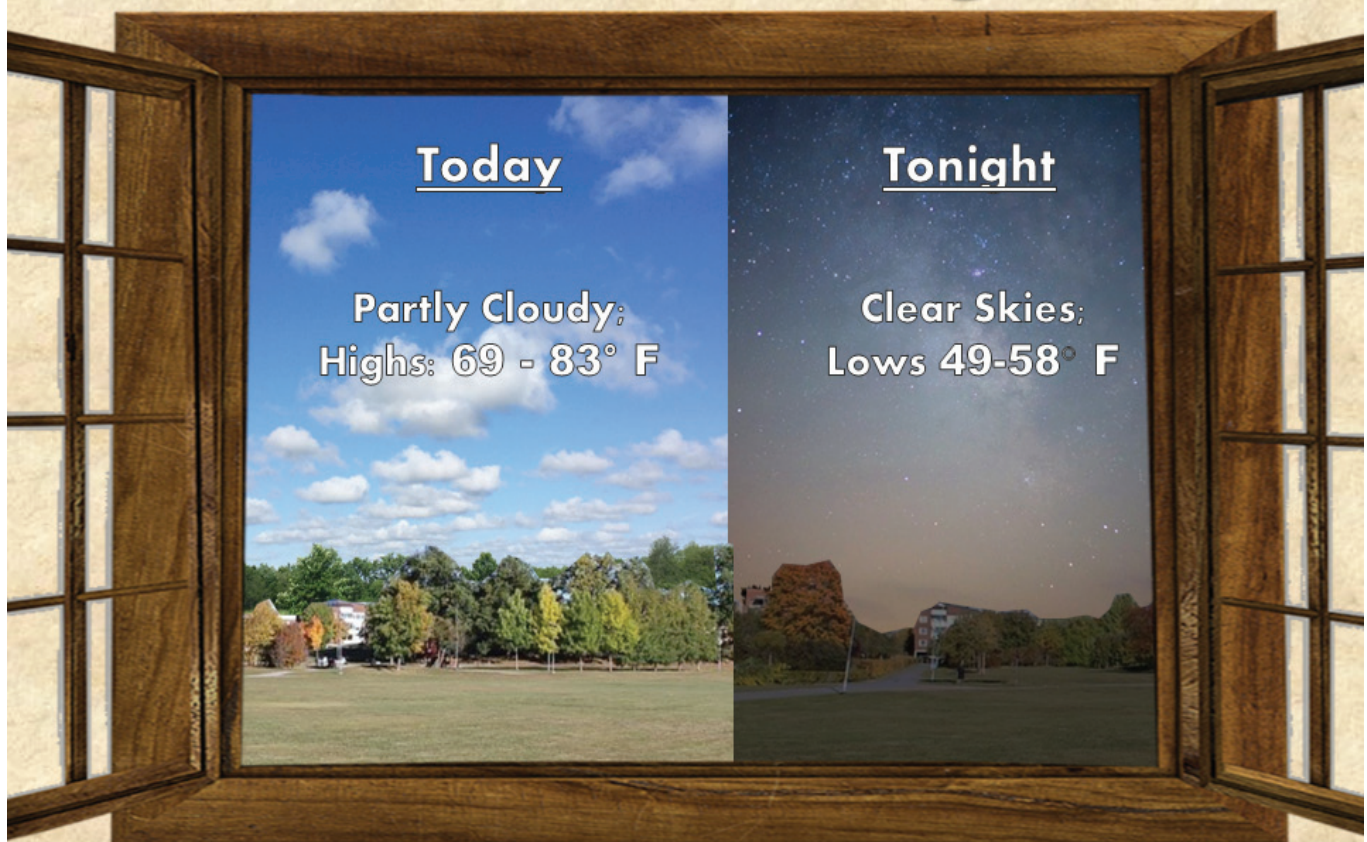
1989 - Hurricane Chantal made landfall along the Upper Texas coast about sunrise. Chantal deluged parts of Galveston Island and southeastern Texas with 8 to 12 inches of rain. Unofficial totals ranged up to twenty inches. Winds gusted to 82 mph at Galveston, and reached 76 mph in the Houston area. Tides were 5 to 7 feet high. The hurricane claimed two lives, and caused 100 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 7 of 39

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 72 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 95 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 89 °F

Cool Start to August



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 8/1/2018 4:32 AM Central

Published on: 08/01/2018 at 4:35AM

Cool temperatures are expected today with highs in the upper 60s, to the lower 80s. These readings are 5 to 15 degrees below normal for this time of year. Low temperatures tonight will drop into the upper 40s and mid-50s.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 8 of 39

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 89.2 F at 4:20 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 54.8 F at 6:04 AM

High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 5:39 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 111° in 1900

Record Low: 44° in 1948

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 3.02

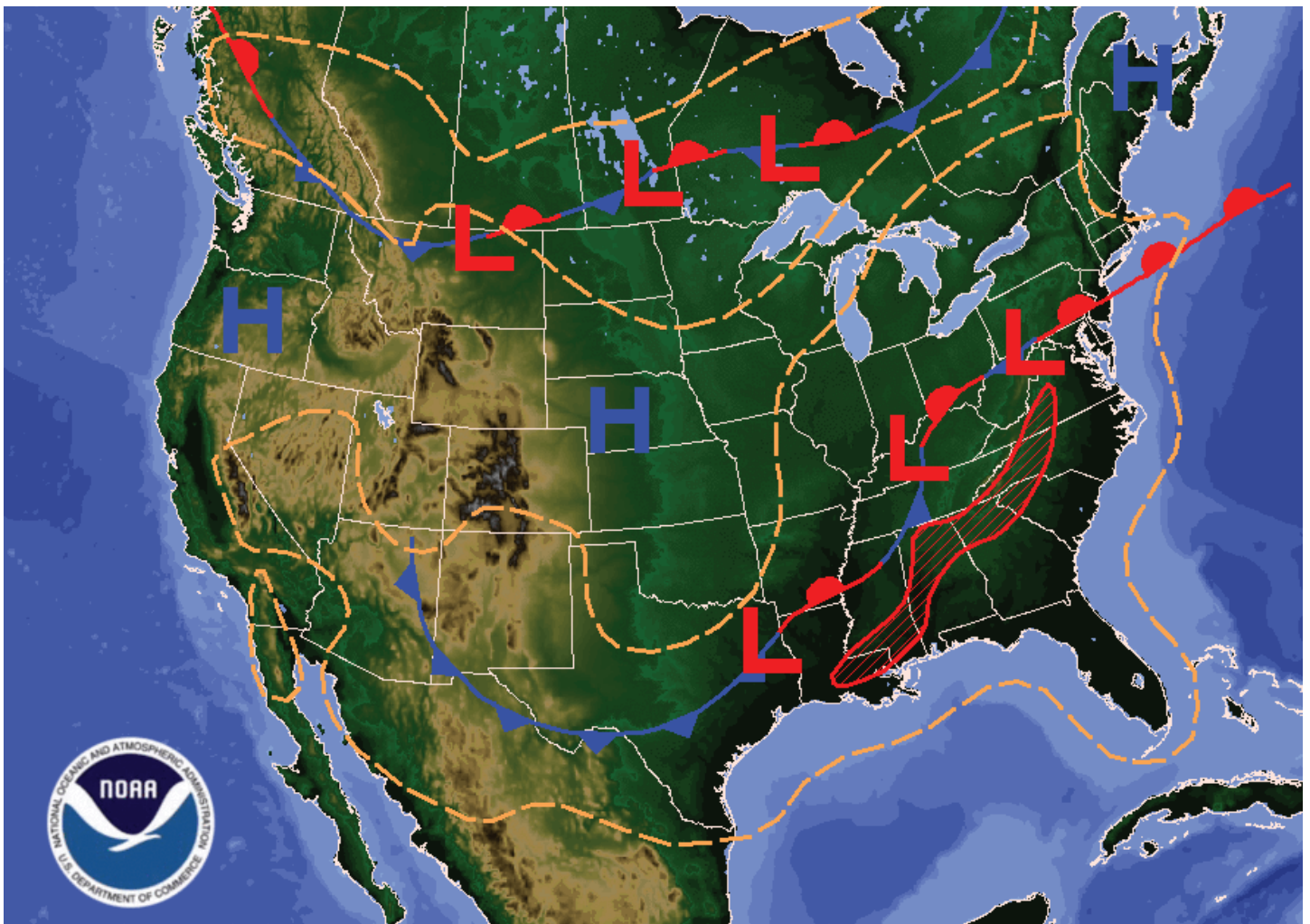
Precip to date in July: 3.99

Average Precip to date: 13.86

Precip Year to Date: 9.89

Sunset Tonight: 9:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jul 31, 2018, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 9 of 39



AWAKE AND ALERT!

Every living creature sleeps.

No matter who or what or where, every living thing sleeps. Consider the following:

Some humans sleep on their backs, their sides or their stomachs. Some sleep with their knees drawn up to their chest. Others sleep with one leg drawn up and an arm under their head. Some of us sleep one way while others sleep another way. The fact is, however, that all of us sleep.

Consider the animal kingdom for a moment: long-legged birds sleep standing on one leg. Ducks always sleep in the open water. To avoid drifting to the shore, they keep paddling with one foot, moving in a circle. Fish and snakes sleep with their eyes open.

Every living thing sleeps.

Except for God.

The Psalmist wisely brings this to our attention: "He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber...nor sleep."

When days are dark and the stars hidden behind the clouds, God is awake and watching over us. When our dearest friends deny and abandon us, God is there to put His arm around us and comfort us. When our hearts are broken, He will wipe away our tears. When the enemy attacks us, He will defend us.

He Who is all powerful and ever present always protects us. He Who loves us will always strengthen, steady, support, sustain and save us from slipping.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the promise that You are always with us and will protect us from danger and defeat. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 121:3 He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber...nor sleep.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 10 of 39

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

Pukwana man pleads not guilty to secretly filming woman

PUKWANA, S.D. (AP) — A Pukwana man accused of sneaking a camera into a Brule County home to surreptitiously record a woman has pleaded not guilty.

Twenty-year-old Jason Pickner was arrested after a woman reported finding the camera concealed in a pile of clothes in her bedroom in mid-May. She found a video of a male on the camera and identified him as Pickner.

The Daily Republic reports that Pickner faces up to 32 years in prison if convicted of burglary and using a camcorder or camera to secretly record a person. He's scheduled for trial Oct. 22.

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

Report: Midwest economy still growing but at slower pace

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey report suggests economic growth is still slowing in nine Midwest and Plains states.

The report released Wednesday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index declined to 57.0 in July from 61.8 in June and 67.3 in May. It's still the 20th straight month that the index remained above growth neutral 50.0.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says the region's manufacturing growth of 2.6 percent over the past 12 months exceeds the U.S. growth rate of 2.3 percent.

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

12-15-35-64-69, Mega Ball: 9, Megaplier: 2

(twelve, fifteen, thirty-five, sixty-four, sixty-nine; Mega Ball: nine; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$45 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$187 million

TransCanada ordered to inspect part of Keystone pipeline

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — TransCanada Corp. is digging up a portion of the Keystone oil pipeline in South Dakota after an inspection identified potential issues with the pipeline's coating.

The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is ordering the energy company to further inspect the route north of Britton, said Brian Walsh, spokesman for the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He told Aberdeen American News that there aren't any reported leaks.

TransCanada spokesman Matthew John said crews are conducting "standard monitoring and inspections"

of the pipeline, which carries crude oil more than 2,600 miles (4,180 kilometers) from Alberta, Canada, to Oklahoma and Illinois.

"We perform aerial and physical inspections of facilities, preventive maintenance and investigative digs on a regular basis to verify the integrity of our facilities, which is part of our responsibility as an infrastructure operator," John said.

The Keystone pipeline section being investigated is about 15 miles (25 kilometers) north of where a crack last year caused an estimated 407,000 gallons (338,900 imperial gallons) of oil to spill near Amherst in Marshall County. It's the seventh-largest onshore oil or petroleum product spill since 2010, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The crack likely originated from mechanical damage to the pipe exterior caused by a metal-tracked vehicle during installation, according to a report released this month by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The property affected by the oil spill has been cleaned up, John said.

An investigation into the pipeline failure by the federal pipeline safety administration is ongoing.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Crash near Groton kills driver, seriously injures passenger

GROTON, S.D. (AP) — A one-vehicle crash in Brown County killed one person and seriously injured another. The Highway Patrol says the two were in a sport utility vehicle that went out of control on a rural road near Groton, went in the ditch, struck a residence driveway and rolled several times.

The 22-year-old male driver died at the scene shortly after 8 p.m. Monday. A 21-year-old female passenger was taken to a Sioux Falls hospital with what the patrol says are life-threatening injuries.

The names of the two people weren't immediately released.

NTSB releases preliminary report on North Dakota plane crash

FORT RICE, N.D. (AP) — A small plane that crashed in a North Dakota river and killed the Pennsylvania pilot didn't appear to have any mechanical problems.

The Bismarck Tribune reports that a preliminary report from the National Transportation Safety Board indicates no pre-impact plane malfunctions or failures. The investigation into the cause will take several more months.

Thirty-five-year-old Daniel Miller, of Pittsburgh, died July 17 when the Cessna 152 crashed into the Missouri River near Fort Rice while he was taking low-altitude photographs. The flight originated from the airport in Mandan.

The NTSB says the plane is registered to a company in Watertown, South Dakota, that leased it to an aerial photography business in that city that specializes in farm and ranch photography.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Razor blade found at Rapid City playground

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — City employees have been checking playgrounds in Rapid City after a razor blade was found attached to some equipment at one park.

A family found the razor blade last week attached to playground equipment at Thomson Park and called the city's Parks and Recreation Department. Park workers were able to remove the blade before anyone was hurt.

KOTA-TV says other parks and playgrounds have been searched since the blade was found at Thomson.

City spokesman Darrell Shoemaker says the last time a razor blade was found on playground equipment in Rapid City was three years ago at College Park.

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

Tyndall woman accused of taking grandchild won't see jail

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A Tyndall woman accused of unlawfully removing her 1-year-old grandchild from a daycare won't serve jail time under a plea deal with prosecutors.

Authorities say a baby sitter called authorities May 10 to report a woman had taken a child from a Scotland residence. Deputies used 42-year-old Angela Heier's cellphone to find her hours later in Volin. The child was returned to the parents.

Heier initially was charged with first-degree felony kidnapping, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. The charge was later dropped and replaced with misdemeanor trespassing and disorderly conduct, which together carry a maximum punishment of slightly more than a year behind bars.

The Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan reports that Heier pleaded guilty Monday and was given a suspended 20-day jail sentence and fined \$550.

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

Fleet Farm builds first store in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Fleet Farm's first foray into South Dakota is a \$15.6 million store in Sioux Falls. A building permit filed with the city shows the Wisconsin retailer is constructing a 185,000-square-foot store and a lumber yard and gas station. The Argus Leader says developers are hoping the store, which carries everything from farm equipment to kayaks, will spur additional retail development near the 24-acre Fleet Farm site.

The store isn't far from the growing Sanford Sports Complex development near Interstate 29. Fleet Farm has 37 locations across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North Dakota.

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

Colome woman accused of embezzling from Winner company

WINNER, S.D. (AP) — A Colome woman is accused of embezzling about \$16,000 from the Winner electric company for which she worked.

Twenty-eight-year-old Megan Fast allegedly took the money from Kucera Electric over a period of eight months and gave it to herself and her mother through checks and excess direct deposits.

The Daily Republic reports that Fast is charged with grand theft by embezzlement, a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. It wasn't immediately clear if she had an attorney, and a home telephone listing for her couldn't be found.

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

All survive crash of Mexican jetliner, some walk from wreck

By AMY GUTHRIE, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — An Aeromexico jetliner taking off in a blustery storm smashed down into a nearby field but skidded to a stop virtually intact, and all 103 people aboard were able to escape advancing flames before fire engulfed the aircraft.

Passengers expressed gratitude to be alive, but many were extremely shaken after the crash Tuesday afternoon.

"It was really, really ugly," said Lorenzo Nunez, a passenger from Chicago who fled the plane with his two sons and wife. "It burned in a question of seconds," he told reporters, snapping his fingers for emphasis.

Survivors said the Embraer 190 plane burst into flames right after it hit the ground.

"We felt the flames coming quickly ... there was a lot of smoke," Jaquelin Flores told the newspaper El Sol. Romulo Campuzano, head of a political party in Durango state who was on the plane, told Foro TV that both wings were on fire as he bolted from the aircraft.

Durango state Gov. Jose Aispuro said a gust of wind hit flight AM2431 heading from the city of Durango to Mexico City just as it was lifting off the tarmac, forcing the pilot to abort takeoff.

Passengers said they heard a loud noise as the plane's left wing banged to the ground, and both engines tore loose. The plane stayed upright, though, and the escape slides activated.

Aispuro said it was too soon to speculate on the cause of the crash. Mechanical failure and human error could be factors, but certainly the weather wasn't favorable. Strong wind and heavy rain with marble-sized hail lashed Durango city, even damaging hangars at the airport.

"The most important thing in the seriousness that is an accident of this nature is that there were no deaths — that's what is most encouraging for us," Aispuro said at a news conference.

After the accident, several passengers walked away from the plane before first responders arrived. Some sought medical help, while others rushed home to loved ones. Officials spent much of the afternoon tracking down survivors to ensure that everyone was accounted for.

Officials said 49 people had been hospitalized — most with minor injuries. The pilot suffered the most serious injury, a cervical lesion that required surgery. Some people had burns on a quarter of their bodies, said Durango state Health Ministry spokesman Fernando Ros.

Aispuro said all were expected to live.

Aeromexico Chief Executive Officer Andres Conesa described the day as "very difficult" and credited the timely reaction of crew and passengers for the lack of fatalities.

"Our heart is with those affected and their families," he said at an evening news conference.

Conesa said the passengers included 88 adults, nine children and two babies and the crew consisted of two flight attendants and two pilots.

He said the jetliner had been sent for maintenance in February and the crew was well-rested, having started their work day in Durango.

The web site Planespotters.net said the Brazilian-made medium-range jet was about 10 years old and had seen service with two other airlines before joining the Aeromexico fleet.

Operations were suspended at Durango city's Guadalupe Victoria airport after the crash.

Officials are promoting lower-cost, short-term health plans

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is clearing the way for insurers to sell short-term health plans as a bargain alternative to pricey Obama-law policies for people struggling with high premiums.

But the policies don't have to cover existing medical conditions and offer limited benefits. It's not certain if that's going to translate into broad consumer appeal among people who need an individual policy.

"For many who've got pre-existing conditions or who have other health worries, the Obamacare plans might be right for them," Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told "Fox & Friends" on Wednesday. "We're just providing more options."

Officials say the plans can now last up to 12 months and be renewed for up to 36 months. But there's no federal guarantee of renewability. Plans will carry a disclaimer that they don't meet the Affordable Care Act's requirements and safeguards. More details were expected Wednesday.

"We make no representation that it's equivalent coverage," said Jim Parker, a senior adviser at HHS. "But what we do know is that there are individuals today who have been priced out of coverage."

Unable to repeal much of the Obama-era law, Trump's administration has tried to undercut how the law is supposed to work and to create options for people who don't qualify for subsidies based on their income.

Officials are hoping short-term plans will fit the bill. Next year, there will be no tax penalty for someone who opts for short-term coverage versus a comprehensive plan, so more people might consider the op-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 15 of 39

tion. More short-term plans will be available starting this fall.

Critics say the plans are "junk insurance" that could lead to unwelcome surprises if a policyholder gets sick, and will entice healthy people away from the law's markets, raising premiums for those left. Under the Obama administration, such plans were limited to three months' duration. Some states do not permit them.

President Donald Trump has been enthusiastic. "Much less expensive health care at a much lower price," he said, previewing the plans at a White House event last week. "Will cost our country nothing. We're finally taking care of our people."

The administration estimates that premiums for a short-term plan could be about one-third the cost of comprehensive coverage. A standard silver plan under the Obama law now averages \$481 a month for a 40-year-old nonsmoker. A short-term plan might cost \$160 a month or even less.

But short-term insurance clearly has fewer benefits. A Kaiser Family Foundation survey of current plans found none that covered maternity, and many that did not cover prescription drugs or substance abuse treatment — required under the Obama law. They can include dollar limits on coverage and there's no guarantee of renewal.

At a hearing Tuesday, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., called the administration's anticipated action "a new sabotage step that will do even more to let insurance companies offer junk plans."

Short-term plans have been a niche product for people in life transitions: those switching jobs, retiring before Medicare eligibility or aging out of parental coverage.

"It may not cover every condition, but it's a really important option for a lot of people in transition between jobs, those gig economy workers who work on their own as independent contractors or the folks who are struggling with three part-time jobs and don't get insurance through any one employer," Azar said.

Some in the industry say they're developing "next generation" short-term plans that will be more responsive to consumer needs, with pros and cons clearly spelled out. Major insurer United Healthcare is marketing short-term plans.

Delaware insurance broker Nick Moriello said consumers should carefully consider their choice.

"The insurance company will ask you a series of questions about your health," Moriello said. "They are not going to cover anything related to a pre-existing condition. There is a relatively small risk to the insurance company on what they would pay out relative to those plans."

Nonetheless, the CEO of a company that offers short-term plans says they're a "rational decision" for some people.

"It's a way better alternative to not being insured," said Jeff Smedsrud of Pivot Health. "I don't think it's permanent coverage. You are constantly betting that for the rest of your life you won't have any health issues."

Smedsrud said most plans restrict coverage for those who have sought treatment for a pre-existing condition over the past five years.

Short-term plans join "association health plans" for small businesses as the administration promotes lower-cost insurance options that cover less. Federal regulations for association health plans have been approved. Such plans can be offered across state lines and are also designed for self-employed people.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that roughly 6 million more people will eventually enroll in either an association plan or a short-term plan. The administration says it expects about 1.6 million people to pick a short-term when the plans are fully phased in.

About 20 million are covered under the Obama law, combining its Medicaid expansion and subsidized private insurance for those who qualify.

Enrollment for the law's subsidized private insurance is fairly stable, and HealthCare.gov insurers are making money again. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina just announced it will cut Affordable Care Act premiums by 4 percent on average next year.

But a recent Kaiser Foundation analysis found turmoil in the unsubsidized market.

Anxious Zimbabwe awaits presidential election results

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA and FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Angry opposition supporters gathered outside Zimbabwe's electoral commission and were met by riot police on Wednesday as the country awaited the results of Monday's presidential election, the first after the fall of longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

The European Union election observer mission expressed "serious concerns" as Western and other observers gave their first assessments of whether the vote, while peaceful, was free and fair — critical to lifting international sanctions on the once-prosperous country.

The ruling ZANU-PF party won a majority of seats in Parliament, the electoral commission announced.

The commission has said it would announce the results of the presidential race, pitting President Emerson Mnangagwa against opposition leader Nelson Chamisa, only after all the votes have come in from across the country.

The EU observer mission said "a truly level playing field was not achieved," pointing out the "misuse of state resources, instances of coercion and intimidation, partisan behavior by traditional leaders and overt bias in state media." It said the election was largely peaceful in a break from the past but wondered why presidential votes were counted first but were being announced last.

The opposition has alleged irregularities, saying voting results were not posted outside one-fifth of polling stations as required by law.

Mnangagwa's government, meanwhile, has accused Chamisa and his supporters of inciting "violence" by already declaring he had won the election.

"Let me also warn such individuals and groups that no one is above the law," Home Affairs Minister Obert Mpofu said. Security forces "will remain on high alert and continue to monitor the security situation."

The possibility of confrontation was an unnerving reminder of the tensions that pervade this southern African nation, debilitated by Mugabe's long rule. The 94-year-old former leader had been in power since independence from white minority rule in 1980 until he was forced to resign in November after the military and ruling party turned on him.

Mnangagwa, a former deputy president who fell out with Mugabe and then took over from him, has said his showing in the presidential polls was "extremely positive" while urging people to wait for official results.

Chamisa, a lawyer and pastor who leads the opposition Movement for Democratic Change party, has gone further, saying his own count shows that he won the election and that he's ready to form the next government.

"We won the popular vote & will defend it!" Chamisa tweeted Wednesday.

Zimbabweans desperately hope the peaceful vote will lift them out of economic and political stagnation after decades of Mugabe's rule, but the country is haunted by a history of electoral violence and manipulation that means trust is scarce.

While the electoral commission has five days from the end of voting to release the final tally, the national mood was growing anxious partly because unofficial results are already swirling on social media.

The opposition's mood had dampened from Tuesday, when dozens of supporters gathered at their headquarters and celebrated in the belief that they had won the presidential election based on results they said they collected from agents in the field. As they danced to music blasting from speakers set up on a truck, police with water cannon circulated nearby.

Follow Africa news at https://twitter.com/AP_Africa

Presumed US war remains begin journey home from South Korea

By KIM YONG-HO, HYUNG-JIN KIM and ROBERT BURNS, Associated Press

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea (AP) — Decades after the end of the Korean War in 1953, the remains of dozens of presumed U.S. war dead began their journey home following a repatriation ceremony in South Korea on Wednesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 17 of 39

North Korea handed over the remains in 55 boxes last week and allowed a U.S. military transport plane to move them to the U.S. Osan Air Base near Seoul in South Korea. While it was an apparent goodwill gesture by North Korea toward the United States, the return comes amid growing skepticism about whether the North will follow through on its pledge of nuclear disarmament.

Hundreds of U.S. and South Korean troops gathered at a hanger at the Osan base for the repatriation ceremony, which included a silent tribute, a rifle salute and the playing of the U.S. and South Korean national anthems and dirges in front of the U.N. flag-covered metal cases containing the remains.

"For the warrior, this is a cherished duty, a commitment made to one another before going into battle, and passed on from one generation of warriors to the next," Vincent Brooks, chief of the U.S. military in South Korea, said in a speech. "This is a solemn reminder that our work is not complete until all have been accounted for, no matter how long it takes to do so."

The remains were then moved in gray vans to an airfield where U.S. and South Korean soldiers loaded them one by one into two transport planes. Four U.S. fighter jets flew low in a tribute.

Later Wednesday, the transport planes left for Hawaii, where the remains will undergo an in-depth forensic analysis, in some cases using mitochondrial DNA profiles, at a Defense Department laboratory to establish identifications. U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said last week that the return of the 55 boxes was a positive step but not a guarantee that the bones are American.

A U.S. defense official said Tuesday that it probably will take months if not years to fully determine individual identities from the remains. The official, who discussed previously undisclosed aspects of the remains issue on condition of anonymity, also said North Korea provided a single military dog tag along with the remains. The official did not know details about the single dog tag, including the name on it or whether it was even that of an American military member.

Vice President Mike Pence, the son of a Korean War veteran, is to fly to Hawaii for what the military calls an "honorable carry ceremony" marking the arrival of the remains on American soil.

The repatriation is a breakthrough in a long-stalled U.S. effort to obtain war remains from North Korea. About 7,700 U.S. soldiers are listed as missing from the 1950-53 Korean War, and 5,300 of the remains are believed to still be in North Korea.

"The remains received from North Korea are being handled with the utmost care and respect by professional historians, forensic scientists, uniformed personnel and government officials," the U.S.-led U.N. Command said in a statement. It said it "never leaves troops behind, living or deceased, and will continue the mission of repatriation until every service member returns home."

The bones' return was part of an agreement reached during a June summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump thanked Kim for the return.

During the summit, Kim also agreed to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" in return for Trump's promise of security guarantees. Trump later suspended annual military drills with South Korea which North Korea had long called an invasion rehearsal.

But Trump now faces criticism at home and elsewhere that North Korea hasn't taken any serious steps toward disarmament and may be trying to buy time to weaken international sanctions against it.

North Korea halted nuclear and missile tests, shut down its nuclear testing site and began dismantling facilities at its rocket launch site. But many experts say those are neither irrevocable nor serious steps that could show the country is sincere about denuclearization.

The Washington Post reported Monday that U.S. intelligence agencies have obtained evidence indicating that North Korea is continuing to build long-range missiles. It cited anonymous officials "familiar with the intelligence" as saying that work on at least one and possibly two intercontinental ballistic missiles was underway.

North Korea may want to use the remains' return to keep diplomacy with the United States alive and win a reciprocal U.S. concession. Experts say the North likely wants a declaration of the end of the Korean War as part of U.S. security assurances.

An armistice that ended the Korean War has yet to be replaced with a peace treaty, leaving the pen-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 18 of 39

insula in a technical state of war. North Korea has steadfastly argued its nuclear weapons are meant to neutralize alleged U.S. plans to attack it. The signing of a peace treaty could allow the North to demand the pullout of the 28,500 American troops stationed in South Korea. The U.S. military presence in South Korea is the backbone of its security commitment to South Korea, which doesn't have nuclear weapons.

Efforts to recover remains in North Korea have been fraught with political and other obstacles since the war's end. Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea unilaterally handed over 208 caskets to the U.S., which turned out to contain remains of far more than 208 individuals, although forensics specialists thus far have established 181 identities. In addition, a series of U.S.-North Korean recovery efforts, termed "joint field activities," between 1996 and 2005 yielded 229 caskets of remains, of which 153 have been identified, according to the Pentagon.

The recovery efforts stalled for more than a decade because of a standoff over North Korea's nuclear ambitions and a previous U.S. claim that security arrangements for its personnel working in the North were insufficient. The Trump administration, as part of the Singapore agreement, is pursuing discussions with North Korea on resuming those "field activities."

Hyung-jin Kim reported from Seoul; Burns reported from Washington, DC.

Trump criticized for not leading effort to secure elections

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As alarms blare about Russian interference in U.S. elections, the Trump administration is facing criticism that it has no clear national strategy to protect the country during the upcoming midterms and beyond.

Both Republicans and Democrats have criticized the administration's response as fragmented, without enough coordination across federal agencies. And with the midterms just three months away, critics are calling on President Donald Trump to take a stronger stand on an issue critical to American democracy.

"There's clearly not enough leadership from the top. This is a moment to move," said Maryland Sen. Chris Van Hollen, head of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "I don't think they are doing nearly enough."

Various government agencies have been at work to ensure safe voting. The FBI has set up a Foreign Influence Task Force and intelligence agencies are collecting information on Russian aggression.

But Trump himself rarely talks about the issue. And in the nearly two years since Russians were found to have hacked into U.S. election systems and manipulated social media to influence public opinion, the White House has held two meetings on election security.

One was last week. It ran 30 minutes.

The meeting resulted in no new presidential directive to coordinate the federal effort to secure the election, said Suzanne Spaulding, former undersecretary of homeland security who was responsible for cyber security and protecting critical infrastructure.

"Trump's failure to take a leadership role on this, up until this (National Security Council) meeting, misses an opportunity to send a clear message to states that this is a very serious threat," Spaulding said. "We did not get out of this NSC meeting a comprehensive, interagency strategy. It was each department and agency working in their silos."

Garrett Marquis, a spokesman for the NSC, said the government response is robust. He said NSC staff "leads the regular and continuous coordination of the whole-of-government approach to addressing foreign malign influence and ensuring election security."

At a cybersecurity summit on Tuesday, Vice President Mike Pence said he was confident officials could prevent further meddling by foreign agents.

"We will repel any efforts to interfere in our elections," he said.

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina said government agencies are "doing a lot of good work, but nobody knows about it." He lamented Trump's contradictory statements about whether he ac-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 19 of 39

cepts the U.S. intelligence assessment that Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election.

"What I think he needs to do is lead this nation to make sure the 2018 election is protected," Graham said recently on CBS' "Face the Nation." "He needs to be the leader of the movement — not brought to the dance reluctantly. So, I hope he will direct his government, working with Congress, to harden the 2018 election before it's too late."

The debate over safeguarding U.S. elections comes as evidence of cyber threats piles up. Facebook announced Tuesday that it has uncovered "sophisticated" efforts, possibly linked to Russia, to influence U.S. politics on its platforms.

The company said it removed 32 accounts from Facebook and Instagram because they were involved in "coordinated" political behavior and appeared to be fake. Nearly 300,000 people followed at least one of the accounts.

Earlier this month, Microsoft said it discovered that a fake domain had been set up as the landing page for phishing attacks by a hacking group believed to have links to Russian intelligence. A Microsoft spokesman said Monday that additional analysis has confirmed that the attempted attacks occurred in late 2017 and targeted multiple accounts associated with the offices of two legislators running for re-election. Microsoft did not name the lawmakers.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., has said Russian hackers tried unsuccessfully to infiltrate her Senate computer network in 2017.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., who is not running for re-election, told The Associated Press on Monday that someone contacted her office "claiming to be an official from a country."

A frequent critic of Russia, Shaheen said she didn't know if Moscow was behind the email received in November but had turned the matter over to the FBI.

Shaheen said another senator had been targeted besides McCaskill. "It's my understanding that there is, but I don't want to speak for other senators," she said. When asked if it was a Democratic senator, Shaheen nodded yes.

"People on both sides of the aisle have been beating the drum for two years now about the need for somebody to be accountable for cybersecurity across the government," Shaheen said.

National Intelligence Director Dan Coats said U.S. intelligence officials continue to see activity from individuals affiliated with the Internet Research Agency, whose members were indicted by U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller. Coats said they create new social media accounts disguised as those of Americans, then use the fake accounts to drive attention to divisive issues in America.

In the Obama administration, synchronizing federal agencies' work on election security would have likely been the job of the White House cybersecurity coordinator. Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, abolished the post in May to remove a layer of bureaucracy from the NSC flow chart.

Under the current structure, the point man for election security is Rear Adm. Douglas Fears. Trump tapped Fears in early June as his deputy assistant to the president and homeland security and counterterrorism adviser.

Fears oversees the election security and other portfolios of the NSC's Cybersecurity Directorate and coordinates the federal government's response to disasters.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen says cyber threats are "an urgent, evolving crisis." "Our adversaries' capabilities online are outpacing our stove-piped defenses," Nielsen said Tuesday. "In fact, I believe that cyber threats collectively now exceed the danger of physical attacks against us. This is a major sea change for my department and for our country's security."

Associated Press writers Mary Clare Jalonick, Matthew Daly, Zeke Miller, Colleen Long and Lisa Mascaro in Washington and Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

Manafort accused of amassing 'secret income' as trial opens

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort orchestrated a multimillion-dollar conspiracy to evade U.S. tax and banking laws, leaving behind a trail of lies as he lived a lavish lifestyle, prosecutors said as they laid out their case against the former Trump campaign chairman.

Prosecutor Uzo Asonye told the jury during his opening statement Tuesday that Manafort considered himself above the law as he funneled tens of millions of dollars through offshore accounts. That "secret income" was used to pay for personal expenses such as a \$21,000 watch, a \$15,000 jacket made of ostrich and more than \$6 million worth of real estate paid for in cash, Asonye said.

"A man in this courtroom believed the law did not apply to him — not tax law, not banking law," Asonye said as he sketched out the evidence gathered by special counsel Robert Mueller's team in Manafort's bank fraud and tax evasion trial.

Manafort's trial is the first arising from Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Donald Trump's presidential campaign and Russia. It opened with extraordinary anticipation amid unresolved questions about whether Trump associates coordinated with the Kremlin to tip the election in the president's favor.

But it was clear from the outset that the case would not address that question: Prosecutors did not once reference Manafort's work for the Trump campaign nor mention Mueller's broader and ongoing investigation into Russian election interference. Mueller was not present in the courtroom.

Manafort, the lone American charged by Mueller who has opted to stand trial instead of cooperate with prosecutors, was described by his defense lawyer as a hugely successful international political consultant who left the details of his finances to others.

He relied on a team of financial experts to keep track of the millions of dollars he earned from his Ukrainian political work and to ensure that that money was being properly reported, said attorney Thomas Zehnle. He especially trusted business associate Rick Gates, who pleaded guilty in Mueller's investigation and is now the government's star witness. But that trust was misplaced, Zehnle said in an opening statement that made clear that undermining the credibility of Gates — a former Trump campaign aide who spent years working for Manafort in Ukraine — is central to the defense strategy.

Zehnle warned jurors that Gates could not be trusted and was the type of witness who would say anything he could to save himself from a lengthy prison sentence and a crippling financial penalty.

"Money's coming in fast. It's a lot, and Paul Manafort trusted that Rick Gates was keeping track of it," Zehnle said. "That's what Rick Gates was being paid to do."

The trial, decided by a jury of six men and six women who were seated after a brief selection process Tuesday, is expected to last several weeks.

After opening statements, the jury heard from the government's first witness, Democratic strategist Tad Devine, who testified about his collaborations with Manafort on behalf of Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of Regions. Devine testified that Manafort ran a tightly disciplined, professional campaign that contributed to his candidate's victory.

Central to the government's case are allegations that Manafort funneled more than \$60 million in proceeds from his Ukrainian political consulting through offshore accounts, including in Cyprus, and hid a "significant" portion of it from the IRS. He created "bogus" loans, falsified documents and lied to his tax preparer and bookkeeper to conceal the money, which he obtained from Ukrainian oligarchs through a series of shell company transfers and later from fraudulently obtained bank loans in the U.S., prosecutors said.

But Zehnle said there was no evidence that Manafort ever intended to deceive the IRS. He denied allegations that Manafort had tried to conceal his earnings by storing money in bank accounts in Cyprus, saying that arrangement was not of Manafort's doing but was instead the preferred method of payment of the supporters of the pro-Russia Ukrainian political party who were paying his consulting fees.

Defense lawyers also sought to address head-on Manafort's wealth and the images of a gaudy lifestyle that jurors are expected to see.

"Paul Manafort travels in circles that most people will never know and he's gotten handsomely rewarded for it," Zehnle said. "We do not dispute that."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 21 of 39

Manafort has a second trial scheduled for September in the District of Columbia. It involves allegations that he acted as an unregistered foreign agent for Ukrainian interests and made false statements to the U.S. government.

The other 31 people charged by Mueller so far have either pleaded guilty or are Russians seen as unlikely to enter an American courtroom. Three Russian companies have also been charged.

Associated Press writer Matthew Barakat in Alexandria, Virginia, and Stephen Braun in Washington contributed to this report.

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

Promoting voter ID, Trump says ID needed to buy groceries

By KEN THOMAS and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — President Donald Trump wrongly claimed that shoppers need to show photo identification to buy groceries and accused Democrats of obstructing his agenda and his Supreme Court nominee during a raucous rally aimed at bolstering two Florida Republicans ahead of the state's primary.

Trump, addressing thousands of supporters Tuesday night in one of the nation's top electoral battlegrounds, also mounted a rigorous defense of his trade agenda, accusing China and others of having "targeted our farmers."

"Not good, not nice," he told the crowd as tensions with China continue to escalate, adding: "You know what our farmers are saying? 'It's OK, we can take it.'" The Trump administration last week announced plans for \$12 billion in temporary aid to help farmers deal with retaliatory tariffs from U.S. trading partners in response to Trump's policies.

The freewheeling rally lasted more than an hour and included numerous attacks on the media, as well as one glaring false claim. Trump was railing against the idea of noncitizens voting and advocating stricter voting laws when he claimed that IDs are required for everything else, including shopping.

"If you go out and you want to buy groceries, you need a picture on a card, you need ID," he said at the event at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. "You go out and you want to buy anything, you need ID and you need your picture."

A White House spokesman did not immediately respond to questions about when the billionaire president last bought groceries or anything else himself. Photo IDs are required for certain purchases, such as alcohol, cigarettes or cold medicine.

The comment came as Trump waded into Florida Republican politics, picking sides as he embraced U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis in a competitive primary for governor and backed the Senate campaign of his longtime ally, Gov. Rick Scott.

"We have to make sure Rick Scott wins and wins big," Trump told the crowd. "It's time to vote Bill Nelson out of office."

Trump, who is seeking Judge Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court in the fall, also made the case that voters need to elect more Republicans, pointing to Democratic opposition to his pick.

Democrats "don't want to give Trump any victory," he said. "They will do anything they can to not help the Trump agenda."

Trump has publicly threatened to shut down the federal government over his push to overhaul the nation's immigration system and fund his signature border wall, though officials say he has privately assured staff he wouldn't provoke a fiscal crisis before midterms. The president avoided making an outright reference to a government shutdown during the rally, saying, "We may have to do some pretty drastic things" unless Democrats support his agenda.

Instead, he spent much of the rally highlight strong economic numbers and praising DeSantis as "a tough, brilliant cookie." He predicted DeSantis will win against Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam in

the state's Aug. 28 Republican primary.

Trump, who makes frequent trips to Florida and his private Palm Beach Mar-a-Lago club, criticized Nelson's policies and claimed the only time he sees the senator is "five months before every election."

"After a while, you forget who's the senator," Trump said.

Scott didn't join Trump at the rally but appeared with him at an earlier roundtable event.

DeSantis has tied his campaign for governor directly to Trump, appearing on Fox News more than 100 times to talk about federal issues and defend the president. DeSantis has campaigned with Fox's Sean Hannity and Donald Trump Jr. and uses humor in a new ad to show his alliance with the president, teaching one of his two children to "build the wall" with blocks.

Putnam, a state agriculture commissioner and former congressman, has run a more traditional campaign for governor, barnstorming the state with campaign events aimed at building upon his family's deep ties to the state.

Trump, in railing against the idea of allowing noncitizens to vote in some elections, said at the rally, "Only American citizens should vote in American elections."

He also advocated for requiring voters to present photo identification, even though Florida already has such a law on the books.

"The time has come for voter ID like everything else," Trump said, before making his claim about groceries.

"It's crazy," he added, "but we're turning it around."

Follow Ken Thomas on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

New fires erupt in Northern California; homes threatened

By JANIE HAR and BRIAN SKOLOFF, Associated Press

UPPER LAKE, Calif. (AP) — Days after wildfires left a deadly swatch of destruction in Northern California rural counties, new blazes exploded into life and threatened more homes in what has become an endless summer of flame in the Golden State.

North of San Francisco, a fire threatened homes in an old ranching and farming area near Covelo. About 60 homes were ordered evacuated as the blaze erupted late Tuesday and winds whipped flames through brush, grass, oak, pine and fir near Mendocino National Forest, Mendocino County Undersheriff Matthew Kendall said.

"We're advised that the fire was threatening structures," he said.

The area was only about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of where twin fires in Mendocino and Lake counties have burned an area nearly three times the size of San Francisco, destroyed seven homes and threatened 12,000 more.

The Lake County seat of Lakeport remained under evacuation orders and was a virtual ghost town, although people were allowed back home in several smaller communities as firefighters shored up containment lines. Despite progress, the fires were only 12 percent contained.

Jessyca Lytle fled a fast-moving wildfire in 2015 that spared her property but destroyed her mother's memorabilia-filled Lake County home.

Lytle found herself listening to scanner traffic Tuesday and fire-proofing her mother's new home as another wildfire advanced.

"Honestly, what I'm thinking right now is I just want this to end," Lytle said, adding that she was "exhausted in every way possible — physically, emotionally, all of that."

Paul Lew and his two boys, ages 13 and 16, evacuated Saturday from their Lakeport home.

"I told them to throw everything they care about in the back of the car," said Lew, 45. "I grabbed computers, cellphones, papers. I just started bagging all my paperwork up, clothes, my guitars."

Lew, who is divorced from Lytle, is camped out at the house in the nearby community of Cobb that she fled in 2015. He is watching over her chickens, sheep and other animals. With a laugh, he said repeated fire alerts have made him an emergency preparation expert.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 23 of 39

"It's like three a year," he said. "It's kind of crazy."

To the east, another blaze Tuesday night raged through grassy cattle lands near Yuba City, covering more than 1 1/2 square miles (4 square kilometers) in a few hours.

The area is mainly a ranching area of barns and other buildings and no evacuations were ordered, said Scott McLean of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The new fires erupted without warning and spread with shocking speed through forest and brush that have literally become tinder.

"It just goes on and on," McLean said.

"We had this rain at the beginning of the year and all that did was promote the growing of grass and brush," McLean said. "It's a Catch 22. It's growing more product to catch on fire."

"We've never really been out of the drought," McLean added. "We need several years of significant rainfall ... to bring California back."

He also had a warning for people visiting rural and wilderness areas.

"Pay attention," he said. "Don't park the car on dry grass ... no campfires, no flame. It doesn't take anything to start a fire right now."

Elsewhere, the Carr Fire had burned 965 homes and killed six people in and around Redding. Another 413 outbuildings were also destroyed, and the blaze is now the seventh most destructive wildfire in California history, fire officials said.

The fire had burned more than 176 square miles (457 square kilometers) and was 30 percent contained.

A relative identified one of the victims as Daniel Bush, 62.

Bush had returned to his mobile home in the community of Keswick last Tuesday after undergoing quadruple heart bypass surgery but he was unable to drive and would have needed help to evacuate when the fire came through the neighborhood on Thursday, his sister, Kathi Gaston, told the Redding Record Searchlight.

Gaston said her brother had wanted to stay in his own home but he had spotty cell service and with the power out, he might not have gotten word of the fire.

Gaston said she couldn't get to her brother's house because, with the fire approaching, sheriff's deputies had blocked the roads and then she herself had to evacuate.

"If we'd been able to go in when we wanted to, he'd be alive right now," she said. "I'm very upset about it."

National Park officials said Tuesday the scenic Yosemite Valley and other areas will be closed at least through Sunday due to heavy smoke from the so-called Ferguson Fire. The closure began July 25.

It was the longest closure at Yosemite since 1997 when floods closed the park for over two months.

Har reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writer Olga R. Rodriguez in San Francisco also contributed to this report.

NKorea provided just 1 dog tag with 55 sets of war remains

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — When North Korea handed over 55 boxes of bones that it said are remains of American war dead, it provided a single military dog tag but no other information that could help U.S. forensics experts determine their individual identities, a U.S. defense official said Tuesday.

The official, who discussed previously undisclosed aspects of the remains issue on condition of anonymity, said it probably will take months if not years to fully determine individual identities from the remains, which have not yet been confirmed by U.S. specialists to be those of American servicemen.

The official did not know details about the single dog tag, including the name on it, or whether it was even that of an American military member. During the Korean War, combat troops of 16 other United Nations member countries fought alongside U.S. service members on behalf of South Korea. Some of them, including Australia, Belgium, France and the Philippines, have yet to recover some of their war dead from North Korea.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 24 of 39

The 55 boxes were handed over at Wonsan, North Korea last Friday and flown aboard a U.S. military transport plane to Osan air base in South Korea, where U.S. officials catalogued the contents. After a repatriation ceremony at Osan on Wednesday, the remains will be flown to Hawaii where they will begin undergoing in-depth forensic analysis, in some cases using mitochondrial DNA profiles, at a Defense Department laboratory to attempt to establish individual identifications.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said last week that the return of the 55 boxes was a positive step but not a guarantee that the bones are American.

"We don't know who's in those boxes," he said. He noted that some could turn out to be those of missing from other nations that fought in the Korean War. "They could go to Australia," he said. "They have missing, France has missing, Americans have. There's a whole lot of us. So, this is an international effort to bring closure for those families."

Vice President Mike Pence, the son of a Korean War combat veteran, is scheduled to fly to Hawaii for a ceremony, which the military calls an "honorable carry ceremony," marking the arrival of the remains on American soil at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Wednesday. This will mark a breakthrough in a long-stalled U.S. effort to obtain war remains from North Korea, but officials say it is unlikely to produce quick satisfaction for any of the families of the nearly 7,700 U.S. servicemen who are still listed as missing and unaccounted for from the 1950-53 Korean War.

North Korea provided the 55 boxes in a delayed fulfillment of a commitment its leader, Kim Jong Un, made to President Donald Trump at their Singapore summit on June 12. Although the point of the summit was for Trump to press Kim on giving up his nuclear weapons, their joint statement after the meeting included a single line on an agreement to recover "POW/MIA remains, including the immediate repatriation of those already identified."

North Korea had told U.S. officials more than once in recent years that it had about 200 sets of U.S. war remains, although none was "already identified." It remains unclear whether the boxes provided on July 27 include all of the bones North Korea has accumulated over the years. In the past, the North has provided bones that in some cases were not human or that were additional bones of U.S. servicemen already identified from previously recovered remains.

The Pentagon estimates that of the approximately 7,700 U.S. MIAs from the Korean War, about 5,300 are unaccounted for on North Korean soil. Many were buried in shallow graves near where they fell on the battlefield; some others died in North Korean or Chinese-run prisoner of war camps.

Efforts to recover remains in North Korea have been fraught with political and other obstacles since the war ended on July 27, 1953. Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea unilaterally handed over 208 caskets to the U.S., which turned out to contain remains of far more than 208 individuals, although forensics specialists thus far have established 181 identities. In addition, a series of U.S.-North Korean recovery efforts, termed "joint field activities," between 1996 and 2005 yielded 229 caskets of remains, of which 153 have been identified, according to the Pentagon.

The Trump administration, as part of the Singapore agreement, is pursuing discussions with North Korea on resuming those "field activities," for which past administrations have paid millions of dollars in donated vehicles, equipment, food and cash at the request of the North Koreans. The U.S. official who discussed aspects of the return of the 55 boxes on condition of anonymity said the U.S. is considering the possibility of including South Korea in future searches for remains in North Korea. It's not clear whether negotiations for such an arrangement are under way.

Richard Downes, whose father, Air Force Lt. Hal Downes, is among the Korean War missing, says this turnover of remains, having drawn worldwide attention, has the potential to put the U.S. back on track to finding and eventually identifying many more.

Downes, 70, was 3½ when his father's B-26 Invader went down on Jan. 13, 1952, northeast of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. His family was left to wonder about his fate. Downes, now executive director of the Coalition of Families of Korean and Cold War POW/MIAs, which advocates for remains recovery, said he hopes the boxes that arrive in Hawaii on Wednesday prove to be a vanguard that leads to a fuller accounting for families.

"These 55 can set the stage for more to come," Downes said.

Inflation, gas prices, tariffs squeeze consumers

By DAMIAN J. TROISE and SARAH SKIDMORE SELL, AP Business Writers

The price of a can of Coca-Cola? Likely going up. A package of Pampers? That too. Plane tickets? They also may be more expensive. These items and more may cost more in the coming months as people start feeling the effects of higher fuel prices and raw-material costs as well as a range of tariffs.

Janette Hendricks said she has noticed higher prices on "just about everything" in the past three months or so. That's put a little pressure on the recently retired nurse in Washington. So she goes shopping less often, "makes things stretch," and she always shops for things on sale. She said she has also considered going back to work to have more cushion in the budget.

"The economy is doing great, so why is everyone doing so poorly?" she asked.

The consumer price index, the government's primary measure of inflation, rose 2.9 percent in June from a year earlier, the fastest increase in six years. Starbucks had said in June that it had raised the price of a regular drip coffee, and McDonald's said it raised prices when it reported its latest sales figures.

"I cut back on a lot of things," said Ada Caro of New York, sitting outside a Target in lower Manhattan. "I just buy the necessities."

Procter & Gamble, one of the biggest makers of consumer products, had said Tuesday that Pampers prices will increase by an average of 4 percent in North America, while the Bounty, Charmin and Puffs brands could see 5 percent increases.

Gas prices have already surged more than 24 percent in the past year. Rent and other housing costs were up 3.4 percent in June compared to a year earlier, and auto insurance has jumped more than 7 percent.

Hendricks said she and her husband also drive far less as they've noticed gas prices on the rise. Halla Byer, 28, has also seen the cost of filling up her car go up. The recently unemployed Portland, Oregon, resident feels optimistic about opportunities in the city, but joked of higher prices "making broke people more broke."

The Federal Reserve, which tries to keep inflation at or slightly above 2 percent, has been raising interest rates to make sure that price pressures don't get out of hand. Though President Donald Trump has criticized the central bank for raising rates, economists expect increases again in September and perhaps December.

Some of the higher prices also come as companies react to the Trump administration's tariffs on steel, aluminum, lumber from Canada, and on \$34 billion of imports from China. Beijing has imposed new duties on U.S. exports as well.

Overall, the aluminum and steel tariffs could cost the U.S. beverage industry nearly \$348 million, according to The Beer Institute. Coca Cola has announced plans to raise prices, citing the cost of raw materials and packaging, though the impact on retailers and consumers is hard to gauge.

"Clearly, it's disruptive for us. It's disruptive for our customers," Coca-Cola Co. CEO James Quincey said in a call with investors last week.

Rising fuel costs are prompting airlines to cull unprofitable flights and consider boosting ticket prices. Spot prices for jet fuel are up about 50 percent from a year ago.

American Airlines Group Inc. saw its second-quarter profit plunge by more than a third as spending on fuel surged, and CEO William Douglas Parker warned about rising fares. Delta Air Lines Inc. CEO Edward H. Bastian said prices are up about 4 percent from last year.

"Pricing is certainly a function of cost, and with higher fuel prices, you're going to expect to see ticket prices go up as well," he told investors in July.

Industrial equipment companies are feeling the impact of the trade disputes. Caterpillar, which makes construction and agricultural equipment, said it plans to raise prices to offset the steel and higher material costs.

The National Association of Home Builders estimates that the tariffs the Trump administration placed on

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 26 of 39

Canadian softwood lumber — along with other factors — have increased the cost of constructing a house by \$7,000. Higher lumber prices may cause a slowdown in home construction, which would also mean a possible slowdown in job growth. Both building permits and ground breakings slowed in June, according to the Commerce Department.

“Any higher costs for material comes right out of our profit,” said Randy Noel, a custom builder in Louisiana and chairman of the home builders’ board.

Higher costs mean his company has only sold 30 homes this year, rather than the normal 40. He’s been using fewer subcontractors on projects — which means those workers lose income.

“They’re sitting at home and looking for remodeling jobs,” Noel said.

AP Business Writers Josh Boak and Christopher Rugaber in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Prosecutors: Paul Manafort believed he was above the law

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort orchestrated a multimillion-dollar conspiracy to evade U.S. tax and banking laws, leaving behind a trail of lies as he lived a lavish lifestyle, prosecutors said Tuesday as they laid out their case against the former Trump campaign chairman.

Prosecutor Uzo Asonye told the jury during his opening statement that Manafort considered himself above the law as he funneled tens of millions of dollars through offshore accounts. That “secret income” was used to pay for personal expenses such as a \$21,000 watch, a \$15,000 jacket made of ostrich and more than \$6 million worth of real estate paid for in cash, Asonye said.

“A man in this courtroom believed the law did not apply to him — not tax law, not banking law,” Asonye said as he sketched out the evidence gathered by special counsel Robert Mueller’s team in Manafort’s bank fraud and tax evasion trial.

Manafort’s trial is the first arising from Mueller’s investigation into potential ties between Donald Trump’s presidential campaign and Russia. It opened with extraordinary anticipation amid unresolved questions about whether Trump associates coordinated with the Kremlin to tip the election in the president’s favor.

But it was clear from the outset that the case would not address that question: Prosecutors did not once reference Manafort’s work for the Trump campaign nor mention Mueller’s broader and ongoing investigation into Russian election interference. Mueller was not present in the courtroom.

Manafort, the lone American charged by Mueller who has opted to stand trial instead of cooperate with prosecutors, was described by his defense lawyer as a hugely successful international political consultant who left the details of his finances to others.

He relied on a team of financial experts to keep track of the millions of dollars he earned from his Ukrainian political work and to ensure that that money was being properly reported, said attorney Thomas Zehnle. He especially trusted business associate Rick Gates, who pleaded guilty in Mueller’s investigation and is now the government’s star witness. But that trust was misplaced, Zehnle said in an opening statement that made clear that undermining the credibility of Gates — a former Trump campaign aide who spent years working for Manafort in Ukraine — is central to the defense strategy.

Zehnle warned jurors that Gates could not be trusted and was the type of witness who would say anything he could to save himself from a lengthy prison sentence and a crippling financial penalty.

“Money’s coming in fast. It’s a lot, and Paul Manafort trusted that Rick Gates was keeping track of it,” Zehnle said. “That’s what Rick Gates was being paid to do.”

Manafort, who has been jailed for nearly two months, wore a black suit and appeared fully engaged in his defense, whispering with his attorneys during jury selection and scribbling notes as the prosecution began its opening statement.

The trial, decided by a jury of six men and six women who were seated after a brief selection process Tuesday, is expected to last several weeks.

After opening statements, the jury heard from the government’s first witness, Democratic strategist Tad

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 27 of 39

Devine, who testified about his collaborations with Manafort on behalf of Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of Regions. Devine testified that Manafort ran a tightly disciplined, professional campaign that contributed to his candidate's victory.

Central to the government's case are allegations that Manafort funneled more than \$60 million in proceeds from his Ukrainian political consulting through offshore accounts, including in Cyprus, and hid a "significant" portion of it from the IRS. He created "bogus" loans, falsified documents and lied to his tax preparer and bookkeeper to conceal the money, which he obtained from Ukrainian oligarchs through a series of shell company transfers and later from fraudulently obtained bank loans in the U.S., prosecutors said.

But Zehnle said there was no evidence that Manafort ever intended to deceive the IRS. He denied allegations that Manafort had tried to conceal his earnings by storing money in bank accounts in Cyprus, saying that arrangement was not of Manafort's doing but was instead the preferred method of payment of the supporters of the pro-Russia Ukrainian political party who were paying his consulting fees.

Defense lawyers also sought to address head-on Manafort's wealth and the images of a gaudy lifestyle that jurors are expected to see.

"Paul Manafort travels in circles that most people will never know and he's gotten handsomely rewarded for it," Zehnle said. "We do not dispute that."

Earlier, U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III interrupted the prosecutor during his opening statement to caution him against suggesting there was something criminal about being a multimillionaire.

"It isn't a crime to have a lot of money and be profligate in your spending," the judge said.

Though prosecutors made no reference to Trump nor discussed in any way Manafort's leadership of the Trump campaign, Manafort's case is nonetheless widely viewed as a test to the legitimacy of Mueller's ongoing probe, which Trump has dismissed as a "witch hunt."

"There was No Collusion (except by Crooked Hillary and the Democrats)!" Trump tweeted early Tuesday.

Manafort has a second trial scheduled for September in the District of Columbia. It involves allegations that he acted as an unregistered foreign agent for Ukrainian interests and made false statements to the U.S. government.

The other 31 people charged by Mueller so far have either pleaded guilty or are Russians seen as unlikely to enter an American courtroom. Three Russian companies have also been charged.

Associated Press writer Matthew Barakat in Alexandria and Stephen Braun in Washington contributed to this report.

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

Facebook finds 'sophisticated' efforts to disrupt elections

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook elevated concerns about election interference Tuesday, announcing that it had uncovered "sophisticated" efforts, possibly linked to Russia, to manipulate U.S. politics and by extension the upcoming midterm elections.

The company was careful to hedge its announcement; it didn't link the effort directly to Russia or to the midterms, now less than a hundred days away. And its findings were limited to 32 apparently fake accounts on Facebook and Instagram, which the company removed because they were involved in "coordinated" and "inauthentic" political behavior.

But official Washington connected those dots anyway, not least because the reported activity so closely mirrored Russian influence campaigns during the 2016 presidential election. Nearly 300,000 people followed at least one of the newly banned accounts and thousands expressed interest in events they promoted.

"This is an absolute attack on our democracy," said Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, which Facebook had briefed in advance. Warner expressed "pretty high

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 28 of 39

confidence" that Russia was behind the assault.

A spokesman for Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley said Facebook had informed his office that "that a limited group of Russian actors has attempted to spread disinformation using its platform and that the affected groups are affiliated with the political left."

The identified accounts sought to "promote divisions and set Americans against one another," wrote Ben Nimmo and Graham Brookie of the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab in a blog post Tuesday. The nonprofit is working with Facebook to find and analyze abuse on its service.

The perpetrators, Facebook noted, have been "more careful to cover their tracks" than in 2016, in part because of steps Facebook has taken to prevent abuse over the past year. For example, they used virtual private networks and internet phone services to mask their locations, and paid third parties to run ads on their behalf.

After it became clear that Russia-linked actors used social media to try to influence the 2016 U.S. election, Facebook has escalated countermeasures intended to prevent a repeat. It has cracked down on fake accounts and tried to slow the spread of fake news and misinformation through outside fact-checkers. The company has also announced new guidelines around political advertisements, requiring disclosure of who paid for them and keeping a database.

Facebook has ramped up spending on these and other measures, so much so that it finally spooked investors with a forecast of lower profitability last Wednesday. Facebook's shares promptly dropped almost 20 percent and haven't recovered.

While the company would not say who is behind the efforts, Facebook said it uncovered links between the accounts it just deleted and those created by Russia's Internet Research Agency in the 2016 influence effort.

For example, the Atlantic Council's researchers noted "language patterns that indicate non-native English and consistent mistranslation, as well as an overwhelming focus on polarizing issues." The accounts seemed focused on building up an online audience and moving it to offline events, such as protests.

The earliest page was created in March 2017. Facebook says more than 290,000 accounts followed at least one of the fake pages. The most followed Facebook pages had names such as "Aztlan Warriors," "Black Elevation," "Mindful Being," and "Resisters."

Facebook didn't provide detailed descriptions of those pages. But their names parallel those of 2016 groups established by Russian agents to manipulate Americans with particular ethnic, cultural or political identities. That effort targeted people with both liberal and conservative leanings.

This time, though, the pages Facebook found focused "exclusively at engaging and influencing the left end of the American political spectrum," according to the Atlantic Council researchers.

Facebook says the pages ran about 150 ads for \$11,000 on Facebook and Instagram, paid for in U.S. and Canadian dollars. The first ad was created in April 2017; the last was created in June 2018.

On a Tuesday conference call, Facebook executives declined to say much more, including whether the pages spanned a range of political opinion and whether the accounts mentioned specific candidates or politicians.

California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said more work needs to be done before the midterm elections.

"Foreign bad actors are using the exact same playbook they used in 2016," he said. They are "dividing us along political and ideological lines, to the detriment of our cherished democratic system."

The intelligence panel is planning to hold a hearing in early September with Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and an executive from Google.

President Donald Trump has offered mixed messages on Russian interference, at times even calling it a "hoax." After appearing to question whether the Russians would try again to interfere earlier this month, he acknowledged last week in a tweet that the midterms were a likely target. But he said that Democrats, not his fellow Republicans, would be the ones supported by Russia.

On Tuesday, White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said that Trump "has made it clear his administration will not tolerate foreign interference in our electoral process from any nation state or other malicious actors."

Jalonick reported from Washington. AP White House correspondent Ken Thomas contributed to this story from Air Force One.

Judge blocks release of blueprints for 3D-printed guns

By MARTHA BELLISLE and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday stopped the release of blueprints to make untraceable and undetectable 3D-printed plastic guns as President Donald Trump questioned whether his administration should have agreed to allow the plans to be posted online.

The company behind the plans, Austin, Texas-based Defense Distributed, had reached a settlement with the federal government in June allowing it to make the plans for the guns available for download on Wednesday.

The restraining order from U.S. District Judge Robert Lasnik in Seattle puts that plan on hold for now. "There is a possibility of irreparable harm because of the way these guns can be made," he said.

Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson called the ruling "a complete, total victory."

"We were asking for a nationwide temporary restraining order putting a halt to this outrageous decision by the federal government to allow these 3D downloadable guns to be available around our country and around the world. He granted that relief," Ferguson said at a news conference after the hearing. "That is significant."

Eight Democratic attorneys general had filed a lawsuit Monday seeking to block the settlement. They also sought the restraining order, arguing the 3D guns would be a safety risk.

Congressional Democrats have urged President Donald Trump to reverse the decision to publish the plans. At a news conference Tuesday, Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal said that if Trump does not block sale, "Blood is going to be on his hands."

Trump said Tuesday that he's "looking into" the idea, saying making 3D plastic guns available to the public "doesn't seem to make much sense!"

Trump tweeted that he has already spoken with the National Rifle Association about the downloadable directions a Texas company wants to provide for people to make 3D-printed guns. The guns are made of a hard plastic and are simple to assemble, easy to conceal and difficult to trace.

"We don't agree with President Trump very much," Washington state Assistant Attorney General Jeff Rupert told Lasnik, "but when he tweeted 'this doesn't make much sense,' that's something we agree with."

After a yearslong court battle, the State Department in late June settled the case against Defense Distributed.

The settlement, which took gun-control advocates by surprise, allowed the company to resume posting blueprints for the hard-plastic guns at the end of July. Those plans were put on hold by the Seattle judge's decision.

During the hearing in Seattle, Eric Soskin, a lawyer for the U.S. Justice Department, said they reached the settlement to allow the company to post the material online because the regulations were designed to restrict weapons that could be used in war, and the online guns were no different from the weapons that could be bought in a store.

Since the weapons "did not create a military advantage," he told the judge, "how could the government justify regulating the data?"

But Rupert said a restraining order would keep the plans away from people who have learned about the technology and want to use it to get around gun laws.

Hours before the restraining order was issued, Democrats sounded the alarm, warning about "ghost guns" that can avoid detection and pose a deadly hazard.

The company's website had said downloads would begin Wednesday, but blueprints for at least one gun — a plastic pistol called the Liberator — have been posted on the site since Friday. A lawyer for the company said he didn't know how many blueprints had been downloaded since then.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 30 of 39

Outrage over the administration decision is putting gun control back into the election-year political debate, but with a high-tech twist.

The president seemed to express surprise. He said on Twitter he was looking into the idea of a company providing plans to the public for printing guns, and he said it "doesn't seem to make much sense!"

Democrats agreed and said Trump had the power to stop it.

Some Republicans also expressed concern.

"Even as a strong supporter of the Second Amendment — this is not right," Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski tweeted, linking to a news story on the guns.

The NRA said in a statement that "anti-gun politicians" and some members of the news media wrongly claim that 3D printing technology "will allow for the production and widespread proliferation of undetectable plastic firearms."

In truth, "undetectable plastic guns have been illegal for 30 years," said Chris W. Cox, executive director of the NRA's political arm. A federal law passed in 1988 — crafted with NRA support — bars the manufacture, sale or possession of an undetectable firearm.

Trump spokesman Hogan Gidley made much the same point, saying the administration supports the law against wholly plastic guns, including those made with a 3D printer.

But Democrats called the law weak and said gun users can get around it by using weapons with a removable metal block that the gun doesn't need in order to function.

Democrats filed legislation that would prohibit the publication of a digital file online that allows a 3D printer to manufacture a firearm. Democrats also filed a separate bill to require that all guns have at least one non-removable component made of metal so they can be discovered by metal detectors.

People can use the blueprints to manufacture plastic guns using a 3D printer. But industry experts have expressed doubts that criminals would go to the trouble, since the printers needed to make the guns can cost thousands of dollars, the guns themselves tend to disintegrate quickly and traditional firearms are easy to come by.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey in Washington and Lisa Marie Pane in Boise, Idaho, contributed to this story.

Official says agency warned family separation bad for kids

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Department of Health and Human Services official told senators Tuesday that his agency had warned the Trump administration that separating families would be dangerous for children. But some of the government's top immigration officials used a Senate hearing to largely defend how the policy has been implemented, with one comparing family detention centers to "a summer camp."

One official told the Senate Judiciary Committee that while the Trump administration was developing its immigration policies, Health and Human Services officials said they were worried "about any policy which would result in family separation due to concerns we had about the best interests of the child." Commander Jonathan D. White of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, a branch of HHS, said they were also uncertain their department had enough resources to handle large numbers of detained immigrants.

"There's no question that separation of children from parents entails significant potential for traumatic psychological injury to the child," White said.

Asked by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., what response HHS officials got from administration policymakers, White said, "The answer was there was no policy which would result in separation of children from family units." White is a career official at HHS who has served in three administrations.

White's remarks came as the Judiciary committee questioned officials about what has become an election-year liability for the Republicans and the White House — President Donald Trump's separation of migrant children from detained families. Trump dropped the policy more than a month ago under fire

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 31 of 39

from Democrats and Republicans alike. But of more than 2,500 children who were initially separated from parents and guardians, hundreds remain in federal custody including more than 400 whose parents left the U.S. without them.

Lawmakers and journalists who have visited some detention facilities around the country and migrants themselves have reported poor conditions. The top members of the Judiciary committee — Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. — have asked inspectors general of two federal agencies to investigate reports by news organizations that immigrants at some centers have suffered alleged sexual and other forms of abuse.

Matthew Albence, an executive associate director at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, told the lawmakers that “the best way to describe” conditions at family detention centers was “like a summer camp.” He said the facilities undergo rigorous inspections and offer basketball and other forms of recreation, food and water around the clock and medical and dental care.

“We do not leave our humanity behind when we report for duty,” Carla L. Provost, acting chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, told members of the committee.

At one point, Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, asked witnesses whether they would want their children to stay in one of the government’s family detention centers.

“I think we’re missing the point,” answered Albence. “These individuals are there because they have broken a law.”

While some Republicans offered measured criticism of the problem, Democrats ridiculed Trump’s immigration policies as cruel and bungling. No. 2 Senate Democratic leader Richard Durbin of Illinois said Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen should resign and that someone “has to accept responsibility” for policies that show “the extremes this administration will go to.”

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chided the administration for not having an adequate system for matching separated children with their parents. He cited the often frantically crowded Chuck E. Cheese children’s restaurants as having procedures that work.

When Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., asked the witnesses “what went wrong” when the government began having trouble matching detained children with parents or guardians, the most specific answer came from the public health service’s White.

“Children were separated from their parents and referred as unaccompanied alien children when in fact they were accompanied,” White said.

Grassley said Trump’s crackdown on people illegally crossing the border from Mexico was well-intentioned but has had unintended consequences. He said the administration has “mishandled” family separations.

The officials said they keep records of children in their custody and can document decisions by hundreds of detained parents to willingly leave the U.S. without their children, an assertion that has drawn skepticism from lawmakers. Some migrants separated from their children have said they did not understand what they were signing.

White called a family’s decision to leave children behind “a desperate last act of a parent” that he said is “unfathomable until you’ve walked in those parents’ shoes.”

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, defended the officials and said Congress was also to blame for the administration’s problems with handling the separated families. He said congressional critics “offer no plausible or workable solution at all.”

U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw in San Diego set a deadline of last Thursday to reunite the families. While he commended administration officials for reuniting many parents in its custody with their children, it faulted them for leaving hundreds of families still apart and warning that a better system must be in place.

Levi’s, Yelp join coalition pledging not to discriminate

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Business Writer

Levi Strauss, Yelp and Lyft are leading a coalition of 1,200 businesses and cities that are pledging not to discriminate against employees or customers based on race, sexual orientation, or other characteristics.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 32 of 39

Normally, making a promise to serve every customer might seem like a no-brainer. But the Open to All coalition is launching in a highly charged atmosphere, with florists refusing to provide flowers for gay weddings and stores turning away Muslim customers. The aggrieved include a transgender woman who in June was harassed by staff at a Washington restaurant for using the women's restroom.

It remains to be seen if the "Open to All" message — on businesses' Yelp pages or on stickers in their windows — will calm frayed tempers or anger customers and businesses who might question its motives.

Tia Agnew, co-founder and CEO of New Day Craft, an Indianapolis-based producer of mead and cider, is excited to put up her "Open to All" window sticker, which she says matches her "personal and professional ethos." She's not worried that it will be a turn-off to some potential patrons.

"All I can do is put our best foot forward and say, 'Hey, come on in and hang out,'" she said.

But George Marinakos, the owner of The Exchange Saloon in Washington, isn't sold on the idea. His bar is near the White House, and he has served members of the Obama administration as well as White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, who was recently asked to leave a Virginia restaurant because of her affiliation with President Donald Trump. A chalkboard in front of the bar reads, "Everyone welcome," but he thinks an "Open to All" sticker might raise questions. If he doesn't put it up, some people will wonder why; if he does, some people might not feel welcome because of what they interpret as a left-leaning message.

"You're putting yourself in the position of being damned if you do or damned if you don't," he said.

The Open to All coalition got its start late last year as the U.S. Supreme Court was preparing to consider the case of a Colorado baker who refused to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple because it violated his religious beliefs. The court ultimately ruled for the baker but didn't give businesses a blanket right to discriminate against gays.

Calla Rongerude, Open to All's campaign manager, said businesses were asking civil rights groups how to make it clear they would serve gays and other minorities. The cities of New York and Oakland, California, are also part of the coalition, as are 190 civil rights groups, organizations and faith groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the Interfaith Alliance, the Service Employees International Union and the NAACP.

"People have been really hungry to engage and let people know that they're welcome," she said.

Rongerude also says she doesn't think the campaign will face any backlash from conservatives.

"Having a business say, 'I am going to serve all of my customers on the same terms' is inherently positive," she said. "I think we want to get beyond the 'us versus them' mentality. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect."

Levi Strauss and Co. said it plans to display "Open to All" window stickers at nearly 200 U.S. stores and outlets.

Yelp is adding a tab to its site so restaurants and other locations can note that they are "Open to All." Owners will also have the option to leave that space blank or say the establishment is not open to all, said Luther Lowe, Yelp's senior vice president of public policy. Yelp already bans speech on its site that attacks someone based on race, religion, sexual orientation and other traits.

"Up and down the company, these are issues that we've always leaned in on," Lowe said. Asked if the label might be divisive, Lowe said Yelp is simply trying to guide people to places that welcome them.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlaws discrimination in public places on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. But only 21 states and the District of Columbia ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Rongerude said many businesses have gone further than the government. Uber, for example, includes sexual orientation, gender identity and marital status in its nondiscrimination policy. It dumped a Houston driver from its platform earlier this year after the driver made a gay couple get out of his car.

"Business really is in a unique place to lead right now," Rongerude said.

But not every business contacted by Open to All plans to join the coalition. Target Corp., for example, said it won't join because it has a policy prohibiting third-party signs on its doors.

Participants in the coalition risk turning off some customers. Mark McLean, a retired business owner and conservative blogger in Tennessee, says "Open to All" signs are divisive. He likens them to "Gun-Free

Establishment” signs that infringe on gun owners’ rights.

“We can’t govern how people think. That’s a dangerous slope to go down,” McLean said.

But Jacinta Gauda, principal and chief strategy officer at The Gauda Group, who counsels companies about diversity and inclusion, says businesses are also facing pressure from employees and customers to take a stand on issues and make their values clear.

“I’m just of the mind that the movement to do this, driven by their employees and customers, is larger than the political risk,” she said. “They calculated this and said, ‘We have more to gain than we have to lose.’”

US Vatican cardinal: “Not once did I even suspect” McCarrick

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The highest-ranking American at the Vatican insisted Tuesday he never knew or even suspected that his former boss, disgraced ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, allegedly sexually abused boys and adult seminarians, telling The Associated Press he is livid that he was kept in the dark because he would have done something about it.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, head of the Vatican’s family and laity office, spoke as the U.S. church hierarchy has come under fire from ordinary American Catholics outraged that McCarrick’s misconduct with men was apparently an open secret in some U.S. church circles.

Pope Francis accepted McCarrick’s resignation as cardinal on Saturday and ordered him to live a lifetime of penance and prayer pending the outcome of a canonical trial.

In an open letter Tuesday, a contributor to the conservative Catholic magazine First Things urged Catholics to withhold diocesan donations to the U.S. church until an independent investigation determines which U.S. bishops knew about McCarrick’s misdeeds — a “nuclear option” aimed at making the laity’s sense of betrayal heard and felt.

Some of that outrage has been directed at Farrell, who was consecrated as a bishop by McCarrick in 2001 and served as his vicar general in the archdiocese of Washington until McCarrick’s 2006 retirement. Some Catholic commentators have speculated that Farrell must have at least heard the rumors that Catholic laity, students and professors at Catholic University in Washington and even some journalists had heard.

Farrell lived with McCarrick and other priests and bishops in a converted school building off Dupont Circle that serves as a residence for Washington clergy. But Farrell said he never heard any rumors about his boss’ penchant for young men, or suspected anything, and was not McCarrick’s roommate, as some bloggers have claimed.

“That might be hard for somebody to believe, but if that’s the only thing on your mind, well then you’ll focus on that. I was focused on running the archdiocese. What Cardinal McCarrick was doing here, there and everywhere and all over the world, didn’t enter into my daily routine of running the archdiocese of Washington,” he said.

“At no time did anyone ever approach me and tell me. And I was approached by over 70 victims of abuse from all over the United States after 2002,” when the U.S. sex abuse scandal first erupted, Farrell said.

“Never once did I even suspect,” he said. “Now, people can say ‘Well you must be a right fool that you didn’t notice.’ I must be a right fool, but I don’t think I am. And that’s why I feel angry.”

McCarrick, 88, was initially removed from public ministry on June 20 after U.S. church officials determined that an accusation that he fondled a teenage altar server in New York in the 1970s was “credible and substantiated.”

Since then, another man identified only as James has come forward saying that McCarrick first exposed himself to him when he was 11 and then engaged in a sexually abusive relationship with him for the next 20 years. McCarrick has denied the initial accusation but has not responded to the second one.

At the time of McCarrick’s June removal, the New Jersey archdioceses of Newark and Metuchen revealed that they had received three complaints from adults alleging misconduct and harassment by McCarrick and had settled two of them.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 34 of 39

It was apparently no secret that McCarrick invited seminarians to his New Jersey beach house and into his bed, suggesting that some in the U.S. hierarchy knew of his abuse of power but turned a blind eye. Certainly the New Jersey bishops who handled the settlements in 2005 and 2007 would have known.

In addition, a group of concerned American Catholics reportedly traveled to the Vatican in 2000 to warn of McCarrick's misconduct, but he was still appointed Washington archbishop and made a cardinal in 2001.

As head of the most politically powerful U.S. archdiocese, McCarrick took a lead role in the U.S. bishops' 2002 response to the sex abuse scandal. He served as a spokesman when the bishops were summoned to the Vatican that spring and then helped craft the "zero tolerance" policy they adopted at a landmark congress in Dallas later that year.

That hypocrisy is what is driving the sense of betrayal among rank-and-file Catholics, and the anger they are directing at McCarrick's fellow bishops.

"Not only did they not produce what they promised, but we have a level of downright depravity that was right in their midst while they were making these promises," said Marjorie Murphy Campbell, a civil and canon lawyer in Park City, Utah, who has called for an independent investigation into the scandal.

On Monday, Catholic University of America revoked the honorary degree it gave McCarrick in 2006, following in the footsteps of Fordham University in New York. Bishop Michael Olson of Fort Worth, Texas, has suggested that McCarrick be defrocked and for all those in the hierarchy who knew to be held accountable "for their refusal to act, thereby enabling others to be hurt."

Farrell, 71, said he only met McCarrick after McCarrick arrived in Washington, where he was appointed archbishop in November 2000.

Farrell said he never expected to remain working in the Washington archdiocesan chancery because he wanted to get back to being a pastor at the Annunciation parish on Massachusetts Avenue. He said he turned down McCarrick's request that he give up the parish three times, but then was told by the Vatican ambassador that he was being made a bishop.

Farrell also said he didn't know anything about misconduct with seminarians at a New Jersey beach house and that no accusations against McCarrick were ever brought to the Washington archdiocese, which from 2002 onwards was deluged with claims from victims of sexually abusive clergy.

"If there were a complaint ... I would have discussed it with the (archdiocesan) chancellor, who was a woman at the time, a woman who was in charge of victims and in charge of all the telephone calls we would get," he said.

The current archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, has said that a review of archdiocesan records showed no complaints about McCarrick.

"There is no record there," Farrell told the AP. "Because I would know about it."

Farrell said that in retrospect, if he had known that McCarrick took seminarians to a beach house it would have raised a red flag. But he also recalled that when he was growing up, he played soccer with a priest-led squad, and that American priests used to regularly run retreats for young people.

"He didn't invite Washington seminarians there — that I would have known," Farrell said of the beach house. He also said that if the rumors about McCarrick were so well known, "it would have been looked at" by Vatican authorities who vet bishop nominations.

But McCarrick was an effective fundraiser even before he came to Washington, and the Vatican has a history of ignoring reports of sexual misconduct for clergy adept at bringing in donations and vocations.

Farrell said he didn't want to dwell on the McCarrick scandal anymore as he helps organize the Catholic Church's huge family rally in his native Ireland next month, which will be presided over by Francis. In a remarkable shift, it is being led by a 2-to-3 margin by laity.

Farrell said he understands the betrayal felt by ordinary Catholics over McCarrick.

"I feel it myself," he said.

Trump administration considering tax break on capital gains

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is studying the idea of implementing a big tax break for wealthy Americans by reducing the taxes levied on capital gains, but no decision has been made yet on whether to proceed.

Administration officials said Tuesday that Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin prefers deferring to Congress. But he does have his department studying the economic impact of such a change and the legality of proceeding without congressional approval.

The change would involve taxing capital gains — profits on investments such as stocks or real estate — after taking into account inflation, which would lower the tax bite. Capital gains taxes are currently determined by subtracting the original price of an asset from the price at which it was sold and taxing the difference without adjusting for inflation.

For example, a stock purchased in 1990 for \$100,000 and sold today for \$300,000 would produce a \$200,000 capital gain. That amount, taxed at the top capital gains rate of 23.8 percent, would result in a tax bill of \$47,600. However, if the \$200,000 gain was trimmed to just \$103,000 by adjusting for inflation over the past 28 years, the tax bill would be \$24,514.

“There has been a great deal of interest in this provision for a long time,” said a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal policy deliberations. “Treasury is currently evaluating the economic impact and whether it can be achieved without legislation.”

Indexing capital gains for inflation would reduce federal revenue by about \$102 billion over a decade, according to the Penn-Wharton Budget Model. The Congressional Research Service has estimated that about 90 percent of the benefits would go to the top 1 percent of households.

The New York Times and the Washington Post reported Tuesday that the proposal was under active consideration by the administration. It has long been supported by Larry Kudlow, head of the president’s National Economic Council. Mnuchin, however, has signaled caution in approaching the idea.

Republicans, led by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, are leading an effort to extend and expand the \$1.5 trillion tax cut President Donald Trump pushed through Congress last December. But GOP lawmakers had mixed views on whether the administration could lower capital gains taxes without the approval of Congress.

“I think they would need Congress to do that,” Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, told reporters.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, a key vote on tax issues, also panned the idea.

“We just passed a major tax relief bill,” Collins said in an interview. “I don’t think this, or any other administration, has the legal authority to make that kind of change in our tax law.”

But other Republicans welcomed the chance for further tax cuts.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Penn., a chief proponent of lower taxes, said such the move would free up investment and “would be very good for the economy.”

Cutting capital gains taxes was one of the few items on Republicans’ wish list that didn’t make it into their tax legislation last year.

Mnuchin said in an interview with The New York Times that if the capital gains change “can’t get done through a legislative process, we will look at what tools at Treasury we have to do it on our own and we’ll consider that.” But he emphasized that he has not yet concluded that Treasury has the authority to act alone.

“We are studying that internally, and we are also studying the economic costs and the impact on growth,” Mnuchin told the Times.

Democrats, however, vowed to oppose the change to how capital gains are taxed.

“Once again, Republicans have exposed the true priorities of their tax scam: billions in tax breaks for the wealthiest at the expense of everyone else,” House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said in a statement. “American families are drowning under the weight of stagnant wages, higher health costs and soaring prescription drug costs, but the GOP continues to pick their pockets to give more handouts to the wealthy-

est 1 percent.”

In an interview in June with The Wall Street Journal, Mnuchin declined to speculate on whether Treasury has the legal authority to make the capital gains change on its own.

Democrats in the Senate have urged Mnuchin not to take the step, saying Treasury does not have the authority. They pointed to legal opinions written by the Justice and Treasury departments in 1992 finding that Congress intended the word “cost” to mean the price paid in nominal dollars — without adjusting for inflation.

Treasury acting on its own “would almost exclusively benefit the wealthiest Americans, add \$100 billion to the ballooning deficit, further complicate the tax code and ignore the need for congressional” approval, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, the top Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, and other Democratic panel members said in a letter to Mnuchin in May.

“The \$100 billion price tag is a conservative estimate because it does not consider the abundant tax-sheltering opportunities that would arise,” the Democrats wrote. “Further, the proposal would fail American workers, investment and the larger U.S. economy.”

AP Business Writer Marcy Gordon, AP White House reporter Catherine Lucey and Lisa Mascaro, AP’s chief congressional correspondent, contributed to this report.

Scientists: 1st sighting of dolphin hybrid is no ‘wholphin’

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Scientists are touting the first sighting of a hybrid between a melon-headed whale and a rough-toothed dolphin in the ocean off Hawaii. But don’t call it a “wholphin,” they say.

The melon-headed whale is one of the various species that’s called a whale but is technically a dolphin. “Calling it something like a wholphin doesn’t make any sense,” said one of the study’s authors, Robin Baird, a Hawaii research biologist with Washington state-based Cascadia Research Collective. “I think calling it a wholphin just confuses the situation more than it already is.”

In a study published last week, scientists say the animal spotted off the island of Kauai in August 2017 appears to be the first record of a hybrid involving either species. It’s also only the third confirmed instance of a wild-born hybrid between species in the Delphinidae family.

The label “wholphin” has stuck for a hybrid of a false killer whale and an Atlantic bottle-nose dolphin born in 1985 at Hawaii’s Sea Life Park. The hybrid named Kekaimalu still lives at the marine mammal park, where she helps teach children about genetics.

News of the hybrid spotted in the wild last year during Navy-funded research on the effects of sonar proves the “genetic diversity of the ocean,” Sea Life Park curator Jeff Pawloski said.

“I always thought they were out there in the wild existing — it only makes sense,” he said. “And to know she has cousins out there in the ocean is an amazing thing to know.”

Some news organizations have described the melon-headed whale and rough-toothed dolphin hybrid as a new species, but other things would still need to occur, including more widespread hybridization, Baird said.

“That isn’t the case, although there are examples where hybridization has resulted in a new species,” he said. “There’s no evidence to suggest it’s leading toward anything like species formation.”

The male hybrid presents an opportunity to look for others. Hybrids generally occur when there’s a decline in the population in one of the parental species, so scientists will be looking out for such a decline.

A likely scenario for how the hybrid came to be is a melon-headed whale getting separated from its group and ending up traveling with rough-toothed dolphins.

Scientists don’t know how old it is but believe it’s close to adult age.

Fed expected to keep interest rates unchanged

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the Federal Reserve wraps up its latest meeting, it will likely point to strong economic growth, low unemployment and rising inflation as reasons to stay on a path of gradually lifting interest rates. It is unlikely, however, to make any interest rate moves Wednesday.

The Fed's statement may also discuss potential risks from rising trade tensions. But it is almost certain the statement will not acknowledge the recent criticism lodged at the central bank from President Donald Trump.

The Fed has already raised rates two times this year in March and June. It signaled at the June meeting that it expected to raise two more times in 2018. Many analysts believe those hikes will occur in September and December.

The March and June rate hikes followed three hikes in 2017 and one each in 2015 and 2016. The Fed's key policy rate is now at a still relatively low level of 1.75 percent to 2 percent. But it's up from the record low near zero where it remained for seven years as the central bank worked to use ultra-low interest rates to lift the economy out of the Great Recession.

The string of quarter-point rate hikes is intended to prevent the economy from overheating and pushing inflation from climbing too high. But higher rates make borrowing costlier for consumers and businesses and can weigh down stock prices. Trump has made clear he has little patience for the Fed's efforts to restrain the economy to control inflation.

"Tightening now hurts all that we have done," Trump tweeted last month, a day after he said in a television interview that he was "not happy" with the Fed's rate increases.

Over the past quarter-century, presidents have maintained silence in public about Fed actions, believing that lodging complaints would be counter-productive. That's because it could produce even faster rate hikes if the central bank feels the need to convince financial markets that it will not yield to political pressure and allow inflation to rise to worrisome levels.

Following Trump's comments, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin tried to strike a reassuring note that the White House doesn't want to interfere with the Fed's policymaking.

"We as an administration absolutely support the independence of the Fed, and the president has made it clear that this is the Fed's decision," Mnuchin said on "Fox News Sunday."

At the moment, economic growth is strong, rising at an annual rate of 4.1 percent in the April-June quarter, the best showing in nearly four years. Unemployment is at a low 4 percent, and some analysts believe it will fall further when the government releases the July figures on Friday.

But there are worries as well, led by fears of what a Trump-led trade war might do to growth in the United States and around the world.

Many analysts believe that the possible harm from rising tariffs was a key discussion topic this week, although it may not show up in the Fed's policy statement.

Delivering the Fed's semi-annual report to Congress last month, Powell refrained from criticizing the Trump administration's effort to use the threat of tariffs to try to lower trade barriers. But Powell noted that the Fed was hearing a "rising chorus of concern" from business contacts about the harm a trade war could cause.

Powell hasn't publicly addressed Trump's criticism of Fed rate hikes. But the chairman had previously said in a radio interview that the central bank has long operated independently in making interest-rate decisions based on what was best for the economy and not in response to political pressure.

Asia shares gain on reports China, US may resume trade talks

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian shares are mostly higher as traders watch to see what might come of reports the U.S. and China are looking to restart trade talks.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 0.7 percent to 22,713.08 and South Korea's Kospi added

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 38 of 39

0.4 percent to 2,304.03. The Shanghai Composite index lost 0.3 percent to 2,867.33 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was flat at 28,555.32. Australia's S&P ASX 200 was almost flat at 6,279.10. Shares were higher in Taiwan, Indonesia and Singapore.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks rose on strong results from industrial and health care companies and on the anonymously sourced reports that the U.S. and China are trying to restart trade talks. S&P 500 added 0.5 percent to 2,816.29 on Tuesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.4 percent to 25,415.19 and the Nasdaq composite was 0.5 percent higher at 7,671.79. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks jumped 1.1 percent to 1,670.80.

U.S.-CHINA TALKS: Bloomberg News reported, citing two people familiar with the situation, that U.S. and Chinese officials are looking for ways to reopen trade talks. Earlier this month, both nations placed import taxes on \$34 billion worth of goods, and they've been threatening more severe measures. In another report, Bloomberg said the Trump administration will propose raising tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to 25 percent, from the planned 10 percent. It cited three people familiar with internal negotiations. If proven true, negotiations may be a long-drawn affair even if both parties agree to start talking.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "As mentioned above, the positive leads are in abundance today, set to aid Asian markets on a recovery," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary. "Perhaps an inspiration following the U.S.-EU development, the intention had certainly been taken well by the market. That said, it remains early times with the timetable and issues still uncertain as cautioned by the parties, one to follow for development," she wrote.

APPLE EARNINGS: Apple made more money from higher priced iPhones in the latest quarter, even as the number of phones it sold did not change much. Apple unit sales rose just 1 percent from a year ago, but the average selling price grew 20 percent to \$724 per iPhone, up from \$606 a year ago. Its stocks climbed 2.5 percent to \$195.14 in aftermarket trading on Tuesday, after the company's reported third-quarter profit and sales were better than analysts expected.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude dropped 38 cents to \$68.38 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 2 percent to settle at \$68.76 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 28 cents to \$73.93 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.97 yen from 111.83 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.1677 from \$1.1697.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay contributed to this report.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2018. There are 152 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 1, 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on an armed rampage at the University of Texas in Austin that killed 14 people, most of whom were shot by Whitman while he was perched in the clock tower of the main campus building. (Whitman, who had also slain his wife and mother hours earlier, was finally gunned down by police.)

On this date:

In 1714, Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I.

In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.

In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1911, Harriet Quimby became the first woman to receive a U.S. pilot's certificate from the Aero Club of America. (Quimby's accomplishments included being the first woman to fly across the English Channel; she was killed in an accident in July 1912 at age 37.)

In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, Aug. 01, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 023 ~ 39 of 39

In 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.

In 1957, the United States and Canada announced they had agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

In 1975, a 35-nation summit in Finland concluded with the signing of a declaration known as the Helsinki Accords dealing with European security, human rights and East-West contacts.

In 1981, the rock music video channel MTV made its debut.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley confirmed they'd been secretly married 11 weeks earlier. (Presley filed for divorce from Jackson in Jan. 1996, citing irreconcilable differences.)

In 2001, Pro Bowl tackle Corey Stringer, 27, died of heat stroke, a day after collapsing at the Minnesota Vikings' training camp on the hottest day of the year.

In 2007, the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery, collapsed into the Mississippi River during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.

Ten years ago: Some 30 mountaineers began a disastrous attempt to scale K2 in Pakistan; 11 of them died in a series of accidents, including icefalls. Crowds of Chinese watched a total solar eclipse along the country's ancient Silk Road, one week before the start of the Summer Games in Beijing.

Five years ago: Defying the United States, Russia granted Edward Snowden temporary asylum, allowing the National Security Agency leaker to slip out of the Moscow airport where he had been holed up for weeks. President Barack Obama faced congressional critics of the National Security Agency's collection of Americans' telephone records as he and Vice President Joe Biden joined lawmakers on both sides of the issue for an Oval Office meeting.

One year ago: By a vote of 92-5, the Senate confirmed President Donald Trump's nomination of Christopher Wray as FBI director. He replaced James Comey, who was fired by Trump amid the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Ramblin' Jack Elliott is 87. Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., is 81. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 76. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams is 68. Blues singer-musician Robert Cray is 65. Singer Michael Penn is 60. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 59. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 58. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 58. Actor Jesse Borrego is 56. Actor Demian Bichir is 55. Rapper Coolio is 55. Actor John Carroll Lynch is 55. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 54. Movie director Sam Mendes is 53. Country singer George Ducas is 52. Country musician Charlie Kelley is 50. Actress Jennifer Gareis is 48. Actor Charles Malik Whitfield is 46. Actress Tempestt Bledsoe is 45. Actor Jason Momoa is 39. Actress Honeysuckle Weeks is 39. Singer Ashley Parker Angel is 37. Actress Taylor Fry is 37. Actor Elijah Kelley is 32. Actor James Francis Kelly is 29. Actress Ella Wahlestedt is 20.

Thought for Today: "The only fool bigger than the person who knows it all is the person who argues with him." — Stanislaw J. Lec, Polish writer (1909-1966).