

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.

			
			
Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			



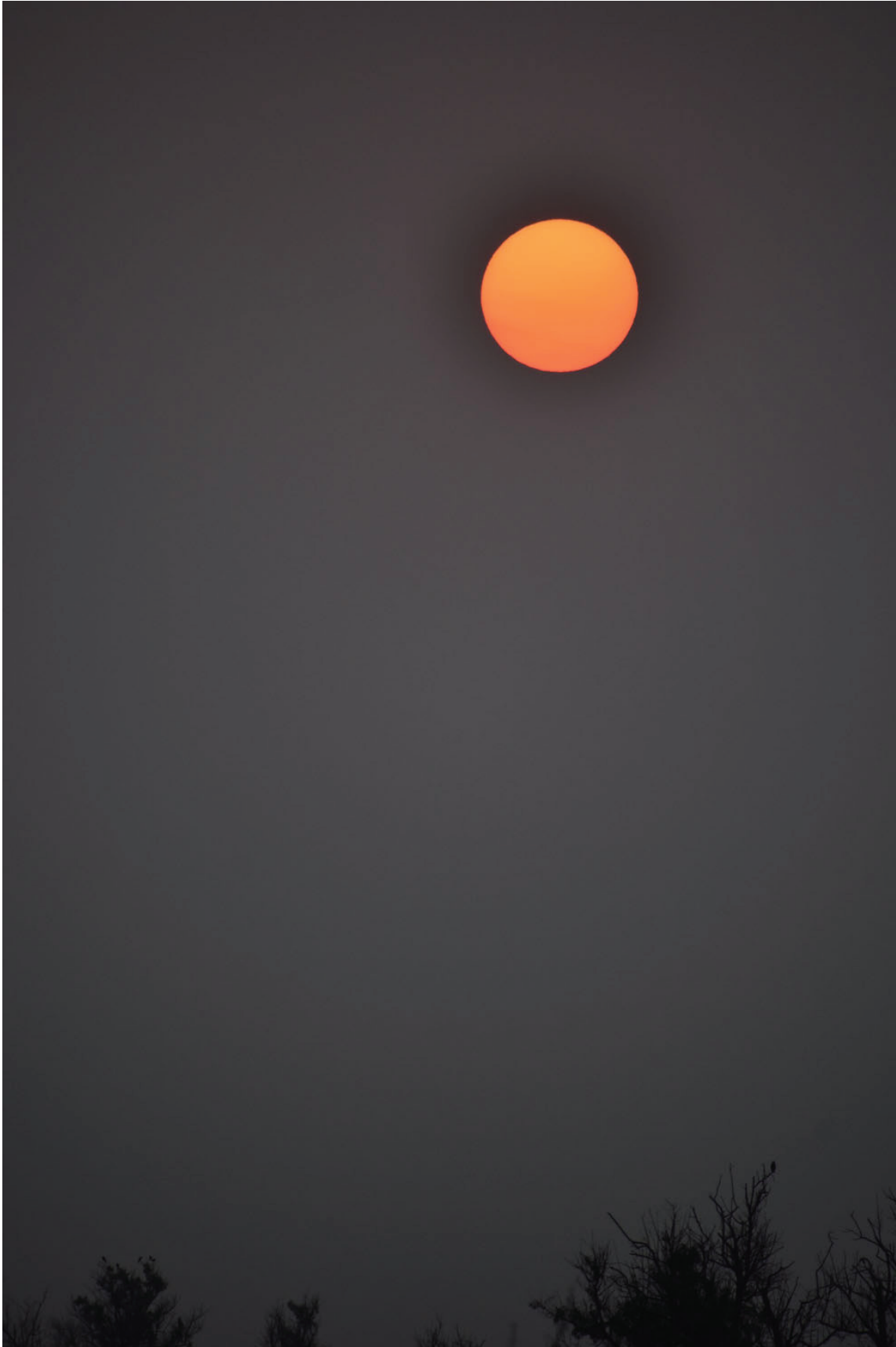
Help Wanted
 Dairy Queen in Groton has openings for part-time team members – day hours during the school year and can be year round, if desired. Flexible scheduling. Stop in to apply. 11 East Hwy 12, Groton, SD.

Janitor Wanted
 The Groton Area School District has immediate openings for a full or part-time custodian. Position includes great benefits package. Apply at the Groton Area School District Office – 406 N 2nd Street. (0808.0823)



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Smoke from Canada and the western United States gives the sun an eerie look. This photo was taken then morning.

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Senator John Thune visited with the folks at Pierpont on Monday, Aug. 6. Pictured in back, left to right, are Senator Thune, Kevin Carson, Melinda Eikamp, Bob Anderson, Judy Tobin, Jessica Holler, Glen Cooper, and Gary Olson; in front, left to right, are Joe Cameron, Barb Anderson, Stanley Boe and Arlene Boe. (Courtesy photo)



Also visiting with Senator Thune was the Matt Johnson family from Groton. Pictured are Bentley, Matt, Senator Thune, Casey, and Paisley Johnson. (Courtesy photo)

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The Larson Trucking/James Farm/The Lodge Softball team won the C Division in the Aberdeen 12-inch Softball Tournament and also won the regular summer season league.

Team members are:

Back: Tony Waage, Brandon Stanley, Tyler Kolb, Tom Sternhagen, Mason Madsen, Jason Roberts, Drew Dohman, Zach Herron, Craig Sternhagen, Gavin Voss

Front: Clay Wattier, Kalen Kjellsen

Missing from photo: Kaleb Bowman, Luke Sternhagen, Eric Rasmussen, Wyatt Larson, Dennis Hickey. (Courtesy photo)

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

VOLD AUCTIONEERS & REALTY

voldrealty.com voldauctions@ag4bid.com



Emma Donley has been the master artist at the Groton pool this year. Not only has she decorated the windows, she has been painting the mural on the wall as you enter the building.

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Sturgis Rally Vehicle Numbers Still on the Rise

STURGIS, S.D. – Data from the South Dakota Department of Transportation shows that traffic is up 5.9 percent overall for the first seven days of this year's 78th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally compared to the same time last year.

The numbers, released Friday, Aug. 10, are for Friday through Thursday.

Traffic totals at the nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2018 Rally:

Friday August 3: 49,424 entering – up 1.9% from Friday last year

Saturday August 4: 60,119 entering – up 10.8% from Saturday last year

Sunday August 5: 52,153 entering – down 4.2% from Sunday last year

Monday August 6: 59,431 entering – up 1.55% from Monday last year

Tuesday August 7: 60,281 entering – up 8.8% from Tuesday last year

Wednesday August 8: 60,608 entering – up 11.4% from Wednesday last year

Thursday August 9: 56,302 entering – up 11.5% from Thursday last year

Seven Day total:

2018: 398,318 2017: 376,033 up 5.9% over last year

There will be no more updates until Monday, Aug. 13, when final totals are tallied.

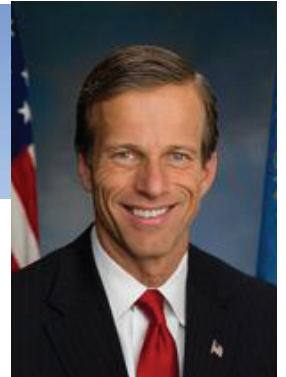
**SCHOOL
SUPPLIES DRIVE**



**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.**



John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Inspiring the Next Generation of Leaders

It's amazing how the littlest things in life can have an outsized effect on the decisions a person makes in the future. For me, it was a missed free throw. As silly as it might sound, it's true.

It was a Friday night in Murdo, South Dakota, during the semi-final game of the annual Jones County basketball tournament. I was a freshman in high school, but I had the opportunity to play varsity ball that night, and I had a pretty good game, too. I attempted six free throws and drained all but one of them. I was (and still am) a competitive guy and would have much preferred to have gone six-for-six. Little did I know at the time, though, had it not been for that one missed free throw, I might not be serving in the U.S. Senate today.

The day after the game, I was in the checkout line in a store on Murdo's Main Street, and a man tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I saw you missed one last night." I had no idea who the person was or how he would eventually change my life, but in the back of my mind, I thought, "well, thanks for noticing."

The man introduced himself as Congressman Jim Abdnor. It was a chance encounter that led to a lifelong friendship and mentorship – one that inspired me to pursue public service myself.

Now that I serve in the Senate – holding the same Senate seat that Jim eventually held himself – I want to do my part to help inspire the next generation of leaders in South Dakota. While I, too, drop by high school and college basketball games every now and then to provide my encouragement and support, I offer several opportunities through my Senate office that give future South Dakota leaders a front row seat to our democracy.

I have Senate offices throughout South Dakota – in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Aberdeen. I have an office in Washington, D.C., too. My offices are always looking to hire the best-of-the-best interns to assist staff with their core mission of helping serve the people of South Dakota. Interns in my Washington office, in particular, will see the legislative process firsthand, giving Capitol tours and attending Senate votes and congressional hearings, among other events.

While interns would specifically serve in my office, I also have the ability to nominate certain South Dakota high school students to serve as Senate pages. They attend classes in Washington and assist senators in the Capitol, right on the Senate floor. It's a highly competitive program, but South Dakota high schools are full of qualified students, and I enjoy the opportunity to nominate them when I can.

The U.S. Senate Youth Program (USSYP) is another unique opportunity for South Dakota high school students to immerse themselves in the legislative process. Students who are selected will receive a \$10,000 undergraduate college scholarship and an all-expense paid trip to Washington for meetings on Capitol Hill, the White House, and other locations around the city.

We'll begin searching for spring 2019 interns next month, which is also the deadline to apply for next year's USSYP, so if you or someone you know is interested in an internship, the Senate page program, USSYP, or nominations to U.S. service academies, you can find more information on my website (www.thune.senate.gov) or by contacting any of my Senate offices. I look forward to hearing from you.



Confronting Iran

In 2015, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani defended the slogan "Death to America." That same year, President Barack Obama signed a faulty nuclear deal with Iran that failed to stop them from acquiring nuclear capabilities, undermined the security of our ally Israel, and flooded Iran with cash, producing a \$150 billion economic impact for one of the world's leading state sponsors of terror.

Despite the generous deal Iran received, its threats have continued, particularly against Israel. In 2018 alone, top-ranking Iranian officials have called for Israeli cities to be "razed to the ground" and that Israel itself be "destroyed" and "annihilated." That matters to Americans, not only because we ought to stand against threats like this against our allies, but because the national security interests of Israel and the United States are so closely intertwined.

Israel has played a critical role in our efforts to defeat ISIL, Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations. Our countries have collaborated on improving stability in the region and teamed up on counterterrorism efforts that make each of us a little safer. We've worked together to improve behavioral screening techniques at airports and shared information about anti-tunnel technology that could help secure both of our borders. Moreover, Israel is a beacon of democracy in a tumultuous region.

Earlier this year, the United States began the process of stepping away from President Obama's Iran Nuclear Deal. Then, in August, President Trump applied additional sanctions on Iran, slowing down their economic engine and limiting their ability to invest in destructive weapons programs. A second phase of sanctions, which would target Iran's oil industry, are expected to go into effect in November.

When the Iran Nuclear Deal was initially being discussed, I argued that "no deal would be better than a bad one." I stand by that. If we're going to strike a deal, we must make sure Iran's nuclear infrastructure is dismantled and that inspectors gain complete access to suspicious sites – anytime and anywhere. Sanctions shouldn't be lifted automatically; instead, Iran should have to prove they're upholding their end of the deal. And maybe most importantly, the agreement shouldn't set an arbitrary timeline for the nuclear restrictions to expire, as the Obama-era deal did. If Iran knows restrictions will expire, they'll exploit that timeline.

It's critical we take steps toward ending Iran's nuclear weapons program. But the deal negotiated under President Obama infused Iran's economy with financial resources without ultimately stopping their nuclear ambitions.

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Mosquito Control Last Night



Mosquito control was done last night in the City of Groton. About 24 miles was covered as the avenues were done. The wind was very light out of the south and the temperature was 77 degrees.

Regents Identify Top Budget Needs

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents agreed this week to four budget priorities for the coming year, including a comprehensive state financial aid program and first-ever funding of inflationary costs.

The regents' budget request overall seeks \$8.9 million in additional ongoing state resources linked to specific priorities of the six public universities and two special schools.

Meeting for its annual planning session in Pierre, the board agreed to advance these budget requests to Gov. Dennis Daugaard:

- Dakota's Promise, a needs-based financial aid program funded with 50 percent state general funds and matched privately by campus-based foundations. The budget request for slightly more than \$1 million would have the state, along with private funds, fill the funding gap for a student after every other available source—from the student, student's family, institution, and federal government—has been used.

- To support all public university faculty, a salary competitiveness request equaling 1.5 percent, or \$3.1 million, to supplement the state's regular salary package.

- A general fund maintenance and repair request of \$3.9 million to keep building and facilities' maintenance funding at the same level as last year, which equaled 1.76 percent of campus building replacement values.

- An inflation increase for the public university system of \$637,420, which is equal to 2.2 percent of its general-funded operating expense budget, excluding utilities.

"Inflation continues to erode our students' purchasing power," said Regents President Kevin Schieffer. "Without this inflation adjustment, students now have to pay for inflation on both tuition and on the state general funds' portion of our budget. This action would limit those student inflation costs to tuition and fees going forward."

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Today in Weather History

August 11, 1975: A line of thunderstorms raced across portions of central and eastern South Dakota during the early morning hours. Winds gusted to 70 mph, causing considerable damage to trees. At Canton, in Lincoln County, the winds were estimated as high as 70 mph. In Sioux Falls, the peak wind gust measured 69 mph. Wind damage was also reported in Miller and Ree Heights in Hand County, as well as in Selby and Mobridge in Walworth County.

August 11, 1985: Lightning set off eleven fires in the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation area. Twenty acres of grassland were burned two miles northeast of Bear Creek. About 600 acres of grassland were burned 8 miles southwest of Lantry. About 3,000 acres of grassland burned near Eagle Butte.

August 11, 2011: Severe thunderstorms brought hail up to the size of ping pong balls and damaging winds up to 90 mph to parts of central South Dakota. Jones and Lyman Counties received the brunt of the strong winds with eighty mph winds downing several grain bins along with knocking a few semis off of Interstate-90 near Murdo. The winds also downed some power lines and poles along with destroying a hanger. The two planes in the hanger were damaged at the Murdo Airport. Near Kennebec in Lyman County, eighty mph winds took shingles off the house and also damaged the deck. A barn was also destroyed with a horse being injured. Many tree branches were also downed.

1940: A Category 2 hurricane struck the Georgia and South Carolina coast. A 13-foot storm tide was measured along the South Carolina coast, while over 15 inches of rain fell across northern North Carolina. Significant flooding and landslides struck Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia during the system's slow trek as a weakening tropical storm, and then as an extratropical cyclone, through the Southeast. The landslides which struck North Carolina were considered a once in a century event. Damages relating to the storm totaled \$13 million (1940 USD), and 50 people perished.

1999: An F2 tornado touched down in the metropolitan area of Salt Lake City. The tornado lasted ten minutes and killed one person, injured more than 80 people, and caused more than \$170 million in damages. It was the most destructive tornado in Utah's history and awakened the entire state's population to the fact that the Beehive State does experience tornadoes.

1944 - The temperature at Burlington, VT, soared to an all-time record high of 101 degrees. (The Weather Channel) The Dog Days officially come to an end on this date, having begun the third day in July. Superstition has it that dogs tend to become mad during that time of the year. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Clouds and moisture from Hurricane Allen provided a brief break from the torrid Texas heatwave, with daily highs mostly in the 70s to lower 90s. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - An early evening thunderstorm in Wyoming produced hail up to two inches in diameter from Alva to Hulett. Snow plows had to be used to clear Highway 24 south of Hulett, where hail formed drifts two feet deep. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Moisture from what remained of Tropical Storm Beryl resulted in torrential rains across eastern Texas. Twelve and a half inches of rain deluged Enterprise TX, which was more than the amount received there during the previous eight months. Philadelphia PA reported a record forty-four days of 90 degree weather for the year. Baltimore MD and Newark NJ reported a record fourteen straight days of 90 degree heat. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - One of the most severe convective outbreaks of record came to a climax in southern California after four days. Thunderstorms deluged Benton CA with six inches of rain two days in a row, and the flooding which resulted caused more than a million dollars damage to homes and highways. Thunderstorms around Yellowstone Park WY produced four inches of rain in twenty minutes resulting in fifteen mudslides. Thunderstorms over Long Island NY drenched Suffolk County with 8 to 10 inches of rain. Twenty-three cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. It was, for some cities, the fourth straight morning of record cold temperatures. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today

Tonight

Sunday

Sunday
Night

Monday



Patchy Smoke

Patchy Smoke

Patchy Smoke

Clear

Hot

High: 97 °F

Low: 64 °F

High: 98 °F

Low: 68 °F

High: 95 °F

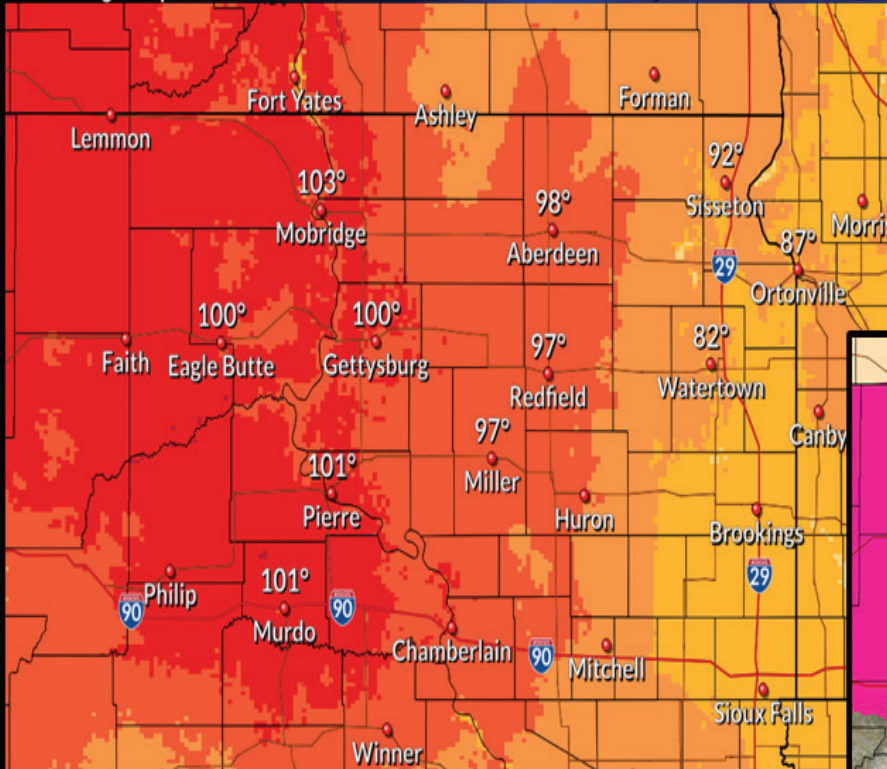
Continued Hot Saturday

Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD



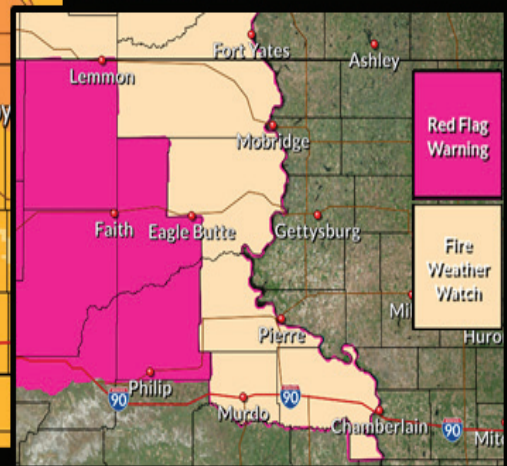
Forecast High Temperature

Issued Aug 11, 2018 3:33 AM CDT



SUNDAY

FIRE DANGER



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 8/11/2018 4:29 AM Central

Published on: 08/11/2018 at 4:36AM

We continue to see hot temperatures and low humidity across the area today and into Sunday. Winds will top out around 25 to 35mph for Sunday - which means there is an increased fire danger risk mainly west river into the Missouri valley.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 94.1 F at 4:33 PM

Heat Index: 103 at 4:08 PM

Low Outside Temp: 61.7 F at 5:19 AM

High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 12:16 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1988,1965

Record Low: 34° in 1902

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.79

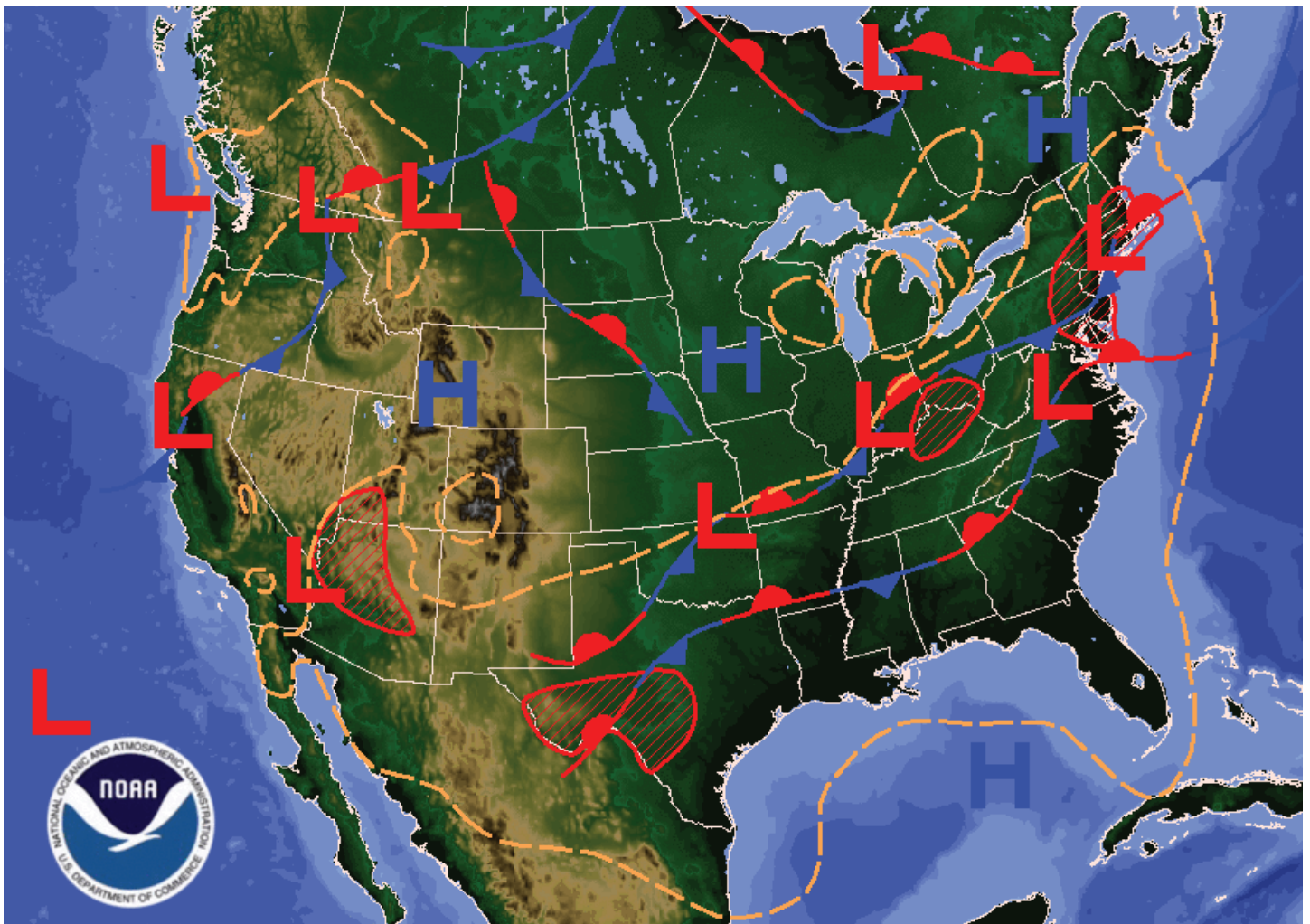
Precip to date in Aug: 0.25

Average Precip to date: 14.65

Precip Year to Date: 10.14

Sunset Tonight: 8:47 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:31 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Aug 11, 2018, issued 4:51 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Tate 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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HOW TO FIND HAPPINESS

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is one of the most familiar phrases in the Constitution of the United States. Although no one is guaranteed that they will find happiness, the right to seek happiness is one of the main declarations found in our Constitution.

Many things we read and hear promise us some form of happiness at a distance. What if we taste and experience what we have been promised will bring us a state of happiness, but it is empty and vain, worthless and a waste of time? What then are we to do?

A Psalmist gave us a formula for happiness. He declared with enthusiasm, Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to Him, You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours! Certainly Gods promise for being blessed - or happy - far exceeds whatever promise any man or group of men could guarantee. And, they work!

The happiness that God guarantees is for those who fear and follow Him. It is not a fear of being terrorized by a vengeful God - but a fear that results in reverential awe and worship of a God who loves them and wants their best. It is a fear that establishes a trust in Him that without Him, I can do nothing that is worthwhile. But, with Him, I can do all things well! So, I will rely on Him for everything!

A fear of forsaking God and not following Him and His ways will create a dependency upon Him for all things in our life. If we do that, we will find His happiness!

Prayer: God, grant us the willingness to admit that true happiness is a gift and is found only in Your grace. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 128:1, 2 Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to Him, You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours!

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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)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

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

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

01-03-12-22-42, Mega Ball: 6, Megaplier: 5

(one, three, twelve, twenty-two, forty-two; Mega Ball: six; Megaplier: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$63 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$247 million

Boys and Girls Club finds new site for Rosebud students

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

PARMELEE, S.D. (AP) — Rosebud recently had its tribal election in Rosebud. The DJ on 96.1 KILI Radio had updated listeners on primary vote totals.

“Upper Cut Meat has 13 voters,” he announced. “He Dog with 25 voters. Swift Bear has 1 voter.”

In the Community Center in Parmelee, a sign hung from the wall, “Vote Here.” Poll workers stood outside. But in a cramped, busy adjacent room, hunched around tablet computers or math worksheets, more than a dozen children in this small town of 562 Census-counted residents busily worked on their studies.

“We don’t want them to lose their skills over the summer,” said Rose Elk Looks Back, the supervisor for the Boys and Girls Club in Parmelee.

This Parmelee site is the newest edition to the Boys and Girls Club’s offerings on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, the Rapid City Journal reported. A few years ago, due to financial constraints, the Parmelee site closed. In June, however, Director Glen Marshall secured financing to open this small site that operates for four hours a day, four days a week. Now, Parmelee — a small town in Todd County that is 97 percent Native American — has a place for children to go in the summer.

And kids are hungry for it.

“These boys walk in seven or eight miles,” said Georgia “Dete” Guerue, pointing to twin brothers sitting next to each other, completing math exercises. Guerue is Elk Looks Back’s sister and also coaches the boys on the baseball team. “Their mom just got a car, so she’s now able to drive them home after the game.”

Across the treaty lands for the Sicangu Lakota, the high school graduation rate hovers around 50 percent. Unemployment is north of 80 percent. For Katelyn Bladel, art director at the club, that’s why learning takes precedence.

“We focus more on academics than other Boys and Girls Clubs,” she said. “We want to close the achievement gap.”

The Boys and Girls Club serves mostly elementary and middle school children (though the club opened a teen center in Mission), and space in Parmelee, staff admit, is tight.

In one corner of the room, half a dozen children wearing blue headphones operate tablets running Stride Academy, a learning tool to assess student learning. Elk Looks Back walks among others handing back times tables. In late July, students can get fidgety. The staff incorporates an hour a day of physical activity. And they go on kayaking trips to nearby dams and Eagle Feather Lake. REDCO (the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation) has been coming in to cook through Shawn Sherman (a.k.a. the Sioux Chef’s) new cookbook with the kids.

“We’ve done wild rice sorbet and gone mint harvesting in creek beds,” Bladel said.

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A group of Catholic missionary students from Omaha — high schoolers mostly — recently engaged with students. Bladel is grateful for the help but is diplomatic about the tensions of accommodating a new group of new faces into a tight space every week ready to help.

"It's best when they come to help out with our programming."

In June, three women from the East Coast brought photography equipment and loaned each of the students a digital camera and sent them out to take photos. Some photographs shot by students — including humorous images of a boy between archery targets and a girl in a wrap reading "Miss Antelope" — hang on the wall in the gymnasium at the larger club in Mission.

The Boys and Girls Club arrived on Rosebud in 2004 and, according to its website, is the only "after school program" for the just shy of 10,000 people living on the 1,900-square mile reservation (not counting trust lands). According to the recently released Kids Count Data Book, rates of childhood mortality are high on Rosebud. Car crashes and suicide are leading causes. Type-II Diabetes is also a threat.

But in Mission, in a converted bowling alley, Lisa McKnight makes grilled cheese sandwiches for an early supper and students can connect with Vance Giroux, who is a monitor for the summer in the teen center.

"I'm like an uncle — leksi," he said, pronouncing the Lakota translation.

Giroux grew up mostly with his mother's tribe on Standing Rock but spent summers on Rosebud, his father's tribe. He moved down to Rosebud to invest more deeply into what he terms the "old ways" and just finished his second Sun Dance a few weekends earlier.

"People see a lot of trouble in Parm'," he said, "But I think there's a lot of good, too."

Guerue, back in Parmelee, echoes this sentiment.

"The community is excited to have them back open."

Since June, they've signed up 22 kids for the site. A mat of carpet sits near an activities box. Letters spell out "Mitakuye Oyasin" ("all are related" in Lakota) and "LOVE." Underneath fly paper strips hanging from the wall, Elk Looks Back talks about her work as a paraprofessional at nearby He Dog Elementary School. She drives the bus and grew up in Parmelee.

"I do it for the kids," she said.

She acknowledged recent vandalism. At night, the Rosebud site needs to bring in the basketball hoops after-hours.

"I do take the laptops home each night," she said.

But she points to the glistening certificate on the wall dated June 25: the official Boys and Girls Club stamp.

"Take a picture of that," Elk Looks Back said.

After they switch stations, she exits to show off the Boys and Girls Club's next project. Outside it's a stunning portrait of a sky with rolling clouds. Cars are streaming in to vote. Parmelee is greener this summer, as are many South Dakota towns, with the rainfall. Last week, they finally got someone to mow the overgrown yard, so they can play kickball outside. A girl bikes past, while a young boy walks toward the swings.

"That's the famous boy's brother," Elk Looks Back said. Last week, the Todd County Tribune carried the photograph of a little leaguer — his ponytail dipping below his helmet — mid-swing; he'd hit a home run over the fence, the first time anyone can remember that happening.

"This is our next project," said Elk Looks Back, pointing to a turquoise blue building sitting behind a fence and a mask of graffiti. "We want to buy it and clean it up and have our own space again."

The building needs some TLC, but momentum is good with the Boys and Girls Club on Rosebud. Walking back to the community center, Elk Looks Back stops to talk to the poll workers, as a woman with her dog comes in to vote.

"Hey Rose," a poll worker said.

"Hi Violet," said Elk Looks Back.

They stop and chat, the sounds of the children's voices spilling out of the building. Two futures are at work in Parmelee — the immediate and the long-term. But, on a nice sunny day, there's always time to say hello to a neighbor.

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

North Dakota case highlights civil asset forfeiture

By JACK DURA, Bismarck Tribune

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Aaron Dorn just wants his truck back.

He was arrested during a Thanksgiving Day protest of the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016 in Mandan and charged with felony reckless endangerment, among other offenses. A state trooper alleged Dorn tried to swerve and ram his vehicle in traffic on Main Street in Mandan.

In June, Dorn was acquitted at trial, but his legal battle isn't over. Morton County has held his 2003 Chevrolet Silverado since his arrest. Even though Dorn was acquitted, getting his truck back is a separate matter involving civil asset forfeiture, or the law enforcement seizure of property suspected to be involved in criminal activity.

Dorn is facing a tough challenge as the Institute for Justice ranks North Dakota as one of the worst states in the nation for civil asset forfeiture laws based on the state's low burden for seizure and forfeiture, with no conviction required, only probable cause.

It's an area of law that saw some movement in North Dakota's 2017 legislative session, but ultimately failed. For Dorn, it's about getting his truck back — the vehicle his father owned and later gave to him.

"I am not a person with means. I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth. Everything that I own, I worked hard to get there," the upstate New York resident told the Bismarck Tribune. He added he owned his own construction outfit before turning to antique sales, traveling to shows all over the northeastern United States. Now, he can't.

Since his truck's seizure, Dorn said he hasn't been able to provide for his household. He and his girlfriend of 10 years have a 3-year-old daughter.

Morton County Assistant State's Attorney Gabrielle Goter filed civil asset forfeiture proceedings for his truck in November. Texas attorney Burke Moore took up Dorn's defense. His status as an out-of-state attorney would bring a defining dispute to the case.

Dorn's desire for the return of his property has become embroiled in questions of the legitimacy of his lawyer to practice in North Dakota.

In January 2017, the North Dakota Supreme Court issued an order that allowed out-of-state attorneys, with the sponsorship of a North Dakota-licensed attorney, to assist in criminal cases charged from the pipeline protests.

Moore said he believed this program extended to Dorn's civil case, and he also invoked the state's traditional rule for non-North Dakota attorneys to file within a 45-day timeline to practice in a North Dakota case.

Earlier in July, the day before Dorn's civil hearing, Morton County Assistant State's Attorney Austin Gunderson motioned for judgment of forfeiture of Dorn's truck, asking South Central District Judge Bruce Haskell to find that Moore hadn't properly filed an answer to the initial civil asset forfeiture documents, alleging he was never approved to be an attorney on the case.

Gunderson did not return two phone messages or an email for comments on the case.

Moore declined to comment on any future strategy related to the case, but Dorn said it isn't over. Grand Forks attorney Erik Escarraman said he plans to step in, with a few options available, such as appeal. The civil case awaits Haskell's judgment to be filed, though he'll likely sign Gunderson's proposed documents for forfeiture.

Escarraman called Dorn's case "an arm without a body."

"He's been acquitted," he said. "They're essentially taking property from an individual who has done nothing wrong."

Dorn said he believes Morton County sold his truck long ago, but Goter said "it's not been sold yet."

Dorn also said he plans to share his story in future legislative testimony. Republican Rep. Rick Becker of Bismarck has sought to reform civil asset forfeiture in North Dakota, taking aim at what he says is a "little known" area of law that was "shocking" to him when he first learned of it.

Becker's bill to reform aspects of civil asset forfeiture passed the House, but garnered zero votes in the Senate after North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem "gave forceful testimony against it,"

Becker said.

"Virtually 100 percent of North Dakotans would agree that, if you are not found guilty of committing a crime, you should get your property back," he said.

He said one response to reform is an accusation of being anti-law enforcement, or suggesting that police are abusing the law to seize property to essentially fill their agency's coffers.

Becker said he can't disagree more: "This doesn't change law enforcement's job at all, and I think that if we were to talk about this dispassionately and logically, it's very, very clear there's a perverse incentive."

He added that the main argument is that keeping suspected or repeat offenders' property, such as a drug dealer's car and cash, will keep them from committing more crimes, but he asserts that notion tramples on the idea of "innocent until proven guilty."

Becker said he plans to take up civil asset forfeiture reform again in 2019. For a first-time bill on something new to many people to pass the House like it did in 2017 was "a huge feat," he said. If his efforts fail next year, he said he'll probably resort to an initiated ballot measure.

"The biggest thing is a person shouldn't have to fight in court to get their property back, if they haven't been convicted of a crime," Becker said.

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

South Dakota declines to reveal drug to be used in execution

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Corrections Department is refusing to disclose the specific lethal injection drug it will use in the planned execution this fall of a man who admitted to killing a prison guard.

A department spokesman said in an email this week that the disclosure could tend to identify the execution drug supplier, which state law makes confidential. Lawmakers in 2013 approved the protections shielding the identities of those that supply the lethal injection drugs.

Department of Corrections Secretary Denny Kaemingk said in a statement that the department plans to use a "one-drug protocol" in the execution of Rodney Berget. Agency policy dictates the drug would be either sodium thiopental or pentobarbital, both of which are barbiturates.

Kaemingk said the department has the drugs to execute Berget, but cited the confidentiality law in declining to provide more information about the drug. South Dakota's last two executions were in 2012, and it used pentobarbital.

Corrections Department spokesman Michael Winder said in the email that the agency isn't prepared to release the information "at this time." Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said in an email that the department is preparing to carry out Berget's sentence and that additional details will be released as the plans are finalized.

Berget is scheduled to be put to death between Oct. 28 and Nov. 3. The warden of the state penitentiary will choose the specific time and date, which will be announced within 48 hours of the execution.

Berget pleaded guilty in 2012 to killing Ronald "R.J." Johnson in a failed 2011 prison escape attempt with fellow inmate Eric Robert, who was one of the two men the state executed in 2012. Berget in 2016 appealed his death sentence, but later asked to withdraw the appeal against the advice of his lawyers.

"I want this to be the last day I appear in court," Berget said at a September 2016 hearing.

An attorney for Berget declined to comment Friday to The Associated Press. The last execution in South Dakota was the lethal injection of Donald Moeller on Oct. 30, 2012, for the killing of Becky O'Connell.

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South Dakota Prep Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The preseason South Dakota Prep Media football polls are listed below, ranking the top-five teams in each class ahead of the new season. First-place votes received are indicated in parentheses.

Class 11AAA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP
1. Sioux Falls Washington	(26)	0-0	138
2. Sioux Falls Roosevelt	(2)	0-0	97
3. Sioux Falls O'Gorman	-	0-0	83
4. Brandon Valley	-	0-0	67
5. RC Stevens	-	0-0	28

Others receiving votes: Rapid City Stevens 5, Rapid City Central 1, Watertown 1.

Class 11AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP
1. Mitchell	(22)	0-0	133
2. Pierre	(3)	0-0	103
3. Harrisburg	(3)	0-0	96
4. Yankton	-	0-0	53
5. Huron	-	0-0	19

Others receiving votes: Sturgis 10, Brookings 5, Douglas 1.

Class 11A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP
1. Dakota Valley	(14)	0-0	113
2. Madison	(10)	0-0	104
3. Tea Area	(4)	0-0	95
4. St. Thomas More	-	0-0	68
5. Dell Rapids	-	0-0	24

Others receiving votes: West Central 9, Milbank 6, Belle Fourche 1.

Class 11B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP
1. SF Christian	(23)	0-0	134
2. Bridgewater-Emery-Ethan	-	0-0	(4) 109
3. Winner	-	0-0	74
4. Sioux Valley	(1)	0-0	56
5. Mount Vernon	5	0-0	32

Others receiving votes: Canton 9, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 3, Aberdeen Roncalli 2, McCook Central/Montrose 1.

Class 9AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP
1. Gregory	(14)	0-0	113
2. Miller	2	0-0	(9) 105
3. Wolsey-Wessington	(2)	0-0	75
4. Irene-Wakonda	(1)	0-0	55

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5. Webster Area (2) 0-0 49
Others receiving votes: Baltic 8, North Border 7, Bon Homme 5, Arlington/Lake Preston 2, Kimball/White Lake 1.

Class 9A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP
1. Britton-Hecla (16)	0-0	122	
2. Howard (10)	0-0	120	
3. Corsica-Stickney (1)	0-0	74	
4. Warner -	0-0	54	
5. Clark-Willow Lake	-	0-0	35

Others receiving votes: Canistota/Freeman 8, Timber Lake 5, Potter County 1, Alcester-Hudson 1.

Class 9B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP
1. Sully Buttes (20)	0-0	127	
2. Castlewood (3)	0-0	88	
3. Colome (3)	0-0	80	
4. Colman-Egan (2)	0-0	78	
5. Harding County	-	0-0	28

Others receiving votes: Faulkton Area 13, Wall 6.

South Dakota corn and soybean production forecast to be up

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Corn and soybean production in South Dakota is forecast to be up from last year's drought-impacted season.

The latest forecast from the federal Agriculture Department puts the soybean crop up 15 percent to a record 277 million bushels, and the corn crop up 12 percent to 825 million bushels.

South Dakota's winter wheat crop is forecast to be up 79 percent to just over 37 million bushels, and the spring wheat crop more than double at about 43 million bushels.

Production of oats, sorghum and alfalfa hay also is expected to be up.

Sioux Falls mayor proposes \$260M for sewer system upgrades

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls officials are preparing to make the largest infrastructure investment in the city's history to meet the demand being put on the sewer system from population growth.

Mayor Paul TenHaken wants to dedicate more than \$260 million to water reclamation infrastructure over five years, the Argus Leader reported. The move could increase sewer rates for Sioux Falls residents.

"We need to build for future capacity and commercial and residential growth in our city," TenHaken said. "Economic development and population growth cannot happen in our city without this investment. It's that critical."

The mayor's proposed rehabilitation and expansion program would update the city's nearly 40-year-old water treatment facility and repair aging sewer pipes. It would also increase capacity at a sanitary sewer pump station near the Big Sioux River.

The city's Public Works Department has expressed concern that the existing facility could max out soon due to population surges.

City Hall funded a study in 2015 to compare the sewer treatment system's health and capacity with population growth. The study projected a 69 percent increase in people living in the area that the sewer plant serves by 2036. The estimate would push the amount of wastewater used to 29 million gallons. The plant can currently treat about 21 million gallons, and the expansion proposal would add capacity to treat more than 30 million gallons.

"The cost is a heavy lift, but it's very necessary," TenHaken said.

The city plans to use low-interest loans from the state to pay for the improvements, according to Public Works Department Director Mark Cotter. The loans would be paid down with revenue from sewer customers, he said.

TenHaken and the Public Works Department plan to ask City Council later this year to dedicate about \$163 million in next year's budget to start making the sewer system upgrades.

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

Number of traffic fatalities up in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol says the number of traffic fatalities on state roadways is running 26 percent ahead of last year.

The patrol says 77 people have died in 2018, as compared to 61 fatalities at this time last year. The most recent fatality occurred Wednesday evening when a motorcyclist ran off a road near Black Hawk, the fourth death tied to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

While South Dakota's total number of fatal crashes is notably higher this year than last, the patrol's Tony Mangan says there's no one specific factor behind the increase. He tells The Daily Republic the state's numbers over the past five years have been lower than the national average and are lower than the numbers in surrounding states.

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

Lone Bear family wants missing person protocol for tribes

NEW TOWN, N.D. (AP) — The family of an American Indian woman whose body was found in a lake nine months after she went missing wants to help develop a missing-person protocol for tribes.

Olivia Lone Bear, 32, of New Town, disappeared from the Fort Berthold Reservation in October. Her body was found this month in a pickup truck pulled from Lake Sakakawea. The FBI is investigating what happened to the mother of five children.

Her brother, Matthew Lone Bear, said it's difficult in Indian Country to get a missing person search started. "There's a lot of red tape and hoops you have to jump through to even get (an investigation) rolling," he said. "We want to kind of streamline that so it's not so difficult."

The North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission plans to discuss drafting missing person guidelines for tribes and other ways to improve searches, Executive Director Scott Davis told The Bismarck Tribune.

"The biggest thing for Indian Country is that ... there is not a template out there to follow," he said. "I think we recognize that and we're trying to craft a template, if you will, for missing persons."

Davis said his office worked with Three Affiliated Tribes police in the search for Lone Bear, helping coordinate conference calls with various federal, state and tribal agencies. Commission officials plan to meet with tribal leadership soon to determine what can be improved.

"What did we do well, what didn't we do well, what resources did we have, what resources do we need, is there a policy that prevented us from doing something?" he said.

Davis also would like to expand the state's Silver Alert Notification system, which currently issues alerts for elderly and disabled people who are missing. He believes that if some type of alert had been issued in Lone Bear's case, the outcome might have been different.

"Those first 48 hours are crucial," he said.

Davis said tribes also need to assess the equipment and technology they have for search-and-rescue operations.

Matthew Lone Bear said the family is drafting its own protocol, but "we're willing to work with anybody that's willing to do this."

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

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Mediation refused in Davison County firing dispute

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Davison County has refused an offer of mediation from a former veterans service officer who is appealing her firing to South Dakota's Labor Department.

The Daily Republic reports that county commissioners late last month unanimously declined the offer from Jessica Davidson. That means the matter will go to a hearing in September before an administrative law judge.

Davidson alleges her November termination was in response to her "whistleblowing" about errors in veterans' files and what she felt was improper use of military insignia on souvenir coins. She also alleges the county discriminated against her for reasons including her gender.

County Deputy State's Attorney James Taylor has said Davidson's claims of wrongful termination are unfounded.

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

Yankton County latest to declare emergency due to rains

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Yankton County has launched an effort to try to access federal disaster money to pay for repairs needed after this summer's heavy rains.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that county commissioners this week declared an emergency due to flooding in recent months.

Emergency Manager Paul Scherschligt says the county had heavy damage to roads, culverts and other infrastructure. Damage is estimated at \$158,000.

Clay County and Turner County also have submitted emergency declarations to the state. There needs to be a certain amount of damage statewide for the governor to declare a disaster and seek help from the federal government.

Scherschligt says, "It's a long, drawn-out process."

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

Child porn trial set for former Sioux Falls fire chief

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former Sioux Falls fire chief facing child pornography charges is scheduled for trial late this year.

The Argus Leader reports that 58-year-old Jim Sideras is to stand trial the week of Nov. 26 on 10 counts of possessing, manufacturing or distributing child pornography. He was charged in May 2017 and has pleaded not guilty.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

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

Count of last Kansas governor primary ballots to stretch out

By JOHN HANNA, AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The counting of the last ballots in the tight and contentious Republican primary for Kansas governor will stretch out over the next week and still might not settle the race.

Secretary of State Kris Kobach leads Gov. Jeff Colyer by 110 votes out of 313,000-plus cast after late mail-in ballots from all 105 counties were added Friday to totals from advance voting and ballots cast at the polls Tuesday. The state's 105 counties still must review nearly 9,000 provisional ballots and determine how many of them were cast in the Republican primary — and how many will be counted.

The counties have until Aug. 20 to finish that process and certify local results. Seventy-six plan to get started Monday.

A candidate must ask for a recount by 5 p.m. Friday.

New US sanctions could pitch Russia relations to new low

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE** and **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia typically brushes off new U.S. sanctions. Not this time.

The Trump administration announcement of export restrictions in response to accusations Moscow used a nerve agent to poison a former Russian spy in Britain sent the ruble tumbling to a two-year low and drew a stern warning from its prime minister. While the initial sanctions may have a limited impact, a second batch expected within months could hit the Russian economy much harder and send already tense relations into a tailspin.

If sanctions are expanded even further to target Russia's top state-controlled banks, freezing their dollar transactions — as proposed under legislation introduced in the Senate this month — it would amount to a "declaration of economic war," Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Friday.

So much for President Donald Trump's hopes for better relations with Moscow.

On his watch, the U.S. has imposed a slew of sanctions on Russia for human rights abuses, meddling in the U.S. election and Russian military aggression in Ukraine and Syria.

But for the most part, those measures have punished Russian officials and associates of President Vladimir Putin rather than targeting broad economic sectors. More biting restrictions have been imposed by the European Union, which conducts more trade and business with Russia than the U.S. does.

The sanctions announced by the Trump administration this past week could start to change that equation. The restrictions were triggered under U.S. law on chemical weapons following a formal U.S. determination that Russia used the Novichok nerve agent to poison former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the English city of Salisbury in March.

The first tranche, due to take effect Aug. 22, will deny export licenses to Russia for the purchase of many items with national security implications. Existing sanctions already prohibit the export of most military and security-related items, but now the ban will be extended to goods such as gas turbine engines, electronics and calibration equipment that were previously allowed on a case-by-case basis. The State Department said it could potentially affect hundreds of millions of dollars in trade.

"It's a significant step, but not an overwhelming one," said Daniel Fried, a veteran State Department official who served as chief U.S. coordinator for sanctions policy until he retired last year.

The penny could drop, though, in three months' time.

Russia has 90 days to "provide assurances" that it will not use chemical weapons in the future and allow inspections. If Russia does not comply, Trump will be obligated to impose a second set of sanctions, applying restrictions on at least three from a menu of options: opposing multilateral bank assistance to Russia, broad restrictions on exports and imports, downgrading diplomatic relations, prohibiting air carrier landing rights and barring U.S. banks from making loans to the Russian government. That could do significantly more economic harm and have a lasting, destabilizing effect on the currency and stock markets.

Senior Russian lawmaker Vyacheslav Nikonov said a second set of sanctions may be inevitable and predicted it would pitch relations to new low. The relationship is already routinely described as at its worst since the Cold War.

"They are demanding that Russia (accepts) an obligation to refrain from any further use of chemical and bacteriological weapons, which amounts to our acknowledgement that we have used it. But we haven't," he said.

Things could get even worse if the Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act, which a bipartisan group of senators introduced Aug. 2, makes its way through Congress. It would target Russia's state-controlled banks and freeze their operations in dollars, which would deal a heavy blow to the Russian economy. The prospects for the legislation becoming law remain uncertain.

Medvedev warned the U.S. that such a move would cross a red line and would warrant a Russian response by economic, political or "other means" he did not specify. His tough tone was a departure from past nonchalance from Putin and his lieutenants over the impact of Western sanctions on the Russian economy.

Vladimir Vasilyev, a researcher with the Institute of the U.S. and Canada, a government-funded Moscow

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think tank, said U.S.-Russian ties were now approaching "the point of no return with no prospect for improvement" in sight.

Fried said that in addition to uncertainty over sanctions, Moscow's strong response this time is likely also being fueled by larger inconsistencies in U.S. policy toward Russia. While Trump has hankered for closer ties with Putin, the government he leads has been far less accommodating.

"Whatever deal the Russians had or thought they had or thought they could get from President Donald Trump, they're not able to get it from Trump's administration," Fried said.

The State Department denied inconsistency in U.S. policy and maintained that sanctions were aimed at encouraging improved behavior from Russia. "We'd like to have a better relationship with the Russian government, recognizing that we have a lot of areas of mutual concern," spokeswoman Heather Nauert said.

Congress has a less diplomatic view.

Trump has repeatedly come under fire from lawmakers, including from his own Republican Party, for his conciliatory statements on Russia, particularly at his joint press conference with Putin at their summit in Helsinki last month where he appeared to doubt U.S. intelligence conclusions that Russia intervened in the 2016 election.

Rep. Ed Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was among lawmakers who welcomed the U.S. sanctions announced this week. "It's critical that we use every tool at our disposal to confront Putin's use of chemical weapons, as well as his efforts to undermine our democracy," the Republican from California said.

Isachenkov reported from Moscow.

Plane stolen by 'suicidal' employee crashes near Seattle

By ELAINE THOMPSON and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

SEATAC, Wash. (AP) — A "suicidal" airline employee stole an empty Horizon Air turboprop plane, took off from Sea-Tac International Airport and was chased by military jets before crashing into a small island in the Puget Sound on Friday night, officials said.

Preliminary information suggests the crash occurred because the 29-year-old man was "doing stunts in air or lack of flying skills," the Pierce County Sheriff's Department said.

Ed Troyer, a spokesman for the sheriff's department, said on Twitter the man was suicidal and there was no connection to terrorism. The man's condition after the crash wasn't immediately known.

Video showed the Horizon Air Q400 doing large loops and other dangerous maneuvers as the sun set on the Puget Sound. There were no passengers aboard. Authorities initially said the man was a mechanic but Alaska Airlines later said he was believed to be a ground service agent employed by Horizon. Those employees direct aircraft for takeoff and gate approach and de-ice planes.

Witnesses reported seeing the plane being chased by military aircraft before it crashed on Ketron Island, southwest of Tacoma, Washington. Troyer said F-15 aircraft scrambled out of Portland, Oregon, and were in the air "within a few minutes" and the pilots kept "people on the ground safe."

The sheriff's department said they were working to conduct a background investigation on the Pierce County resident, whose name was not immediately released.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Saturday morning that President Donald Trump is "monitoring the situation." He's currently at his New Jersey golf club.

The aircraft was stolen about 8 p.m. Alaska Airlines said it was in a "maintenance position" and not scheduled for a passenger flight. Horizon Air is part of Alaska Air Group and flies shorter routes throughout the U.S. West. The Q400 is a turboprop aircraft with 76 seats.

Pierce County Sheriff Paul Pastor said the man "did something foolish and may well have paid with his life."

The man could be heard on audio recordings telling air traffic controllers that he is "just a broken guy."

An air traffic controller called the man "Rich," and tried to convince the man to land the airplane.

"There is a runway just off to your right side in about a mile," the controller says, referring to an airfield

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at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

"Oh man. Those guys will rough me up if I try and land there," the man responded, later adding "This is probably jail time for life, huh?"

Later the man said: "I've got a lot of people that care about me. It's going to disappoint them to hear that I did this...Just a broken guy, got a few screws loose, I guess."

Flights out of Sea-Tac, the largest commercial airport in the Pacific Northwest, were temporarily grounded during the drama.

The U.S. Coast Guard sent a 45-foot (14-meter) vessel to the crash scene after witnesses reported seeing a large plume of smoke in the air, Petty Officer Ali Flockerzi said. Video showed fiery flames amidst trees on the island, which is sparsely populated and only accessible by ferry.

Alaska Airlines said no structures on the ground were damaged.

Royal King told The Seattle Times he was photographing a wedding when he saw the low-flying turbo-prop being chased by two F-15s. He said he didn't see the crash but saw smoke.

"It was unfathomable, it was something out of a movie," he told the newspaper. "The smoke lingered. You could still hear the F-15s, which were flying low."

"Our hearts are with the family of the individual aboard, along with all of our Alaska Air and Horizon Air employees," Horizon Air Chief Operating Officer Constance von Muehlen said in a video posted on Twitter.

Spokesmen for the Transportation Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Aviation Administration directed inquiries to local authorities.

Gov. Jay Inslee thanked the Air National Guard from Washington and Oregon for scrambling jets and said in a statement "there are still a lot of unknowns surrounding tonight's tragic incident."

Balsamo reported from Los Angeles. AP journalist Michelle A. Monroe in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Omarosa in new book: I saw Trump's racism 'with my own eyes'

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — Former White House staffer Omarosa Manigault Newman claims in a new book that there are tapes of President Donald Trump using racial slurs and that she saw him behaving "like a dog off the leash" at numerous events he attended without his wife, first lady Melania Trump.

The accusations are among a long list of scandalous claims contained in her new book, "Unhinged," set to come out Aug. 14. The Associated Press purchased an early copy of the memoir, which the White House has already slammed as "riddled with lies and false accusations."

In the book, Manigault Newman, who was a contestant on Trump's "The Apprentice" reality show and later served as a senior adviser to the president, hurls a litany of allegations, painting the president as scattered, self-absorbed, misogynistic and insecure.

Trump, she said she'd concluded after years of defending him, was a bigot.

"I didn't want to believe it," she writes. "I rejected what other people said about him because they didn't know him like I did. I had to go through the pain of witnessing his racism with my own eyes, and hearing it with my own ears, many times, until I couldn't deny it any longer."

She also claims without evidence that tapes exist of the president using the N-word repeatedly on the reality show's set. She acknowledges she had never been able to obtain or hear the tapes but said three unnamed sources had described their contents.

Manigault Newman also alleges that allies of the president tried to buy her silence. When she left the White House, she says she was offered \$15,000 a month to serve in a "senior position" on Trump's 2020 re-election campaign. But that offer came along with a stringent nondisclosure agreement that was as "harsh and restrictive" as she had seen while working in television.

After turning down the job, she said she received a "flurry" of letters from attorneys representing the president telling her to "stay silent about Trump, or else."

Throughout the book, Manigault Newman paints a deeply critical portrait of the president, describing him

as a man who "loved conflict, chaos and confusion; he loved seeing people argue or fight." She says she had seen him acting inappropriately at numerous events he attended without his wife at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, including birthday parties, fundraisers and golf tournaments.

She also alleges that Trump has exhibited signs of a "mental decline that could not be denied" and says she went as far as printing out a study linking Diet Coke consumption to dementia and strokes and putting it in his briefing stack.

The White House responded by slamming the book and its author and chastising the press for writing about it.

"Instead of telling the truth about all the good President Trump and his administration are doing to make America safe and prosperous, this book is riddled with lies and false accusations," said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "It's sad that a disgruntled former White House employee is trying to profit off these false attacks, and even worse that the media would now give her a platform."

Memo shows Kavanaugh resisted indicting a sitting president

By LISA MASCARO and MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly released documents from Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh's time on the Kenneth Starr team investigating Bill Clinton reveal his resistance to issuing an indictment of a sitting president.

The memo, tucked toward the end of nearly 10,000 pages released Friday, provides greater insight into Kavanaugh's views on executive power that are expected to feature prominently in his Senate confirmation hearings. Democrats have warned that Kavanaugh may be unwilling to protect special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible coordination between President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia.

The documents show that on Christmas Eve 1998, Kavanaugh drafted an "Overall Plan" to colleagues providing his thoughts on bringing the independent counsel office's work to a close and suggesting they inform the attorney general that the findings against Clinton be left to the next president.

"We believe an indictment should not be pursued while the President is in Office," Kavanaugh wrote.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, announced Friday that confirmation hearings for Kavanaugh would begin the day after Labor Day. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he hopes to have Trump's nominee confirmed to replace retired Justice Anthony Kennedy before the new court session begins Oct. 1.

"We're moving right along," McConnell said during a radio interview in Kentucky ahead of the announcement. "He'll get confirmed. It won't be a landslide, but he'll get confirmed."

The Judiciary Committee will hold up to four days of review, with Kavanaugh to begin facing questions on Day 2, Sept. 5, said committee chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley. Kavanaugh's appearance will be followed by testimony from legal experts and people who know the judge.

The White House, which is determined to have Kavanaugh confirmed before the November elections as Republicans aim to deliver on Trump's priorities, applauded the schedule announcement. But Democrats want access to more documents from Kavanaugh's past as a judge and as an official in the George W. Bush administration.

Grassley, R-Iowa, said there's "plenty of time" to review documents but now it's time for Americans "to hear directly" from Kavanaugh.

So far, the committee has made public Kavanaugh's 17,000-page questionnaire and his more than 300 court cases as an appellate judge. The panel has additionally received 174,000 pages from his work for Bush in the White House counsel's office.

The new documents Friday provide a glimpse into Kavanaugh's years on the Starr team shuttling back and forth to Little Rock for "investigative purposes." He co-wrote a detailed, nearly 300-page memo on deputy White House counsel Vince Foster's suicide.

Hundreds of pages in the Starr files are grand jury proceedings that are redacted. Meanwhile, most of

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the White House records related to Kavanaugh are being held on a "committee confidential" basis, with just 5,700 pages from his White House years released this week to the public.

Democrats say the Republicans are relying on the cherry-picked files being released primarily by Bush's lawyer, Bill Burck, who is compiling and vetting the documents, rather than the traditional process conducted by the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Archives has said its review of some 1 million pages of Kavanaugh records the committee requested will not be fully available until the end of October. The Archives produced the Starr files.

The top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, said scheduling the hearing before the documents are ready "is not only unprecedented but a new low in Republican efforts to stack the courts."

She said, "It's clear that Republicans want to speed this nomination through before we know who Brett Kavanaugh is."

Nan Aron, president of the Alliance for Justice, called it "jaw-dropping."

"It means that the chairman is telling the American people that this hearing is barreling forward, no matter what, no matter how little information is available to the Senate and public or how many shortcuts the committee has to take," she said.

The White House on Friday welcomed the news of a set date for confirmation hearings.

"With the Senate already reviewing more documents than for any other Supreme Court nominee in history, Chairman Grassley has lived up to his promise to lead an open, transparent and fair process," said White House spokesman Raj Shah. "Judge Kavanaugh looks forward to addressing the Judiciary Committee in public hearings for the American people to view."

Kavanaugh, 53, is a conservative who could tip the court's balance for a generation and play a decisive role on issues like abortion access, gay marriage and executive branch oversight.

He has met privately with almost all the Republican senators and one Democrat as supporters try to build momentum for confirmation.

Because his career has largely been spent in public service, Kavanaugh has an unusually voluminous paper trail. Democrats are particularly pushing for access to his three years as staff secretary for Bush, but Republicans are not including those documents in the review.

GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah said they are conducting the "most thorough vetting process for a nominee in the history of the Supreme Court."

Edwin Meese, the former attorney general to President Ronald Reagan, said, "Democratic senators have the time and they have the material. They have no excuse to obstruct his prompt confirmation."

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Trump, at golf club, intent on projecting he's hard at work

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

BEDMINSTER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump is spending his summer vacation at his golf club in New Jersey. Wait, don't call it "vacation."

Trump, who is loath to admit to sleeping — let alone taking time off — has spent his week away mixing downtime and golf rounds with meetings and dinners, intent on projecting the image that he's been hard at work.

Ensnored at his private club, he's surrounded by a clutch of unofficial Bedminster advisers, who have unusual levels of access to a president with the propensity for mixing business with leisure.

Not that it was his idea to leave Washington anyway, he contends.

"We're renovating the White House, a long-term project and they approved it years ago. And I said, 'Well, I guess this would be a good place to be in the meantime,'" Trump told reporters invited to the property to document a roundtable discussion on prison reform efforts Thursday.

"I miss it. I would like to be there," he said of the White House, "but this is a good way of doing it."

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No staffers had publicly mentioned the need for any rehabilitation work before Trump's departure, and the explanation effort underscores the president's concern about public perceptions as he approaches having spent 150 days of his presidency at his golf properties.

Trump repeatedly blistered Barack Obama during the 2016 campaign for golfing, telling cheering supporters that as president he'd be far too busy working for them.

"I'm not gonna have time to go play golf," he would shout.

Does he actually play golf at Bedminster or at his better-known Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida? Yes, but it's hard to say how much. The White House won't say, and reporters are barred from getting close enough to see.

All presidents take vacations. Obama and his family spent time on Martha's Vineyard and in Hawaii. But Trump seems more sensitive about admitting it.

"Had a very good phone call with @EmmanuelMacron, President of France," he tweeted Friday, describing it as just one of "many other calls and conversations," including a dinner with Apple's Tim Cook.

He has been photographed golfing by social-media-savvy members. But he's spent most of this past week out of outsiders' sight. He's hosted several donor events, including a dinner for "Protect the House," a fundraising committee led by Vice President Mike Pence and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy that raises money for Republican House candidates.

On Tuesday evening, he welcomed more than a dozen CEOs, their spouses and staffers for an animated dinner that included frank discussions of trade, immigration and other issues.

White House aides have always been leery of Trump's visits to Bedminster where, as at Mar-a-Lago, he can mingle with members without staff "handlers" surrounding him. Also, there are fewer staff to try to keep him upbeat and, with some luck, away from the television.

The New Jersey golf club is where a brooding Trump unleashed several of his most inflammatory attacks and where, in spring 2017, he made the final decision to fire FBI Director James Comey, the move that triggered the special counsel's probe into Russian election meddling. During last summer's Bedminster break, he debuted his threat to unleash "fire and fury" against North Korea and then made his first tepid response to the racial violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

This year, Trump's tweets have included scientifically dubious theories about the raging California wildfires and an insult to NBA superstar LeBron James that to some read as a racial dog whistle. In another early morning blast, he acknowledged that the 2016 Trump Tower meeting at the center of the Russia investigation was indeed arranged "to get information on an opponent."

John Catsimatidis, a billionaire businessman and radio host who owns a New York City supermarket chain and attended the CEO dinner, described Trump as in a "great mood" as he promoted the economy and fielded questions, including several on immigration. The president told those in attendance that he was considering signing an executive order to make it easier for top-performing foreign students to stay in the U.S. as well as for companies to hire the foreign workers they need.

"Whatever's needed in America, whether it's truck drivers or programmers, whatever's needed for American companies," Catsimatidis said Trump told him.

That's the kind of off-the-cuff promise-making that White House aides are on high alert for.

The golf club remains open and active when Trump is on the scene, giving the president a chance to mix with members and, as he delights in doing, dropping in on weddings and parties. It's where his daughter Ivanka married Jared Kushner, and where Trump, pre-presidency, had planned to be buried.

But the casual atmosphere also allows members to buttonhole the president to push him on pet issues.

While the Mar-a-Lago crowd has a reputation among White House staffers for being dominated by aging socialites with few real-world concerns, Bedminster regulars tend to be lower-key members of the tristate-area elite whom Trump likes and respects and to whom he may be more amenable to listening.

The atmosphere is also much more casual than Mar-a-Lago, where high-society Palm Beach members reserve tables and dress to the nines hoping to see or be seen. There, Trump is constantly approached for photos or to broach odd ideas about world peace or pet issues.

In Bedminster, the members are more reserved, but when they do come up to Trump with ideas, they

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are usually more serious and Trump is more likely to direct staff to follow up, White House aides say.

Members and White House aides say Trump appears to be more comfortable at Bedminster, which, according to one member who enjoys reciprocal privileges, has a "totally different" vibe.

Trump does meet with staff and has been speaking by phone with Pence, his secretary of state, his national security adviser and congressional leaders.

But he's rarely seen in a suit jacket and tie and has proved to be more unchecked at the property, which is dotted with trees, ponds and green lawns.

"It's beautiful," Catsimatidis said the day after his first visit. "The beauty was far beyond what I imagined."

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report from Washington.

Crews battle growing wildfire near homes in California

By **MARCIO SANCHEZ and AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press**

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters worked furiously Friday to keep a Southern California wildfire from burning more homes while crews in the north finally gained ground on deadly and destructive blazes that have burned for two weeks.

Aircraft have been making flight after flight, dumping water and bright pink retardant to protect Lake Elsinore and other foothill communities as the fire sweeps through the dense, bone-dry brush of the Cleveland National Forest.

The Holy Fire — named for Holy Jim Canyon where it began Monday — grew to nearly 30 square miles (77 square kilometers) after nearly doubling in size overnight. But firefighters also made progress, with containment doubling from 5 to 10 percent.

Some hillsides were being allowed to burn under the watchful eyes of firefighters as a way to reduce fuel and make it harder for flames to jump roadways into communities if winds pick up again.

Although the fire burned a dozen forest cabins early on, only one home was lost Thursday as fire crews managed to fend off flames that stalked downhill and came right up to yards.

Standing in the ashes of his house on Friday, Dan Pritchett told KNBC-TV that he and his brother stayed until a wall of flames roared near.

"I turned to him and said, 'Let's go,'" Pritchett said. "(There were) 100-foot flames right on the crest of the hill, right in front of me."

No more homes were torched on Friday but some 20,000 people remained under evacuation orders.

Gusty winds continued to drive the flames but were expected to ease off overnight before blowing up again Saturday afternoon.

The man charged with deliberately starting the fire appeared in court Friday but his arraignment was postponed.

Forrest Clark, 51, made several outbursts, claiming his life was being threatened and said the arson charge against him was a lie. A court commissioner ordered his bail to remain at \$1 million.

"May I pay for that immediately?" asked Clark, who could face life in prison if convicted.

The Holy Fire was one of nearly 20 blazes across California, which is seeing earlier, longer and more destructive wildfire seasons because of drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change and home construction deeper into forests.

North of Sacramento, crews were gaining the upper hand on massively destructive fires even as new ones forced more evacuations and the weather forecast called for hot, dry, gusty weather.

The largest fire ever recorded in California, the Mendocino Complex, was now threatening about 1,500 homes instead of some 12,000 earlier in the week. It was 60 percent contained.

Tough terrain and heavy smoke made hard work for firefighters but containment lines in the south held, state fire officials said.

The blaze has destroyed 119 homes but none in recent days.

The two-week-old Carr Fire that killed six people and burned more than 1,000 homes was 51 percent

contained.

However, evacuations were ordered for communities near a new fire in the Fall River Mills area, about 70 miles northeast of Redding. About 350 residents were under mandatory evacuation orders because of the Hat Fire, which began Thursday near a highway.

Firefighters aided by cooler weather have made good progress against a blaze burning for nearly a month near Yosemite National Park in the northern part of the state. The park was set to reopen Tuesday after a two-week closure, park spokesman Scott Gediman said.

Myers reported from Los Angeles. AP journalists Michael Balsamo and Christopher Weber in Los Angeles, Amy Taxin in Orange County and Olga Rodriguez in San Francisco contributed to this story.

Activists rally against hate on Charlottesville anniversary

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Police are blocking off streets and mobilizing hundreds of officers for the anniversary of a deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, alarming activists who plan to rally against the hatred and bloodshed that shocked the nation last summer.

State and local authorities framed this weekend's heightened security as a necessary precaution, but some community activists are concerned the measures could be a counterproductive overreaction.

An independent investigation of last year's rally violence, led by a former federal prosecutor, found the chaos stemmed from a passive response by law enforcement and poor preparation and coordination between state and city police.

Lisa Woolfork, a University of Virginia professor and Black Lives Matter Charlottesville organizer, said police are mounting a "huge, overwhelming show of force to compensate for last year's inaction."

"Last year, I was afraid of the Nazis. This year, I'm afraid of the police," Woolfork said. "This is not making anyone that I know feel safe."

Grace Aheron, an organizer for Showing Up for Racial Justice, said a "militarized police presence" doesn't make the city safer.

"I'm not looking forward to what that's going to look like this weekend," she said.

On the eve of last year's rally, torch-toting white supremacists marched through the University of Virginia's campus, shouting racist and anti-Semitic slogans. On Saturday, students and activists plan to hold a "Rally for Justice" on campus while the university is hosting a "morning of reflection and renewal," with poetry readings and musical performances. Activists also announced plans for a gathering Sunday morning at a park in Charlottesville.

Sunday is the anniversary of the violence that erupted on the streets of Charlottesville, where hundreds of rally participants gathered to protest the city's plans to remove a statue of Robert E. Lee from a park that was named after the Confederate general. Crowds of white supremacists and counterprotesters clashed before a car plowed into a crowd, killing 32-year-old counterprotester Heather Heyer. James Fields Jr., 21, of Maumee, Ohio, is charged in state court with murder in Heyer's killing and also faces separate hate crime charges in federal court.

Jason Kessler, the primary organizer of last summer's rally, sued the city of Charlottesville after it refused to issue him a permit for another event this weekend. However, Kessler dropped his lawsuit last week and vowed to forge ahead with plans for a "white civil rights" rally Sunday in Washington, D.C.

On Wednesday, Gov. Ralph Northam and the city both declared states of emergency, citing the "potential impacts of events" in Charlottesville during the anniversary weekend. The state's declaration allocates \$2 million in state funds and authorizes the Virginia National Guard to assist in security efforts.

The city is closing downtown streets and public parks and restricting access to a downtown "security area," where visitors are prohibited from wearing masks or carrying certain items, including skateboards, catapults, glass bottles, bats and knives. Virginia State Police Superintendent Gary Settle said more than 700 state police will be activated during the weekend.

For the complete AP coverage marking one year since the rally in Charlottesville, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/CharlottesvilleAYearLater>

New Mexico compound littered with ammunition, dirty diapers

By MORGAN LEE and STEPHEN R. GROVES, Associated Press

AMALIA, N.M. (AP) — Dirty diapers, shotgun shells, small broken bicycles, the white sandal of a baby, anguished journals about faith and a DVD about killing techniques in close combat.

Ordinary and extraordinary household objects littered a squalid compound on a high-desert plain of northern New Mexico, bearing silent witness to the lives of 11 children and five adults — and perhaps one missing boy.

The settlement sprung up on the outskirts of tiny Amalia, New Mexico, last winter — as a manhunt unfolded for the father of a 3-year-old boy abducted from Georgia.

Police raided the property a week ago in response a report of children living in filth, severe hunger and dangers including a leaky propane tank — detaining all living inhabitants.

On Monday, authorities returned with new intelligence to retrieve the body of a small boy — possibly the missing and severely disabled Georgia boy Abdul-ghani Wahhaj.

The state medical examiner has not yet identified the body, and prosecutors said they were awaiting word on the cause of death before deciding on any further charges against his father, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, one of the five adults arrested at the compound.

The grandfather of the missing boy, Siraj Wahhaj, is a Muslim cleric who leads a well-known New York City mosque. He believes the body is that of Abdul-ghani. The five adults arrested at the property in Amalia include the imam's two children and a second adult daughter.

It was unclear exactly where the child's body had been concealed with the compound— or how long it had been there.

The empty dwelling, without running water or a drainage system, is arranged around a rickety camper that is half submerged in a dirty pit and surrounded by 7-foot (2-meter) berms of used tires, sections of adobe wall topped with broken glass, a junked refrigerator and other odd supplies.

An alcove shaped out of wooden shipping pallets hides a makeshift bathroom — with a toilet seat suspended above a blue plastic bucket. A pair of underpants dangled from a pole overhead.

To one side of the camper, an underground tunnel — big enough to crawl through — led in and out of the compound, which was flanked by an apparent target range. Dozens of spent casings were left behind there.

Prosecutors also have accused the adults in court documents of training children to use firearms in preparation for future school shootings, although no charges have been filed in response to the accusation that came from a new foster parent of one of the 11 children removed from the compound.

Refuse at the compound included standard ammunition as well as fake cartridges designed to help people safely learn how to load and fire a weapon.

The owner of the property, Jason Badger, on Friday prodded through a left-behind satchel of ammunition — fit for rifle, shotgun and handgun — and discarded garbage bags holding crumpled grade-school textbooks and journals lined with notes in neat cursive and the primitive doodles of children.

While touring the ramshackle living quarters littered with diesel cans, used diapers, household garbage and Qurans, he questioned why authorities did not search a squalid New Mexico compound sooner for Abdul-ghani, saying he told them in late spring that he had met the child's father at the site and that the man was wanted in Georgia for kidnapping his own son.

Badger also said he believed he saw the searched-for boy by his father's side in January, wearing a hooded jacket.

Badger said in an interview that he learned through an online search this spring that Wahhaj was wanted in the disappearance of son Abdul-ghani Wahhaj and reported his earlier encounter to law enforcement

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authorities in New Mexico and Georgia — and eventually to the FBI.

"If they knew about it, and then that kid died in that timeframe, when they knew, somebody has to be held accountable," Badger said.

Taos County Sheriff's Department Steve Fullendorf spokesman downplayed Badger's criticism of the investigation, saying Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe did everything he could possible under the law and had to follow certain restrictions.

"Mr. Badger doesn't have to adhere to those same restrictions," Fullendorf said. "He wants to have his 15 minutes of fame and that's fine."

Hogrefe has said the FBI put the New Mexico compound under surveillance in recent months and took photographs, but he could not initially get a warrant to enter because the images collected did not show the boy or his father.

That changed when a note was forwarded to Georgia authorities saying children inside the compound were starving, Hogrefe said.

The missing boy's grandfather said his adult daughter, who was in the compound, sent the note to a man in Georgia. That man then notified the grandfather, who said he contacted police.

The suspects are being jailed without bail in New Mexico and one of them, Lucas Morton, also faces a charge of harboring a felon. He is accused of refusing to tell authorities the younger Siraj Wahhaj's location during the compound raid. Wahhaj eventually was found armed with multiple firearms, including an assault rifle, authorities said.

— Groves reported from New York. Associated Press writers Brinley Hineman in Atlanta and Mary Hudetz and Russell Contreras in Albuquerque, N.M., contributed to this report.

— This version corrects that the daughter-in-law's name is Jany Leveille, not Janie Leveille.

In Iowa, Stormy Daniels' lawyer says Democrats must fight

By CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

CLEAR LAKE, Iowa (AP) — Michael Avenatti, the self-styled provocateur taking on the president for porn actress Stormy Daniels, told Iowa Democrats on Friday that the party needs a bare-knuckle fighter to take back the White House.

It's a role he is considering filling himself.

In a political scene unthinkable just months ago, Avenatti was the closing speaker at the Democratic Wing Ding in Clear Lake, Iowa, a traditional stop for presidential hopefuls. His remarks came after a tour through the early-voting state that included a visit to the state fair and meetings with key Democratic officials.

"What I fear for this Democratic Party that I love is that we have a tendency to bring nail clippers to gunfights," Avenatti told an enthusiastic crowd in the Surf Ballroom and Museum. "Tonight I want to suggest a different course. I believe that the Democratic Party must be a party that fights fire with fire."

He added, "When they go low, I say, we hit harder."

It was a reversal of former First Lady Michelle Obama's declaration at the 2016 Democratic Convention, "When they go low, we go high."

In an interview, Avenatti said: "At that point in time, for what she was speaking about, I think that was the right message. But as we sit here now, that approach clearly will not work."

Known for his combative cable news appearances, Avenatti offered a relatively traditional political address that stressed his record as a self-made businessman, an advocate for underdogs and a formidable foe to President Donald Trump. He stressed his support for "Medicare for all" and "sensible gun control." He also dubbed Trump a "con man" and his presidency a "Dumpster fire."

He even made a few Iowa references — for example, mentioning a John Deere tractor.

Organizers of the Wing Ding — which has drawn heavy hitters like Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton in past years — said he boosted ticket sales.

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Avenatti said his visit to the State Fair included a stop at the butter cow — a cow sculpted in butter — two pork chops on a stick and plenty of conversation with people who recognized him and encouraged him to keep going. He strolled the fairgrounds drinking beer from a plastic cup and traded the gray suit for a blue gingham long-sleeved shirt and jeans, the typical dress code of a visiting politician.

"I've learned that the people of Iowa are fairly receptive to me and receptive to my message," said Avenatti, who plans to visit early-voting New Hampshire in the next few weeks and will return to Iowa.

Novelty candidates are nothing new to politically savvy Iowans. Indeed, Trump — who did not win the Republican caucuses but did win the state in the 2016 general election — was a reality star before he took to the campaign trail. Wing Ding Chairman Randy Black said Avenatti could have a similar effect, noting: "You have Trump, who opened up doors for people who never entered a political arena before. Michael Avenatti has done the same thing."

The similarities between Avenatti and his chosen nemesis don't stop there. Like Trump, Avenatti is a brash political outsider with a natural talent for cable television news, a blistering Twitter feed and a knack for a catchy slogan. He has turned those tools against Trump as he represents Daniels and a growing list of critical clients.

Avenatti shared the stage Friday with Ohio Rep. Tim Ryan, Maryland Rep. John Delaney and businessman Andrew Yang. Many top-tier prospects — including former Vice President Joe Biden and Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Cory Booker of New Jersey, Kamala Harris of California and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York — are avoiding Iowa so far.

Amid his growing profile, Avenatti continues to represent Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford. She has said she had sex with Trump in 2006, months after his third wife gave birth to their son, but Trump has denied it. Days before the 2016 presidential election, Daniels was paid \$130,000 to stay silent in a deal handled by Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen. She is suing to invalidate the nondisclosure agreement.

Asked if Daniels would support his presidential bid, Avenatti said, "I think that she's very supportive of the idea."

Avenatti's reach has extended. In recent weeks, he has protested Trump in London, accepted an award in Denver and visited children in New York who had been separated from their parents at the U.S. border. He expects to devote more time to Democratic Party events in the coming weeks.

Asked about a potential Avenatti bid, CeCe Ibson, 54, a Democratic activist from Des Moines, was cautious, saying she wanted to hear from him but stressing that "it's very early."

Beverly and Dru Carlson of Kansas City, Kansas, said they don't usually attend political events, but they drove five and a half hours to see Avenatti.

"I wanted to see him in person because I think he might be president one day," said Beverly Carlson, 66. Her husband, 64, added, "I think it's going to take somebody like him to beat Trump."

Associated Press writer Thomas Beaumont contributed from Des Moines.

NFL players emphasize reasons for anthem demonstrations

By **ROB MAADDI, AP Pro Football Writer**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — While the NFL continues discussions with the players' union regarding a national anthem policy, players who demonstrate are emphasizing they are protesting social injustice, racial inequality and systematic oppression.

They are not against the country, military, flag or "The Star-Spangled Banner" itself.

President Donald Trump wants players to "find another way to protest" and contended "most of them are unable to define" what they're demonstrating against.

Players, however, have made clear their position numerous times.

"I think part of the problem is that when you continue the rhetoric that this is controversial or this is somehow a negative thing, people treat it as such," Philadelphia Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins said after

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resuming his demonstration before Thursday night's game. "But we've seen in other leagues when they've decided to amplify the voices of their players to also emphasize the importance of the issues that we're raising, and change the narrative away from the anthem, that not only is it more acceptable, the fan base gets educated on what we're talking about, and we can actually make some movement."

Jenkins stopped his demonstration last season after the NFL committed \$90 million over the next seven years to social justice causes in a three-segment plan that involves league players.

Jenkins and a few teammates wore a T-shirt before the game that read on the front: "More than 60 percent of prison populations are people of color." On the back, it said: "Nearly 5,000 kids are in adult prisons and jails. #SchoolsNotPrisons."

The league and the NFLPA have yet to announce a policy for this season regarding demonstrations during the anthem after the league initially ordered everyone to stand on the sideline when the anthem is played, or remain in the locker room.

League spokesman Brian McCarthy declined comment Friday and reiterated his statement Thursday night, saying "constructive" discussions are ongoing with the union.

"I understand that it's a business and you want to protect your bottom line and all of that, but at the end of the day, I think the smartest thing right now is to not have a rule and provide a better option," Jenkins said.

Teammate Chris Long showed his support for Jenkins, as he did last season, by putting his arm around him.

"Malcolm is taking action and he can always sleep good at night knowing that he's not being a fraud," Long said. "He's (demonstrating) and he's working in the community, like a lot of these guys are doing."

On Friday night, Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch sat during the national anthem before the exhibition opener against the Detroit Lions. Lynch also sat for the anthem all of last season, but never gave a reason for his decision.

In Miami, Dolphins receivers Kenny Stills and Albert Wilson kneeled behind teammates lined up standing along the sideline. Defensive end Robert Quinn stood and raised his right fist.

"If you continue to misinterpret what we're doing, reach out to me, take a look at my website, take a look at my Twitter, all my social media platforms," Stills said. "I think you'll get a better idea of why we're doing what we're doing and maybe you can come to the other side and start supporting us."

Stills said "it would take a lot" for him to stop protesting.

"A good first step for us as a league would be acknowledging what they're doing to Colin Kaepernick and Eric Reid," Stills said. "You can't say as a league you support the players and their protests and then blackball the players who initially started the protests. To come to the drawing board and talk about solutions, we need to start there as a league, and then we can start drawing up other solutions to some of these other problems."

Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, began the movement in 2016 and was joined by teammate Eric Reid. Both are unemployed — Kaepernick didn't play last season, either — and have pending collusion grievances against the NFL.

Kaepernick tweeted support for Stills and Wilson.

Wilson said he feels more free to express himself with the Dolphins than he did with the Kansas City Chiefs, but didn't elaborate.

"You get a lot of backlash for doing this," Wilson said. "Nobody wants to bring the negative attention to themselves, but when you have a platform like this and you're able to speak on certain situations, you want to do that. We're not harming anybody."

Writing on Twitter from his New Jersey golf resort, Trump said Friday players "make a fortune doing what they love," and those who refuse to stand "proudly" for the anthem should be suspended without pay.

Quinn had a powerful message for critics.

"It's not a protest. It's an awareness," he said. "I think 'protest' segregates this country. The awareness we're trying to raise — this country preaches freedom and unity. That's all I'm trying to do. If you believe

in something, no matter the consequences you stand by it. I want heaven here on Earth. I believe we preach too much negativity throughout this whole world. I think the message that needs to be spread is peace, love and happiness.

"Hearing the slander that we're protesting the flag, that's not it. It's not a protest. It's no disrespect to any servicemen or women out there. They salute with their hand over their heart, I hold my fist up. How can you look at that any different? That salute is just as meaningful to them as my fist in the air."

Three Seahawks players, Branden Jackson, Quinton Jefferson and Duane Brown, left the field following team introductions and before the start of the anthem Thursday night.

"I think there are a lot of people that are supportive of the players and then there are a couple of people that have been very vocal against it. Those people have power," Brown said. "We'll see what happens."

AP Sports Writers Steven Wine and Tim Booth contributed to this report.

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFLfootball> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

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Roger Stone associate held in contempt in Russia probe

By JEFF HORWITZ and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An associate of former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone was held in contempt of court Friday in a fresh attempt to challenge Robert Mueller's appointment as the special counsel investigating Trump campaign contacts with Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign.

The move also spotlighted a growing focus by Mueller on Stone. Another of Stone's associates, a New Yorker known as the "Manhattan Madam" because she once operated an upscale escort service, was expected to make her first appearance before a grand jury in the case.

Paul Kamenar, the attorney for Stone associate Andrew Miller, whose refusal to appear before the grand jury Friday led him to be held in contempt, argued after the proceedings that Mueller's appointment is unconstitutional. He asserted that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein did not have the authority to appoint Mueller to lead the investigation into Trump campaign contacts with Russia.

Previous challenges to Mueller's legitimacy have failed.

President Donald Trump has sought to undermine the investigation by calling it a "witch hunt" and a "hoax." He has repeatedly insisted, "there was no collusion."

Kamenar also said a prosecutor with powers as broad as Mueller's should be treated like a U.S. attorney and be subject to Senate confirmation.

"There's been no authority, we say, that gives the Justice Department the power to appoint Mr. Mueller," Kamenar told reporters outside the courthouse in Washington after Miller was held in contempt for refusing to appear before the grand jury.

Kamenar asserted that Mueller has vastly more authority than any U.S. attorney, including the ability to indict foreign actors and bring cases in more than one jurisdiction.

"So our point is if the U.S. attorneys have to be approved by the United States Senate, so, too, should Mr. Mueller," Kamenar said.

Rosenstein appointed Mueller as special counsel last year after Attorney General Jeff Sessions stepped aside from the Russia investigation. A former U.S. senator, Sessions was one of Trump's earliest Senate backers and was involved in campaign operations. Sessions met several times with Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

Mueller has spent months investigating Russian meddling in the election and whether any Trump campaign aides had a hand in the foreign interference plot. A former FBI director, Mueller appears to be putting a focus on Stone, a political consultant and longtime informal adviser to Trump. Mueller's team has spent months questioning witnesses about Stone, including Stone's associates.

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An indictment announced last month accused 12 Russian military intelligence officers of hacking into the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton, Trump's Democratic opponent, and the Democratic Party, and releasing tens of thousands of private communications in a sweeping Kremlin-orchestrated conspiracy to interfere in the 2016 U.S. election.

According to the charges, the Russian defendants, using a persona known as Guccifer 2.0, in August 2016 contacted a person in touch with the Trump campaign to offer help.

Stone, through his attorney, has acknowledged having a "24-word exchange with someone on Twitter claiming to be Guccifer 2.0." The statement from lawyer Grant Smith said the exchange "provides no evidence of collaboration or collusion with Guccifer 2.0 or anyone else in the alleged hacking of the DNC emails."

Miller worked for Stone during Trump's campaign. Kamenar said his client planned to appeal the contempt ruling in hope that the U.S. Supreme Court will eventually hear the case.

The same grand jury that Miller refused to appear before on Friday was also expected to hear from Kristin Davis, a longtime friend and associate of Stone. He is also godfather to her child. Davis spent several months in a New York City jail for running the escort service.

Miller's decision to allow himself to be held in contempt is the latest challenge to Mueller's authority as special counsel.

Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman, tried three separate times in federal court to have a judge rule that Mueller lacked the authority to prosecute him. Manafort, who is currently on trial in federal court in Virginia for alleged financial crimes, lost each time.

Turkey shaken by financial fears, Trump rattles it further

By SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A financial shockwave ripped through Turkey on Friday, when its currency nosedived on concerns about its economic policies and a dispute with the U.S., which President Donald Trump stoked further with a promise to double tariffs on the NATO ally.

The lira tumbled 14 percent in one day, to 6.51 per dollar, a massive move for a currency that will make the Turkish poorer and further erode international investors' confidence in the country.

The currency's drop — 41 percent so far this year — is a gauge of fear over a country coming to terms with years of high debt, international concern over President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's push to amass power, and a souring in relations with allies like the U.S.

The diplomatic dispute with the U.S. was one of the triggers that turned market jitters into a full-blown route this week.

Turkey has arrested an American pastor and put him on trial for espionage and terror-related charges linked to a failed coup attempt in the country two years ago. The U.S. responded by slapping sanctions on Turkey and threatening more.

The sides held talks in Washington this week but failed to resolve the spat, and Trump took advantage of Turkey's turmoil on Friday to turn the screws on the country.

Trump tweeted that he had authorized the doubling of steel and aluminum tariffs "with respect to Turkey."

Trump said the tariffs on aluminum imports would be increased to 20 percent and those on steel to 50 percent as the Turkish lira "slides rapidly downward against our very strong Dollar!"

"Our relations with Turkey are not good at this time!" he wrote.

Trump made the 50 percent steel tariff official with a presidential proclamation Friday evening.

The United States is the biggest destination for Turkish steel exports with 11 percent of the Turkish export volume. The lira fell further after Trump's tweet.

In what appears to be a diplomatic riposte, Turkey later said Erdogan had held a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss economic ties. It did not disclose details, but suggests Turkey might gravitate further away from its NATO allies toward cooperation with Russia, whose relations with the West are at their lowest since the Cold War.

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Turkey's woes have been aggravated by investor worries about the economic policies of Erdogan, who won a new term in office in June with sweeping new powers.

Erdogan has been putting pressure on the central bank to not raise interest rates in order to keep fueling economic growth. He claims higher rates lead to higher inflation — the opposite of what standard economic theory says.

Independent analysts argue the central bank should instead raise rates to tame inflation and support the currency.

In modern economies, central banks are meant to be independent of governments to make sure they set policies that are best for the economy, not politicians. But since adopting increased powers, Erdogan appears to have greater control over the bank as well.

Erdogan on Friday appealed for calm and called on people to change foreign money into local lira.

"Change the euros, the dollars and the gold that you are keeping beneath your pillows into lira at our banks. This is a domestic and national struggle."

He appeared to blame foreigners for trying to hurt Turkey, saying: "This will be my people's response against those waging an economic war against us."

On Thursday, Erdogan said "If they have their dollar, we have the people, we have Allah."

The defiant tone and war rhetoric only hurt the lira more, before Erdogan's finance chief and son-in-law, Berat Albayrak, tried to ease investor concerns during a conference, saying the government would safeguard the independence of the central bank.

"One of our principles will be ensuring the full independence of monetary policy," Albayrak said as he outlined his ministry's "new economic model."

The currency drop is particularly painful for Turkey because the country finances a lot of its economic growth with foreign money. As the currency drops, Turkish companies and households with debt in foreign currencies see the cost of repaying those loans expand.

Coupled with an inflation rate of nearly 16 percent, that could cause severe damage to the local economy.

Foreign investors could be spooked and try to pull their money out, reinforcing the currency drop and potentially leading to financial instability.

Aylin Ertan, a 43-year-old caterer in Ankara, said she was concerned over the future of her small business.

"The price of the food that I buy increases day by day, the fuel that I put in my car to distribute lunches is more expensive, but I cannot raise my prices from one day to the next," she said. "On some days, I end the day with a loss."

Turkey's woes also shook world markets, pushing down stock indexes. On Wall Street, the S&P 500 slid 20.30 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,833.28, its worst loss in a month.

The euro sagged to a 13-month low against the dollar on concerns that European banks operating in Turkey could suffer losses.

But analysts say that while there may be losses at some banks, Turkey's economic problems do not pose a big threat to Europe or other big economies like the United States.

Kobach steps away from duties in contested Kansas vote count

By JOHN HANNA, AP Political Writer

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach stepped aside from his duties as the state's top elections official Friday until his hotly contested Republican primary challenge to Gov. Jeff Colyer is resolved, but Colyer argued that Kobach still has a conflict of interest because Kobach is handing his responsibilities to his top deputy.

Kobach rejected Colyer's accusations that the advice he has been giving local elections on handling ballots violates state law. And the secretary of state — who has boosted his career by extrapolating scattered cases of election irregularities into claims of a serious election fraud problem — chastised Colyer in a letter over statements that, Kobach said, could undermine public confidence in the state's elections.

Colyer had demanded in his own letter Thursday that Kobach stop providing guidance to county officials

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as they counted late mail-in ballots from Tuesday's election and prepared to count other ballots next week.

"Although I would discharge my duties ethically, impartially, and responsibly, I have carefully considered your request and have decided that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Kansas that I permit another to perform the duties of the secretary of state until the conclusion of the 2018 primary election process," Kobach wrote.

Kobach's duties will go to Assistant Secretary of State Eric Rucker. Colyer was pressing Kobach to have state Attorney General Derek Schmidt advise county election officials — something Kobach argued isn't allowed by law.

Colyer spokesman Kendall Marr called Rucker "a good and decent man" but said assigning Kobach's duties to someone Kobach can fire "at any time" does not address "the clear conflict of interest that exists."

Schmidt already is anticipating the possibility of a lawsuit challenging the election results by Colyer or Kobach and sent a letter to county election officials, reminding them to preserve "any paper files, notes, or electronic data related in any way" to the election.

Updated totals with late mail-in ballots from all 105 counties counted left Kobach's lead over Colyer at 110 votes out of more than 313,000 cast, less than the 191 votes recorded the morning after Tuesday's election. Under state law, mail-in ballots are counted if they were postmarked Tuesday and arrive in county election offices by Friday.

Kobach is a conservative lightning rod who alienates even some fellow Republicans, but he is perhaps President Donald Trump's closest political ally in Kansas and had Trump's tweeted endorsement. Colyer, backed by the National Rifle Association and a strong abortion opponent, is trying to avoid becoming the first Kansas governor to lose a primary since 1956. The winner will move on to the November general election, where state Sen. Laura Kelly, of Topeka, is the Democratic candidate.

Colyer has accused Kobach of giving county election officials guidance "not consistent with Kansas law," and said Friday on Fox News that he was worried that some mail-in ballots were not being counted as required.

In addition to counting mail-in ballots, county officials must review nearly 9,000 provisional ballots, given to voters at the polls when their eligibility is in question. The counties have until Aug. 20 to finish. Colyer's campaign on Friday announced plans to have representatives in all 105 counties when provisional ballots are reviewed.

The secretary of state's role in the actual counting of ballots is limited: His office provides guidance, compiles statewide vote tallies and provides general supervision.

Kobach said Rucker also will serve on the three-member state board that will certify the primary's final results by Aug. 31. Colyer is also a member of that board, and Kobach called on him to let Lt. Gov. Tracey Mann serve on the board instead. Colyer did not say whether he would do so.

Kobach also defended previous actions, saying his advice on handling ballots was in keeping with state law and longstanding practices. He wrote to Colyer: "As governor of Kansas, your unrestrained rhetoric has the potential to undermine the public's confidence in the election process."

Kobach is a vocal advocate of tough voter identification laws and served as vice chairman of Trump's now-disbanded election fraud commission. He publicly backed Trump's unsubstantiated claims that several million illegal ballots may have been cast in the 2016 election, costing Trump the popular vote.

States vary considerably in who has authority over elections. In most, either an elected secretary of state is the chief election official or a lieutenant governor has those duties, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In Georgia, Secretary of State Kemp, now the GOP nominee for governor, has faced calls to step down from his position, which oversees elections. His spokesman said he had no plans to resign, even though two predecessors, one from each party, did so over the past 25 years in seeking higher office.

And in Kentucky in 2014, Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, a Democrat, stayed in office while she ran for U.S. Senate, challenging longtime Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell. Although she did not face calls to step down, McConnell used the fact that she was drawing a state paycheck as a line of attack.

Associated Press writers Christina Almeida Cassidy and Ben Nadler in Atlanta, and Adam Beam, in Frankfort, Kentucky, also contributed.

Follow John Hanna on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <https://bit.ly/2ICEr3D>

Judge rejects plea deals in deadly Oakland warehouse fire

By PAUL ELIAS and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — In an unusual move, a California judge on Friday rejected the plea deals of two men who were charged with 36 counts of involuntary manslaughter after a 2016 California warehouse fire.

As he handed down his decision, Judge James Cramer said 48-year-old Derick Almena didn't accept "full responsibility and remorse" for the fatal blaze which occurred during an unlicensed concert at the dilapidated Oakland warehouse known as the "Ghost Ship."

The plea deal had called for Almena to be sentenced to nine years in prison and 28-year-old Max Harris to six years. The judge said he found Harris to be sincere but because the plea bargain was for both Harris and Almena, both pleas were rejected.

In court on Friday, Harris apologized to the families of the victims for his actions but told them he didn't expect forgiveness.

"I know nothing I can say will come close. I'm sorry," he said. "You're in my prayers and will be for the rest of my life."

The men could have been released from prison after serving just half their sentences, which is typical for California inmates who keep a good disciplinary record. Relatives of victims who died in the blaze had slammed the proposed sentences as too lenient.

Cyrus Hoda, the brother of victim Sarah Hoda, said Almena and Harris were "culture vultures" trying to become San Francisco Bay Area arts players by luring people to a dangerous place to live and party.

Authorities have alleged Almena rented the warehouse and illegally converted it into an entertainment venue and residences before the fire. Harris was accused of helping him collect rent and schedule concerts.

Prosecutors said the two men had turned the warehouse into a residential "death trap" by cluttering it with highly flammable knick-knacks, blocking the building's few exits and failing to make adequate safety precautions before inviting the public inside.

Almena's attorney, Tony Serra, said the judge's decision Friday came as a complete surprise as Cramer had approved the plea deal last month.

On Thursday, Paul Matiasic, an attorney reading a statement by a father of one of the victim's, asked the judge rhetorically if he had ever lost a child.

"Yes, I have," Cramer said with a sad smile. "Just so you know."

Many people in the courtroom gasped. The judge did not elaborate.

Almena's wife and three children also lived in the warehouse but were staying in a nearby hotel the night of the fire. His wife, Micah Allison, and one of their daughters sat quietly in court alongside the grieving families on Thursday and both addressed the judge Friday.

Almena told the victims' families that he should have died in the fire and that he was "guilty for believing we were safe."

"Forgive me if you can," he said. "If I could give you my children's lives I would."

Almena and Harris could face life in prison if convicted at a trial. They already have spent a year behind bars.

Serra said he believed the case had "weaknesses" and hopes prosecutors will consider another plea offer. A trial date has not been set.

Investigators from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said they were unable

to determine a cause of the blaze.

Victims' relatives allege in lawsuits that the Oakland Fire Department failed to inspect the warehouse annually as required and that inspectors would have discovered the illegal conversions.

Alex Katz, a spokesman for the city attorney, declined to comment.

The lawsuits also claim Pacific Gas & Electric Co. failed to properly monitor, inspect and repair electrical equipment that provided power to the warehouse.

PG&E said in a statement that it cooperated with the investigation and that a review of its records found no electrical problems at the building in the 10 years before the fire.

Warehouse owner Chor Ng, who has not been charged, did not return a phone message seeking comment on Thursday.

Balsamo reported from Los Angeles.

President Trump's summer getaway: Don't call it a vacation

By JILL COLVIN and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

BEDMINSTER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump is spending his summer vacation at his golf club in New Jersey. Wait, don't call it "vacation."

Trump, who is loath to admit to sleeping — let alone taking time off — has spent his week away mixing downtime and golf rounds with meetings and dinners, intent on projecting the image that he's been hard at work.

Ensclosed at his private club, he's surrounded by a clutch of unofficial Bedminster advisers, who have unusual levels of access to a president with the propensity for mixing business with leisure.

Not that it was his idea to leave Washington anyway, he contends.

"We're renovating the White House, a long-term project and they approved it years ago. And I said, 'Well, I guess this would be a good place to be in the meantime,'" Trump told reporters invited to the property to document a roundtable discussion on prison reform efforts Thursday.

"I miss it. I would like to be there," he said of the White House, "but this is a good way of doing it."

No staffers had publicly mentioned the need for any rehabilitation work before Trump's departure, and the explanation effort underscores the president's concern about public perceptions as he approaches having spent 150 days of his presidency at his golf properties.

Trump repeatedly blistered Barack Obama during the 2016 campaign for golfing, telling cheering supporters that as president he'd be far too busy working for them.

"I'm not gonna have time to go play golf," he would shout.

Does he actually play golf at Bedminster or at his better-known Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida? Yes, but it's hard to say how much. The White House won't say, and reporters are barred from getting close enough to see.

All presidents take vacations. Obama and his family spent time on Martha's Vineyard and in Hawaii. But Trump seems more sensitive about admitting it.

"Had a very good phone call with @EmmanuelMacron, President of France," he tweeted Friday, describing it as just one of "many other calls and conversations," including a dinner with Apple's Tim Cook.

He has been photographed golfing by social-media-savvy members. But he's spent most of this past week out of outsiders' sight. He's hosted several donor events, including a dinner for "Protect the House," a fundraising committee led by Vice President Mike Pence and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy that raises money for Republican House candidates.

On Tuesday evening, he welcomed more than a dozen CEOs, their spouses and staffers for an animated dinner that included frank discussions of trade, immigration and other issues.

White House aides have always been leery of Trump's visits to Bedminster where, as at Mar-a-Lago, he can mingle with members without staff "handlers" surrounding him. Also, there are fewer staff to try to keep him upbeat and, with some luck, away from the television.

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The New Jersey golf club is where a brooding Trump unleashed several of his most inflammatory attacks and where, in spring 2017, he made the final decision to fire FBI Director James Comey, the move that triggered the special counsel's probe into Russian election meddling. During last summer's Bedminster break, he debuted his threat to unleash "fire and fury" against North Korea and then made his first tepid response to the racial violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

This year, Trump's tweets have included scientifically dubious theories about the raging California wild-fires and an insult to NBA superstar LeBron James that to some read as a racial dog whistle. In another early morning blast, he acknowledged that the 2016 Trump Tower meeting at the center of the Russia investigation was indeed arranged "to get information on an opponent."

John Catsimatidis, a billionaire businessman and radio host who owns a New York City supermarket chain and attended the CEO dinner, described Trump as in a "great mood" as he promoted the economy and fielded questions, including several on immigration. The president told those in attendance that he was considering signing an executive order to make it easier for top-performing foreign students to stay in the U.S. as well as for companies to hire the foreign workers they need.

"Whatever's needed in America, whether it's truck drivers or programmers, whatever's needed for American companies," Catsimatidis said Trump told him.

That's the kind of off-the-cuff promise-making that White House aides are on high alert for.

The golf club remains open and active when Trump is on the scene, giving the president a chance to mix with members and, as he delights in doing, dropping in on weddings and parties. It's where his daughter Ivanka married Jared Kushner, and where Trump, pre-presidency, had planned to be buried.

But the casual atmosphere also allows members to buttonhole the president to push him on pet issues.

While the Mar-a-Lago crowd has a reputation among White House staffers for being dominated by aging socialites with few real-world concerns, Bedminster regulars tend to be lower-key members of the tristate-area elite whom Trump likes and respects and to whom he may be more amenable to listening.

The atmosphere is also much more casual than Mar-a-Lago, where high-society Palm Beach members reserve tables and dress to the nines hoping to see or be seen. There, Trump is constantly approached for photos or to broach odd ideas about world peace or pet issues.

In Bedminster, the members are more reserved, but when they do come up to Trump with ideas, they are usually more serious and Trump is more likely to direct staff to follow up, White House aides say.

Members and White House aides say Trump appears to be more comfortable at Bedminster, which, according to one member who enjoys reciprocal privileges, has a "totally different" vibe.

Trump does meet with staff and has been speaking by phone with Pence, his secretary of state, his national security adviser and congressional leaders.

But he's rarely seen in a suit jacket and tie and has proved to be more unchecked at the property, which is dotted with trees, ponds and green lawns.

"It's beautiful," Catsimatidis said the day after his first visit. "The beauty was far beyond what I imagined."

Associated Press writer Zeke Miller contributed to this report from Washington.

St. Louis DA victory latest for Black Lives Matter movement

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

When LaShell Eikerenkoetter cast her vote for Wesley Bell in the St. Louis County Democratic primary on Tuesday, she took the spirit of Michael Brown with her to the ballot box.

She had a sole purpose on Election Day: Get rid of Bob McCulloch, the veteran prosecutor who did not get an indictment against the white former Ferguson, Missouri, police officer who fatally shot the unarmed, black 18-year-old four years ago this week.

"To show that four years later, when this man — who could've given us justice decided not to and did everything in his power to do the opposite — that we hadn't forgotten about him and that Mike Brown was still in our hearts. ... Getting him out was for the family, for all the people that have fought, and for

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everybody that we have lost," the 28-year-old Eikerenkoetter, who is black, said Thursday after attending a protest marking the anniversary of Brown's Aug. 9, 2014, death.

"It was about so much more than getting Bob McCulloch out. It was about what he represented."

Bell's 57 percent to 43 percent victory over McCulloch, a white prosecutor first elected in 1990, is the latest win for the Black Lives Matter movement, which has increasingly shifted from protest to local politics in recent years. Voters concerned with the killing of unarmed black people by police have made their voices heard from Ferguson to Cleveland to Chicago.

In a clear sign of the interest and enthusiasm around the race, more St. Louis County residents voted in the district attorney's contest for Bell, a black city councilman, than for any other candidate on Tuesday's ballot — more than 103,000. Nearly 1 in 4 St. Louis County residents are African-American, and blacks make up at least a quarter of the county's Democratic voters.

In the five years since the Black Lives Matter movement began largely on social media with a galvanizing hashtag in the wake of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman's acquittal in the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin in Florida, the issue of police killing unarmed black people has not only made headlines and sparked protests across the country. It also has spurred political campaigns, motivated black voters and polarized NFL fans. And activists have expanded the platform beyond policing to address systemic racism in areas including housing, education and employment.

"We must always vote for issues and not just candidates," said Charlene Carruthers, national director of BYP100, a Chicago-based group that mobilized voters in 2016 to oust Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez for her handling of the 2014 police shooting death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald .

"People in elected positions have so much power over what our communities have and don't have," Carruthers said. "While we do transformative work of building alternatives to prisons and policing, we can at a minimum elect candidates who will either support us or stay out of the way."

The same night Alvarez lost her election in Illinois two years ago, Cuyahoga County voters replaced prosecutor Tim McGinty for his response to the 2014 killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice by a Cleveland police officer.

Last year, Black Lives Matter activists also began to turn their attention to state legislatures, launching an online platform and building on momentum at the national level to push back against President Donald Trump's administration, which has been unfriendly to the movement and has embraced local law enforcement.

Police reform — absent from recent presidential election cycles — became an issue in the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee contest, and candidate Hillary Clinton campaigned with the Mothers of the Movement, black women whose children were killed by police and white men like Michael Dunn, who fatally shot 17-year-old Jordan Davis in 2012 in Florida.

On Friday, Brown's mother, Lezley McSpadden announced that she planned to run for the Ferguson City Council in April. McSpadden said she was surrounded by people who provided her with support and motivation, and they "knew what happened was wrong and didn't give up the fight."

"I learned to walk again," she said. "And this is one of my first steps: running for Ferguson City Council."

Davis' mother, Lucy McBath, is a congressional candidate who recently won a Democratic primary runoff for a Georgia House seat. The first-time candidate was motivated to enter the race because of her son's death.

In the wake of Ferguson, organizers worked to register more black voters. Bell and Ella Jones, who also is black, were elected to the Ferguson City Council in the 2015 municipal elections, where turnout tripled. The city's police chief and a judge also resigned.

Ahead of this week's St. Louis County prosecutor's race, the online civil rights organization Color of Change sent text messages to more than 95,000 residents encouraging them to vote for Bell and put up a billboard supporting Bell. Spokesman Rashad Robinson, who has worked to elect district attorneys across the country since 2014, said such elections are about more than just politics for black voters, but about translating energy into shifting the rules.

"For (McCulloch) to go down this way because of the organizing that took place and because of people

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truly sending a message that St. Louis deserves both safety and justice ... I hope this sends a powerful message to district attorneys around the country that they're on notice," Robinson said.

For Kayla Reed, the victory made her proud, especially for her community. The St. Louis native left her job as a pharmacy technician to become a full-time activist after Brown's death. She pointed out that McCulloch — who was elected to a seventh term five days before Brown was killed — has been the prosecutor her entire life.

"There's an entire generation that doesn't know what a prosecutor could be because all they've ever known is Bob McCulloch and the devastation he has caused in the black community. Folks were going to the polls just for this," Reed said.

"People have always asked the question, 'What did you win after Ferguson?'" she added. "This is what we won. We built a campaign that took out a 27-year prosecutor."

Whack is The Associated Press' national writer for race and ethnicity. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.emarvelous.com>

Banker: Chairman OK'd Manafort loans, eyed Trump cabinet job

By **STEPHEN BRAUN, CHAD DAY and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A New York bank executive testified Friday that Paul Manafort received more than \$16 million in loans after the bank's chairman expressed interest in joining Donald Trump's cabinet if he won the 2016 presidential election.

The testimony in the former Trump campaign chairman's financial fraud trial came after proceedings were halted for hours by mysterious backstage discussions between the judge and attorneys for both sides. Prosecutors now say they will wrap up their case against Manafort on Monday. Defense lawyers have not said whether they expect to call any witnesses after that.

It was a strange hiccup in nine days of proceedings that have been sometimes dramatic and featured tense exchanges between prosecutors and admittedly impatient U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III as he has pushed the government to speed up its case.

Ellis recessed the trial without explanation after huddling with his bailiff and attorneys from special counsel Robert Mueller's office and Manafort's lawyers for more than 20 minutes.

At one point, Ellis left the courtroom and headed toward the jury room. After bringing court back into session, he reminded jurors several times that they weren't to discuss the tax evasion and bank fraud case at all. That included telling them to not even comment on the attire of any witnesses.

The exchange came during a day in which jurors heard detailed testimony about Manafort's bank loans and about his New York Yankees luxury season ticket purchases — paid for from an offshore account that prosecutors say he concealed from the IRS.

Dennis Raico, an executive at Federal Saving Bank who testified under an immunity agreement, detailed for jurors how he grew uncomfortable by the actions of bank chairman Stephen Calk in the handling of Manafort's loans. Prosecutors have said that despite red flags, Calk pushed through the loans for Manafort because he wanted a job in the Trump administration.

During his testimony, Raico told jurors that Calk discussed roles in the Trump campaign ahead of approving the loans and later specifically referenced being a candidate for Secretary of the Treasury or Housing and Urban Development in messages he wanted Raico to pass to Manafort. Raico said he didn't relay Calk's messages because he thought they were inappropriate.

Raico told jurors that a committee that Calk led approved Manafort's loan within one day. Raico also said Calk approved one of the loans, worth \$9.5 million, after overruling the bank's president, who had expressed doubts that Manafort had enough income to pay back the debt.

Raico said that approval came despite underwriters finding several discrepancies between the income on Manafort's tax returns and the figures contained on financial statements he provided to the bank.

"A plus B didn't equal C all the time," Raico said of the discrepancies.

In previous testimony, witnesses have described other problems with documents Manafort submitted in attempts to obtain loans. And on Friday, prosecutors zeroed in on a letter he submitted to explain a \$300,000 balance on his American Express card.

Manafort had provided the bank with a letter saying he lent the card to his longtime deputy, Rick Gates, so Gates could buy about \$300,000 in season tickets. But Irfan Kirimca, a senior director of ticket operations for the New York Yankees, told jurors the baseball team had no record of Gates' ever making such a purchase.

Kirimca also testified that Manafort paid for luxury season tickets to the Yankees using an offshore bank account in the name of Global Highways Limited, one of the offshore shell companies prosecutors say Manafort failed to report on his tax returns.

Friday's proceedings also featured a lighthearted moment between Ellis and prosecutor Greg Andres, who have tangled during the trial.

While questioning a witness, Andres noted he had forgotten to admit a document into evidence when he should have, prompting Ellis to retort, "Confession is good for the soul."

Andres responded, "I think my soul is in pretty good shape after this process," prompting laughter in the gallery.

The developments Friday came after jurors had endured testimony that sometimes ventured into the tedium of bank and tax records. The prosecution is the first to emerge from Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the presidential election, but neither Manafort nor Gates has been charged in connection with their Trump campaign work.

The prosecution has called more than 20 witnesses, including Gates, and introduced a trove of documentary evidence as they've sought to prove Manafort defrauded banks and concealed millions of dollars in offshore bank accounts from the IRS.

Shooting in Canadian city leaves 4 dead, including 2 police

By **ROB GILLIES, Associated Press**

TORONTO (AP) — A shooting in a small Canadian city Friday that left four people dead, including two police officers who were responding to a call of shots fired, struck a nerve in a country that has been roiled in recent months by several instances of mass violence.

People in Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick in the eastern part of the country, said they heard as many as 20 gunshots following a confrontation that prompted police to initially cordon off a large section of the city with emergency vehicles and order residents to remain inside their homes and businesses.

Finally, after a tense period of waiting, authorities disclosed the toll: Among the four killed were two officers, a rare case of police killed in the line of duty in Canada.

Fredericton's deputy police chief Martin Gaudet said the two officers arrived at the apartment complex and saw two deceased civilians before being shot and killed themselves.

Gaudet says a 48-year old man with serious injuries was arrested. They didn't identify him.

No motive has been disclosed for the shooting.

Fredericton Police Chief Leanne Fitch identified the officers killed as Sara Burns, 43, who was married with three children, and 45-year-old Robb Costello who had a common law partner and four children. The two civilians killed, a man and a woman, were not identified.

Costello was a 20-year veteran of the force. Burns had been on the force for two years.

Several other victims were being treated at a regional hospital, but there were no immediate details on the nature of their injuries or their conditions.

"Our hearts are broken by the murder of our two brave police officers," Fredericton Mayor Mike O'Brien said in a tweet.

The entire province of New Brunswick had 11 homicides in 2016.

In Fredericton, a city of about 60,000 residents, people said they were stunned by the scene, which occurred as people were heading to work or dropping children at a day care center not far from the apart-

ment complex where the shooting took place.

"This is the first time I've even heard of any serious crime or violent crime in this city," said Travis Hrubeniuk, whose fiancée had just left their home when the sirens began.

Bill Henwood, a funeral director at York Funeral Home, whose business is located inside the cordoned off area on Brookside Drive, said people sat in their cars or were just standing near the blockade of police and fire vehicles "hanging tight and waiting for word" for news.

"It's not something that we expect in Fredericton to wake up and hear about," Henwood said. "To see that there's actually fatalities is pretty extraordinary for this area."

The shooting comes as Canada wrestles with a string of violence, including an instance in Toronto last month where a man with a handgun opened fire in a crowded part of the city, killing two people and wounding 13 before he either shot himself or was killed by police.

In April, a man who linked himself to a misogynistic online community used a van to run down pedestrians in a busy part of Toronto, killing 10 people and injuring 14.

Authorities are still pursuing leads in an ongoing investigation of a serial killer who has been charged with killing eight men in the city in recent years.

In 2014, a shooting in Moncton, New Brunswick left three Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers dead and two wounded.

Yemen's Shiite rebels welcome UN call for Saudi strike probe

By AHMED AL-HAJ and MENNA ZAKI, Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's Shiite rebels on Friday backed a U.N. call for a probe into a Saudi-led coalition airstrike in the country's north that killed dozens of people the previous day, including many children, in an attack that drew wide international criticism.

Senior Yemeni rebel leader Mohammed Ali al-Houthi said on Twitter that the rebels — known as Houthis — welcome the call and are willing to cooperate in an investigation of the strike in Saada province that hit a bus carrying civilians, many of them school children, in a busy market in Dahyan district.

The coalition said Friday it would investigate and spokesperson for the Saudi Embassy in Washington Fatimah S. Baeshen said in a statement the case was referred to the coalition's investigative body.

"The Coalition will, as it has always, exert all efforts to preserve civilian lives," she said.

The coalition's statement signaled a shift in its earlier stance when spokesman Col. Turki al-Malki defended the attack as a "legitimate military action" and blamed the Houthis for recruiting children and using them in the battlefields as cover.

The coalition, which has been at war with the Houthis for more than three years, said the attack on Saada was in response to a missile fired by the rebels into the kingdom's south a day earlier. The coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed the missile but its fragments killed one person and wounded 11 others in Saudi's southwestern border region of Jizan.

The Iran-aligned Houthis regularly fire into Saudi Arabia and have previously targeted its capital, Riyadh, with ballistic missiles. They say their missile attacks on the kingdom are in retaliation for air raids on Yemen by the Western-backed coalition. On Friday, the rebel-run Al Masirah TV reported that the Houthis fired ballistic missiles targeting military bases in Saudi Arabia's southern provinces of Asir and Jizan. The Saudi-owned Al Arabiya satellite news channel reported that the coalition had intercepted two missiles fired toward Jizan.

In a statement after Thursday's airstrike, U.N. chief António Guterres urged Yemen's warring parties to take "constant care to spare civilians" during military operations and also called for an "independent and prompt investigation."

The United Nations said an exact death toll has yet to be confirmed but initial reports point to more than 60 casualties, with dozens severely wounded. Al-Masirah reported at least 51 people, including 40 children, were killed and 79 others, including 56 children, were wounded in the airstrike, citing the Yemeni Health Ministry in the capital, Sanaa, which is under rebel control.

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It also said three children have gone missing since the airstrike.

On Friday, the U.N. Security Council echoed Guterres' statement, calling for a "credible and transparent" investigation. A statement from the U.N.'s most powerful body expressed "grave concern" at the latest attacks in Saada province "and all other recent attacks."

The International Committee of the Red Cross said its team received the bodies of 29 children, all under 15 years old, and treated 48 wounded, 30 of them children.

Following the strike, Al Masirah broadcast horrific images of lifeless bodies of children, covered in blood, and others who appeared severely wounded, lying on hospital stretchers crying and screaming in pain. The authenticity of the footage could not be independently verified.

On Friday, Ahmed al-Hamoud, who was traveling from Saada to Sanaa, said a somber mood prevailed over the province and that coalition planes could be seen flying over it from time to time.

The U.S. State Department called on the Saudi-led coalition "to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into the incident," spokeswoman Heather Nauert said. "We take all credible accounts of civilian casualties very seriously."

Also, the U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, who has been pushing for peace efforts in the war-torn country, said he was "deeply shocked by the appalling tragedy that claimed so many innocent lives."

Still, he called on the warring parties to "engage constructively" in the first round of consultations scheduled for Sept. 6 in Geneva. The United Nations children's agency called the attack in Saada "unconscionable" and a "low point in the country's brutal war."

Impoverished Yemen has been embroiled in the war pitting the Saudi-led coalition against the Iran-aligned Houthis since March 2015. Civilians have been enmeshed over the years in the conflict which has killed over 10,000, crippled the country's health system and pushed it to the brink of famine.

Yemen has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than 22.2 million people in need of assistance.

Zaki reported from Cairo. Associated Press writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

Brazen Taliban attack raises pressure on Afghan forces

By AMIR SHAH and KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A brazen and bloody overnight assault Friday by the Taliban on a key provincial capital in central Afghanistan has increased pressure on U.S.-backed Afghan forces that are withering under relentless attacks, prompting President Ashraf Ghani to call an emergency meeting of his security officials.

While government security forces in the city of Ghazni repulsed the multipronged attack with the help of U.S. air support, Taliban insurgents remained hunkered down on its outskirts, and some were still holed up in residential areas, according to Interior Ministry deputy spokesman, Nasrat Rahimi.

At least 39 insurgents were killed, while 14 police died and 20 were wounded in the fighting, said provincial Police Chief Farid Ahmad Mashal. He said the bodies of the Taliban fighters were found under a bridge in the southern part of Ghazni.

Mashal said there were more than 100 other casualties but could not give a breakdown of the dead and wounded.

Among the injured were four Afghan troops who were hurt when their helicopter crash-landed during the fighting, said Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish. The Taliban claimed to have shot it down, Radmanish said it was not clear if the aircraft had been hit or crash-landed for other reasons.

The city of about 140,000 people was in lockdown as residents stayed indoors and reported sporadic gunfire. All shops were closed, they said, as was the highway from the capital of Kabul to Afghanistan's southern provinces that runs through Ghazni.

The Taliban fighters set fire to the local TV building and also destroyed the telecommunications tower, located just outside the city, cutting all cellphone and land line access to Ghazni, said Ali Akbar Kasemi, a lawmaker from the city.

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City hospital administrator Baz Mohammad Hemat said two wounded civilians were brought in for treatment. He feared that there were more wounded who could not make it to the hospital because the city was shut down and ambulances were being sent out.

Ghazni is a gateway city linking the heavily Taliban-influenced south and east of Afghanistan to Kabul and is one of the last vestiges of government control in the province of the same name. The Taliban holds sway in most of the province where ethnic Pashtuns live, while the government influence is limited to Ghazni and small pockets dominated by ethnic Hazaras.

"The security situation in Ghazni is under control. Our defense and security forces are in full control of the city," Rahimi said. Still, the Afghan forces were engaged in house-to-house battles in some residential areas to root out the remnants of the Taliban's attack force.

Radmanish told The Associated Press the Taliban were driven to an area known as Hasanabad about 500 meters (yards) outside the city. Both the governor's compound and central police compound were under the control of Afghan security forces.

In a statement late Friday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the group held control of "several places in the city," while the police chief had fled toward the airport.

To hold onto the city in the fierce, daylong fighting, Afghan forces had to call in reinforcements as well as U.S. air power, including helicopter gunships, fighter jets and a drone strike.

Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, said American forces and U.S. attack helicopters flew in overnight. As fighting continued throughout the day, he said U.S. forces returned, sending attack helicopters and fighter jets back to the area.

"It is a show of presence," he said.

An investigation was launched to determine how the insurgents had managed to push so deeply into the city, which is only 120 kilometers (75 miles) south of Kabul.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks across the country since NATO and the United States formally ended their combat mission in 2014. U.S. and NATO forces remain in Afghanistan mainly in a supporting and training role in the 17-year-old war.

The Taliban attack came as President Ashraf Ghani contemplated a cease-fire offer to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha later this month. The Taliban have rebuffed offers of negotiations with the government but have held one preliminary round of direct talks with Alice Wells, Washington's top diplomat for South and Central Asia, including Afghanistan.

Since an unprecedented Taliban cease-fire in June to mark the Eid al-Fitr holiday that marks the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, Taliban insurgents have stepped up attacks in what would appear to be an attempt to dispel hopes of peace that followed scenes of Taliban and Afghan soldiers and police embracing and dancing in the street.

Andrew Wilder, vice president of Asia programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace, said the attack by the insurgents was "a well-timed effort to demonstrate their military power to strengthen their negotiating position prior to another cease-fire and in the event of peace talks."

As the U.S. and Taliban explore the next round of direct talks, attacks like the one Friday on Ghazni are a reminder of the pressure faced by Afghanistan's security forces.

Such attacks could also heighten a sense of urgency in the Trump administration to find a path toward progress with the current approach "before the president pulls the plug and does something more dramatic," said Daniel Markey, director of Johns Hopkins University's Global Policy Program

"His most likely move would be to revert to his earlier preference to more or less pull out of Afghanistan, leaving only a bare-bones counterterrorism presence, possibly secured by contractors," Markey added.

While he said such a move is probably not imminent, "a few more headlines that show 'his generals' are 'failing' in Afghanistan could produce some personnel moves, and then a policy shift."

Separately from the Taliban, an Islamic State affiliate carried out dozens of deadly attacks in recent years, mainly targeting security forces and minority Shiites.

___ Gannon reported from Islamabad. Associated Press writer Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed.

Violence erupts amid Gaza cease-fire, 2 Palestinians killed

By IAN DEITCH and FARES AKRAM, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Violence erupted at the Gaza border Friday after the territory's militant Islamic Hamas rulers and Israel appeared to be honoring a cease-fire that ended two days of intense violence amid efforts by neighboring Egypt to negotiate between the two sides.

Israel's military said no rockets were fired from Gaza at Israel overnight and it conducted no airstrikes in Gaza against Hamas targets. Israel's government hasn't confirmed the truce.

On Friday evening, however, two Palestinians, including a paramedic, were shot and killed by Israeli fire at a Hamas-led protest along the border, Gaza's Health Ministry said. The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the deaths.

The military said a tank fired shells at a Hamas position after Palestinians threw explosive devices and a grenade at forces stationed near the border.

It was not immediately clear whether the Hamas protests at the border were included in cease-fire negotiations.

Hamas' Al Aqsa TV channel reported late Thursday that the Egyptian-brokered deal took hold "on the basis of mutual calm." It was at least the third such truce in recent weeks.

But the deal did not seem to address the deeper issues that have prevented the bitter enemies from reaching a longer cease-fire arrangement.

Gaza militants fired some 200 rockets at Israel and the Israeli military carried out a similar number of airstrikes in Gaza in the latest round of violence this week.

Also on Friday, the Israeli military lifted restrictive recommendations for residents of some areas in southern Israel that it had set amid the Palestinian bombing, including suggestions to avoid open areas and beaches. "Following a security assessment," residents can resume their daily routine, the military said.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007. In this week's fighting, the Palestinian Health Ministry said three Palestinians were killed. Israeli officials said seven people were wounded by rocket or mortar fire on the Israeli side.

Israel and Hamas have come close to serious conflict in recent weeks after four months of violence along Gaza's border.

Hamas has led weekly border protests aimed in part at drawing attention to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after Hamas took control of Gaza. Large turnout at the protests has also been driven by widespread desperation in Gaza, amid worsening conditions linked to the blockade. Power is on for just a few hours a day, unemployment has sky-rocketed and poverty is widening.

Gaza's Health Ministry said Abdullah al-Qutati, 26, was shot and killed and 70 others were wounded by live fire as thousands protested at the border Friday evening. A 55-year-old Palestinian was also killed, it said.

Another paramedic, Mohammed Suhwail, told The Associated Press he witnessed the shooting. He said after treating wounded al-Qutati "began walking toward the (field hospital) but was shot in the back and the bullet exited from his chest."

Israel has also been battling almost daily airborne arson attacks from Gaza caused by kites and balloons rigged with incendiary devices flown across the border that have sparked large fires that destroyed forests, burned crops and killed wildlife and livestock.

Over the past four months, 164 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, including at least 121 protesters and three medics according to the Hamas run Gaza Health Ministry and a local rights group. An Israeli soldier was killed by a Gaza sniper during this same period.

Israel says it is defending its border and accuses Hamas, a group sworn to its destruction, of using the protests as cover for attempts to breach the border fence and attack civilians and soldiers. Palestinians have thrown explosive devices and opened fire at forces along the border in numerous instances over the past few months, the military says. But the high casualty rate among mainly unarmed protesters has drawn international criticism.

_____ Akram reported from Amman, Jordan.

Russian PM strongly warns US against ramping up sanctions

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's prime minister sternly warned the United States against ramping up sanctions, saying Friday that Moscow would retaliate with economic, political and unspecified "other" means.

The tough message from Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev marked what the Kremlin sees as a red line, reflecting growing dismay with announced U.S. sanctions that have sent the Russian ruble plummeting to its lowest level in two years.

The U.S. State Department said Wednesday that Washington would impose new sanctions this month after determining this week that Moscow used a military grade nerve agent in March to poison an ex-Russian spy in England. Russia has strongly denied involvement in the poisonings of Sergei Skripal and his adult daughter.

According to the State Department, the sanctions will include the presumed denial of export licenses for Russia to purchase many items with national security implications.

New sanctions proposals in the U.S. Congress include legislation targeting Russia's state-controlled banks and freezing their operations in dollars — a move that would deal a heavy blow to the Russian economy.

Medvedev warned the U.S. that such a move would cross a red line.

"If something like a ban on bank operations or currency use follows, it will amount to a declaration of economic war," the Russian prime minister said. "And it will warrant a response with economic means, political means and, if necessary, other means. Our American friends should understand that."

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a telephone call Friday that the new sanctions were "categorically objectionable," according to a Russian Foreign Ministry statement.

Medvedev's tone differed considerably from the nonchalant ones President Vladimir Putin and his lieutenants have used when talking about Western sanctions and downplaying their impact on the Russian economy.

Word of more U.S. sanctions has rattled the Russian currency and stock markets. The ruble dropped about 1.5 percent in Friday trading to 67.78 to the dollar, its lowest level since August 2016.

Russia-U.S. ties have sunk to their lowest level since Cold War times amid tensions over Ukraine, the war in Syria and the allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

Moscow's hopes for better ties with Washington under President Donald Trump have withered as his administration has introduced waves of sanctions against Russia.

Medvedev said that while the U.S. describes the restrictions as punishment for Russia's "bad" behavior, he thinks the real goal is to sideline a rival.

"It's intended to remove Russia as a strong competitor on the international arena," he said.

Medvedev pointed at U.S. efforts to block the planned construction of a new Russian natural gas pipeline to Germany in order to encourage the sales of American liquefied natural gas to Europe as an example of "unfair competition."

APNewsBreak: Outsourcing critic's brand sells foreign parts

By BRIAN SLODYSKO, Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The off-road accessory was shipped in a box emblazoned with the logo of an auto parts brand owned by Mike Braun, a multimillionaire businessman who often rails against foreign outsourcing in his bid to become Indiana's next senator.

The words "Made in China" were stamped across the packaging.

Braun frequently criticizes his opponent, vulnerable red-state Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly, for once owning stock in a family business his brother runs that operates a factory in Mexico. However, the Republican nominee's own parts brand, Promaxx Automotive, sells products that were similarly manufactured abroad, according to a review by The Associated Press.

It has been well documented that Braun's national auto parts distribution company, Meyer Distributing, ships and sells other companies' goods that are made outside of the U.S. Such practice doesn't leave him

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vulnerable to charges of hypocrisy, he argues, because as a distributor he only resells the parts and has no control over where the companies make them.

But the revelation about the Chinese origin of much of his own products line, which Meyer trademarked with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, draws into question some of Braun's statements on the campaign trail, where he seldom — if ever — mentions Promaxx.

Braun's campaign would not say what percentage of Promaxx parts are made in America. Spokesman Josh Kelley issued a statement Thursday suggesting it was a distraction from "Donnelly's record of profiting from outsourcing."

When the subject came up during a GOP debate in February, Braun said: "I deal with American manufacturers. We buy their products. I don't know where they get them made."

"My business is never involved in anything overseas other than some of the companies that we distribute their products," he said in December at a GOP breakfast in Bloomington, Indiana.

While it's difficult to tell where many of the Braun's Promaxx products are manufactured, the AP was able to trace some accessories sold under the brand.

To do so, the AP purchased from Amazon one of Braun's brand of winches, a device used to pull stuck 4x4 vehicles out of the mud. The box that arrived was labeled "Made in China" in several places on the accessory and packaging.

Numerous other products, including running boards and a specialized Jeep hood, were similarly listed as manufactured in China on websites that retail Promaxx goods, including Amazon, CARiD and eBay.

The AP also used unique UPC codes assigned to more than 50 Promaxx products to determine which suppliers Braun uses. That information was compared with data maintained by Panjiva, a website that tracks global trade, to determine where those companies procured their goods.

Among the findings:

— Running boards, bumpers, brush guards and truck racks listed in the Promaxx catalog were supplied by Westin Automotive, which has received more than 700 shipments of such products from China since 2007. While several items in the company's catalog were labeled as made in America, these products were not. Panjiva records also show Chinese shipments of these accessories were delivered to one of Braun's warehouses in Arlington, Texas, including one made this past June.

— Another Promaxx supplier, California-based CYC Engineering, has received more than 400 shipments of similar products from Chinese manufacturers over the last decade.

— Bulldog Winch Co., a supplier Braun uses for off-road recovery equipment, has received hundreds of thousands of pounds of winches and accessory imports from China. Braun's own company has also received about a half dozen shipments of winches and winch accessories in recent years from one of the same Chinese manufacturers, Panjiva records show. The winch purchased by AP was shipped from Braun's company headquarters in Jasper, Indiana.

Since launching his campaign last August, Braun has tried to follow President Donald Trump's playbook, running as an "outsider" while making his business success central in his pitch to voters. Also, like the president, whose own line of Trump-branded products was often sourced from overseas, Braun has downplayed his company's use of foreign-made goods.

When the two congressmen he was running against in the Republican primary, Todd Rokita and Luke Messer, went after him for his companies' practices, Braun counterattacked.

In one ad he ran during the primary, he accused Donnelly, Messer and Rokita of supporting, or benefiting from, trade policies that put "Mexico before Muncie" and "Beijing before Bloomington."

As Donnelly and his allies have sought to turn the focus to Braun's businesses, he has fought back, accusing the Democrat of "lying" about his companies, while insisting that they are "made in America."

Kelley, the campaign spokesman, said Braun creates American jobs, adding that 95 percent of his suppliers are American companies. However, that doesn't address where those companies that supply the Promaxx brand are getting their goods.

Experts say it's not just normal for manufacturers to rely on supply chains that include at least some foreign goods — they say it's unusual when companies don't.

"It's amazing how companies and organizations have global supply chains no matter how small," said Mohan V. Tatikonda, an Indiana University business school professor who specializes in supply chain management. "There are companies that do not know who is making their stuff because you have to go so deep into the supply chain that you would need an audit."

University of Evansville political science professor Robert Dion said most voters probably don't care where Braun's gets his parts.

But, he added, there's a catch: "If you're going to say one thing and do another, that becomes a problem."

Turkish turmoil knocks US and European stocks lower

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks in the U.S. and Europe skidded Friday as investors worried about the financial stability of Turkey and how it might affect the global banking system.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accumulated more and more control over the country's central bank as well as its financial system, which is now run by his son-in-law. Its currency is plunging and Turkey is also in a diplomatic spat with the U.S., a major trading partner.

Alex Dryden, global markets strategist for JPMorgan Asset Management, said Erdogan showed no signs of changing course Friday, and investors are losing hope that Turkey's government has the knowledge or independence needed to deal with the country's financial problems.

"There was some hope that maybe they'd step back from the brink and you'd see a re-establishment of central bank independence," he said.

While Dryden and other analysts say Turkey's problems aren't a major risk to the financial system, investors didn't wait to find out Friday.

They sold stocks and bought U.S. dollars and government bonds. The bond purchases sent interest rates lower, which hurt banks. The dollar got stronger, partly because the Turkish lira nosedived, and major exporters like technology, basic materials and industrial companies sank.

The S&P 500 slid 20.30 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,833.28. That was its worst loss in a month and ended a five-week winning streak for the index by wiping out its gains from earlier this week.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 196.09 points, or 0.8 percent, to 25,313.14. The Nasdaq composite sank 52.67 points, or 0.7 percent, to 7,839.11. It had risen for eight days in a row.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks took a smaller loss of 4.08 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,686.80. The companies in that index are less reliant on exports, and the stronger dollar makes their imports less costly.

Investors are concerned about Erdogan's economic views. He says higher interest rates lead to higher inflation, the opposite of what standard economic theory says. As a result he's pushed Turkey's central bank to keep interest rates low, threatening its independence and preventing it from shoring up the lira.

The U.S. is the biggest importer of Turkish steel, and on Friday President Donald Trump said he will authorize higher tariffs on steel and aluminum from Turkey, a NATO ally. That sent the lira down even further. It's down 40 percent this year against the dollar.

The U.S. sanctions come after Turkey arrested an American pastor and put him on trial for espionage and terror-related charges.

The weakening lira has been pushing up the cost of goods for Turkish people and has damaged international investors' confidence in the country. Since some of Turkey's debt is in dollars, it's also making the country's financial situation worse.

European banks fell sharply. The U.S.-listed shares of Germany's Deutsche Bank lost 4.7 percent to \$11.82 and Spanish Banco Santander fell 4.7 percent to \$5.19.

Dryden, of JPMorgan Asset Management, said Erdogan has replaced independent advisers and leaders with relatives and supporters and set off a "gradual process of eroding economic credibility among financial and economic institutions."

Bond prices jumped. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.87 percent from 2.93 percent.

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That helped send bank stocks lower. JPMorgan Chase slid 1 percent to \$115.73 and Citigroup retreated 2.4 percent to \$70.26.

Emerging market currencies fell and the dollar jumped. The ICE U.S. Dollar Index was already trading around annual highs and it rose another 0.9 percent, a large move.

The euro fell to \$1.1398, its lowest in more than a year, from \$1.1542. The dollar fell to 110.64 yen from 111.04 yen after a strong economic growth report from Japan.

Germany's DAX fell 2 percent and the CAC 40 in France fell 1.6 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 lost 1 percent. The Nikkei 225 index in Japan lost 1.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gave up 0.8 percent. In South Korea, the Kospi lost 0.9 percent.

Energy companies rose slightly as oil prices increased. Benchmark U.S. crude oil rose 1.2 percent to \$67.63 a barrel in New York and Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, rose 1.1 percent to \$72.83 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline rose 2 percent to \$2.04 a gallon. Heating oil added 1.3 percent to \$2.14 a gallon. Natural gas lost 0.4 percent to \$2.94 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Online discount retailer Overstock.com surged 7.9 percent to \$41.65 after it said private equity firm GSR Capital will make an investment in its blockchain business.

Overstock is one of the few major retailers that accepts payment in bitcoin, and its stock surged as bitcoin prices rose last year. However digital currency prices and the company's stock have both dropped in 2018.

The Labor Department said consumer prices climbed 2.9 percent in July compared with a year ago. The main cause was an increase in housing prices. That matched June's pace, which was the highest in six years.

Gold dipped 0.1 percent to \$1,219 an ounce. Silver fell 1.1 percent to \$15.30 an ounce. Copper lost 0.8 percent to \$2.74 a pound.

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>

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 11, the 223rd day of 2018. There are 142 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 11, 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly black Watts section of Los Angeles.

On this date:

In 1909, the steamship SS Arapahoe became the first ship in North America to issue an S.O.S. distress signal, off North Carolina's Cape Hatteras.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman nominated General Omar N. Bradley to become the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1952, Hussein bin Talal was proclaimed King of Jordan, beginning a reign lasting nearly 47 years.

In 1954, a formal peace took hold in Indochina, ending more than seven years of fighting between the French and Communist Viet Minh.

In 1956, abstract painter Jackson Pollock, 44, died in an automobile accident on Long Island, New York.

In 1964, the Beatles movie "A Hard Day's Night" had its U.S. premiere in New York.

In 1975, the United States vetoed the proposed admission of North and South Vietnam to the United Nations, following the Security Council's refusal to consider South Korea's application.

In 1984, at the Los Angeles Olympics, American runner Mary Decker fell after colliding with South African-born British competitor Zola Budd in the 3,000-meter final; Budd finished seventh.

In 1992, the Mall of America, the nation's largest shopping-entertainment center, opened in Bloomington,

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Minnesota.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton made the first use of the historic line-item veto, rejecting three items in spending and tax bills. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court later struck down the veto as unconstitutional.)

In 2003, Charles Taylor resigned as Liberia's president and went into exile in Nigeria.

In 2014, Academy Award-winning actor and comedian Robin Williams, 63, died in Tiburon, California, a suicide.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, back from his Asia tour, warned of a "dramatic and brutal escalation" of violence by Russia in the former Soviet republic of Georgia; he pressed Moscow to accept an immediate cease-fire and to pull back its troops. In Beijing, Michael Phelps got his second gold medal — thanks to a late comeback in the 400-meter freestyle relay by Jason Lezak, who lunged to the wall just ahead of the French anchor.

Five years ago: Israel approved building 1,200 more settlement homes and agreed to release 26 long-held Palestinian security prisoners. Suspected militants gunned down 47 worshippers as they recited their early morning prayers at a mosque in Konduga, Nigeria, and killed another 12 civilians in a nearby village. Jason Dufner won his first major title with a two-stroke victory over Jim Furyk at the PGA Championship.

One year ago: A federal judge ordered Charlottesville, Virginia, to allow a weekend rally of white nationalists and other extremists to take place at its originally-planned location downtown. (Violence erupted at the rally, and a woman was killed when a man plowed his car into a group of counterprotesters.) President Donald Trump unleashed fresh threats against North Korea, warning Kim Jong Un that he "will regret it fast" if he takes any action against U.S. territories or allies. Trump also said he would not rule out military action against Venezuela following a power grab by President Nicolas Maduro. A judge in Denver threw out a lawsuit by a disc jockey who'd been accused by Taylor Swift of groping her during a photo op; David Mueller claimed that Swift and her team got him fired for it. (The jury later awarded Swift \$1 after deciding that Mueller had, in fact, groped her.) Two passenger trains collided outside Egypt's port city of Alexandria, killing 43 people.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Arlene Dahl is 93. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 75. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 75. Magazine columnist Marilyn Vos Savant is 72. Country singer John Conlee is 72. Singer Eric Carmen is 69. Computer scientist and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is 68. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 65. Singer Joe Jackson is 64. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 61. Actor Miguel A. Nunez Jr. is 59. Actress Viola Davis is 53. Actress Embeth Davidtz is 53. Actor Duane Martin is 53. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 51. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave is 50. Actress Anna Gunn is 50. Actress Ashley Jensen is 50. Actress Sophie Okonedo is 50. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 50. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 48. Actor Nigel Harman is 45. Actor Will Friedle is 42. Actor Rob Kerkovich is 39. Actress Merritt Wever is 38. Actor Chris Hemsworth is 35. Rock musician Heath Fogg (Alabama Shakes) is 34. Singer J-Boog is 33. Rapper Asher Roth is 33. Actress Alyson Stoner is 25.

Thought for Today: "Keep your dreams, for in them lies joy denied to men grown wise." — Edgar A. Guest, American author, journalist and poet (1881-1959).