

Groton Daily Independent

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



Help Wanted

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

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

NOW OPEN

Harris

Auto Body ABDN

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

West Nile Virus — South Dakota

August 1, 2018



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Human West Nile Virus (WNV) reported to SD Department of Health (SD-DOH)

Human cases: 10

Hospitalized: 3

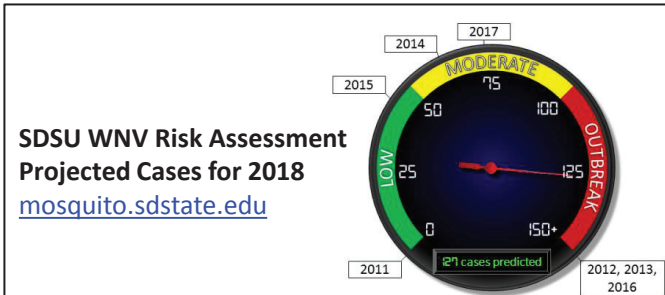
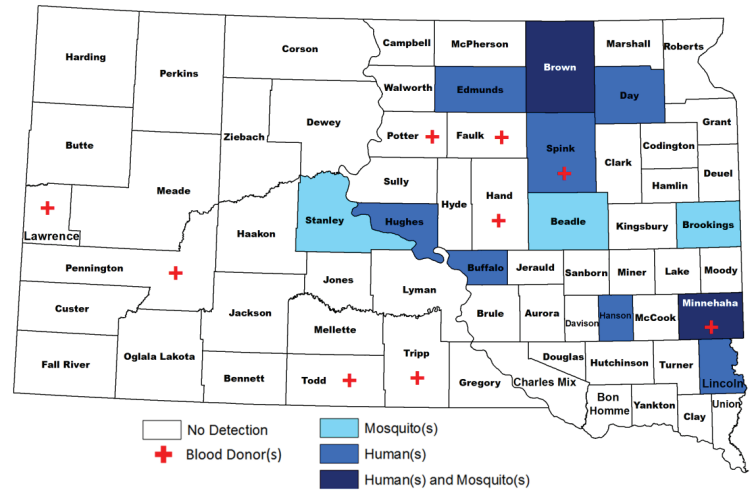
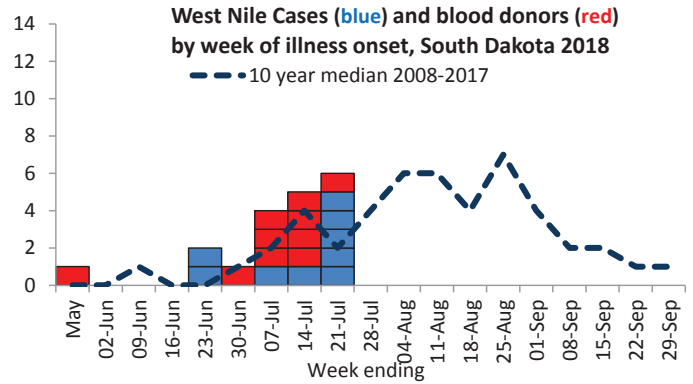
Deaths: 1

County Counts

Human cases: Brown (2), Buffalo (1), Day (1), Edmunds (1), Hanson (1), Hughes (1), Lincoln (1), Minnehaha (1), Spink (1)

Viremic blood donors: Faulk (1), Hand (1), Lawrence (1), Minnehaha (2), Pennington (1), Potter (1), Spink (1), Todd (1), Tripp (1)

Positive mosquito detections: Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Minnehaha, Stanley

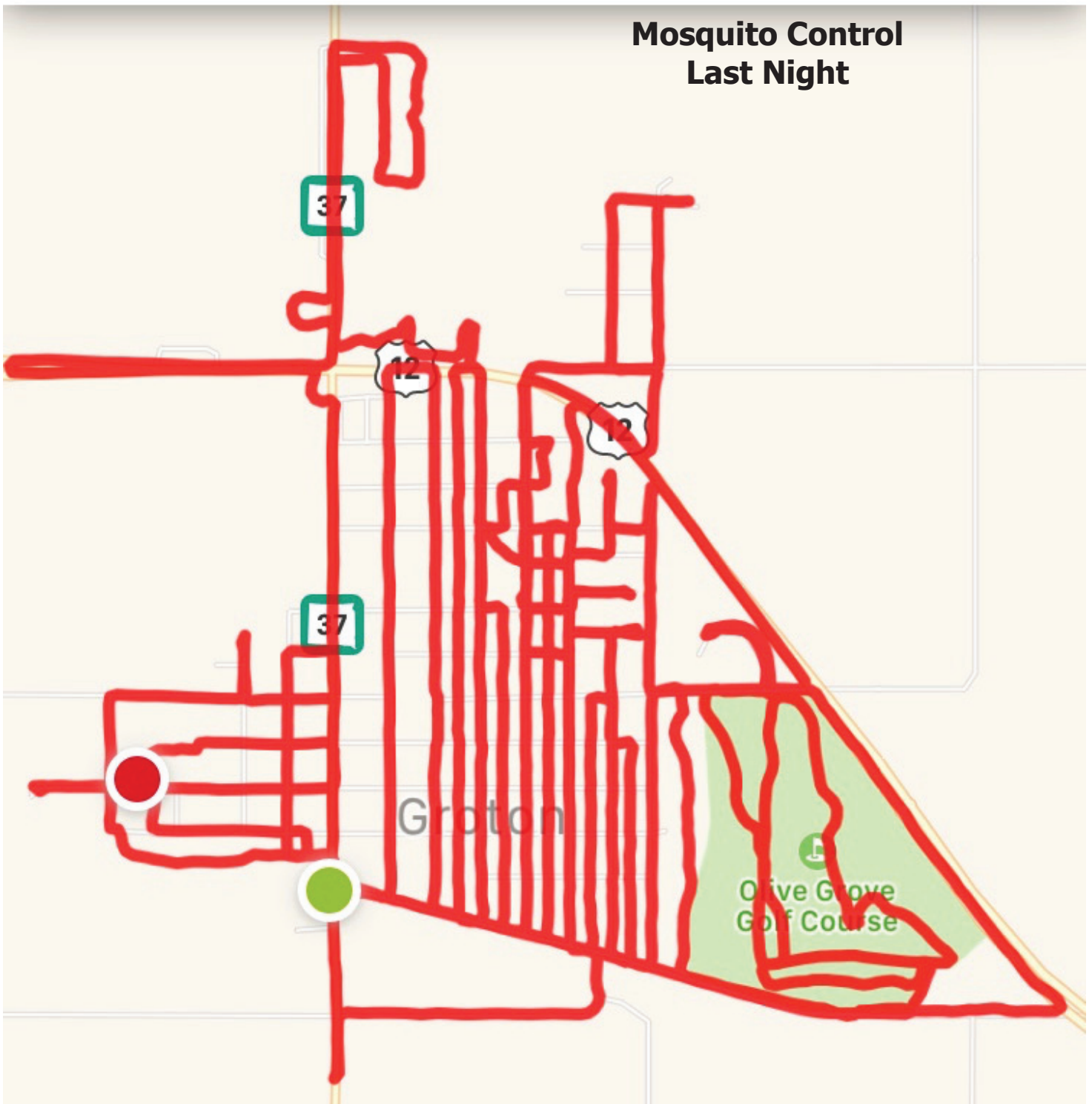


SD-DOH: Phone 800-592-1861; westnile.sd.gov
 CDC West Nile: cdc.gov/westnile

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Mosquito Control Last Night



Mosquito control was done in the City of Groton Thursday evening with 7.5 gallons of Evolver 4x4 being used. The wind started out of the east then switched to the south at 5-10 mph. Temperature was 71 degrees.

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July finishes near normal for temperature

Despite starting generally warmer than normal, July 2018 finished cooler than normal to average out at near normal temperature-wise overall across the area. July 26th featured a record minimum high temperature at Watertown of 66 degrees.

Regarding precipitation, much of central South Dakota ranged from near normal to upwards of 2" below normal while northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota generally received above average rainfall; much above average in some cases. Britton recorded two 4+ inch rainfall events, on the 9-10th and 19-20th, which contributed to a monthly total of 10.39" (record July total is 10.83" in 1993). Sisseton recorded a total of 6.64" of rain with ranks as the 6th wettest July on record. A significant heavy rainfall and flooding event took place on the evening of July 2nd into the morning of July 3rd across portions of northern Hand and southern Spink counties. 11" was measured in a KELOLAND rain gauge before it overflowed 3 miles south-southwest of Polo. The probability for this type of rainfall to occur here is 0.1%. In other words, this is about as likely as being dealt a full house in 5 card poker, or getting a YAHTZEE on the first roll (https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds_map_cont.html?bkmrk=sd). Looking at it another way, this one 24 hour rainfall event nearly equaled what the area receives on average in all of May, June, July and August, the four wettest months of the year, combined (Miller: 11.36"). Drought conditions improved from D2 Severe to D1 Moderate throughout the course of the month across the James River Valley.

The most noteworthy severe weather event of the month occurred on the evening of July 3rd into the morning of July 4th. Significantly severe 96 mph wind gusts were recorded at Mobridge and ~10 miles west-northwest of Long Lake as a line of thunderstorms raced from Rapid City to Eagle Butte to Forbes, ND. Extensive damage, including structural damage, resulted in certain cases. More information can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/abr/July2-4SevereStorms>

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sat. Aug. 18, 2018 10:00 am

Location: Trucks-N-Tractors, 14069 434th Ave., Webster, SD 57274

Now taking Consignments – Watch Website & Next Week's Forum for Sale Bill. Tractors, Combines/Heads, Payloaders/Skidsteers, Semis/Trailers, Vehicles/ATVs, Planting/Haying/Spraying/Augers, Construction Equipment, Fencing.

**To consign your equipment, call our office at
605-448-0048 or Bill Jensen 605-848-0943**

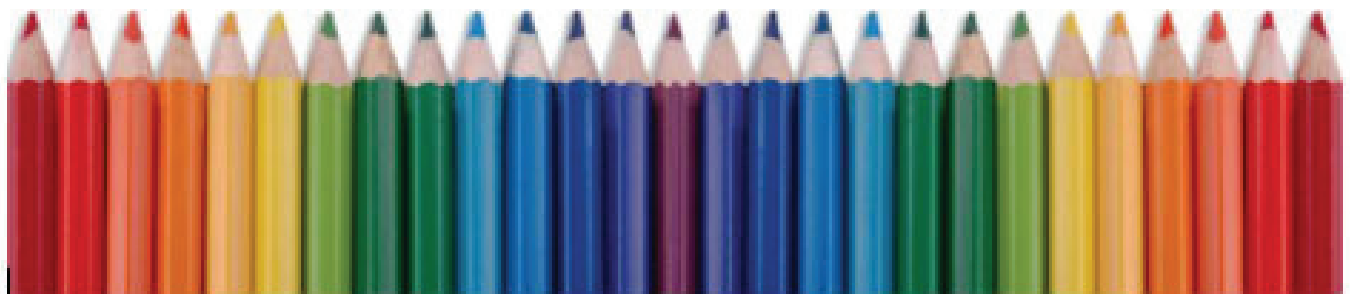
Don Wolter 605-881-6789

SD-518821-1

VOLD AUCTIONEERS & REALTY

voldrealty.com voldauctions@ag4bid.com

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE



**GROTON CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER
HAS BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT! STARTING
AUGUST 1ST THRU AUGUST 20TH WE WILL BE
COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT THE
FACILITY TO GIVE TO THE GROTON AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT.**





ALWAYS BE READY TO GO CAMPING

You can always be ready to go camping if you stay prepared. Grab three large plastic storage bins from a local store. Keep air mattresses, pumps, pillows and tarps in one bin. In the second bin, pack up stoves, pots, pans, lanterns, hatchets, rope, saws and other camp tools.

Keep the third bin stocked with items you'd need for camp and kitchen, like a small bag of favorite spices, toilet paper, paper towels, camp soap, spare rope, a first aid kit and anything else you think you might need. Store a tent and sleeping bags in large plastic bags.

Label each bin with its contents. Keep these bins in the garage or storage shed so you'll always have your gear waiting when you're ready to go camping.

Have each family member fill a small backpack with essential clothing, and have them include some warmer items for cooler nights and mornings. Make sure everyone has packed rain gear. The weather can be incredibly unpredictable at times.

With this preparation, you can easily go make family memories without all the stress and frustration of trying to find everything when you are ready to go camping.

To stock up your camping bins stop by your local Bass Pro Shops or Cabela's store 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.

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Brown County 4-H Royalty

We are excited to announce that we have five candidates for 4-H Queen and one candidate for 4-H King this year! Brooklyn Podoll, Lydia Vanderlinde, Peyton Johnson, McKenzie Hassebroek, Samantha Olson, and Matthew Sperry are the Royalty candidates for the 2018 Brown County Fair. The crowning of the Royalty will be on Thursday August 16th, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Ken's tent.



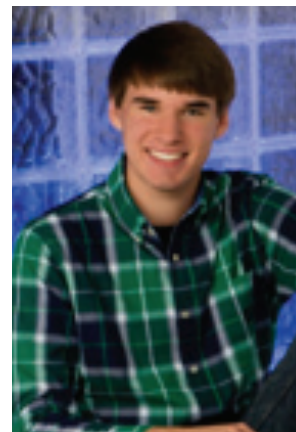
Brooklyn Podoll has been in 4-H for 7 years and is a member of the Three River Ranchers Club. Brooklyn has participated in Live-stock judging contests, sheep and wool project area and many more.



Samantha Olson has been part of 4-H for 9 years and is a member of Rural Lads and Lassies 4-H club. Samantha has participated in Beef, Home Environment and many more project areas.



Lydia Vanderlinde has been part of 4-H for the past 10 years and is a member of Lincoln Maids and Spads club. Lydia has been involved in Robotics, sheep and wool project area and many more.



Matthew Sperry has been part of 4-H for 11 years and is a member of the Dream Reachers club. Matthew has participated in Rabbits, foods and nutrition project area and many more.



Peyton Johnson has been part of 4-H for 10 years and is a member of Dream Reachers club. Peyton is active in home environment, visual arts, music and dance project area and many more



Mckenzie Hassebroek has been part of 4-H for 9 years and is a member of Rural Lads and Lassies club. Mckenzie has participated in poultry and eggs, clothing and textiles and many more project areas.

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Today in Weather History

August 3, 1984: During the morning hours, estimated four to six inches of rain fell from west of Garden City in Clark County to north of Henry in Codington County. Low lying areas were flooded, and a potato field west of Garden City was washed out.

August 3, 1989: Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph, driving golf ball size hail through most the windows on the west side of buildings in Amherst, Marshall County. Corn crops were stripped off their leaves with an estimated 1800 acres being severely damaged.

August 3, 1996: High winds up to 90 mph uprooted and damaged many trees in Mobridge. The roofs of two buildings were blown off while other roofs received some damage. Windows were broken out in eight vehicles at the South Dakota Winds up to 90 mph also caused damage in Herreid where doors on a concrete elevator were blown out.

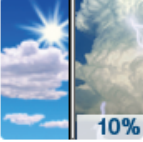






August 3, 2008: Severe thunderstorms moved across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours bringing large hail and damaging thunderstorm winds to the area. Isabel, Timber Lake, and Selby were among the hardest hit locations. Isabel in Dewey County saw eighty mph winds which damaged or downed several trees, damaged carnival equipment, destroyed some sheds, and rolled some large hay bales. High winds up to 80 mph severely damaged a barn, downed some power poles along with many trees and branches in and around Timber Lake. Also, several vehicles and many acres of crops were damaged by the hail and high winds. The Little Moreau Elk Lodge roof was destroyed, and some windows were broken. One-hundred mph winds downed six power poles and caused considerable damage to sunflowers, corn, wheat, and beans in and around Selby in Walworth County. Also, an empty grain bin was blown over and damaged. Numerous trees were snapped off. The coop seed building in Selby sustained considerable damage with many trees uprooted or damaged throughout town.

August 3, 2009: A cold front moving southeast across the area brought many severe thunderstorms to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to golf ball size along with wind gusts nearing 80 mph occurred across the area. Brown, Hyde, Lyman, and Gregory Counties were among the hardest hit locations. Hail and sixty mph winds significantly damaged many acres of soybeans and corn near Putney in Brown County. Seventy to 80 mph winds brought down several large trees along with many large tree branches in and around Highmore in Hyde County. The high winds also tipped over a semi, a gravity wagon, and a grain auger along with damaging several fences. There were also power outages in Highmore. Golf ball size hail combined with strong winds broke many windows in the house and dented several vehicles south of Kennebec in Lyman County. The house pet was also injured. Large hail, up to two inches in diameter, fell in a swath a few miles wide from northwestern to south-central Gregory County. The hail broke numerous windows, severely damaged siding and roofs of homes and other buildings, and severely damaged vehicles, while covering the ground in several places. Property damage has been particularly severe in the town of Gregory. Crop damage was also severe along the swath, with corn crops in some areas destroyed to the point of only small stubble left.

1970: Hurricane Celia was the costliest tropical cyclone in Texas history until Hurricane Alicia in 1983. Hurricane Celia made landfall near Port Aransas as a major Hurricane, Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale with sustained winds of 130 mph.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
 10%	 30%	 30%	 20%			 20%
Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 92 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 86 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 83 °F

Severe Storms Possible Later This Afternoon/Tonight



Up to 60 mph



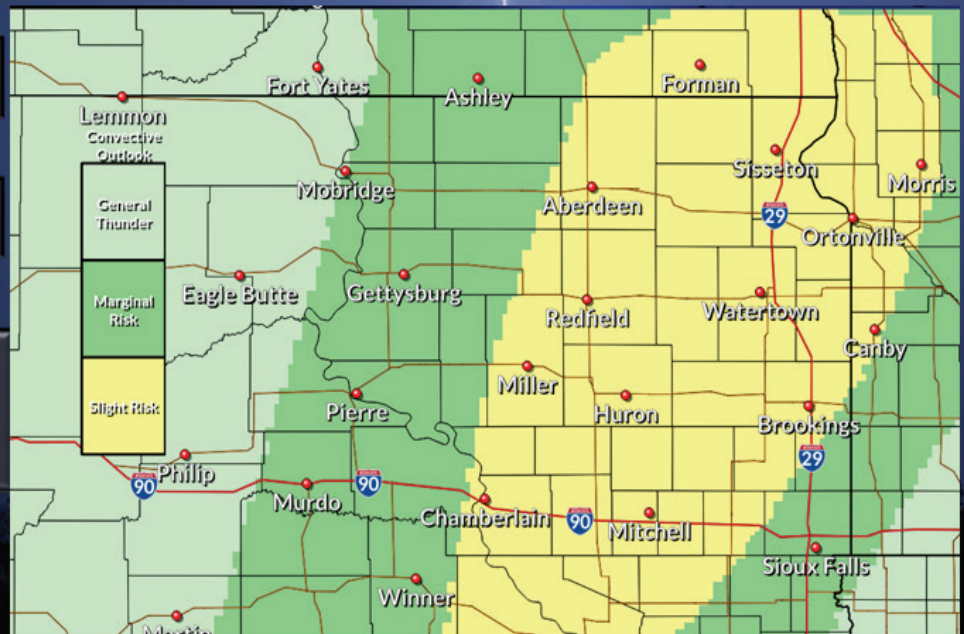
Up to 1.5 Inches



Locally Heavy Rainfall Possible



Unlikely



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 8/3/2018 5:34 AM Central

Published on: 08/03/2018 at 5:37AM

Strong to severe thunderstorms are possible this afternoon through the overnight hours. The main threat from the storms will be large hail and damaging winds. Locally heavy rainfall maybe possible as well.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 81.6 F at 5:37 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 44.5 F at 6:50 AM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 5:39 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1947

Record Low: 39° in 1971

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 3.18

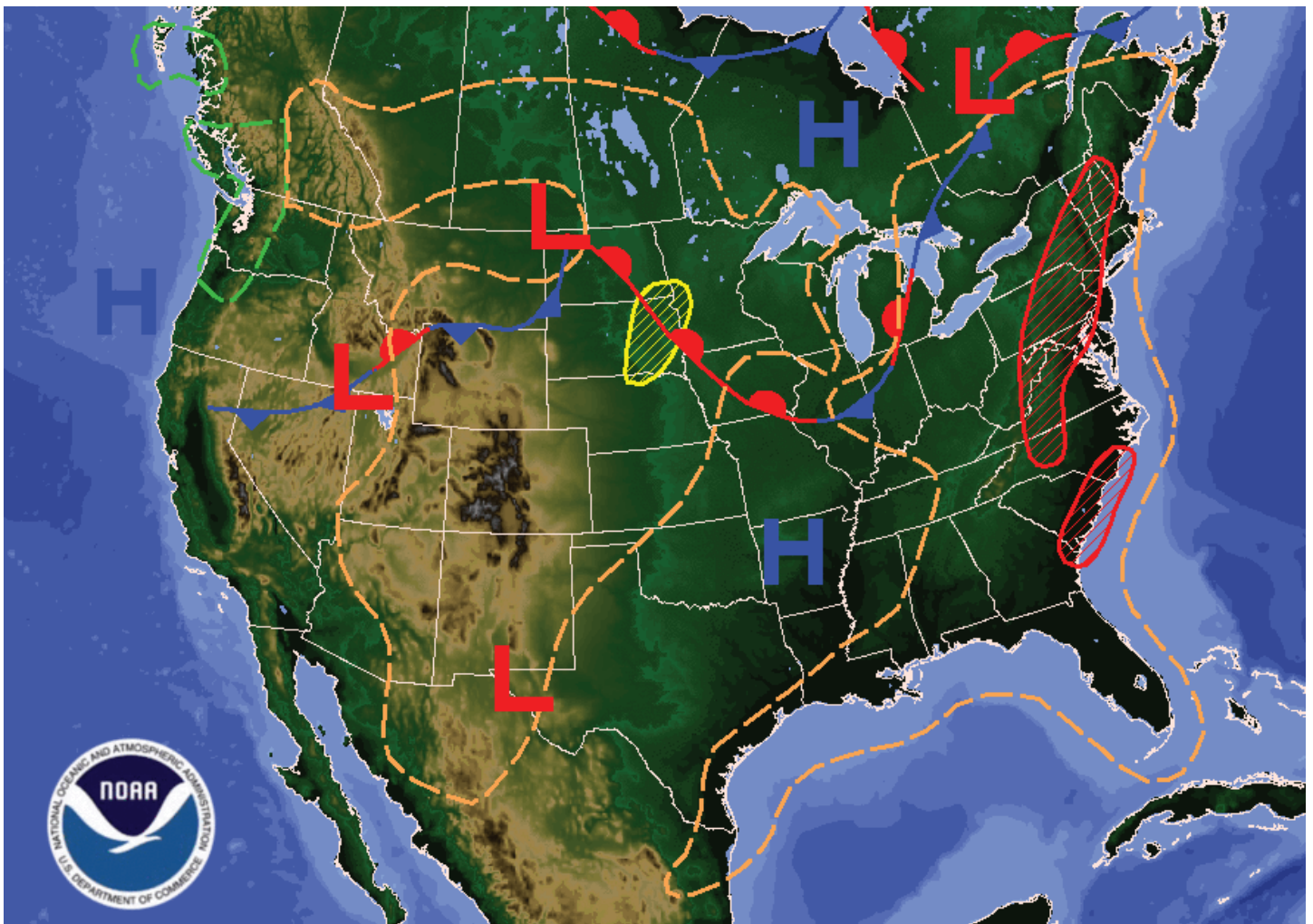
Precip to date in July: 3.99

Average Precip to date: 14.02

Precip Year to Date: 9.89

Sunset Tonight: 8:59 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:21 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Aug 03, 2018, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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A REASON TO REJOICE

Certain events in our lives bring different responses. Years ago, a smile would race across my face, and my heart would beat a little faster if someone would ask me to spend the day riding a bicycle with them over the hills to Los Gatos for lunch. It would take about nine hours for the 120-mile trip, not including lunch.

Now, if someone were to ask me to ride a bicycle to a nearby town for lunch, a smile would race across my face, and my heart would send a message to my brain and ask, Are they serious? You're an old man now. But the memories will remain with me forever and bring me joy when I think of the rides I once took around Monterey Bay.

All of us store up memories of one kind or another. Some are pleasant and others painful. Some remind us of lessons that were difficult to learn yet made us much wiser than we once were. And some leave us with stories we like to share because they are simply too wonderful to forget.

David was that way when he thought about going to the House of the Lord. I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord, are the words he wrote on one occasion. Notice that he used the word rejoiced. The very thought of going to a place of worship caused him to rejoice.

Worship was important to him. It was at the center of his life and kept him close to the Lord. When his friends said, Lets get together and worship, he would get excited.

Its very different today. Too few people find too little joy when they are invited to worship. Faithfulness to Christ and the obligation to gather for worship are no longer important. But those who truly love the Lord will always find the time and a way to worship Him.

Prayer: Lord, our love for You is reflected in our worship of You. May our hearts rejoice whenever we recall times of worship. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

New trial ordered in manslaughter case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court has ordered a new trial for a Sioux Falls man serving time for first-degree manslaughter.

David Randle Jr. was convicted in the 2015 death of 19-year-old Mikael Ashame. Prosecutors say Randle was drinking and using drugs when handling a gun that discharged and hit Ashame.

The Argus Leader reports that in an opinion released Thursday, the high court said the circuit court failed to give instructions on excusable homicide to the jury during the 2016 trial and ordered a new trial. The defense had tried to offer an excusable homicide option to the jury, but circuit court disallowed the instruction because it was submitted after the state finished its case.

Randle was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

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

1 injured in crash of sightseeing helicopter near Custer

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — One person was injured when a sightseeing helicopter on a training flight crashed north of Custer.

Custer County Sheriff Marty Mechaley says the Bell 47 chopper lost power just before landing and came up short of a helipad Thursday morning. It clipped a van, came down on a highway and flipped into a ditch.

A 30-year-old person in the helicopter was taken to a Custer hospital with unspecified injuries. Two others onboard weren't hurt. All three were employees of Black Hills Aerial Adventures.

The van's occupants were uninjured.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating.

Transient arrested hundreds of times loses federal lawsuit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a Sioux Falls transient who was arrested by police nearly 200 times in two years.

Robert Running Shield Sr. sued the city after he was repeatedly arrested, mainly for trespassing and unlawful occupancy. He contended the arrests were racially motivated and violated his rights. He represented himself in the case.

The Argus Leader reports the city argued Running Shield often was arrested for sleeping in laundry rooms or abandoned apartments. It also argued that the arrests were not racially motivated.

Judge Larry Piersol dismissed the suit, citing a lack of evidence.

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

2 killed in motorcycle crash with semi in Box Elder

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Two people were killed in a motorcycle crash with a semi-truck in Box Elder. A spokesman for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety says two motorcycles apparently riding together collided with the semi on Thursday afternoon.

Preliminary indications are that the two people who died were on one motorcycle. Two other motorcyclists suffered non-life-threatening injuries. The truck driver was not hurt.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating.

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17 people, 2 pawn shops sentenced in eagle trafficking case

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Nineteen defendants were sentenced following an undercover investigation into the illegal trafficking of body parts from eagles and other protected birds, federal authorities in South Dakota said Thursday.

U.S. Attorney Ron Parsons' office said in a statement that 17 people from several states and two South Dakota pawn shops were sentenced in federal court for various violations under the Lacey Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The investigation dubbed Project Dakota Flyer offered a rare view into the black market for eagle carcasses, feathers and other parts, and handicrafts.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office said Project Dakota Flyer spurred 31 indictments, with 12 defendants' cases still pending. The sentences announced Thursday range from prison time to fines for the defendants that include nine men and five women from South Dakota, a man from North Dakota, a man from Iowa, a man from Idaho and the two pawn shops in South Dakota.

"This investigation has demonstrated the breadth of the illegal black market for eagle and other migratory bird parts," Parsons said. "It is our goal to completely eliminate the unauthorized killing and selling of bald eagles, golden eagles and other protected species."

Parsons' office said the operation used undercover techniques to buy protected bird parts from 51 suspects over 19 months. Authorities said the purchases happened over the internet and in Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Edward Grace, acting assistant director of the Office of Law Enforcement for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said in the statement that agents and forensic scientists found more than 35 bird species — spanning every continent but Antarctica — had been trafficked.

"This operation, which began in America's heartland, illustrates how wildlife trafficking is a global crisis," Grace said.

Not only are eagles the national symbol of the United States, they're widely considered sacred by Native Americans. Federal law limits possession of eagle feathers and other parts to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes who use them in religious practices. Hunting them generally remains illegal.

"Importantly, nothing in this investigation was done to infringe upon traditional Native American use of eagle parts for cultural or spiritual purposes," Parsons said.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

American News, Aberdeen, Aug. 2

Cautious approach wise when it comes to liquor at fair

Brown County is right to exercise a little caution with a liquor, wine and hors d'oeuvres sampling set before the Aug. 15 Granger Smith concert at the Larry Gerlach Grandstand during the county fair.

Fair officials and county commissioners are letting the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center handle the event. The commission signed off on the idea during a meeting about two weeks ago.

Under the agreement, the Best Western Ramkota gets any profits — or swallows any losses.

And it leaves liability insurance and other concerns up to the private business rather than the fair and the county.

At least until we get a chance to see how this works and how popular it is, that seems like a wise idea.

Given the talk the past few years — this is not the first time a whiskey event has been suggested — this seems like it could be baby step toward expanding alcohol options at the grandstand during Brown County Fair week entertainment.

That could be a dicey proposition for our family-friendly fair. Of course beer has always been sold at grandstand shows, in the Clubhouse beer garden and at Centennial Village. Whiskey — or other hard liquors — seem like a different kind of game.

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To be clear, it's never been suggested that liquor sales be allowed during concerts or the Dacotah Stampede Rodeo. All of the discussion has involved offering samples in a special area like a nearby tent. That's the way to do it — in a controlled environment and probably with an extra cost attached.

For one thing, that should ease the burden on law officers. And it should keep the booze out of the hands and mouths of minors.

Without question a few beers get passed along to underage concertgoers during the fair. Once the lights go down and the sun sets, it's unreasonable to believe that officers and fair officials will catch every such instance. It's just impossible.

But there's no reason to make the jobs of those people — who already log long and often unappreciated hours during fair week — more difficult.

Beyond that, members of the law enforcement community have previously expressed concerns about liquor being served at concerts or other fair-related events.

Finding licensed officers to work fair security has been a problem in the recent past. No need to make that task more difficult.

There's no harm in seeing how a sampling event goes. We expect the response will be good. But racing toward expanding alcohol options at the fair seems both unnecessary and unwise.

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, Yankton, July 31

Freeman cooks up a winner

Freeman cooked up a big winner this past weekend with the inaugural South Dakota Chislic Festival.

No one knows how a first-time event is ever going to perform, but when 8,000 people turned out Saturday for the festival — far exceeding what organizers had hoped for — it was evident that something special was taking place.

In fact, the festival even had a major regional impact: While 8,000 people were estimated at the event, a lot of people left after seeing the unexpectedly long lines at the event. They took their hunger to eateries in the surrounding area, which, according to accounts we've fielded, also did big business Saturday.

Clearly, Freeman has a good thing going with this event.

In a way, what was seen in Freeman last weekend is more than a little reminiscent of the debut of Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest in 2007. That event in the downtown district also opened with many unknowns and variables, and modest aims. But the inaugural turnout of more than 5,000 people was so overwhelming that vendors actually ran out of food. Organizers knew that had struck gold.

What happened with Ribfest thereafter might offer a lesson or two in Freeman's case.

A lot of the lessons are positive. In those early years, Ribfest organizers reportedly fought the temptation to expand it to two days and instead worked on solidifying what they were building. They got more vendors, offered more activities and even stretched out along Third St. and Walnut St. Many of the changes that were made were created by necessity. In particular, the fickleness of the weather prompted a move from September to June. When the original concept seemed to hit a wall, the need to grow prompted a move in 2014 to Memorial Park, where Ribfest drew approximately 15,000 people that first year. At this point, the event owned a spectacular momentum.

Of course, you can't talk about Ribfest without addressing its demise. Weather, again, played a role in forcing the cancellation of the headline entertainment in 2015, which the festival never recovered from financially. In 2017, the decision was made to move the festival away from Memorial Park to the NFAA Easton Yankton Archery Center and charge an admission; the latter move, in particular, was not embraced at all by a market trained to expect something for free. It was a disastrous misstep that, unfortunately, left Ribfest officially in limbo — and probably gone for good.

However, the void left in its wake this year was immediately replaced with a reboot: The new "Rock and Ribs" event in downtown Yankton performed well on the same June weekend Ribfest would have occupied, and it seems to have a bright future.

Perhaps that's another lesson: When trying to put together a new event, you can't go wrong by starting

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with good food. (In fact, as we recall, one of the big draws during the first couple of years of Riverboat Days was the onion rings.)

There is a lot of potential for the South Dakota Chislic Festival, and Freeman's organizers, who have to be in the stratosphere after last weekend, are well aware of it. There is certainly room for growth, and there also has to be an eye on sustainability and practicality.

But they are working with a great idea that the public seems to love, and that's at least three-quarters of the battle.

It's going to be fun to see what's on the menu next for this promising area event.

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, July 31

The rally is much more than noise, traffic

GOOD: The 2018 Sturgis rally-goers are starting to roar into the Black Hills to the chagrin of some. Yes, it will be noisy and the streets, roads and parking lots will be filled with motorcycles and visitors. It is, however, a small price to pay for the economic benefits and national recognition it brings to Sturgis and the entire Black Hills. These visitors and their growling bikes will pump millions of dollars into the local economy over the next two weeks that will flow into the bank accounts of property and business owners, vendors and hundreds of workers. In addition, many who attend the rally will share their experiences with others in their hometowns that in turn may choose to visit or vacation in the Black Hills someday. The rally, now in its 78th year, is truly the gift that keeps giving and for a mere two weeks of inconvenience for some of us.

BAD: It's never good to see an established business going into bankruptcy and then close its doors in the middle of the night. But it takes on added meaning when it is a casino and hotel in Deadwood, which has had legalized gambling since 1989 that led to a renaissance in the historic Northern Hills mining community. The Celebrity Hotel and Casino closed at midnight on July 24 after 20 years in business and with it went 62 slot machines, 15 full-time jobs and eight part-time jobs. Last summer, it was Kevin Costner's Midnight Star Casino that closed its doors after 26 years. Deadwood still has plenty of entertaining gambling venues, but it is a good thing that it is taking steps to diversify its economy and attract a broader group of visitors. The stakes are only going to get higher for Deadwood as the competition for gambling revenue intensifies in the state and nation.

UGLY: Big Pharma and its well-heeled enablers are pushing a new class of drugs that like with the opioids epidemic could do long-lasting harm to unsuspecting patients. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the prescribing of anti-anxiety drugs like Xanax, Valium, Ativan and Klonopin has skyrocketed by two-thirds since 1996. The drugs are part of a class known as benzodiazepines, or "benzos," which can be addictive and are particularly dangerous and even fatal when taken in combination with opioids. Big Pharma's appetite for enormous profits continues unabated while too many politicians look the other way — and as is always the case, it is the public that one way or another ends up paying the price.

Developer: Guarantors don't control \$50M Sioux Falls project

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three guarantors with ties to an embattled company facing multiple lawsuits have little control and involvement in a \$50 million mixed-use project in Sioux Falls, according to the majority owner.

Developer Jeff Lamont and Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken held a press conference Wednesday to quell concerns about the Village on the River project, the Argus Leader reported.

The move comes one week after city councilors said they were unaware the project's guarantors had ties to Hultgren Construction, a company under criminal investigation for its role in the 2016 Copper Lounge collapse that killed one person.

Lamont said less than 10 percent of the project is owned by the three guarantors, Norm Drake, Paul Cink and Larry Canfield. The guarantors are also executives at Legacy Developments, which was the developer connected to the Sioux Falls building collapse two years ago. Sioux Falls awarded Legacy the Village on

the River project earlier this year.

Lamont said he's not concerned that Drake, Cink and Canfield were also owners of now-bankrupt Hultgren Construction because they have no control over the project.

"They have no control or no say over anything," he said.

Lamont Companies, a hotel development firm in Aberdeen, is the controlling investor and manager of the Village River Group, LLC, Lamont said. The separate limited liability company will run the downtown development, which will include a hotel, commercial space and parking garage.

"I'm the majority owner and I make all the decisions," Lamont said.

TenHaken said he fully supports the project after having his staff look over contracts and planning documents to ensure the city's financial interest in the project is sound.

"I, too, like a lot of people had concerns about the process on how we got to where we are today, I'm excited about where we've landed," TenHaken said. "And where we've landed is with an established, reputable partner in Lamont Companies."

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

Sioux Falls police investigate baby death

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls are investigating the death of a baby.

Officers were called to a home Wednesday to investigate the death of a 4-month-old. Police Lt. Mike Colwill says results of an autopsy should be available Friday.

He says no one is in custody for the death.

Sioux Falls men sent to federal prison for meth conspiracy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two Sioux Falls men have been sentenced to federal prison for a multi-state drug ring.

Investigators say the men were responsible for bringing more than 50 pounds of methamphetamine to South Dakota. Thirty-four-year-old Alvin Felicianosoto was sentenced to 17½ years for conspiracy to distribute meth and possession with intent to deliver.

The Argus Leader says 32-year-old Orlando Dones-Vargas was sentenced to 19½ years for the same charges.

Both were found guilty in jury trials earlier this year.

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

Lake Andes man faces felonies for bar disruption with gun

LAKE ANDES, S.D. (AP) — A Lake Andes man faces six felony charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly waving a pellet gun around a bar while drunk.

Patrons at the Duck In, Waddle Out Bar told police that 24-year-old Jonah Thin Elk was trying to intimidate people into buying him a drink on July 18. The Daily Republic reports he also allegedly put the replica gun to his own head and mouth.

Court documents indicate Thin Elk's blood-alcohol level was more than double the legal limit for driving. It wasn't clear if he has an attorney. A home telephone listing couldn't be found.

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

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Possible drowning investigated at Mobridge-area campground

MOBRIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are investigating a possible drowning at the Indian Creek Campground in Walworth County.

KOLY radio reports that sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a possible drowning about 4 p.m. Tuesday. They pulled a 50-year-old Mobridge man from the water near a boat ramp and took him to a Mobridge hospital, but he didn't survive.

His name was not immediately released.

Information from: KOLY-AM, <http://www.drgnews.com/>

Sioux Falls man gets 6 years for robbing credit union

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been sentenced to six years in federal prison for robbing a credit union last year.

The U.S. attorney's office says 27-year-old Cody Maynard robbed the Voyage Federal Credit Union of \$3,600 on April 27, 2017. Authorities say he wore brass knuckles and threatened to use a gun and a knife.

Maynard also was ordered to pay more than \$4,200 in restitution, and to serve three years of supervised release following his prison time.

Wheat harvests in South Dakota well ahead of average pace

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The pace of this year's winter wheat harvest in South Dakota remains well ahead of the long-term average.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 79 percent of the crop is in the bin, compared with 57 percent on average.

The spring wheat harvest in the state is now one-third complete. That's also well ahead of the average pace.

The majority of most crops in South Dakota remain rated mostly in fair or good condition.

Topsoil moisture supplies statewide are rated 78 percent adequate to surplus, with 71 percent of subsoil moisture in those categories.

Pasture and range conditions statewide are mostly rated fair or good.

US employers add 157,000 jobs, jobless rate hits 3.9 pct.

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers slowed their hiring in July, adding 157,000 jobs, a solid gain but below the healthy pace they maintained in the first half of this year.

The Labor Department says the unemployment rate ticked down to 3.9 percent from 4 percent. That's near an 18-year low of 3.8 percent reached in May.

Employers added an average of 224,000 new workers in the first six months of this year, a faster pace than in 2017. The pickup has impressed many economists because it's happening late in the economic expansion, which has entered its 10th year and is now the second-longest in U.S. history.

The economy grew in the April-June quarter at its fastest pace in four years. Business and consumers are optimistic, suggesting solid hiring is likely to continue.

Official: Suicide bombing of Afghan Shiite mosque kills 25

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber slipped undetected into a Shiite Muslim mosque in eastern Afghanistan on Friday killing at least 25 people and wounding at least 23, a provincial government official said.

The attacker blew himself up as worshippers gathered in the mosque for weekly prayers on Friday, the

Muslim holy day, said Abdullah Asrat, spokesman for the governor of Paktia province.

The bomber slipped undetected through a side door, he said.

Syed Sufi Gardezi, the most senior Shiite cleric in the city of Gardez, put the death toll at 30. He described a scene of panic and distress outside the Imam-e-Zaman mosque as news of the explosion spread and relatives gathered.

Gardezi said the wounded were screaming for help and body parts of the dead were scattered throughout the single story mosque. The dead were all men and boys, he said.

Dr. Mohammad Wali Roshan, a physician at a local hospital, said some of the relatives, armed with sticks and guns, were furious at the lack of security and began beating even medical personnel who arrived to help the wounded.

"They were shouting that there was no security and screaming for their loved ones," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan has targeted Shiite worshippers in the past. The group has also warned Afghanistan's minority Shiites that their houses of worship would be targeted.

The Shiite cleric, Gardezi, blamed the Islamic State affiliate. He said that in eastern Paktia province, where Gardez is located, the Taliban have a strong presence and have never attacked Shiites in the past and have never threatened them.

But the Islamic State has vowed to rid Afghanistan of Shiites, he said. The Islamic State is made up of radical Sunni Muslims.

Bookkeeper: Manafort didn't disclose foreign accounts to her

By CHAD DAY and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort inflated his business income by millions of dollars and kept his bookkeeper in the dark about the foreign bank accounts he was using to buy luxury items and pay personal expenses, according to testimony during his trial Thursday.

But he otherwise approved "every penny" of the personal bills bookkeeper Heather Washkuhn paid for him, she said.

That testimony is important to special counsel Robert Mueller's team as it looks to rebut defense arguments that Manafort can't be responsible for financial fraud because he left the details of his spending to others. That includes his longtime associate Rick Gates, who pleaded guilty earlier this year and is expected to testify soon as the government's star witness.

"I would say he was very knowledgeable. He was very detail-oriented. He approved every penny of everything we paid," Washkuhn told jurors.

She also described documents submitted by Manafort to obtain loans. Prosecutors say the documents inflated the net income of his business by roughly \$4 million, and they say he tried to pass them off as coming from her accounting firm.

The fraudulent loan documents came after Manafort's political consulting work in the Ukraine had dried up and as he had begun to financially struggle, prosecutors say. Washkuhn told jurors about a series of emails she sent him in 2016 warning that he was behind on his payments, including to her.

Manafort faces charges of bank fraud and tax evasion that could put him in prison for the rest of his life. It's the first courtroom test of Mueller's team, which is tasked with looking into Russia's efforts to interfere with the U.S. election and whether the Trump presidential campaign colluded with Moscow to sway voters.

While the question of collusion remains unanswered, Manafort's financial fraud trial has exposed the lucrative and secretive world of foreign lobbying that made Manafort rich.

Other witnesses testifying this week said Manafort paid them millions from the offshore accounts tied to foreign shell companies for landscaping, expensive clothing and even a karaoke machine.

When prosecutor Greg Andres read off some of the offshore companies to Manafort's bookkeeper, she said Manafort never told her about them. She said she would have documented them for tax purposes if

he had.

On cross-examination, Manafort attorney Thomas Zehnle tried to get Washkuhn to say Gates was heavily involved in approving expenses. The Manafort legal team has been working to convince the jury that Gates is to blame rather than their client.

But Washkuhn said that while Gates dealt with some business matters for Manafort's consulting firm, "mainly Mr. Manafort was the approval source."

The federal judge overseeing the trial has questioned the hundreds of exhibits prosecutors want to submit as evidence of Manafort's lavish spending.

U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III said the money is relevant, but he doesn't see the need for prosecutors to "gild the lily," especially considering Manafort's lawyers have not disputed that their client spent his money on luxury items.

Prosecutors told Ellis they expect to rest their case next week, noting that they are ahead of schedule.

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

Associated Press writer Anne Flaherty contributed to this report.

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

Trump renews attacks on 'fake, fake disgusting news'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP) — President Donald Trump is renewing his campaign against the media, claiming at a Pennsylvania rally that the media is the "fake, fake disgusting news" and casting journalists as his true political opponent.

Trump barnstormed Thursday night in a state that he swiped from the Democrats in 2016 and that is home to a Senate seat he is trying to place in the Republicans' column this fall. But the race between GOP U.S. Rep. Lou Barletta and two-term incumbent Democratic Sen. Bob Casey took a back seat to Trump's invectives against the media, which came amid a backdrop of antagonism to journalists from the White House and hostility from the thousands packed into a loud, overheated Wilkes-Barre arena.

"Whatever happened to the free press? Whatever happened to honest reporting?" Trump asked, pointing to the media in the back of the hall. "They don't report it. They only make up stories."

Time and time again, Trump denounced the press for underselling his accomplishments and doubting his political rise.

He tore into the media for diminishing what he accomplished at his Singapore summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un. He tore into the tough questioning he received in Helsinki when he met with Russia's Vladimir Putin last month. And he began the speech with a 10-minute remembrance of his 2016 election night victory, bemoaning that Pennsylvania wasn't the state to clinch the White House for him only because "the fake news refused to call it."

"They were suffering that night, they were suffering," Trump said of the election night pundits. He then promised that the Keystone State would deliver his margin of victory "next time."

"Only negative stories from the fakers back there," the president declared.

With each denunciation, the crowd jeered and screamed at the press in the holding pen at the back of the arena.

The inflammatory performance came just hours after White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders refused to distance herself from Trump's previous assertions that the media is the "enemy" of the American people. Pressed during a White House briefing on the issue, Sanders said Trump "has made his position known."

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In a heated exchange with reporters, she recited a litany of complaints against the press and blamed the media for inflaming tensions in the country.

"As far as I know, I'm the first press secretary in the history of the United States that's required Secret Service protection," she said, accusing the media of continuing "to ratchet up the verbal assault against the president and everyone in this administration."

Though Barletta's bid was an undercard to the Trump's main event, savaging his opponents, the president did bless the congressman's bid. Trump, who has accelerated his campaign schedule in recent weeks to help the Republicans he favors both in primaries and November's midterms, was the first Republican to win Pennsylvania since 1988.

"For years and years, they said Republicans should win the state of Pennsylvania," Trump said. "It always got away. But we won the state of Pennsylvania."

He and Barletta, who is trailing by double digits in the polls, share hard-line immigration views, and Trump lashed Casey with his own derogatory nickname: "Sleeping Bob."

But Trump's focus was defending his own accomplishments and beliefs. He pushed for tougher borders, overstating the threat posed by violent gangs like MS-13 and making the murderous group a stand-in for all immigrants in the United States illegally.

He defended his kid-glove approach to both Kim and Putin, saying, "it would be a good thing, not a bad thing" to have warmer relations with the hostile powers and dismissing the talk that meeting with the autocrats elevated them on the world stage.

He bashed the Democratic leadership of Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and, curiously, suggested that his frequent foe Rep. Maxine Waters of California was "a new star" of the party.

He raved about the booming economy and said, without evidence, that his blue-collar supporters in states like Pennsylvania were the biggest beneficiaries.

And he looked ahead to his 2020 re-election campaign, touting his new slogan, "Keep America Great Again" while musing whether he wanted Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, whom he decried as "Pocahontas," or Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whom he flatly deemed "crazy," as his opponent.

The rally came at a perilous time for Trump, who the day before bluntly declared his attorney general should terminate "right now" the federal probe into the campaign that took him to the White House, a newly fervent attack on the special counsel investigation that could imperil his presidency.

Sanders scrambled to explain that Trump's tweet was "not an order" and the president was not directing his attorney general to do anything.

"It's the president's opinion," she said.

But Trump's tweetstorm again raised the specter that he could try to more directly bring special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia-Trump election-collusion probe to a premature end. And it revived the idea that the president's tweets themselves might be used as evidence that he is attempting to obstruct justice.

Negotiations have also started again about a possible presidential interview as Mueller's team has offered the White House format changes, perhaps willing to limit some questions asked of Trump or accept some answers in writing, according to a person briefed on the proposal who wasn't authorized to discuss private talks and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Colvin reported from Washington.

Campaigns on their own as cyber threats roil midterms

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY**, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Kamala Harris has been the target of social media misinformation campaigns since she became a U.S. senator.

Every month for the last 18 months, her office has discovered on average between three and five fake

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Facebook profiles pretending to be hers, according to a Harris aide. It's unclear who creates the pages, which are often designed to mislead American voters about the ambitious Democratic senator's policies and positions.

The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity, like more than a half dozen campaign officials contacted for this story, for fear of attracting unwanted attention from adversaries or scrutiny on the Senate office's evolving cybersecurity protocols.

Such internet mischief has become commonplace in U.S. politics. Facebook announced earlier this week that it uncovered "sophisticated" efforts, possibly linked to Russia, to influence U.S. politics on its platforms. Senior intelligence officials declared Thursday that foreign adversaries continue waging a quiet war against U.S. campaigns and election systems.

Still, one thing has become clear: With the midterm elections just three months away, campaigns are largely on their own in the increasingly challenging task of protecting sensitive information and countering false or misleading content on social media.

The Democratic National Committee has worked to strengthen its own internal security protocols and encouraged state parties to do the same, according to Raffi Krikorian, who previously worked for Uber and Twitter and now serves as the DNC's chief technology officer.

But in an interview, he acknowledged there are limits to how much the national party can protect the thousands of Democratic campaigns across the country.

"We're providing as much assistance to campaigns as we can, but there's only so much we can do," Krikorian said.

"For all the high-level campaigns I'm worried, but at least there are people to talk to," he continued. "The mid-sized campaigns are at least getting technical volunteers, but the truly down-ballot campaigns, that's where the state parties and coordinated campaigns can help, but there's no doubt that this is an uphill battle when we're dealing with a foreign adversary."

Officials in both political parties have intensified cybersecurity efforts, although the known cases of interference have so far overwhelmingly focused on Democrats.

The DNC now has a staff of 40 on its technical team, led by Krikorian and other Silicon Valley veterans hired in the months after Russians hacked the party's email system and released a trove of damaging messages in the months before President Donald Trump's 2016 victory.

Top U.S. intelligence and homeland security officials raised new alarms Thursday about outside efforts to influence the 2018 and 2020 elections during a White House press briefing.

Homeland Security chief Kirstjen Nielsen said: "Our democracy is in the crosshairs," while Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats added: "We continue to see a pervasive messaging campaign by Russia to try to weaken and divide the United States."

Facebook said it removed 32 accounts from its site 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, which featured names such as "Black Elevation" and "Resisters" and were designed to manipulate Americans with particular ethnic, cultural or political identities.

In many cases, House and Senate political campaigns said they're just beginning to adopt basic internal security protocols, such as two-step verification for all email, storage and social media accounts and encrypted messaging services such as Wickr.

There is no protocol in place for campaigns or national parties to monitor broader social media misinformation campaigns, however. Nor is there any sign that law enforcement is playing a proactive role to protect campaigns from meddling on a day-to-day basis.

The FBI has set up a Foreign Influence Task Force and intelligence agencies are collecting information on Russian aggression, but campaigns report no regular contact with law enforcement officials.

"At the end of the day, the U.S. government is not putting any type of a bubble around any (campaign). They do not have the authority, capacity or capability to do it," said Shawn Henry, a former senior FBI official who now leads the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, which works with political campaigns. "NSA is not sitting in the ISPs filtering out malicious traffic."

Henry added: "They've got to take pro-active actions themselves."

Earlier this month, Microsoft said it discovered 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 this week that additional analysis confirmed 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., said Russian hackers tried unsuccessfully to infiltrate her Senate computer network in 2017. Former Democratic U.S. Rep. Brad Ashford of Nebraska also recently confirmed that his 2016 campaign emails had been hacked by Russian agents.

Ashford, who narrowly lost his seat to Republican Don Bacon that year, said hackers obtained all of his campaign email correspondence with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. He said he was notified of the breach in late July or early August 2016 by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's office.

Ashford has said he doesn't believe any of the stolen information ever went to Bacon or the Republican Party, and he doesn't know whether it made a difference in his race. He did face a series of anonymous political attacks on social media.

By their very nature, U.S. political campaigns can be a challenge to defend from a cybersecurity standpoint. They are essentially pop-up organizations that rely heavily on volunteers and are focused on a singular task — winning. In addition, high-level IT expertise costs money and campaigns typically run on tight budgets.

Some 2018 House campaigns have yet to hire basic communications staffers.

In the case of California Sen. Harris, who is considered a 2020 presidential prospect, her office plans to continue rooting out fake social media profiles on its own. They have had no contact with the FBI. They have reported the issue to Facebook in every case — not the other way around.

"It's on the forefront of everybody's mind," said Patrick McHugh, a former Senate campaign official who now leads the Democratic-aligned super PAC Priorities USA.

He acknowledged the tremendous challenge for many campaigns.

"All it takes is one person on a campaign to make a mistake," McHugh said. "You're up against a foreign country. That's a pretty big adversary that can and will go to all ends to get in."

Cassidy reported from Atlanta. AP correspondent Grant Schulte reported from Lincoln, Nebraska.

With scant record, Supreme Court nominee elusive on abortion

By DENISE LAVOIE and MICHAEL TARM, AP Legal Affairs Writers

Twice in the past year, Brett Kavanaugh offered glimpses of his position on abortion that strongly suggest he would vote to support restrictions if confirmed to the Supreme Court.

One was in a dissent in the case of a 17-year-old migrant seeking to terminate her pregnancy. The other was a speech before a conservative group in which he spoke admiringly of Justice William Rehnquist's dissent in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* case that established a woman's right to abortion.

Yet the big question about Kavanaugh's view on abortion remains unanswered: whether he would vote to overturn *Roe*. He'll almost certainly decline to answer when he is asked directly at his confirmation hearing. Decades of Kavanaugh's writings, speeches and judicial opinions, reviewed by *The Associated Press*, reveal a sparse record on abortion.

That leaves the migrant case, known as *Garza v. Horgan*, and the Rehnquist speech as focal points for anti-abortion activists who back President Donald Trump's nominee and for abortion rights advocates who say Kavanaugh has provided ample clues to justify their worst fears.

"This is the rhetoric from the anti-abortion groups being used by a potential Supreme Court justice, and that really gives us pause," said Jacqueline Ayers, the national director of legislative affairs for Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Democrats have been casting Kavanaugh as a threat to abortion rights as they face the difficult task

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of blocking his nomination in a Senate where Republicans hold a narrow majority. Kavanaugh's views on other issues, such as the reach of presidential powers, will also be part of a confirmation fight. But abortion is perpetually a contentious issue for court nominees, and the stakes are particularly high this time since Kavanaugh would be replacing the moderate Justice Anthony Kennedy, who has voted to uphold abortion rights.

Garza v. Hargan landed before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where Kavanaugh has sat since 2006, after the Department of Health and Human Services instructed shelters for immigrant minors not to do anything to facilitate abortions.

Much of the debate in the case centered on the 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey decision, which prohibited regulations that created an "undue burden" on women seeking an abortion. Appellate judges had to determine whether officials created such a burden by not releasing the Central American teen so she could get an abortion.

The girl, identified in filings as Jane Doe, was 15 weeks pregnant when the case came before Kavanaugh. The law in Texas — where she was being held — bars abortions after 20 weeks. Texas also requires parental consent, though a state judge waived that requirement.

In arguing that a lower court was right to approve an immediate abortion, Judge Patricia Millett said entering the U.S. illegally "does not mean that an immigrant's body is no longer her ... own" and among the penalties for crossing the border illegally should not be "forcing a child to have a baby."

As the government prepared to appeal to the Supreme Court, the teenager had the abortion.

In his dissent, Kavanaugh accepted that the Roe v. Wade precedent applied to the teenager. He wrote that "under the Government's arguments in this case and the Supreme Court's precedents, the unlawful immigrant minor is assumed to have a right under precedent to an abortion."

Kavanaugh didn't accept the government's contention that it could stop the teen from having an abortion in the U.S. He indicated officials could stop her temporarily while they tried to identify U.S. sponsors with whom she could live and who could counsel her on the abortion decision.

To make his point, Kavanaugh drew on language sanctioning the regulation of abortion.

"The Supreme Court," he wrote, "has repeatedly said that the Government has permissible interests in favoring fetal life, protecting the best interests of the minor, and not facilitating abortion, so long as the Government does not impose an undue burden on the abortion decision."

His main complaint about the majority's ruling was, he said, that it created "a new right for unlawful immigrant minors in U.S. Government detention to obtain immediate abortion on demand." He said that "represents a radical extension of the Supreme Court's abortion jurisprudence."

Still, Kavanaugh faced some conservative criticism for not taking a firmer anti-abortion stance like his colleague, Karen Henderson, who stated unambiguously that an immigrant in the U.S. illegally has no right to an abortion.

But a spokeswoman for the Susan B. Anthony List, a group seeking to end abortion, said she had no qualms about Kavanaugh's reasoning in the case. Mallory Quigley said he wrote "forcefully that government has an interest in protecting fetal life."

Conservatives had no complaints about the speech Kavanaugh gave at the American Enterprise Institute last year in which he heralded Rehnquist as "my first judicial hero" and spoke admiringly of his dissent in Roe v. Wade.

A 7-to-2 majority in Roe v. Wade struck down a Texas law criminalizing abortion, citing an implied right to privacy in the 14th Amendment. Rehnquist's dissent said the court had created a right "completely unknown" to drafters of the amendment.

Rehnquist also pushed to reverse Roe in Planned Parenthood v. Casey. The court ended up reaffirming abortion rights in a 5-to-4 decision instead, with Kennedy joining the majority.

"Rehnquist was not successful in convincing a majority of the justices in the context of abortion," Kavanaugh said in the speech. "But he was successful in stemming the general tide of freewheeling judicial creation of unenumerated (implied) rights that were not rooted in the nation's history and tradition."

Asked about Roe at a 2006 hearing on his nomination to the federal appeals court, Kavanaugh said he

would "faithfully and fully" uphold it as binding precedent. But he answered as a prospective appellate judge. His views as a justice on the Supreme Court, which isn't as tightly bound by precedent, could be very different.

At the same hearing, Kavanaugh dodged questions about his personal beliefs on *Roe v. Wade*, telling an exasperated Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York that it wouldn't be appropriate for him to "give a personal view" on the case. He'll likely revive that response for hearings on his high-court nomination in the fall.

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

Back to rubble, some 'lost everything' in California fire

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ and BRIAN SKOLOFF, Associated Press**

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — Carol Smith and her family walked into their hillside neighborhood Thursday to find her home reduced to mangled metal and piles of bricks after a massive Northern California wildfire leveled more than 1,000 homes.

"I'm waiting to probably break down any minute here. Pretty overwhelming," Smith said as the family stood on the sidewalk staring in disbelief at what's left of their house in the city of Redding.

The family, who wore masks and spotted a sign warning of hazardous materials, received hugs and pats on the back from disaster relief volunteers who met them. Chaplains and mental health experts also were being sent to neighborhoods to accompany those returning home.

"We pretty much lost everything," said Smith, 77, who has lived in the neighborhood with her 80-year-old husband for 29 years. "We're kind of anxious to get in there. I see there's a few statues in the backyard that maybe we can save."

The blaze in the Redding area, 225 miles (360 kilometers) north of San Francisco, is the largest of 18 wildfires burning throughout California. Firefighters were having some success keeping flames away from heavily populated areas, and officials began allowing some residents to return to their neighborhoods.

But tens of thousands of others were still under evacuation orders.

The fire has killed six people, including two firefighters, and destroyed 1,060 homes and nearly 500 other buildings, including businesses, barns and warehouses, officials said. It has become the sixth most destructive wildfire in state history.

The fire, which is nearly twice the size of Sacramento, was only partially contained after more than a week.

"Unstable conditions, shifting winds, steep terrain and dry fuels continue to challenge firefighters," a state fire update warned, noting that 35-mph wind gusts were expected on ridgetops that could whip up the flames.

More than 13,000 firefighters are battling blazes statewide with the help of crews from as far away as Florida.

Just a month into the budget year, California has already spent more than one-quarter of its annual fire budget, at least \$125 million, state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Mike Mohler has said.

Following years of drought and a summer of record-breaking heat, immense tracts of forests, chaparral and grasslands have become tinder that allows even a small spark to explode into a devouring blaze, authorities said.

Gov. Jerry Brown repeated predictions from fire officials that California can expect a future of devastating fires, in part because of climate change. He told reporters Wednesday that "nature is very powerful, and we're not on the side of nature."

Southeast of Redding, a blaze moved deeper into the Mendocino National Forest, "an area with some hunting cabins and some private property but no towns," Lake County Sheriff Lt. Corey Paulich said.

Twin fires in Mendocino and Lake counties had burned 16 homes. Fire officials said another 8,000 homes

and other buildings were threatened — down from about 12,000 homes initially threatened as firefighters made progress in some areas even as the blaze expanded in others.

New evacuation orders were issued Thursday night for areas of the border between Lake and Colusa counties and the boundary of Mendocino National Forest.

An estimated 14,000 people were under evacuation orders and the U.S. Forest Service said the fires continued to grow rapidly thanks to hot, dry windy weather and tinder-dry brush.

A 100-square-mile (259-square-kilometer) fire near Yosemite National Park prompted evacuation orders for the community of Wawona inside the park, which has fewer than 200 residents.

Yosemite Valley and other areas of the park have been closed to tourists since July 25 because of heavy smoke from the fire, which has burned nearly 100 square miles (259 square kilometers) and is only partially contained.

Rodriguez reported from San Francisco.

Follow AP's wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>

Trump proposes car-mileage rollback; states sue in protest

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and TOM KRISHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing safety, the Trump administration on Thursday proposed rolling back car-mileage standards, backing away from years of government efforts to cut Americans' trips to the gas station and reduce unhealthy, climate-changing tailpipe emissions.

If the proposed rule becomes final, it could roil the auto industry as it prepares for new model years and weaken one of the federal government's chief weapons against climate change — regulating emissions from cars and other vehicles. The result, opponents say, will be dirtier air and more pollution-related illness and death.

The proposal itself estimates it could cost tens of thousands of jobs — auto workers who deal with making vehicles more fuel efficient.

The administration also said it wants to revoke an authority granted to California under the half-century-old Clean Air Act to set its own, tougher mileage standards. California and 16 other states already have filed suit to block any change in the fuel efficiency rules.

"The EPA has handed decision making over to the fossil fuel lobbyists ... the flat-Earthers, the climate change deniers," said Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.

The proposal would freeze U.S. mileage standards at levels mandated by the Obama administration for 2020, when the new vehicle fleet will be required to hit an average of 30 miles per gallon in real-world driving.

The proposed change, halting further improvement requirements, stakes its case on consumer choice and on highway safety claims challenged by many transportation experts.

The administration says waiving requirements for greater fuel efficiency would make cars and light trucks somewhat more affordable. And that, it said, would get vehicles with the latest technology into the hands of consumers more quickly.

It's got "everything to do with just trying to turn over the fleet ... and get more clean and safe cars on the road," said Bill Wehrum, assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The administration will now seek public comment on its proposal and a range of other options, including leaving the tighter, Obama fuel standards in place.

Some Republican lawmakers supported the mileage freeze, but environmental groups and many states assailed it.

"This has to be absolutely one of the most harmful and dumbest actions that the EPA has taken," said Healey of Massachusetts, one of the attorneys general from 19 states and the District of Columbia objecting to the change. "It's going to cost drivers here and across the country hundreds of millions of dollars

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more at the pump.”

The EPA under President Barack Obama had proposed mileage standards that gradually would become tougher, rising to 36 miles per gallon in 2025, 10 mpg higher than the current requirement. California and the automakers agreed to the rules in 2012, setting a single national fuel economy standard.

Soon after taking office, President Donald Trump called for a rollback, urging “common sense changes” if the mileage requirements threatened auto industry jobs.

However, his administration’s report on Thursday projects that relaxing mileage standards would cost 60,000 auto jobs by 2030. Those losses would hit the estimated 200,000 U.S. jobs that deal with making vehicles more fuel efficient, said Simon Mui of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

A Transportation Department spokesperson called the estimate of job losses “rough approximations.”

Two former EPA mileage officials said the administration’s proposal departed from years of findings on fuel efficiency, car safety, exhaust emissions and costs.

“They don’t offer any meaningful example of what has changed so dramatically” to warrant the reversal, said Jeff Alson, who until this spring was a senior engineer in the EPA’s transportation and air quality office. “In my opinion the only way they got there was, they knew what kind of results they were told to get and they cooked the books to get that result.”

Chet France, an EPA senior executive until his retirement in 2012, called the administration’s contention that the mileage freeze would cause only a tiny increase in climate-changing exhaust emissions “bogus.”

California Gov. Jerry Brown said his state “will fight this stupidity in every conceivable way possible.”

The Obama administration had planned to keep toughening fuel requirements through 2026, saying those and other regulations on vehicles would save 40,000 lives annually through cleaner air. That argument remained on the EPA’s website Thursday.

According to Trump administration estimates, the Obama fuel efficiency standards would raise the price of vehicles by an average of \$2,340. That would price many buyers out of the new-vehicle market, forcing them to drive older, less-safe vehicles that pollute more, the administration says.

Heidi King, deputy administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, said the freeze would reduce highway deaths by 1,000 per year “by reducing these barriers that prevent consumers from getting into the newer, safer, cleaner, more fuel-efficient cars.”

But private transportation experts say there are so many factors involved that the 1,000-lives figure is questionable. The affordability argument also ignores thousands of dollars of saving in fuel costs for each driver over the life of a car, opponents of the rollbacks said.

Longstanding federal legislation has allowed California to set its own mileage standards given the choking smog that still sometimes blankets Los Angeles and other central and Southern California valley cities.

More than a dozen states follow California’s standards, amounting to about 40 percent of the country’s new-vehicle market.

A drawn-out legal battle over the standards could hurt the auto industry as it tries to plan for coming model years.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, a main industry group, sought to stave off any dispute between California and the federal government that could split the U.S. car market: “We urge California and the federal government to find a common sense solution that sets continued increases in vehicle efficiency standards while also meeting the needs of American drivers.”

In 2012, when the standards were first adopted, cars were about 50 percent of new-vehicle sales. Now they’re only about one-third, with less-efficient trucks and SUVs making up the rest.

Tom Krisher reported from Detroit. Don Thompson contributed from Sacramento.

Bredesen, Blackburn win primaries in race for US Senate

By JONATHAN MATTISE and ADRIAN SAINZ, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Former Tennessee Democratic Gov. Phil Bredesen and Republican U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn have been running their campaigns for a critical U.S. Senate seat like their matchup was assured.

Voters made it official Thursday.

Bredesen and Blackburn disposed of minimal opposition in their primary elections, kicking off what's expected to a bruising, expensive fight that could determine Democrats' chances of overturning the 51-49 Republican Senate majority.

Polls have indicated a close contest to replace retiring Republican Sen. Bob Corker.

A general election win would be historic for Blackburn, who would become the first female U.S. senator ever elected in Tennessee.

Voters faced a more competitive field in the race for the nomination to replace term-limited Republican Gov. Bill Haslam.

Former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean won the Democratic primary, defeating state House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh after outspending him \$4.4 million to \$984,800.

Taking a page from Bredesen's playbook, Dean has touted himself as a leader who can break down partisan barriers and make divided government work during divisive political times. He told his supporters Thursday he intended to run a positive race focused on jobs, affordable health care and good education.

Businessman Bill Lee won a bruising GOP primary. He mostly stayed out of the fray while other opponents savaged each other in attack ads. Lee billed himself as the race's only conservative outsider and emphasized his Christian faith. "I am someone who is not a politician, but I do have a vision for Tennessee to lead the nation," Lee told supporters during his victory speech.

The field also included U.S. Rep. Diane Black, who began the campaign as the favorite and got the endorsement of Vice President Mike Pence but stumbled to a third-place finish.

No Democrat has won statewide here since Bredesen was re-elected governor in 2006, when he clinched all 95 counties. It's been an even longer drought in the Senate, with the last Democratic victor former Vice President Al Gore in 1990.

Bredesen, who remains popular, would again need to peel off support from moderate Republicans and independents. He is pledging to work across party lines, saying he will support Trump on policies that are good for the state, and oppose him when they aren't.

He thanked his supporters Thursday night and vowed to be "the best damn senator you ever sent up to Washington."

Blackburn is a strong Trump backer in a state that voted for the president by 26 percentage points in 2016. She has run in support of Trump's agenda, including his wall-building immigration crackdown and his U.S. Supreme Court pick, Brett Kavanaugh.

"We know what Tennesseans say that they want to see in their next senator is somebody who is going to stand with President Trump to finish the agenda that they voted for when they elected him and sent him to Washington," she told her supporters, some of whom were wearing T-shirts emblazoned "Marsha Marsha Marsha."

Blackburn has billed herself as a "hardcore, card-carrying Tennessee conservative" from the outset of her campaign. She has benefited from center-stage appearances alongside Trump and Pence in public events and fundraisers in Tennessee.

Pence and Trump have already attacked Bredesen, saying he's too liberal for Tennessee and would fall in line with Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Bredesen has countered that his record as governor shows he's an independent thinker who won't cave to party leaders.

Bredesen has criticized Trump's tariff policies, which threaten an estimated \$1.4 billion in Tennessee exports, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, a longtime Republican ally. The exports are linked

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to more than 850,000 jobs in the state related to farming, steel, baked goods, car manufacturing, whiskey distillers like Jack Daniel's, and more, the chamber said.

Blackburn has expressed "grave concern" about the tariffs, but said she appreciates the administration's goal of punishing bad actors like China. She asked the commerce secretary to reconsider broad tariffs to avoid harm to Tennessee's economy.

Blackburn has opposed Corker's proposal to require a congressional vote on tariffs issued in the name of national security, a move that fellow Tennessee GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander supports.

Tennessee has a history of electing centrist senators. Corker, for one, has further complicated the race by saying he's supporting Blackburn but won't actively campaign against Bredesen, whom he has called a friend.

Corker also has very publicly tussled with Trump, once saying he had turned the White House into an "adult day care center," with the president tweeting in response that Corker "couldn't get elected dog catcher in Tennessee." Corker endured booing at a Trump-Blackburn rally in Nashville this spring.

Heading into July, Blackburn maintained an early 2-to-1 cash advantage over Bredesen, with \$7.3 million in her bank account. But Bredesen would be one of the wealthiest members of Congress if elected and has already loaned \$3.5 million of his own money to his campaign.

Trump trashes media as 'fake, fake disgusting news' at rally

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP) — Thundering that the media is the "fake, fake disgusting news," President Donald Trump unleashed a torrent of grievances Thursday at a Pennsylvania campaign rally in which he cast journalists as his true political opponent.

Trump barnstormed in a state that he swiped from the Democrats in 2016 and that is home to a Senate seat he is trying to place in the Republicans' column this fall. But the race between GOP U.S. Rep. Lou Barletta and two-term incumbent Democratic Sen. Bob Casey took a back seat to Trump's invectives against the media, which came amid a backdrop of antagonism to journalists from the White House and hostility from the thousands packed into a loud, overheated Wilkes-Barre arena.

"What ever happened to the free press? What ever happened to honest reporting?" Trump asked, pointing to the media in the back of the room. "They don't report it. They only make up stories."

Time and time again, Trump denounced the press for underselling his accomplishments and doubting his political rise.

He tore into the media for diminishing what he accomplished at his Singapore summit with North Korea leader Kim Jong Un. He complained about the tough questioning he received in Helsinki when he met with Russia's Vladimir Putin last month. And he began his rally speech with a 10-minute remembrance of his 2016 election night victory, bemoaning that Pennsylvania wasn't the state to clinch the White House for him only because "the fake news refused to call it."

"They were suffering that night, they were suffering," Trump said of the election-night pundits. He then promised that the Keystone State would deliver his margin of victory "next time."

"Only negative stories from the fakers back there," the president declared.

With each denunciation, the crowd jeered and screamed at the press in the holding pen.

The inflammatory performance came just hours after White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders refused to distance herself from Trump's previous assertions that the media is the "enemy" of the American people. Pressed during a White House briefing on the issue, Sanders said Trump "has made his position known."

In a heated exchange with reporters, she recited a litany of complaints against the press and blamed the media for inflaming tensions in the country.

"As far as I know, I'm the first press secretary in the history of the United States that's required Secret Service protection," she said, accusing the media of continuing "to ratchet up the verbal assault against the president and everyone in this administration."

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Although Barletta's bid was an undercard to Trump's main event, savaging his opponents, the president did bless the congressman's bid. Trump, who has accelerated his campaign schedule in recent weeks to help the Republicans he favors both in primaries and November's midterms, was the first Republican to win Pennsylvania since 1988.

"For years and years, they said Republicans should win the state of Pennsylvania," Trump said. "It always got away. But we won the state of Pennsylvania."

He and Barletta, who is trailing by double digits in the polls, share hard-line immigration views, and Trump lashed Casey with his own derogatory nickname: "Sleeping Bob."

But Trump's focus was on defending his own accomplishments and beliefs. He pushed for tougher borders, overstating the threat posed by violent gangs like MS-13 and making the group a stand-in for all immigrants in the United States illegally.

He defended his kid-glove approach to both Kim and Putin, saying, "it would be a good thing, not a bad thing" to have warmer relations with the hostile powers and dismissing talk that summits with the autocrats elevated them on the world stage.

He bashed the Democratic leadership of Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and, curiously, suggested that his frequent foe Rep. Maxine Waters of California was "a new star" of the party.

He raved about the booming economy and said, without evidence, that his blue-collar supporters in states like Pennsylvania were the biggest beneficiaries.

And he looked ahead to his 2020 re-election campaign, touting his new slogan, "Keep America Great Again" while musing whether he wanted Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, whom he decried as "Pocahontas," or Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whom he flatly deemed "crazy," as his opponent.

The rally came at a perilous time for Trump, who, the day before, had bluntly declared via tweet that his attorney general should terminate the federal probe into the campaign that took him to the White House. It was a newly fervent attack on the special counsel investigation that could imperil his presidency.

Sanders scrambled to explain that Trump's tweet was "not an order" and that the president was not directing his attorney general to do anything.

"It's the president's opinion," she said.

But it again raised the specter that Trump could try to more directly bring special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia-Trump election-collusion probe to a premature end. And it revived the idea that the president's tweets themselves might be used as evidence that he is attempting to obstruct justice.

Negotiations have also started again about a possible presidential interview as Mueller's team has offered the White House format changes, perhaps willing to limit some questions asked of Trump or accept some answers in writing, according to a person briefed on the proposal who wasn't authorized to discuss private talks and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Colvin reported from Washington.

Zimbabwe's Mnangagwa wins 1st post-Mugabe election

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA and FARAI MUTSAKA, Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa won election Friday with just over 50 percent of the ballots as the ruling party maintained control of the government in the first vote since the fall of longtime leader Robert Mugabe.

Mnangagwa received 50.8 percent of the vote while main opposition challenger Nelson Chamisa received 44.3 percent. The opposition is almost certain to challenge the results in the courts or in the streets.

While election day was peaceful in a break from the past, deadly violence on Wednesday against people protesting alleged vote-rigging reminded many Zimbabweans of the decades of military-backed repression under Mugabe.

Zimbabwe's president says he is "humbled" by his win.

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"Though we may have been divided at the polls, we are united in our dreams," Mnangagwa said on Twitter.

"This is a new beginning. Let us join hands, in peace, unity & love, & together build a new Zimbabwe for all!" Mnangagwa tweeted, after a week that began with peaceful voting Monday but spiraled into deadly violence in the capital Wednesday as the military fired on protesters.

Western election observers who were banned in previous votes have expressed concern at the military's "excessive" force in the capital, Harare. Their assessments of the election are crucial to the lifting of international sanctions on a country whose economy collapsed years ago.

Shortly before the election commission's announcement, Morgen Komichi, the chief agent for Chamisa's opposition alliance, took the stage and said his party "totally rejects" the results and said he had not signed the election results. Police escorted him from the room.

Later Komichi said the elections were "fraudulent" and "everything has been done illegally." He said he had refused an electoral commission request to sign papers certifying Mnangagwa's win.

"We're not part of it," said Komichi, adding that the opposition would be challenging the election in the courts.

Commission chair Priscilla Chigumba urged the country to "move on" with the hopeful spirit of election day and beyond the "blemishes" of Wednesday's chaos: "May God bless this nation and its people."

With the military still deployed in Harare, the capital's streets were quiet following the announcement of Mnangagwa's victory.

By the center where the election results were announced, Charity Manyeruke, who teaches political science at the University of Zimbabwe, said she was delighted.

"There is continuity, stability," Manyeruke said. "Zimbabwe is poised for nation-building."

The signs that Mnangagwa's election will be disputed appears to deepen a political crisis that was worsened by Wednesday's violence in Harare as the military swept in with gunfire to disperse opposition supporters alleging vote-rigging.

The death toll rose to six, with 14 injured, police said, and 18 people were arrested at the offices of the main opposition party amid tensions over a vote that was supposed to restore trust in Zimbabwe after decades of Mugabe's rule.

While Mnangagwa and the ruling party accused the opposition of inciting the violence, the opposition, human rights activists and international election observers condemned the "excessive" force used against protesters and appealed to all sides to exercise restraint.

Police raided the headquarters of Chamisa's Movement for Democratic Change party while a lawyers' group said Chamisa was being investigated for allegedly inciting violence. He and several others are suspected of the crimes of "possession of dangerous weapons" and "public violence," according to a copy of a search warrant seen by The Associated Press.

Chamisa, however, said police seized computers and were looking for what he called evidence that his party had gathered of vote-rigging by Mnangagwa's party. The evidence already had been moved to a "safe house," he said.

Mnangagwa called for an "independent investigation" into Wednesday's violence, saying those responsible "should be identified and brought to justice."

Mnangagwa was a longtime Mugabe confidante before his firing in November led his allies in the military to step in and push Mugabe to resign after 37 years in power. Thousands of jubilant Zimbabweans celebrated in the streets of Harare, greeting the military with selfies and cheers.

Since taking office, the 75-year-old Mnangagwa has tried to recast himself as a voice of reform, declaring that Zimbabwe was "open for business" and inviting long-banned Western election observers to observe Monday's vote, which he pledged would be free and fair.

A credible election after past votes were marred by violence against the opposition and alleged irregularities is crucial for the lifting of international sanctions and for the badly needed foreign investment to help Zimbabwe's long-collapsed economy revive. Mnangagwa himself remains under U.S. sanctions.

While Monday's election has been widely judged as peaceful with a high turnout, the deadly violence that erupted on Wednesday brought back chilly memories of decades of repression under Mugabe.

It was a reminder, as opposition leader Chamisa declared Thursday, that “We have removed Mugabe but not Mugabe-ism.”

The military deployment was the first time that soldiers had appeared in the streets of the capital since Mugabe’s resignation. Some Harare residents expressed frustration and exhaustion at the dramatic change from November’s exuberant expression of hope to the current tensions.

“We are a peaceful nation,” said 29-year-old Sifas Gavanga of the latest chaos. “We don’t deserve the death we saw.”

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Trump staffs up Mideast team for peace plan rollout

By **MATTHEW LEE** and **ZEKE MILLER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials say the Trump administration is staffing up a Middle East policy team at the White House in anticipation of unveiling its long awaited but largely mysterious Israeli-Palestinian peace plan.

The National Security Council last week began approaching other agencies seeking volunteers to join the team, which will work for President Donald Trump’s Mideast peace pointmen Jared Kushner and Jason Greenblatt, according to the officials. The team, which is being set up to organize the peace plan’s public presentation and any negotiations that may ensue, will comprise three units: one concentrating on its political and security details, one on its significant economic focus and one on strategic communications, the officials said.

The creation of a White House team is the first evidence in months that a plan is advancing. Although Trump officials have long promised the most comprehensive package ever put forward toward resolving the conflict, the emerging plan has not been described with even a small amount of detail by Kushner, Greenblatt or any other official.

Timing on the release of the plan remains undecided. The State Department, Pentagon, intelligence agencies and Congress have been asked to detail personnel to the team for six months to a year, according to the officials, who were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The agencies declined to comment but an NSC official said that Kushner, Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, and Greenblatt, Trump’s special envoy for international negotiations, “are expanding their team and the resources available as they finalize the details and rollout strategy of the peace initiative.”

White House officials say the plan will focus on pragmatic details, rather than top-line concepts, that will be able to easier win public support.

Yet the Palestinian leadership has been openly hostile to any proposal from the Trump administration, citing what it says is a pro-Israel bias, notably after Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in December and moved the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv in May. Since the Palestinian Authority and its President Mahmoud Abbas broke off contact after the Jerusalem announcement, the U.S. negotiating team has been talking to independent Palestinian experts.

The White House expects that the Palestinian Authority will engage on the plan and has been resisting congressional demands to fully close the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Washington because Greenblatt and Kushner want to keep that channel open. But officials have offered little evidence to back that up.

Palestinian alienation has continued to grow as millions of dollars in U.S. assistance remains on hold and appears likely to be cut entirely. With just two months left in the current budget year, less than half of the planned \$251 million in U.S. aid planned for the Palestinians in 2018 — \$92.8 million — has been released, according to the government’s online tracker, www.foreignassistance.gov.

The remaining amount is still on hold as is an additional \$65 million in frozen U.S. assistance to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which provides services to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and

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Lebanon.

In addition, Israel's response to the plan is far from certain. Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is one of Trump's top foreign allies, it remains unclear if he will back massive investment in Gaza, which is run by the militant Hamas movement.

For the plan to succeed or even survive the starting gate, it will need at least initial buy-in from both Israel and the Palestinians as well as from the Gulf Arab states, which officials say will be asked to substantially bankroll its economic portion. Arab officials have thus far adopted a wait-and-see approach.

Officials say there will never be a perfect time for the roll-out, but that they are laying the groundwork now for when an opportune time becomes apparent. The plan is not done, but is being finalized, including an economic development proposal for the Palestinian people that foresees major infrastructure and industrial work, particularly in Gaza.

The officials believe that the hope of a better economic future for the Palestinians coupled with progress on that front, the Palestinians may be willing to delay or modify what have been intractable and to-date unresolvable demands from Israel. Those include the right for Palestinian refugees to return to lands they abandoned or were forced from, the recognition of east Jerusalem as the capital of an independent Palestine.

And, they plan to appeal to all sides of the conflict not to let the disagreements of the past hold back their children's futures, according to the officials.

Sanders won't dispute claim that media is 'enemy' of people

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Thursday refused to distance herself from President Donald Trump's assertions that the media is the "enemy" of the American people.

Pressed during a White House briefing on the issue, Sanders said Trump "has made his position known."

In a heated exchange with reporters, she recited a litany of complaints against the press and blamed the media for inflaming tensions in the country.

"As far as I know, I'm the first press secretary in the history of the United States that's required Secret Service protection," she said, accusing the media of continuing "to ratchet up the verbal assault against the president and everyone in this administration."

CNN's Jim Acosta, who has become a lightning rod for anti-media sentiment and was loudly heckled during a Trump rally in Florida on Tuesday night, implored Sanders to break from the president, who first decried the press as the "enemy of the American people" last year.

"I think it would be a good thing if you were to say right here at this briefing that the press, the people who are gathered in this room right now ... are not the enemy of the people," Acosta said, adding: "All the people around the world are watching what you're saying."

Sanders, appearing to read from prepared remarks, responded with a critique of the press for resorting "to personal attacks without any content other than to incite anger."

"The media has attacked me personally on a number of occasions, including your own network, CNN," she told Acosta. She also cited the comedian who performed at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner, saying the comic was brought in "to attack my appearance and call me a traitor to my own gender."

Acosta later walked out of the briefing in protest. Another reporter quickly filled his seat.

The exchange came hours after the president's eldest daughter and adviser, Ivanka Trump, broke with her father at an event hosted by Axios, and said that she does not view the news media as "the enemy of the people."

"I've certainly received my fair share of reporting on me personally that I know not to be fully accurate. So ... I have some sensitivity around why people have concerns and gripe, especially when they sort of feel targeted. But no, I do not feel that the media is the enemy of the people," Ivanka Trump said.

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The president tried to minimize the divide in a tweet later Thursday.

"They asked my daughter Ivanka whether or not the media is the enemy of the people. She correctly said no. It is the FAKE NEWS, which is a large percentage of the media, that is the enemy of the people!" he wrote.

The president regularly lashes out at news outlets and individual reporters, accusing them of spreading "fake news" — his term for stories he dislikes.

His attacks have drawn rebukes from free press advocates, human rights experts, professional journalism associations and the publisher of The New York Times, who said this week that he took Trump to task for "deeply troubling anti-press rhetoric" that is "not just divisive but increasingly dangerous" when the two met privately at the White House this month.

The tensions have been especially acute at Trump's rallies, where his supporters often jeer at, curse and harass reporters working in a closed-off media pen.

A Politico reporter responded to one such scene at Tuesday's rally in Florida with tweets calling the hecklers "garbage people" with missing teeth.

Marc Caputo, who covers Florida, deleted his tweets and apologized Wednesday for his "caustic remarks."

"In the age of social media, where divisiveness serves no decent purpose, these flippant comments on my part only made things worse and contributed to a cycle of rage that I should not have inflamed further. So I'm sorry," he wrote.

Associated Press writer Catherine Lucey in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

Pope rules out death penalty in change to church teaching

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis has decreed that the death penalty is "inadmissible" under all circumstances and the Catholic Church should campaign to abolish it, a change in church teaching that could influence Catholic politicians and judges in the U.S. and across the globe.

The change, announced Thursday, was hailed by anti-death penalty activists and scorned by Francis' frequent conservative critics, who said he had no right to change what Scripture revealed and popes have taught for centuries.

The Vatican said that Francis had amended the Catechism of the Catholic Church — the compilation of official Catholic teaching — to say that capital punishment can never be sanctioned because it constitutes an "attack" on the dignity of human beings.

Previously, the catechism said the church didn't exclude recourse to capital punishment "if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor." Past popes have upheld that position, though St. John Paul II began urging an end to the practice and stressed that the guilty were just as deserving of dignity as innocents.

The new teaching says the previous policy is outdated because there are new ways to protect the common good, and the church should instead commit itself to working to end capital punishment.

"Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme means of safeguarding the common good," reads the new text.

Today "there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes," it said, adding that society now has effective ways to detain prisoners so they aren't a threat and even provide the possibility of rehabilitation.

"Consequently, the church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide," reads the new text, which was approved in May but only published Thursday.

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The death penalty has been abolished in most of Europe and South America, but it is still in use in the United States and in countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This week Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said the death penalty could soon be reinstated in Turkey, where it was abolished in 2004 as part of its bid to join the European Union.

Within hours of Thursday's announcement, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo vowed to introduce legislation to remove the death penalty from New York state law.

Francis' new teaching is also likely to feature in the confirmation process for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, a church-going Catholic who, if confirmed, would join four other Catholic justices on the bench.

One of their former Catholic members, the late Justice Antonin Scalia, famously said that he didn't find the death penalty immoral, and that any judge who did should resign.

Sister Helen Prejean, the anti-death penalty campaigner whose ministry to a death row inmate inspired the book and film, "Dead Man Walking," said the pope's new teaching would be more acutely felt in an upcoming planned execution in Nebraska under Gov. Pete Ricketts, who Prejean called "a pro-life Catholic."

"If we say we are for dignity of all life, that includes innocent and guilty as well," she said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

She said she was "high as a kite" over Francis' decision to close what she said were loopholes in previous church teaching that failed to recognize that when a prisoner is strapped to a gurney, he is rendered completely defenseless before his executioner.

"We can't claim anymore that's the only way you can defend society," she said.

Francis has long denounced the death penalty and even opposes life sentences, which he has called "hidden" death sentences.

He has also made prison ministry a mainstay of his vocation, and on nearly every foreign trip he visits inmates to offer words of solidarity and hope. He remains in touch with a group of Argentine inmates he ministered to during his years as archbishop of Buenos Aires.

In an accompanying letter explaining the change, the head of the Vatican's doctrine office, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, said the pope wasn't contradicting prior church teaching on capital punishment but was "re-formulating" it to express "an authentic development of doctrine."

The Rev. Robert Gahl, a moral theologian at Rome's Pontifical Holy Cross University, agreed.

"With this new text the pope is not rejecting past teaching regarding the death penalty. He's not referring to the inherent morality or immorality of it, but to political expedience within new circumstances to emphasize the possibility of redemption for all, including the most guilty," he said.

In addition to Sister Prejean, other Catholic organizations are active in the anti-death penalty campaign, including the Sant'Egidio Community, which together with Italian authorities always lights up Rome's Colosseum whenever a country abolishes capital punishment.

In a statement Thursday, Sant'Egidio said the change served "as another push to the church and Catholics, based on the Gospel, to respect the sacredness of human life and to work at all levels and on every continent to abolish this inhuman practice."

It was precisely Francis' citation of the Gospel, however, that sparked criticism from some on the Catholic right, who cited Scripture in arguing that Francis had no authority to change what previous popes taught.

"He is in open violation of the authority recognized to him. And no Catholic has any obligation of obedience to abuse of authority," tweeted the traditionalist blog Rorate Caeli.

Some on social media questioned the timing of the announcement, given that the Vatican and the Catholic Church are under extraordinary fire over clerical sex abuse and how bishops around the world covered it up for decades. The U.S. church, in particular, is reeling from accusations that one of the most prominent U.S. cardinals, Theodore McCarrick, allegedly abused minors as well as adult seminarians.

"Coming in the midst of the sex abuse revelations, the timing is curious... and more fury is not what the Church needs at this moment," noted Raymond Arroyo, host of the Catholic broadcaster EWTN.

Francis announced his intention to change church teaching on capital punishment in October, when he

marked the 25th anniversary of the catechism itself. First promulgated by St. John Paul II, it gave Catholics an easy, go-to guide for church teaching on everything from the sacraments to sex.

Amnesty International, which has long campaigned for a worldwide ban on the death penalty, welcomed the development as an "important step forward."

"Already in the past, the church had expressed its aversion to the death penalty, but with words that did not exclude ambiguities," said Riccardo Noury, Amnesty Italia spokesman. "Today they are saying it in an even clearer way."

Associated Press writer Simone Somekh contributed to this report.

Follow Nicole Winfield at www.twitter.com/nwinfield

Financial fruit: Apple becomes 1st trillion-dollar company

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is the world's first publicly traded company to be valued at \$1 trillion, the financial fruit of stylish technology that has redefined what we expect from our gadgets.

The milestone reached Thursday marks the latest triumph of a trend-setting company that two mavericks named Steve started in a Silicon Valley garage 42 years ago.

Apple's shares gained \$5.89 to close at \$207.39, leaving the company's market value a notch above \$1 trillion — around \$1,001,679,220,000, according to FactSet. Apple sits atop a U.S. stock market that has become dominated by technology-centered companies: Amazon, Google's parent Alphabet, Microsoft and Facebook round out the top five in market value.

The achievement seemed unimaginable in 1997 when Apple teetered on the edge of bankruptcy, with its stock trading for less than \$1, on a split-adjusted basis, and its market value dropping below \$2 billion.

To survive, Apple brought back its once-exiled co-founder, Steve Jobs, as interim CEO and turned to its archrival Microsoft for a \$150 million cash infusion to help pay its bills.

If someone had dared to buy \$10,000 worth of stock at that point of desperation, the investment would now be worth about \$2.6 million.

Jobs eventually shepherded a decade-long succession of iconic products such as iPhone that transformed Apple from a technological boutique to a cultural phenomenon and moneymaking machine.

The stock has been surging this week as anticipation mounts for the next generation of iPhone, expected to be released in September.

Although iPhone sales aren't rising as rapidly as they were a few years ago, Apple has been adding enough new features to persuade consumers to pay higher prices for its top-of-the-line devices. In its most recent quarter, Apple fetched an average price of \$724 per iPhone — a nearly 20 percent increase from an average of \$606 per iPhone at the same time last year.

The price escalation has widened Apple's profit margins to the delight of investors, who have boosted the company's market value by about \$83 billion — nearly equal to the entire market value of American Express — since the quarterly report came out late Tuesday. The 9 percent gain was Apple's biggest two-day advance in nearly a decade.

Apple's stock has climbed by 23 percent so far this year, compared to a 6 percent gain for the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

The recent rally in Apple's stock contrasts sharply from a deep downturn in the fortunes of two social media companies, Facebook and Twitter that offer some of the most popular apps used on iPhones and other mobile devices. User growth and engagement on Facebook and Twitter has been wavering amid deepening concerns about their ability to protect people's personal information and shield them from misinformation and other abuses that have been infecting their services.

As mighty as Apple may seem now, economic and cultural forces can quickly shift the corporate pecking order.

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Consider the plight of Exxon Mobil, which was the most valuable U.S. company five years ago. Now, it ranks as the ninth most valuable, surpassed by Apple and a list consisting primarily on companies immersed in technology.

Some analysts believe e-commerce leader Amazon.com will supplant Apple as the world's most valuable company in the next year or two as its spreading tentacles reach into new markets.

And Saudi Arabian Oil Co., known as Saudi Aramco, is planning an initial public offering that Saudi officials have said would value the giant oil company at about \$2 trillion. But until the IPO is completed, Saudi Aramco's actual value remains murky.

This much is certain: Apple wouldn't be atop the corporate kingdom without Jobs, who died October 2011. His vision, showmanship and sense of style propelled Apple's comeback.

But the recovery might not have happened if Jobs hadn't evolved into a more mature leader after his exit from the company in 1985. His ignominious departure came after losing a power struggle with John Sculley, a former Pepsico executive who he recruited to become Apple's CEO in 1983 — seven years after he and his geeky friend Steve Wozniak teamed up to start the company with the administrative help of Ronald Wayne.

Jobs remained mercurial when he returned to Apple, but he had also become more thoughtful and adept at spotting talent that would help him create a revolutionary innovation factory. One of his biggest coups came in 1998 when he lured a soft-spoken Southerner, Tim Cook, away from Compaq Computer at a time when Apple's survival remained in doubt.

Cook's hiring may have been one of the best things Jobs did for Apple. As Jobs' top lieutenant, Cook oversaw the intricate supply chain that fed consumers' appetite for Apple's devices and then held the company together in 2004 when Jobs was stricken with a cancer that forced him to periodically step away from work — sometimes for extended leaves of absences.

Just months away from his death, Jobs officially handed off the CEO reins to Cook in August 2011.

Cook has leveraged the legacy that Jobs left behind to stunning heights. Since Cook became CEO, Apple's annual revenue has more than doubled to \$229 billion while its stock has quadrupled. More than \$600 billion of Apple's current market value has been created in that time.

Cook hasn't escaped criticism, however. The Apple Watch has been the closest thing that the company has had to creating another mass-market sensation under Cook's leadership, but that device hasn't come close to breaking into the cultural consciousness like the iPhone or the iPad.

That has raised concerns that Apple has become far too dependent on the iPhone, especially since iPad sales tapered off several years ago. The iPhone now accounts for nearly two-thirds of Apple's revenue.

But Cook has capitalized on the continuing popularity of the iPhone and other products invented under Jobs' reign to sell services tailored for the more than 1.3 billion devices now powered by the company's software.

Apple's services division alone is on pace to generate about \$35 billion in revenue this fiscal year — more than all but a few dozen U.S. companies churn out annually.

Apple had also come under fire as it accumulated more than \$250 billion in taxes in overseas accounts, triggering accusations of tax dodging. Cook insisted what Apple was doing was legal and in the best interest of shareholders, given the offshore money would have been subjected to a 35 percent tax rate had it were brought back to the U.S.

But that calculus changed under the administration of President Donald Trump, who pushed Congress to pass a sweeping overhaul of the U.S. tax code that includes a provision lowering this year's rate to 15.5 percent on profits coming back from overseas.

Apple took advantage of that break to bring back virtually all of its overseas cash, triggering a \$38 billion tax bill. All that money coming back to the U.S. also spurred Apple to raise its dividend by 16 percent and commit to buy back \$100 billion of its own stock as part of an effort to drive its stock price even higher.

Judge in Manafort trial brings short fuse and sharp wit

By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — “I’m not in the theater business,” Judge T.S. Ellis asserted during jury selection in Paul Manafort’s financial fraud trial. “You have to be better-looking for that.”

Objection, Your Honor.

The trial of President Donald Trump’s former campaign chairman has plenty of drama and it’s coming from the judge.

Easily exasperated, and with a sharp wit, the U.S. district judge called out attorneys for both sides this week when he heard they’d been rolling their eyes, apparently at him. The judge judged their expressions to mean, “Why do we have to put up with this idiot judge?”

Privately, lawyers who have appeared before him say Thomas Selby Ellis III likes to be seen as the smartest person in the courtroom, not a huge leap for a judge. With his Princeton-Harvard-Oxford education and experience spanning consequential cases in an era of war and terrorism — “American Taliban” John Walker Lindh’s among them — Ellis is known to cut lawyers down to size, sometimes subtly, sometimes not so much.

That’s what happened when Justice Department attorney Michael Dreeben, a legend in legal circles, appeared at a pre-trial hearing in the Manafort case. As soon as Dreeben began making his arguments for the prosecution, Ellis cut in — “Would you spell your name for the record?” That’s not a question he asks others appearing in his Washington-area Eastern District of Virginia court.

In the Manafort trial, Ellis, 78, is trying to keep a handle on a case that centers on the Trump associate’s consulting work for wealthy Ukrainian clients and whether he fraudulently hid millions from banks and the IRS. It stems from special counsel Robert Mueller’s broad investigation into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election and any collusion between Russians and the Trump campaign.

It’s not about Trump or Russia, but that matter is the elephant in the room.

In the pretrial hearing where Dreeben’s presence made waves, Ellis supposed that the Manafort case was really about the government trying to make the defendant “sing” on Russia and the Trump campaign. Prosecutors “don’t really care” about Manafort, he said, but instead care about getting information from him to go after Trump.

That delighted the president, who called the judge “really something very special” in an NRA speech in May.

But Trump’s opinion about people can turn on a dime, and this week, without identifying the judge, he blasted the decision by Ellis to house Manafort in solitary confinement, a move the prosecution says was to keep him safe. Trump suggested the justice system might be treating Manafort more harshly than it did Al Capone, the legendary mob boss who went crazy in Alcatraz.

An immigrant from Bogota, Colombia, Ellis came to the bench in 1987, nominated by President Ronald Reagan after an early career as a Navy aviator in the 1960s and a lawyer in private practice in the 1970s.

He’s welcomed new generations of immigrants as the presiding judge at naturalization ceremonies, addressing Spanish-speakers among them in his and their native language; his eyes have been known to grow moist in these proceedings. Long-ago associates nicknamed him Taz for his swirling Tasmanian Devil drive in law practice.

In 2002, Ellis sentenced Lindh to 20 years in prison without parole in a plea deal for the American who fought with the Taliban, telling him, “You made a bad choice.”

In 2009, he dismissed lawsuits filed by alleged Iraqi victims of the contractor once known as Blackwater USA, ruling that a pattern of recklessness or a culture of lawlessness is not enough to sustain an allegation of war crimes under the federal law. But he allowed most of the plaintiffs to refile their lawsuits if they had a persuasive case that Blackwater employees engaged in intentional killings and beatings. The ruling essentially pleased both sides.

In the Manafort trial, Ellis has shown impatience with meandering arguments from either side while being tougher on the prosecution out of the gate.

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When prosecutors addressed Manafort's relationship with Ukrainian "oligarchs," he told them to knock it off. Prosecutors are inferring that Manafort associates himself with "despicable people and therefore he's despicable," he said. "That's not the American way."

Descriptions of Manafort's \$15,000 ostrich-leather jacket, the \$6 million in cash he put toward real estate and his \$900,000 in purchases at a New York boutique also left the judge unimpressed.

He may not like fancy-pants lawyers, but fancy pants in America are not against the law.

"The government doesn't want to prosecute somebody because they wear nice clothes, do they?" Ellis asked. "Let's move on."

Prosecutor Greg Andres countered: "Judge, this is not an effort to prove Mr. Manafort lived lavishly. It's evidence of his income."

The judge introduced a theatrical twist at an earlier hearing, telling prosecutors he did not want to see pictures of Manafort and others "at a cocktail party with scantily clad women," if they should happen to exist.

No worries, Andres said. "There will be no pictures of scantily clad women, period."

He also promised no photos of Russian flags and said it's unlikely any government witness "will utter the word 'Russia.'"

Associated Press writers Matthew Barakat, Eric Tucker and Chad Day contributed to this report.

White House asserts 'vast' effort to protect elections

By ZEKE MILLER and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Responding to wide-ranging criticism that it lacked a clear national strategy to protect U.S. elections, the Trump administration put on a show of force Thursday and said the president had directed a "vast, government-wide effort" to safeguard a cornerstone of American democracy.

John Bolton, the national security adviser, also wrote in a letter to Senate Democrats that "President Trump has not and will not tolerate interference in America's system of representative government."

The warning to American adversaries came as top U.S. intelligence and homeland security officials raised alarms about potential efforts to influence the 2018 and 2020 elections. Homeland security chief Kirstjen Nielsen said: "Our democracy is in the crosshairs."

"We continue to see a pervasive messaging campaign by Russia to try to weaken and divide the United States," Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said.

Their rare appearance during a White House briefing came as a display of resolve, weeks after Trump publicly undermined the conclusions of American intelligence agencies regarding Russian interference. After suffering a bipartisan outcry, Trump later said he accepted those findings.

Along with National Security Agency Director Paul Nakasone and FBI Director Christopher Wray, they appeared together at the White House on Thursday to try to reassure the American people they are doing everything in their power to address the threat.

"We're throwing everything at it," Coats said.

Nakasone, who is also the commander of the U.S. Cyber Command, said the command and the NSA are both tracking a wide range of foreign cyber adversaries and "are prepared to conduct operations against those actors attempting to undermine our nation's midterm elections."

Nakasone did not divulge details of the U.S. cyber playbook or say what U.S. responses might have already taken place, saying the operations are sensitive and require confidentiality to achieve success. "I won't discuss the specifics, except to state that our forces are well-trained, ready and very capable," he said.

At one of his confirmation hearings in March, Nakasone said his role was to provide a series of cyber options that might be used as a deterrent to Russian meddling, but he told Congress then that cyber or military options might not be the most effective. "In fact, it may be less effective than other options that might be considered," he said.

Asked specifically if he had been ordered or authorized to conduct any offensive cyber operations in

response to foreign meddling in the U.S., Nakasone offered a vague response. "So my guidance and the direction from the present secretary of defense is very clear, we're not going to accept meddling in the elections. And it's very unambiguous."

Nielsen, Wray and Nakasone had all gathered earlier this week in New York City with leaders of top finance, energy and telecommunications companies for a cybersecurity summit, where they spoke of the urgent need for a collective, collaborative approach to security.

At the event, Nielsen said the cyber threat now exceeds the danger of a physical attack against the U.S. by a hostile foreign group.

Wray told reporters that compared to 2016, in 2018 "we are not yet seeing the same kind of efforts to specifically target election infrastructure," but that other efforts to influence public opinion continue. He added that the FBI has active investigations on foreign influence across all 56 of its field offices.

"Make no mistake, the scope of this foreign influence threat is both broad and deep," he said.

But Nielsen said U.S. agencies have "seen a willingness and a capability on the part of the Russians" to attack U.S. election infrastructure.

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers in both parties have pushed election security toward the top of the fall agenda amid heightened concerns about interference by Russians and others in the midterm elections.

Both Republicans and Democrats have criticized the administration's response as fragmented, without enough coordination across federal agencies. And with the midterms only three months away, critics have called on Trump to take a stronger stand.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, questioned whether Trump was serious about countering Russian interference.

"Glad to see the White House finally do something about election security — even if it's only a press conference," Warner tweeted. "Now, if only it was actually backed up by anything the president has said or done on Russia."

Bolton said Thursday that Trump is "leading unprecedented action to punish Russia" for its efforts to disrupt American elections.

AP writers Colleen Long and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Remains from North Korea 'consistent with being Americans'

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

WASHINGTON (AP) — The remains handed over by North Korea last week in 55 boxes are "consistent with being Americans," based on an initial examination, although none has been positively identified, a U.S. scientist who has seen the remains said Thursday.

Although President Donald Trump has publicly thanked North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for fulfilling the promise he made at their June 12 Singapore summit to return American war remains, U.S. officials had cautioned that little was known about the remains and that they could not be quickly identified.

John E. Byrd, director of the Defense Department laboratory in Hawaii where the 55 cases arrived on Wednesday, cited several reasons for saying that at least some of the remains appear to be those of Americans missing from the Korean War.

Byrd was present when North Korean officials turned over the 55 boxes at Wonsan airport in North Korea last Friday, and he was among the U.S. government specialists who made a further preliminary examination of the contents after the boxes were flown to Osan air base in South Korea the same day.

A cursory examination at Wonsan confirmed that the remains were human, he said, and a closer look at Osan gave reason to believe they likely are Americans.

"What we saw were remains that were consistent with what we have found from the Korean War recoveries that we've done over the years, and we found remains that were consistent with being Americans," Byrd said, speaking by video teleconference from Hawaii.

"We have remains that look to have been in a state of preservation consistent with coming from the

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Korean War era," he said, and materials provided with the remains included U.S.-issued military equipment such as canteens and buttons. He said the remains are "good candidates to be missing Americans from the Korean War," where thousands died on battlefields and in prisoner-of-war camps during the 1950-53 conflict and remain officially unaccounted for.

Byrd said he would not venture a guess at how many individuals are represented by the bones contained in the 55 boxes.

The U.S. and North Korean militaries conducted joint excavations of war remains in the North between 1996 and 2005, yielding more than 200 set of remains, not all of which have been positively identified. Separately, North Korea had handed over 208 boxes of remains between 1990 and 1994, some of which have yet to be identified.

When the North Koreans turned over the 55 boxes to Byrd and other U.S. officials at Wonsan on July 27 they said the cases contained remains of an undetermined number of Americans, but the only identification item provided was a single military dog tag, Byrd said. Two members of that person's family have been notified, Kelly McKeague, the director of the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency, told reporters.

McKeague declined to reveal the name on the dog tag.

Byrd said the North Koreans at Wonsan provided what he described as a "short bit, a little paragraph of information" with each of the 55 boxes. The most significant bit of information in each case was the name of the village where the remains were recovered, he said. One of the villages was Sin Hung-ri, which he said is on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir where U.S. Army soldiers fought a fierce battle in the fall of 1950 after Chinese forces entered the war.

North Korea had told American officials more than once in recent years that it had about 200 sets of U.S. war remains in storage. McKeague said Thursday that the North Koreans who provided the 55 boxes last week did not say whether they have others. He said the U.S. is prepared to discuss arrangements for future U.S.-North Korean excavations but that this process is not yet underway.

Byrd said his laboratory in Hawaii already has begun working on the remains. The first step, he said, is sampling the bones for DNA that potentially could be matched with DNA samples that have been provided over the years by relatives of Korean War MIAs. If matches are achieved, identification can be done relatively quickly, he said, but in other cases the identification work will take years.

The forensics work in some cases is aided by records of chest X-rays that U.S. soldiers commonly were given upon entering the military, as well as dental records.

In an illustration of how long it can take to identify Korean War remains, McKeague's agency announced Thursday that the remains of a soldier found more than a decade ago, Army Sgt. William A. Larkins, of Pittsburgh, are being returned to his family for burial. He was identified from remains recovered by a joint U.S.-North Korean team in April and May 2005.

Russia: UN peacekeepers back on Golan Heights-Syria frontier

By SARAH EL DEEB and MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.N. peacekeepers returned Thursday for the first time in years to the frontier between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, conducting joint patrols with Russian military police in a reflection of Moscow's deepening role in mediating between the decades-old foes in the volatile region.

Israel has increasingly sought Russia's involvement in securing its frontier with Syria and in scaling back Iran's influence in the area. Moscow, Damascus's weightiest ally, has in turn sought coordination with Israel as a bridge with Washington in dealing with Syria's complex war.

Israel considers Iran's growing influence in Syria — it has advisers and allied militias fighting alongside Syrian troops— as an existential threat and had looked for guarantees from Moscow to push pro-Iran fighters away from its frontiers.

Col. Gen. Sergei Rudskoy of the Russian General Staff said conditions have been created for the resumption of U.N. peacekeeping patrols along the area separating Syria and Israel. The U.N. peacekeeping forces first deployed along the frontier in 1974 following an agreement to separate Syrian and Israeli forces after

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Israel occupied the Golan Heights in the 1967 war.

Rudskoy said Russian military police have accompanied the peacekeepers on patrols, adding that eight Russian-manned observation points opposite the U.N. points will be set up "to rule out possible provocations."

When the situation stabilizes, Rudskoy said, the Russian-manned posts would be handed over to Syrian government forces.

Israel acknowledged a return to normalcy along the frontier.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said the situation on the Syrian side of the boundary had returned to its pre-2011 state after Syrian government forces, supported by Russia's military, regained control of the region from armed opposition that controlled since 2014.

Lieberman said Israel will have "no cause to intervene or operate in Syrian territory" if Damascus respects the 1974 disengagement agreement between the two sides — and as long as Syria doesn't become a staging ground for Iranian forces to attack Israel or transfer arms to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The area, peaceful for decades since the agreement, became a fighting ground at the height of the Syrian civil war, finally pushing the U.N. peacekeeping force out in 2014 after al-Qaida militants kidnapped 45 U.N. peacekeepers. They were released two weeks later.

The area had become particularly volatile in recent weeks amid a Syrian government offensive to retake territories controlled by the opposition adjacent to the frontier. Israel has also upped its strikes against suspected Iranian targets inside Syria.

Late Thursday, Syrian media reported that its defenses foiled a "hostile attack" west of the capital Damascus. It didn't specify the target or the attacker but it has previously blamed Israel.

A day before the joint Russia-U.N. patrols, Russia announced it reached an agreement with Israel to keep pro-Iranian fighters 85 kilometers (53 miles) from the volatile frontier.

It was the first publicized results of Russian mediation. Russian officials announced that Moscow gave Israel guarantees that that zone would be clear of pro-Iranian fighters. Russia had warned it would be unrealistic to expect Iran to fully withdraw from Syria.

During their summit in Helsinki, Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Donald Trump said they were exploring ways to protect Israel from the war in Syria. They didn't elaborate but later Putin said he agreed with Trump on securing Israel's border with Syria in line with the 1974 deal.

A week later, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov flew to Jerusalem where he met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in talks that focused on the Iranian presence in Syria. Netanyahu stressed the "extraordinarily important" link between the two countries. The two sides discussed a Russian proposal that would see any forces linked to Iran distanced some 100 kilometers (62 miles) away from the Golan Heights.

Reflecting the tension along the frontier, Israel's military said Thursday that its aircraft fired on "several armed terror operatives in the southern Syrian Golan Heights" overnight and that troops were on high alert.

Israel's military spokesman, Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, said in a telephone briefing with reporters that he could not immediately comment on the U.N. deployment on the Syrian side of the border.

Conricus said the Israeli military targeted with a military aircraft and killed seven "armed terror operatives" who had attempted to cross into Israeli territory late Wednesday. He said a preliminary assessment was that the infiltrators were Islamic State militants.

Israeli troops were on "high alert and readiness" following the strike. The army's announcement came shortly after Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman toured a Patriot missile defense battery in northern Israel during a military preparedness drill.

Speaking to reporters Thursday, Brig. Gen. Nitzan Nuriel, former head of the Counterterror Bureau at Israel's Prime Minister's office, said Israel should be on alert in the area because Syrian government troops "from now and a year from now, they will not be able to control those who are trying to attack the State of Israel from that border."

He said Israel will not accept any changes to the 1974 deal or the presence of any Syrian troops or allied

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militias inside the disengagement zone.

In Amman, Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said the Syrian government has not officially requested the opening of the Syria-Jordan border after government forces recaptured its side of a crossing from rebels last month.

Jordan has been in discussions with Russian authorities, Safadi said, and will respond to Syria's request "positively" in a way that supports Jordanian and Syrian interests.

Danilova contributed from Moscow. Associated Press writers Ilan Ben Zion and Ian Deitch in Jerusalem, Philip Issa in Beirut, and Alice Su in Amman, Jordan, contributed to this report.

Asian markets flat after Apple value surpasses \$1 trillion

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian shares were flat Friday in mixed trading ahead of the U.S. jobs report later in the day. There appeared to be scant carry-over Friday from overnight gains on Wall Street as Apple reached \$1 trillion in value.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 was flat at 22,510.38 and the Shanghai Composite index added 0.1 percent to 2,770.14. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index shed less than 0.1 percent to 27,705.68 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 was down just 1.30 points at 6,239.60. South Korea's Kospi added 0.6 percent to 2,283.01. Shares rose in Taiwan, Indonesia and Thailand but fell in Singapore.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks climbed Thursday as Apple's surge past the \$1 trillion mark boosted technology shares. Apple jumped 2.9 percent to finish at \$207.39. Electric vehicle maker Tesla soared 16.2 percent to \$349.54 after it said production of its lower-cost Model 3 sedan is growing and CEO Elon Musk said the company doesn't expect to need to raise more money from investors. Consumer products and health care companies rose as second-quarter results from corporate America continued to surpass investors' expectations. The S&P 500 index rose 0.5 percent to 2,827.22. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 7.66 points to 25,326.16. The Nasdaq composite jumped 1.2 percent to 7,802.69 and the Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 0.8 percent, to 1,682.10.

US JOBS: Optimistic employers likely stepped up hiring in July thanks to strong growth and consumer spending. Economists forecast that a report to be released later Friday will show employers added 191,000 jobs last month, down from 213,000 in June but easily enough to lower the unemployment rate over time. The jobless rate is projected to decline to 3.9 percent, near an 18-year low, from 4 percent.

ANALYST'S PERSPECTIVE: "July's jobs data will be received with strong expectations brewing ahead of the release," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary. "The leads for Asia are constructive and indeed we are seeing U.S. futures in the black this morning, aiding the recovery from yesterday's steep drop."

TRADE: The White House escalated the trade conflict between the world's two biggest economic powers, saying it may impose a 25 percent tax on \$200 billion in imports from China, to take effect after a hearing and public comment. That is up from a 10 percent tax it proposed in June.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude picked up 10 cents to \$69.06 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It rose 1.9 percent to \$68.96 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 1 cent to \$74.44 per barrel. It gained 1.5 percent to \$73.45 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.69 yen from 111.65 yen. The euro climbed to \$1.1591 from \$1.1587.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2018. There are 150 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 3, 1936, Jesse Owens of the United States won the first of his four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics as he took the 100-meter sprint.

On this date:

In 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, on a voyage that took him to the present-day Americas.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr went on trial before a federal court in Richmond, Virginia, charged with treason. (He was acquitted less than a month later.)

In 1914, Germany declared war on France at the onset of World War I.

In 1921, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis refused to reinstate the former Chicago White Sox players implicated in the "Black Sox" scandal, despite their acquittals in a jury trial.

In 1943, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. George S. Patton slapped a private at an army hospital in Sicily, accusing him of cowardice. (Patton was later ordered by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower to apologize for this and a second, similar episode.)

In 1958, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

In 1966, comedian Lenny Bruce, whose raunchy brand of satire and dark humor landed him in trouble with the law, was found dead in his Los Angeles home; he was 40.

In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. (The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1980, closing ceremonies were held in Moscow for the Summer Olympic Games, which had been boycotted by dozens of countries, including the United States.

In 1981, U.S. air traffic controllers went on strike, despite a warning from President Ronald Reagan they would be fired, which they were.

In 1987, the Iran-Contra congressional hearings ended, with none of the 29 witnesses tying President Ronald Reagan directly to the diversion of arms-sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1994, Arkansas carried out the nation's first triple execution in 32 years. Stephen G. Breyer was sworn in as the Supreme Court's newest justice in a private ceremony at Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's Vermont summer home.

Ten years ago: Nobel Prize-winning Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn died near Moscow at age 89. Al-Qaida confirmed the death of a top commander (Abu Khabab al-Masri), apparently in a U.S. airstrike in Pakistan; he was accused of training the suicide bombers who'd killed 17 American sailors on the USS Cole in 2000. At least 145 people were killed in a stampede of pilgrims at a remote mountaintop Hindu temple in India.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama's trade representative, Michael Froman, vetoed a yet-to-be-enacted ban on imports of Chinese-made Apple iPads and iPhones, overruling the U.S. International Trade Commission and dealing a setback to rival South Korean electronics company Samsung. Zimbabwe's electoral panel declared that longtime President Robert Mugabe had won re-election by a landslide.

One year ago: Senators introduced two bipartisan bills aimed at protecting Special Counsel Robert Mueller from being fired by President Donald Trump. (Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the effort was unnecessary, and that he wouldn't let the legislation reach the floor.) West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice said he was switching parties to join the Republicans, a move that came as President Donald Trump visited his increasingly conservative state.

Today's Birthdays: Football Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy is 93. Singer Tony Bennett is 92. Actor Martin Sheen is 78. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Lance Alworth is 78. Lifestyle guru Martha Stewart is

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77. Singer Beverly Lee (The Shirelles) is 77. Rock musician B.B. Dickerson is 69. Movie director John Landis is 68. Actress JoMarie Payton is 68. Actor Jay North (TV: "Dennis the Menace") is 67. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Marcel Dionne is 67. Actor Philip Casnoff is 64. Actor John C. McGinley is 59. Rock singer-musician Lee Rocker (The Stray Cats) is 57. Actress Lisa Ann Walter is 57. Rock singer James Hetfield (Metallica) is 55. Rock singer-musician Ed Roland (Collective Soul) is 55. Actor Isaiah Washington is 55. Country musician Dean Sams (Lonestar) is 52. Rock musician Stephen Carpenter (Deftones) is 48. Hip-hop artist Spinderella (Salt-N-Pepa) is 47. Actress Brigid Brannagh is 46. Actor Michael Ealy is 45. Country musician Jimmy De Martini (Zac Brown Band) is 42. NFL quarterback Tom Brady is 41. Actress Evangeline (ee-VAN'-gel-eeen) Lilly is 39. Actress Mamie Gummer is 35. Olympic gold medal swimmer Ryan Lochte is 34. Country singer Whitney Duncan is 34. Actor Jon Foster is 34. Actress Georgina Haig is 33. Singer Holly Arnstein (Dream) is 33. Actress Tanya Fischer is 33. Pop-rock musician Brent Kutzle (OneRepublic) is 33. Rapper D.R.A.M. is 30.

Thought for Today: "Many of us spend half of our time wishing for things we could have if we didn't spend half our time wishing." — Alexander Woollcott, American critic (1887-1943).