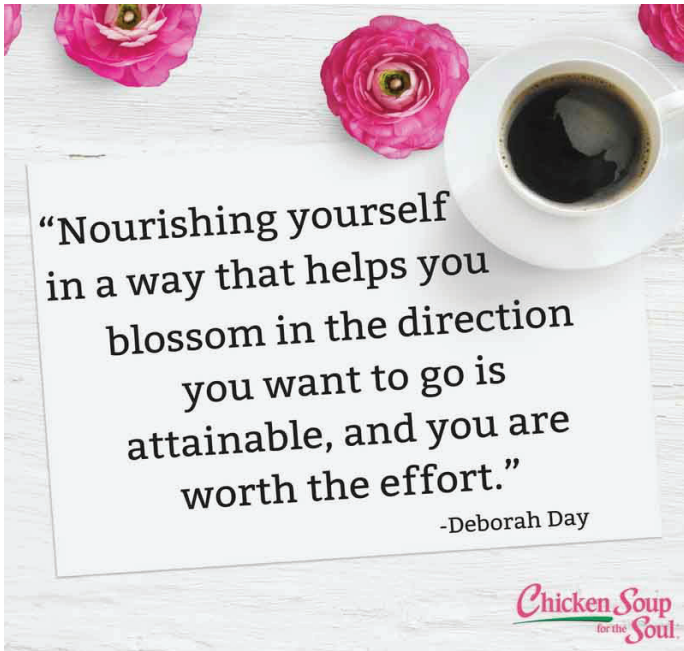


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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean

402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com



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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Perseids are peaking this weekend!

By Bruce McClure in TONIGHT

When is the peak of the Perseid meteor shower in 2018? The best mornings will likely be August 12 and 13. The morning of August 11 is worth trying, too, as the Perseids are known to rise gradually to their peak. The best news is, in 2018, the moon is gone from the night sky! The peak may bring 50 to 60 – or more – meteors per hour, assuming you’ve given yourself optimum conditions for meteor-watching.

Those optimum conditions are simple to attain. Go to a country location, far from city lights. And watch during the hours between late evening (around midnight) and dawn.

Can’t get out of town? Then go to the darkest sky you can find near you (a beach? a park?) as late at night as you can. Situate yourself in the shadow of a tree or building, if there are lights around. Look up, and hope for the best! Who knows ... you might catch a shooting star.

The fact is, this weekend is wonderful for meteor-watching. Enjoy it! We won’t have such gloriously moon-free nights for the Perseids again until 2021.

Can you watch the shower in the evening hours? From the Northern Hemisphere, you might see a smattering of Perseid meteors in the evening (assuming you’re watching in a dark sky). Plus, mid-evening is the best time of night to try to catch an earthgrazer, which is an elongated, long-lasting meteor that travels horizontally across the sky. Earthgrazers are rare but most memorable if you’re lucky enough to spot one.

What if you’re in the Southern Hemisphere? From the Southern Hemisphere, the first meteors – and possible earthgrazers – won’t be flying until midnight or the wee hours of the morning.

In either the Northern or the Southern Hemisphere, the greatest number of meteors streak the sky in the few hours before dawn. Can you watch the shower in the evening hours? From the Northern Hemisphere, you might see a smattering of Perseid meteors in the evening (assuming you’re watching in a dark sky). Plus, mid-evening is the best time of night to try to catch an earthgrazer, which is an elongated, long-lasting meteor that travels horizontally across the sky. Earthgrazers are rare but most memorable if you’re lucky enough to spot one.

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In either the Northern or the Southern Hemisphere, the greatest number of meteors streak the sky in the few hours before dawn.

The earliest historical account of Perseid activity comes from a Chinese record in 36 A.D., where it was said that:

... more than 100 meteors flew in the morning.

Numerous references to the August Perseids appear in Chinese, Japanese and Korean records throughout the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th centuries. Meanwhile, according to ancient western skylore, the Perseid shower commemorates the time when the god Zeus visited the mortal maiden Danae in the form of a shower of gold. Zeus and Danae became the parents of Perseus the Hero – from whose constellation the Perseid meteors radiate. More about the Perseid’s radiant point below.

The Perseid meteors happen around this time every year, as Earth in its orbit crosses the orbital path of Comet Swift-Tuttle. Dusty debris left behind by this comet smashes into Earth’s upper atmosphere, lighting up the nighttime as fiery Perseid meteors. The meteors start out slowly in the evening hours, begin to pick up steam after midnight and put out the greatest numbers in the dark hours before dawn.

The paths of the Perseid meteors, when traced backward, appear to originate in the constellation Perseus. Hence, this meteor shower’s name. While out there peering into dark skies, try looking for the Perseid’s radiant point. You don’t need to find it to enjoy the meteors, but it’s fun to find.

Perseus itself isn’t all that easy to find, but a nearby constellation – Cassiopeia the Queen – is. Look northward for Cassiopeia. It has a very distinctive shape of the letter W or the number 3. See it? Good.

Want to go deeper? Then look for the Double Cluster in Perseus. This dual cluster of stars almost exactly marks the radiant point of the Perseid meteor shower. You can find it by scanning with your binoculars

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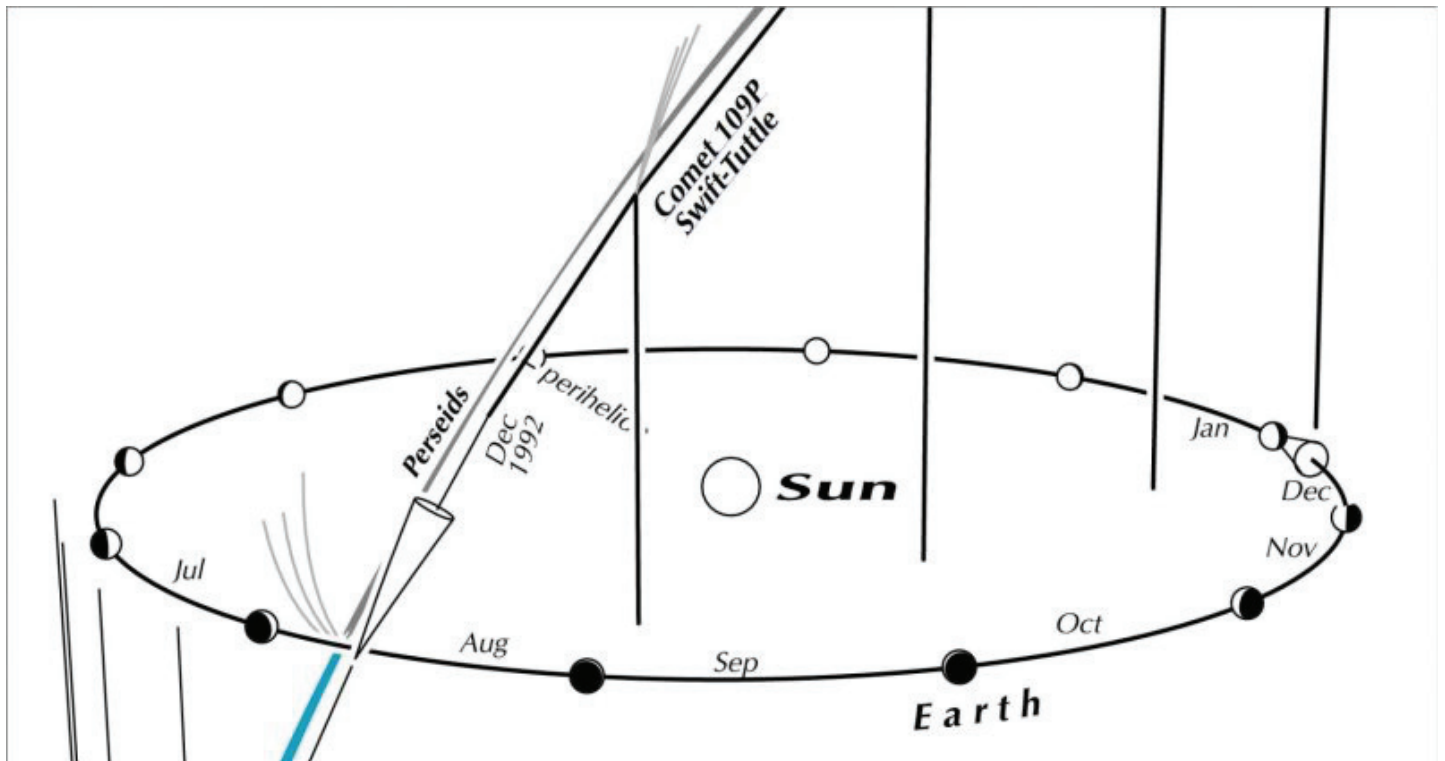
between Perseus and Cassiopeia.

Although the Double Cluster can be seen with the unaided eye in a dark country sky, the Double Clusters' stars burst into view through binoculars. The clusters are more formally known as NGC 884 (Chi Persei) and NGC 869 (h Persei). The Double Cluster is thought to be over 7,000 light-years away from us, in the Perseus arm of the Milky Way galaxy.

Now here's the good news. You don't need to know the constellation Perseus to watch the Perseid meteor shower. You don't need to find the radiant point. The Perseids do radiate from there, but they will appear in all parts of a dark night sky.

Here's all you do need to know about the radiant point. As viewed from the Northern Hemisphere, the radiant sits low in the northeast sky at evening and climbs upward throughout the night. The higher that the radiant is in your sky, the more Perseid meteors you're likely to see. For the Perseids, the radiant is highest before dawn.

Bottom line: The mornings of August 11 and 12 are both fine for meteor-watching in 2018, providing you have a clear sky.



The parent comet of the Perseids – Comet Swift-Tuttle – takes about 130 years to orbit the sun once. We see the meteor shower when Earth intersects the comet's orbit each year, and debris left behind in its orbit enters our atmosphere. Chart via Guy Ottewell.

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



The Fast Track To Bright Futures

With the first day of classes on the horizon, I encourage our high school students to take advantage of dual credit courses this school year. The 2018-19 school year marks the fifth year that high school students have had access to low-cost dual credit courses through our state's public universities and technical institutes. These courses give students great opportunities to learn about a wide variety of careers. They include general education subjects and everything from animal science to wind technology. They're truly a win-win-win opportunity.

Students win because these courses allow them to simultaneously earn high school and college credit. At only \$48.33 per credit hour, these are the cheapest university and technical institute courses a student will ever take, giving them a head start on college or tech school. At a time when the cost of college is a great concern, that is significant.

High schools win because they can expand their course offerings at no cost to the school district.

Universities and technical institutes win too. Although we do ask them to discount their tuition rate, this program attracts more South Dakota students to our institutions, retains more freshmen after the first year and helps graduate students on time.

The popularity of this program has consistently exceeded expectations, with student participation numbers growing every year. In 2014-15, the first year of the program, about 2,100 students took at least one dual credit course. Though we don't have summer term numbers yet, participation looks to be nearly double that with approximately 3,900 students taking advantage of dual credit so far during the 2017-18 school year. And many students take more than one dual credit offering over the course of their high school years.

We want all students to be engaged and prepared for the future. More than simply graduating from high school, we want them to be thinking about what comes afterward. They should be asking themselves, "What interests me? Where are my strengths? How can I use those interests and strengths to prepare for a good job and an exciting career?"

Dual credit courses can help high school students find answers to those questions while adjusting to the rigor expected of them in postsecondary education.

Ultimately, dual credit has the power to put students on the fast track to bright futures.

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

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State Government this week

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Public Commitments; Public Meetings:

Monday, August 13, 2 p.m. CDT, Aberdeen – Lt. Gov. Matt Michels will speak at the 125th Anniversary Open House at Hub City, Inc. in Aberdeen.

Saturday, August 11, 9 a.m. CDT - The Governor's Snowmobile Advisory Council will meet in LRC room 413 at the Capitol Building in Pierre, S.D. The meeting's agenda can be viewed online at <https://gfp.sd.gov/snowmobiling/>. For more information, contact Ryan Raynor, 605-773-2885.

Monday, August 13, 9 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls - The South Dakota State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners will be holding a meeting at the Best Western Ramkota in Sioux Falls. A full agenda can be found at <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=103>. For more information, please contact the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners at 605-773-3321.

Tuesday, August 14, 9:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The REDI (Revolving Economic Development and Initiative) board will meet on Tuesday, August 14 at 9:30 a.m. CDT at 711 E Wells Ave. Please contact Cassie Stoesser, GOED Finance Director, at 605-773-GOED (4633) for more information. <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=31>.

Wednesday, August 15, 8:30 – 10 a.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Board of Accountancy will hold a meeting at Eide Bailly, 200 E. 10th St., in the 5th Floor Conference Room. To view the meeting agenda, visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=4>. For more information, call Nicole at 605-367-5770.

Wednesday, August 15, 11 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Railroad Board of the South Dakota Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in the Commission Room of the Becker-Hansen building located at 700 E. Broadway Ave. The public is invited to attend. To view the meeting agenda, posted 48 hours in advance, visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Template.aspx?id=88>. For more information call 605-773-3265.

Thursday, August 16, 8 a.m. CDT, State Penitentiary – The Board of Pardons and Paroles will meet in the Jameson Annex Visit Room. For more information, go to <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=74>.

Thursday, August 16, 10 a.m. CDT, Pierre – DENR's Board of Minerals and Environment will meet in the Floyd L. Matthew Environmental Education and Training Center in the Joe Foss Building, 523 E. Capitol Ave. Agenda items are available through the South Dakota Boards & Commission Portal at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?Boardid=67>. For more information, contact Brenda Binegar, DENR, at 605-773-4216.

Thursday, August 16, 10 a.m. CDT, Brookings – Neal Konda, P.E. with DENR's Feedlot Permit Program will make a presentation on Manure Spill Prevention, Planning, and Response at the 2018 North American Manure Expo at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, South Dakota. More information can be found on the Manure Expo's website at <https://www.manuremanager.com/manure-expo/>.

Thursday, August 16, 1 p.m. CDT, Pierre – The Department of Social Services' Behavioral Health Advisory Council will hold a meeting at RedRossa Italian Grille. For more information, or to view the agenda, please visit <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=55>.

Friday, August 17, 8:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The South Dakota Board of Examiners in Optometry will be holding a board meeting at Tieszen Law Office, 306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 300. For more information or to view the agenda please visit <https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=70>.

Friday, August 17, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Athletic Commission will meet at the Department of Labor and Regulation Conference Room, 811 E. 10th St. Meeting agenda and materials can be found at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=9>.

Friday, August 17, 3 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – The South Dakota Athletic Commission will meet at the Sanford Pentagon, 2210 W. Pentagon Place, during the mixed martial arts event. Meeting agenda can be found at <http://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=9>.

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You Might Also Be Interested To Know:

Monday, August 13 - Wednesday, August 15 - The South Dakota Department of Agriculture will be collecting pesticide containers at the following locations. For a full schedule of container pick up times and locations, please visit http://sdda.sd.gov/ag-services/pesticide-program/container-recycling-waste-pesticide-collection-program/Gallery/2018collections_Final.pdf. For more information on these collections, please contact SDDA at 605-773-4432.

Monday, August 13 – Lake Preston, Lake Preston Soil Service, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. CDT
Monday, August 13 - Howard, Cenex Agronomy Center, 1:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. CDT
Tuesday, August 14 - Madison, Helena Chemical Company, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. CDT
Tuesday, August 14 - Flandreau, Rivers Edge Coop, 1:30 p.m.- 4 p.m. CDT
Wednesday, August 15 – Renner, Renner Fire Hall, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT

Monday, August 13, to Thursday, August 16: The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Field Service Officers will be at the following County and Tribal Veterans Service Offices to assist with veteran related claims, issues, and questions.

Monday, August 13:

- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Burke – 221 E. 8th St. 605-280-4306
- 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Hayti – 300 4th St. 605-360-7819

**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.**



Tuesday, August 14:

- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT, Hot Springs (Vets Home) - 2500 Minnekahta Ave. 605-280-4308
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Plankinton – 401 N. Main St. 605-280-4306

Wednesday, August 15:

- 10 a.m. – 12 a.m. CDT, Huron – 450 3rd St. SW #103 605-280-4306
- 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Wessington Springs – 205 Wallace Ave. S. 605-280-4306

Thursday, August 16:

- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT, Kadoka – 700 Main St. 605-280-4308
- 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Mitchell – 1420 N. Main St. 605-360-7819
- 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – 210 E. 7th Ave. 605-280-4306

Monday, August 13, to Thursday, August 16 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will host Job Search Assistance Programs (JSAP). JSAP is a workshop for people recovering from job

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loss or enhancing their job search skills. Trained instructors speak on modern-day techniques used to successfully find employment. Topics covered include resume and cover letter writing, interviewing etiquette, networking effectively, using social media and much more. JSAP will be offered at the following locations:

- Monday, August 13, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – At 811 E. 10th St. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 605-367-5300.
- Tuesday, August 14, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Madison – At 223 S. Van Eps Ave. For more information, call 605-256-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, August 15, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Sisseton – At 10 E. Hickory St., Suite 3. For more information, call 605-698-3964 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, August 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT, Spearfish – At 1300 North Ave. For more information, call 605-642-6900 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, August 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Wagner – At 106 SE Sheridan Ave. For more information, call 605-487-7607 Ext. 207 or 212 or visit www.sdjobs.org.
- Thursday, August 16, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – At 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information or to register, call 605-688-4350.

Tuesday, August 14 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

- Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT
- Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT
- Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT
- Webster, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT
- Timber Lake, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MDT

Tuesday, August 14, to Wednesday, August 15 – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation will hold itinerant office hours. Both job seekers and employers interested in receiving employment and career services at no cost may visit or call during these office hours. More information on programs and services is available at www.sdjobs.org. Itinerant office hours will be held at the following locations:

- Tuesday, August 14, 1 – 3 p.m. CDT, Redfield – At the Spink County Court House, third floor, or call 605-472-0435 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.
- Wednesday, August 15, 12 – 3 p.m. CDT, Mobridge – At the Mobridge Economic Development office, 205 2nd St. E., Suite 1, or call 605-380-8930 during these hours and 605-626-2340 at any other time. Additional information at www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, August 14, to Thursday, August 16 – Bring Your 'A' Game to Work encompasses seven different skills including Appreciation, Attitude, Attendance, Appearance, Ambition, Accountability and Acceptance. These soft skills and a willingness to take direction are generally more desired by employers than the specific skills a particular job requires. Bring Your 'A' Game is being offered at no cost to businesses and individuals. For more information or to register online, visit http://dlr.sd.gov/workforce_services/individuals/training_opportunities/soft_skills_training.aspx.

The workshop will be offered at the following location(s):

- Tuesday, August 14, and Thursday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Pierre – at The Right Turn, 115 E. Sioux Ave. This is a two-day workshop. To register, call 605-773-4755 or register online at the link above by Wednesday, August 8. Any classes without three people registered by the previous Wednesday will be canceled.

- Tuesday, August 14, through August 16, 6 – 9 p.m. CDT, Pierre – at The Right Turn, 115 E. Sioux

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Ave. This is a three-day workshop. To register, call 605-773-4755 or register online at the link above by Wednesday, August 8. Any classes without three people registered by the previous Wednesday will be canceled.

- Wednesday, August 15, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT, Rapid City – Black Hills Special Services will offer the training program at the Rapid City Job Service, 2330 N. Maple Ave. Lunch is provided. To register, call 605-394-5120 or register online at the link above.

- Thursday, August 16, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CDT, Watertown – At Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI), Student Center Room. Please register in advance for the class. For more information or to register, please call 605-882-5284. You may also register online at the link above.

- Thursday, August 16, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. CDT, Vermillion – Cornerstones Career Learning Center will offer the training program at the Vermillion Job Service, 904 E. Cherry St. For more information or to register, please call 605-677-6912 or register online at the link above.

Wednesday, August 15 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Wanblee, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Salem, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Dupree, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MDT

Thursday, August 16 – Benefits specialists from the Department of Social Services' Division of Economic Assistance will be available at the following itinerant office locations. For more information, contact Tia Kafka, 605-773-3165.

Canton, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Kyle, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. MDT

Flandreau, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT

Lemmon, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. MDT

- Plankinton, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Monday, August 13, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Smithfield will conduct walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions include production workers. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, August 14, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT, Sioux Falls – Smithfield will conduct walk-in interviews at the Sioux Falls Job Service, 811 E. 10th St. Positions include production workers. For more information, call 605-367-5300 or visit www.sdjobs.org.

Tuesday, August 14, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Brookings – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at the Brookings Job Service, 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103. For more information, call 605-688-4370 or visit www.GED.com.

Wednesday, August 15, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at the Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com.

Thursday, August 16, 12:30 – 2 p.m. CDT, Brookings – Aramark will conduct walk-in interviews at Brook-

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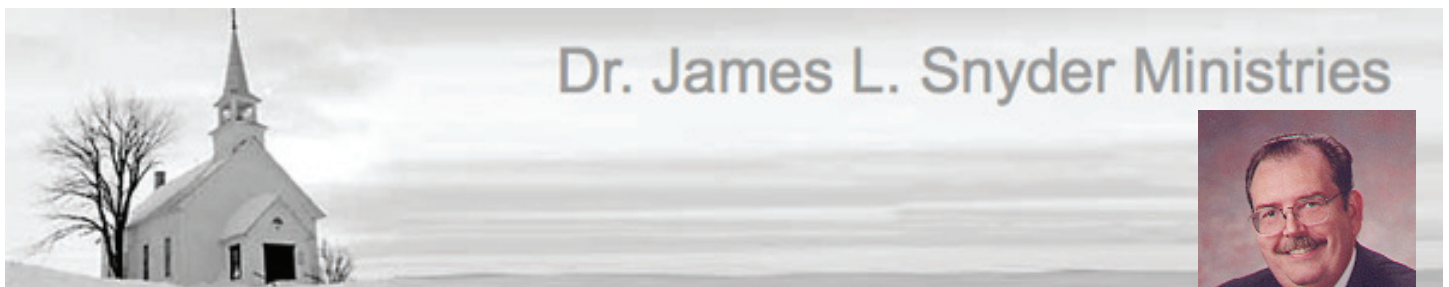
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ings Job Service, 1310 Main Ave. S., Suite 103, every Thursday through August 30. For more information call 605-688-4350.

Thursday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. CDT, Pierre – The Appraiser Certification Program Advisory Council will hold its quarterly meeting at Missouri River Plaza, 123 W. Missouri Ave., in the Sharpe Conference Room. For more information or to request accommodations for the meeting, contact Sherry Bren at 605-773-4608.

Thursday, August 16, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT, Yankton – General Education Development (GED) testing will take place at Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. For more information, call 605-668-2900 or visit www.GED.com.

Thursday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CDT, Yankton – Vermeer Freeman will conduct walk-in interviews at the Yankton Job Service, 3113 Spruce St., Suite 124. Positions include welders, painters and assemblers. Apply in person or online at www.vermeerjobs.com. For more information, call 605-668-2900.



Hallelujah, It IS a Scam

I know I am not the sharpest pencil in the drawer, or the brightest bulb on the porch, and a few bricks shy of a load. However, my philosophy is simple, if you know what you are not, then you can soon figure out what you really are.

If somebody can't con me, they can't con anybody. I admit that I am naïve about many things. A Girl Scout needs only smile, wink her brown eyes at me and I will buy all the cookies she has.

My problem is, I have a hard time believing anyone would lie to me. Why would someone lie in the first place? What does lying get you?

An incident happened this past week that sucked me into that whirlpool of naivety.

I received an email from somebody who wanted to give me a lot of money. It seems this woman was recently widowed and her husband was very wealthy and she wanted to give money to some charity. Would I be interested in receiving money?

Well, when it comes to money you do have my interest.

Immediately I printed this email out and brought it to show the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Now, if anybody can con her, they can con everybody. She can spot a lie three generations back.

She read the email and then looked at me with one of those "stares" and said, "You do know that this is a scam?"

"But," I said rather hesitatingly, "what if it isn't a scam? What if it's real? What have I got to lose?"

"You mean," she said rather sarcastically, "besides your mind?"

It was at that moment I had an overwhelming urge to prove finally that she did not know everything. When I follow through with this and get all that money in our bank, I will have a laughing party heard around the world at her expense.

I decided to see if maybe this was legitimate. So, I emailed them back and said I was interested in their money for our charity and explained a little bit about our charity.

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Very soon, I got an email back congratulating me on a wise decision.

I sat back and grinned to myself; at least somebody appreciates my wisdom.

Then I received an email saying I needed to send them some information, so I immediately sent it.

All the while, I'm thinking of how I'm going to rub this in someone's face for a very long time. After all, the amount of money they were talking about was \$4.7 million. I started thinking about what I could do with all that money.

It is amazing what happens when a person starts thinking about all the money he is going to get. Then the thoughts go to "things." Things that I cannot afford right now. I tried to think of all of the things that I would buy as soon as I got this money. I got some paper and a pen and started to make a list.

I ran into a little problem here. I could not think of anything I wanted that I did not already have. I don't have a long list of things I want. I like books, pens and pocketknives. Of course, I could buy my own Apple fritter bakery. That would be a good option.

For a couple days, I shot emails back and forth with this company that happened to be in Nigeria, Africa. I have some wonderful friends there so I was not even thinking on the negative side of this transaction.

Of course, being a pastor, I would donate some of that money to my church. Then I got thinking about what we could do in the church with that kind of money. How many people could we bless and encourage with the programs we could do with that kind of money?

I continued emailing back to this widow and she connected me with the bank that was going to handle the transaction. I was beginning to feel a little more comfortable with this. I know my wife thought this was a scam, but I'm not so sure it is a scam. I think it is some dear widow who wants to give her money to somebody that she doesn't know. What a sweet and wonderful woman she must be.

Then I got THE defining email. In order for this transaction to go forward, they needed from me a processing fee of \$1,000. After all, I would more than make that up once the transaction was done. At least, according to them.

It was then I began to realize I had been bamboozled. Ask me for anything but don't ask me for my money!

It was a scam and I am quite reluctant to pass this information off to the other resident of our house. One of us was right and it sure wasn't me.

I did not get the \$4.7 million, but on the other hand, I did not lose \$1000. At least that's something to celebrate.

Thinking about this reminded me of one of my favorite Bible verses. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

When I put God first in my life I can be assured that He will direct my paths in the right direction.

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Today in Weather History

August 12, 1986: Thunderstorms produced 2.53 inches of rain in twenty minutes in downtown Rapid City. The heavy rain caused street and basement flooding. Golf ball size hail fell in Zeona, in Perkins County, which covered the ground.

1752: The following is from the Journals of the Rev. Thomas Smith, and the Rev. Samuel Deane, published in 1849. "In the evening there was dismal thunder and lightning, and abundance of rain, and such a hurricane as was never the like in these parts of the world." This hurricane struck Portland, Maine.

1778 - A Rhode Island hurricane prevented an impending British-French sea battle, and caused extensive damage over southeast New England. (David Ludlum)

1933 - The temperature at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, CA, hit 127 degrees to establish a U.S. record for the month of August. (The Weather Channel)

1936 - The temperature at Seymour, TX, hit 120 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1955 - During the second week of August hurricanes Connie and Diane produced as much as 19 inches of rain in the northeastern U.S. forcing rivers from Virginia to Massachusetts into a high flood. Westfield MA was deluged with 18.15 inches of rain in 24 hours, and at Woonsocket RI the Blackstone River swelled from seventy feet in width to a mile and a half. Connecticut and the Delaware Valley were hardest hit. Total damage in New England was 800 million dollars, and flooding claimed 187 lives. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Early afternoon thunderstorms in Arizona produced 3.90 inches of rain in ninety minutes at Walnut National Monument (located east of Flagstaff), along with three inches of pea size hail, which had to be plowed off the roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Fifteen cities in the northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Youngstown OH reported twenty-six days of 90 degree weather for the year, a total equal to that for the entire decade of the 1970s. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms were scattered across nearly every state in the Union by late in the day. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Fergus Falls MN, and golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 60 mph at Black Creek WI. In the Chicago area, seven persons at a forest preserve in North Riverside were injured by lightning. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004: Hurricane Charley was the third named storm and the second hurricane of the 2004 Atlantic hurricane season. Charley lasted from August 9 to August 15, and at its peak intensity, it attained 150 mph winds, making it a strong Category 4 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. It made landfall in southwestern Florida at maximum strength, making it the most powerful hurricane to hit the United States since Hurricane Andrew struck Florida in 1992.

2005: A tornado strikes Wright, Wyoming, a coal-mining community, killing two and destroying 91 homes and damaging about 30 more in around the town.

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Today

Tonight

Monday

Monday
Night

Tuesday



Patchy Fog
then Patchy
Smoke

High: 97 °F



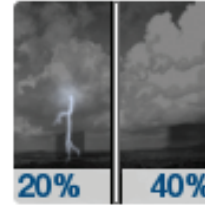
Patchy Smoke

Low: 65 °F



Patchy Smoke

High: 93 °F



Slight Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers

Low: 60 °F

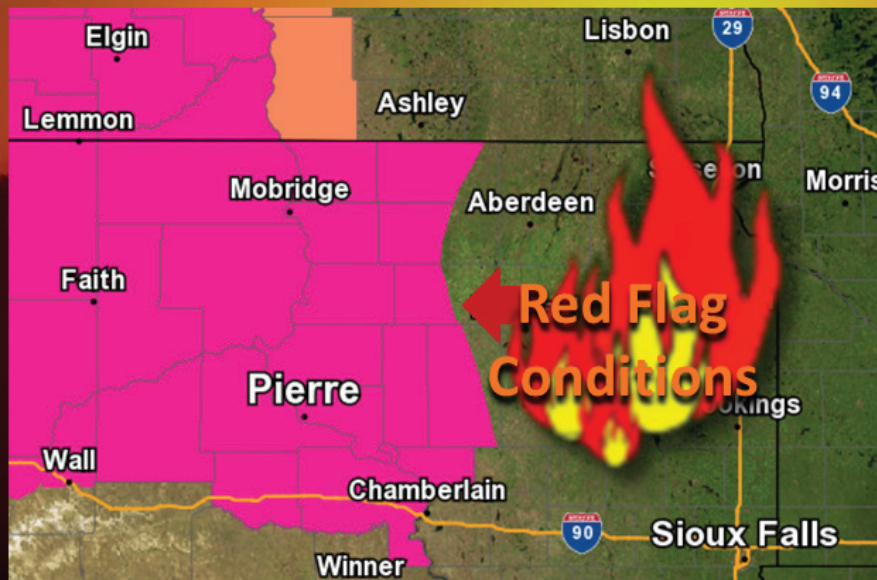


Mostly Sunny

High: 78 °F

DRY-HOT-WINDY

Highs: 90s to around 100



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 8/12/2018 4:35 AM Central

Published on: 08/12/2018 at 4:36AM

Hot and dry conditions today, along with a stiff south wind will result in dangerous fire weather conditions this afternoon. This will be the last stifling hot days, with temperatures topping out in the 80s and 90s Monday, and even into the mid 80s through mid 70s for Tuesday!

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 92.4 F at 3:21 PM

Heat Index: 104 at 4:01 PM

Low Outside Temp: 67.5 F at 6:44 AM

High Gust: 18.0 Mph at 1:56 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1933

Record Low: 40° in 1898

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.87

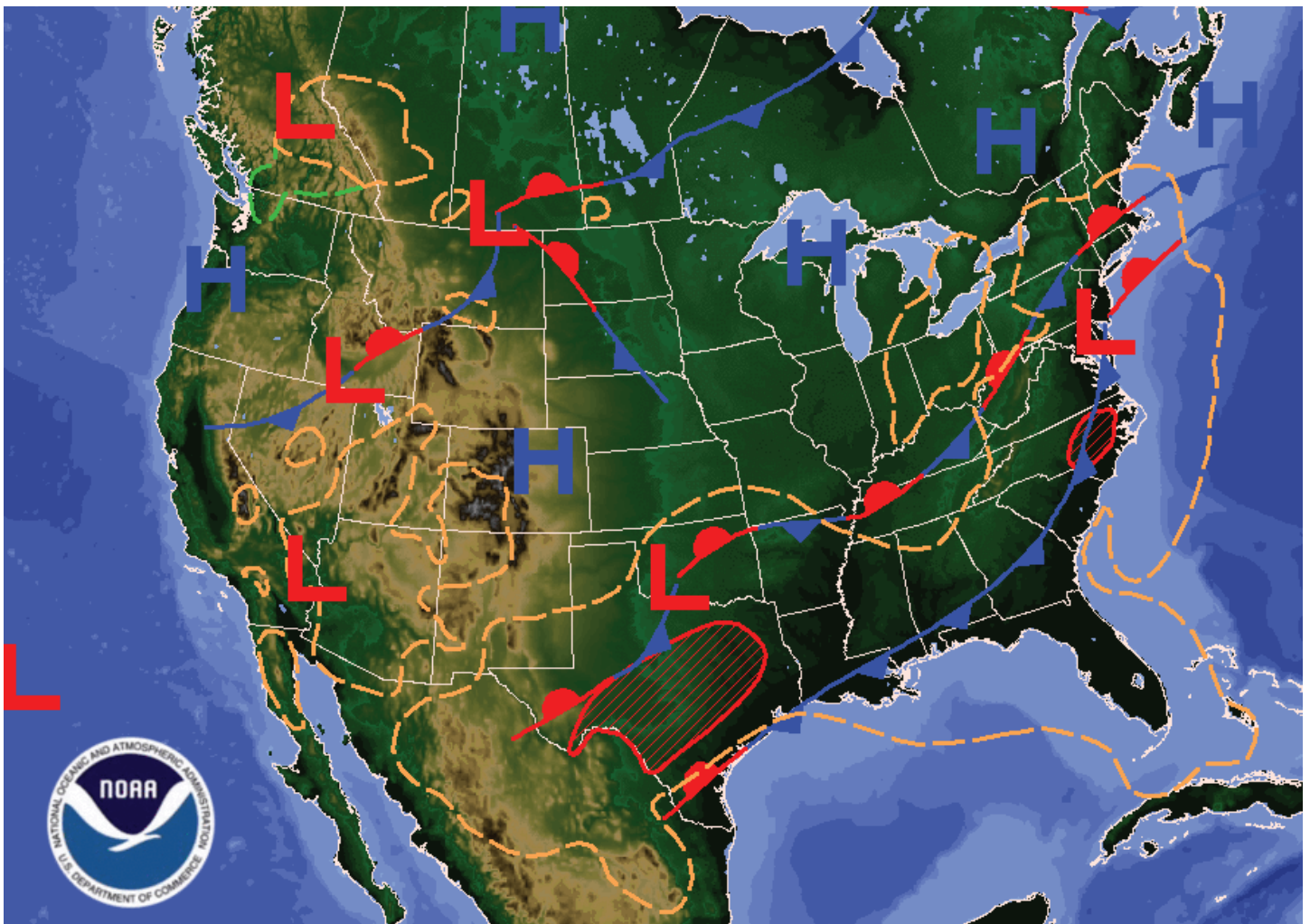
Precip to date in Aug: 0.25

Average Precip to date: 14.73

Precip Year to Date: 10.14

Sunset Tonight: 8:46 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:32 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Aug 12, 2018, issued 4:50 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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SUNSHINE AND STORMS

Whats that, Daddy? asked his son, Ben.

A rainbow, responded his father.

Whats a rainbow, Daddy? was his next question.

Well, Ben, a rainbow is a promise from God that He loves us and will always care for us, replied Bens dad.

What a comforting answer for us to think about when we face troubling times. The beauty and brilliance of the colors found in a rainbow are a result of reflections and refractions of the suns rays as they light-up the drops of rain that fall from the sky after the storm passes over us. But without the storm, there would be no rainbow.

We only see rainbows when the sun is behind us, and the rain is falling in front of us. As the rays of the sun pass through a drop of rain, it is bent - or refracted - and separated into the different colors that light up the sky. What we see is a brilliant display of colors produced in the countless drops of rain that fall in front of the sun.

All of us have experienced many drops of rain falling on our paths and into our lives. But, Gods love shines through each of them as the sun shines through the drops of rain that fall from the sky. It is the glow of His love that shines through the tears of grief, pain, hurt and suffering that fall from our eyes and brings us His comfort.

No one has lived a tear-free life. And, all of us have been caught up in the storms of life! Yet, we have survived. The Psalmist wrote, They have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but have not gained the victory over me. Storms and tears come and go, but Gods love always surrounds us.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the assurance of Your love. May we look to You for healing when others harm us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 129:2 They have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but have not gained the victory over me.

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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
12-13-15-16-23
(twelve, thirteen, fifteen, sixteen, twenty-three)
Estimated jackpot: \$184,000

Lotto America
06-08-17-32-36, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 2
(six, eight, seventeen, thirty-two, thirty-six; Star Ball: four; ASB: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$6.25 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$75 million

Powerball
05-43-56-62-68, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2
(five, forty-three, fifty-six, sixty-two, sixty-eight; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$247 million

Patrol identifies man killed in Codington County crash

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol has identified a Milbank man killed in one-vehicle crash on Interstate 29 in Codington County.

The Highway Patrol says 39-year-old Robert Gerriets was killed in the crash Tuesday afternoon.

The Patrol says he was driving a car that went into the median and crashed into a pillar supporting an overpass north of Watertown.

Gerriets was pronounced dead at the scene.

South Dakota trailhead sees parking problem

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials are trying to alleviate parking problems at the trailhead to Devil's Bathtub in the Black Hills.

Private landowners near the popular hiking destination in Spearfish Canyon are having problems getting in and out of their properties because of vehicles parking in the road, the Black Hills Pioneer reported.

"For the last three summers now, this issue has surfaced, and every year it gets worse with the number of people who come to visit Devil's Bathtub," said Deputy State's Attorney Bruce Outka.

The Lawrence County Commission said a cooperative solution would need to be created between the Forest Service, the state and the county.

Commissioners recently agreed to let the state Game, Fish, and Parks Department place parking signs in the country right of way. It wasn't decided what the signs should say or where traffic should be directed.

Lawrence County Sheriff Brian Dean said that while there are several no parking signs in the area, there isn't an alternative parking area.

"This is really a complex issue, where we have people and government entities who own the property," he said. "I think people want to comply . if they want to go hike, we've got to give them a solution."

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The congested parking would pose an issue if emergency personnel needed to address a situation in the area, Dean said.

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

South Dakota campsites see unfavorable weather

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Unfavorable weather at South Dakota state park campsites may end a decade-long increase in campers.

Bob Schneider, an assistant director of the Division of Parks and Recreation with the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, told The Daily Republic that state parks have seen about 210,300 nights of camping so far this year, down 2 percent from last year's 213,800 nights.

Blizzards early in the camping season and heavy rains this summer have likely contributed to the decrease, Schneider said.

"The 2 percent decrease is actually pretty good considering the long winter and heavy rains we have experienced this year," said Schneider, who has been with the state parks system for 32 years. "We're not far off from last year's average."

The total number of nights camping reached 342,000 nights last year.

About 75 percent of campers are South Dakota residents, while 25 percent are from out-of-state, said Katie Ceroll, the South Dakota State Parks director.

"Since we have been continually increasing in camping until this year, there is a demand to try and add certain things while maintaining what we already have in our campsites," she said.

State parks have constructed new restrooms in comfort stations and added heaters to camping cabins to attract more winter visitors.

South Dakota has 13 state parks, 43 recreation areas, five nature areas and 69 lakeside use areas.

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

Ige wins Hawaii Democratic governor primary

By CALEB JONES and AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Despite a challenging first term marked by both natural and man-made disasters, Hawaii Gov. David Ige won the Democratic primary in his bid for a second term in office Saturday, defeating U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa.

Ige's administration fumbled through a false missile alert that sent the state into a panic in January, a major embarrassment for his administration. But the governor's handling of Kilauea volcano's latest eruption, which destroyed more than 700 homes and displaced thousands, as well as devastating flooding on Kauai got him back on track and he came out ahead of Hanabusa.

"It's been a grueling campaign," Ige said. "It's truly a heart-warming finish to a very, very challenging and exciting time."

Ige said he expects to win the general election in November, but he's not going to take his challenger for granted.

"I will not take anything for granted, we are going to gear up for another tough campaign, but we do believe that we have a vision and that the people have spoken," Ige said.

The governor said Hanabusa called him and pledged her support, and that he looks forward to working with her and her supporters over the next several months.

"The most important thing about the election is the fact that we gave people choices, and the people have spoken," said Hanabusa during her concession speech. "It was about giving people the choice."

Hanabusa, who gave up her seat in Congress to challenge Ige, thanked the people that worked on her campaign. "You've given me everything," she said.

"What we will start tomorrow as Democrats is hopefully the healing process," she said. "I will be there."

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Former Congressman Ed Case emerged from a crowded field to win the Democratic Party primary in the hopes of filling Hanabusa's spot in Congress.

The 65-year-old fiscal conservative defeated five other major candidates including Lt. Gov. Doug Chin, who is the architect of Hawaii's legal battle against President Donald Trump's travel ban.

"I think voters want Washington to work again, that's the number one issue," said Case. "I was clearly saying we need to fix Washington and we need to work together, and that message clearly resonated with many voters."

He'll face Cam Cavasso, a former state representative who previously ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Senate. Cavasso won the GOP primary. The winner of the Democratic primary is almost guaranteed to win in the general election in Hawaii.

Ige campaigned on his efforts on increasing affordable housing and addressing the state's homeless problem. Hawaii has had the highest rate of homeless per capita in the nation for many years and is one of the most expensive places to live in the country.

The next governor will also face the aftermath of Kilauea volcano's latest destructive eruption that began in May. Most of the residents displaced by the lava flows did not have insurance that would cover lava damage.

The volcano is also the most visited tourist site in the state, and the decline in visitors has caused a ripple effect throughout the local economy.

And despite better relations between the United States and North Korea, Hawaii is still a strategic military outpost in the Pacific that could be the target of foreign military threats.

Daryl Chang, a Republican who works in the medical field in Honolulu, voted for Ige, a Democrat, in Saturday's gubernatorial primary.

"I think he is thoughtful and he does what he thinks is right," Chang said.

Some in Hawaii have been critical of Ige's response to the false missile alert, but Chang, 64, said he doesn't see the governor as being ultimately responsible.

"There's deficiencies in all the departments," Chang said of the emergency department that sent the alert. "I didn't blame Ige for it."

Chang said he knows the Republican nominee doesn't have much of a chance in November, which is why he voted on the Democrat side. If he had voted within his party, he would have chosen state House Minority Leader state Rep. Andria Tupola

"I think Tupola is refreshing," Chang said. "If I were going to vote in the Republican primary I would have voted for her because she's a new voice and maybe she can bring about change."

Tupola won the GOP nomination, defeating former Pearl Harbor nonprofit CEO Ray L'Heureux and former state senator John Carroll.

Tupola said she's excited to move forward to the general election.

"Once you step into the general, then it's any man's game," Tupola said. "It's not a party thing, it's look at the best candidate and make your best vote."

Tupola said one of her primary focuses as governor would be to address affordable housing and to fight for Native Hawaiians to get the opportunity to use land set aside for them decades ago.

But Ige will likely get the job the general election. Hawaii has had only two Republican governors since it became a state and the vast majority of islands' residents consistently vote blue.

Jinjer Boots, 26, a Democrat, voted for Hanabusa. As she left her polling place Saturday with her daughter, Cataleia, 3, Boots said she liked that Hanabusa was fighting for women's rights and that was a major factor for her.

"I like that she fights for women's rights," she said. "I do think that she will speak up more for us, with Ige he was very quiet."

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Steve Bannon weighs in on UK burqa debate, Boris Johnson

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Republican strategist Steve Bannon weighed into British politics Sunday in a wide-ranging interview in which he defended former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson's comments about Muslim face veils and praised a controversial British far-right leader.

The former aide to President Donald Trump said Johnson had "nothing to apologize for" and should not "bow at the altar of political correctness" after he was criticized for saying women who wear burqas look like "letterboxes" and "bank robbers."

Johnson made the comments in a newspaper column that argued against banning full-face veils, as Denmark has done.

"Excuse me, didn't he actually support the wearing of the veil?" Bannon told the Sunday Times. "His entire argument revolves around not wanting to ban the burqa, but arguing that he agrees that it's an oppressive garment and that there is no scriptural basis for it in the Quran, which is true. I think the substance got lost because of his throwaway line."

Johnson has been criticized by Muslim groups and politicians, including Prime Minister Theresa May, who urged Johnson to apologize. Johnson's representatives have said he won't apologize.

"The hysterical mainstream media can never separate the 'signal from the noise'— fortunately, the populists can," Bannon said.

Bannon has said he wants to establish a Europe-wide movement uniting populist and nationalist voters in the European elections next year. He has said he plans to spend 70 percent of his time in Europe following the November midterm election in the United States.

Johnson, a former mayor of London, is one of Britain's best-known politicians and is often cited as a potential candidate for prime minister. He quit May's Conservative government last month in a dispute over the country's departure from the European Union, accusing the prime minister of killing "the Brexit dream" with plans to continue close economic ties with the EU after the U.K. leaves the bloc in March.

Bannon suggested that Johnson need not copy Trump to be successful.

"Boris just needs to be Boris — true to his nature and his calling — and I think he has potential to be a great prime minister, not a good one," he said.

Bannon also praised another controversial U.K. figure — Tommy Robinson, founder of the now-defunct English Defence League. He compared Robinson to rapper Kanye West, describing him as a rising star and a "force of nature."

Robinson, 35, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, is a self-styled commentator who has given Britain's far-right media the verve it has lacked. His YouTube channel has accumulated more than 6 million views, including videos purporting to show him fighting migrants in Italy and being attacked by masked men outside a McDonald's restaurant in London.

He was recently freed from prison after an appeals court threw out his conviction for contempt of court and ordered a retrial. The case stems from allegations that Robinson used social media to broadcast details of a trial that was subject to blanket reporting restrictions.

His supporters said he was jailed because of his far-right political beliefs.

"Tommy is not just a guy but a movement," Bannon said. "He represents the working class and channels a lot of the frustration of everyday, blue-collar Britons ... He is a force of nature — like Kanye (West) — not built to be managed."

Rain pouring, Trump rages on Twitter and hangs with bikers

By JILL COLVIN and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

BEDMINSTER, N.J. (AP) — As rain dumped on his golf club, President Donald Trump raged on Saturday, lashing out at his Justice Department on Twitter before welcoming members of a "Bikers for Trump" fan group to the manicured grounds.

Dozens and dozens of gleaming Harleys, Hondas and other motorcycles descended on the central New

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Jersey property for what had been billed as an outdoor photo-op with Trump. But pouring rain and flash-flood warnings scrambled the plan, sending soggy bikers inside a crystal-chandeliered clubhouse ballroom, where Trump signed autographs and posed for selfies and his guests booed reporters.

It was a classic, chaotic Trump scene reminiscent of his ramshackle early campaign. The president was continuing an extended working vacation away from Washington.

The day began on Twitter with a broadside against the FBI, which Trump accused of stonewalling a public records request for former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe's text messages.

"What are they hiding?" the president asked, threatening that he "may have to get involved" personally in internal FBI business and warning, "DO NOT DESTROY."

Trump appeared in a better mood when he greeted the bikers, who chanted "Four more years!" and "USA!" as he entered the ballroom. Rain streamed down the windows and pools formed on the empty golf greens outside.

He quickly pointed out the sopping-wet media, which sparked jeers and calls to "tell the truth." And he thanked the group, saying they'd been with him since the beginning and calling their motorcycles "the most beautiful bikes anyone's ever seen."

He later walked into the crowd of supporters, shaking hands, posing for selfies and signing autographs.

Trump returned to the podium to poll those in the crowd on their views of the press, prompting more jeers. One joked that the press pool should be thrown out in the rain.

The president largely ignored reporters' shouted questions, except for one about former White House adviser and reality star Omarosa Manigault Newman and her new book, which includes scandalous — and often unsupported — accusations against Trump.

The president leaned over and cupped his hand around his mouth as if to whisper.

"Lowlife. She's a lowlife," Trump said.

He ignored a question about ongoing trade negotiations with Mexico, which prompted some in the crowd to shout, "Build the wall!"

The White House had said about 180 bikers would be attending the event, including military veterans and members of law enforcement agencies, as well as members of the New Jersey chapter of Bikers for Trump, whose members frequently attended Trump's campaign rallies, sometimes facing off with anti-Trump protesters.

Later, when the rain had eased, Trump walked outside the residence, where the bikers had gathered with their motorcycles on the drive. He posed for more pictures, stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and urged the bikers to rev their engines.

"Let's hear those engines now," he called out, gesturing for them to go louder as the motors roared.

Earlier in the day, Trump's wrath poured down on Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the president's alleged enemies in the FBI, including ex-FBI Director James Comey, McCabe and Peter Strzok, an FBI agent who was removed from Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election after Mueller learned he'd expressed distaste for Trump in text messages.

Trump branded them all "clowns and losers" who had hurt "so many of the great men and women of the FBI."

Trump also revived his frequent attacks on Sessions, calling him "scared stiff and Missing in Action." He criticized senior Justice Department official Bruce Ohr, who was friends with Chris Steele, the former British intelligence officer commissioned by an American political research firm to explore Trump's alleged ties with the Russian government.

Trump marked the anniversary of deadly clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia, with a tweet saying he condemns "all types of racism and acts of violence."

Last year, Trump said there was "blame on both sides" for the violence that broke out when white nationalists descended on Charlottesville to protest the removal of Confederate statutes and marched through town shouting racist slurs. Trump said then that the group included "very fine people."

In Saturday's tweet, Trump said the "riots in Charlottesville a year ago resulted in senseless death and

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division.”

“We must come together as a nation. I condemn all types of racism and acts of violence. Peace to ALL Americans!” he wrote.

Horwitz reported from Washington.

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

This story has been corrected to show that McCabe was a former FBI deputy director, not a former deputy attorney general.

NASA spacecraft rockets toward sun for closest look yet

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A NASA spacecraft zoomed toward the sun Sunday on an unprecedented quest to get closer to our star than anything ever sent before.

As soon as this fall, the Parker Solar Probe will fly straight through the wispy edges of the sun’s corona, or outer atmosphere, that was visible during last August’s total solar eclipse. It eventually will get within 3.8 million (6 million kilometers) of the surface in the years ahead, staying comfortably cool despite the extreme heat and radiation, and allowing scientists to vicariously explore the sun in a way never before possible.

No wonder scientists consider it the coolest, hottest mission under the sun, and what better day to launch to the sun than Sunday as NASA noted.

“All I can say is, ‘Wow, here we go.’ We’re in for some learning over the next several years,” said Eugene Parker, the 91-year-old astrophysicist for whom the spacecraft is named.

Protected by a revolutionary new carbon heat shield and other high-tech wonders, the spacecraft will zip past Venus in October. That will set up the first solar encounter in November.

Altogether, the Parker probe will make 24 close approaches to the sun on the seven-year, \$1.5 billion undertaking.

For the second straight day, thousands of spectators jammed the launch site in the middle of the night as well as surrounding towns, including Parker and his family. He proposed the existence of solar wind — a steady, supersonic stream of particles blasting off the sun — 60 years ago.

It was the first time NASA named a spacecraft after someone still alive, and Parker wasn’t about to let it take off without him. Saturday morning’s launch attempt was foiled by last-minute technical trouble. But Sunday gave way to complete success.

The Delta IV Heavy rocket thundered into the pre-dawn darkness, thrilling onlookers for miles around as it climbed through a clear, star-studded sky. NASA needed the mighty 23-story rocket, plus a third stage, to get the diminutive Parker probe — the size of a small car and well under a ton — racing toward the sun.

From Earth, it is 93 million miles (150 million kilometers) to the sun, and the Parker probe will be within 4 percent of that distance at its closest. That will be seven times closer than previous spacecraft.

“Go, baby, go!” project scientist Nicola Fox of Johns Hopkins University shouted at liftoff.

It was the first rocket launch ever witnessed by Parker, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago. He came away impressed, saying it was like looking at the Taj Mahal for years in photos and then beholding “the real thing” in India.

“I really have to turn from biting my nails in getting it launched, to thinking about all the interesting things which I don’t know yet and which will be made clear, I assume, over the next five or six or seven years,” Parker said on NASA TV.

NASA’s science mission chief, Thomas Zurbuchen, was thrilled not only with the launch, but Parker’s presence.

“I’m in awe,” Zurbuchen said. “What a milestone. Also what’s so cool is hanging out with Parker during

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all this and seeing his emotion, too.”

Parker, the probe, will start shattering records this fall. On its very first brush with the sun, it will come within 15.5 million miles (25 million kilometers), easily beating the current record of 27 million miles (43 million kilometers) set by NASA’s Helios 2 spacecraft in 1976. Zurbuchen expects the data from even this early stage to yield top science papers.

By the time Parker gets to its 22nd, 23rd and 24th orbits of the sun in 2024 and 2025, it will be even deeper into the corona and traveling at a record-breaking 430,000 mph (690,000 kilometers per hour).

Nothing from Planet Earth has ever hit that kind of speed.

Even Fox has difficulty comprehending the mission’s derring-do.

“To me, it’s still mind-blowing,” she said. “Even I still go, really? We’re doing that?”

Zurbuchen considers the sun the most important star in our universe — it’s ours, after all — and so this is one of NASA’s big-time strategic missions. By better understanding the sun’s life-giving and sometimes violent nature, Earthlings can better protect satellites and astronauts in orbit, and power grids on the ground, he noted. In today’s tech-dependent society, everyone stands to benefit.

With this first-of-its-kind stellar mission, scientists hope to unlock the many mysteries of the sun, a commonplace yellow dwarf star around 4.5 billion years old. Among the puzzlers: Why is the corona hundreds of times hotter than the surface of the sun and why is the sun’s atmosphere continually expanding and accelerating, as Parker accurately predicted in 1958?

“The only way we can do that is to finally go up and touch the sun,” Fox said. “We’ve looked at it. We’ve studied it from missions that are close in, even as close as the planet Mercury. But we have to go there.”

The spacecraft’s heat shield will serve as an umbrella, shading the science instruments during the close, critical solar junctures. Sensors on the spacecraft will make certain the heat shield faces the sun at the right times. If there’s any tilting, the spacecraft will correct itself so nothing gets fried. With a communication lag time of 16 minutes, the spacecraft must fend for itself at the sun. The Johns Hopkins flight controllers in Laurel, Maryland, will be too far away to help.

A mission to get close up and personal with our star has been on NASA’s books since 1958. The trick was making the spacecraft small, compact and light enough to travel at incredible speeds, while surviving the sun’s punishing environment and the extreme change in temperature when the spacecraft is out near Venus.

“We’ve had to wait so long for our technology to catch up with our dreams,” Fox said. “It’s incredible to be standing here today.”

More than 1 million names are aboard the spacecraft, submitted last spring by space enthusiasts, as well as photos of Parker, the man, and a copy of his 1958 landmark paper on solar wind.

“I’ll bet you 10 bucks it works,” Parker said.

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

V.S. Naipaul, Nobel Prize-winning author, dies at 85

By SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — V.S. Naipaul, the Trinidad-born Nobel laureate whose precise and lyrical writing in such novels as “A Bend in the River” and “A House for Mr. Biswas” and brittle, misanthropic personality made him one of the world’s most admired and contentious writers, died at his London home, his family said. He was 85.

His wife, Nadira Naipaul, said he was “a giant in all that he achieved and he died surrounded by those he loved having lived a life which was full of wonderful creativity and endeavor.”

His friend and fellow author Paul Theroux said that Naipaul had been in poor health prior to his death on Saturday, but had taken pride in having his work recognized.

“He will go down as one of the greatest writers of our time,” Theroux told The Associated Press during

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a telephone interview, citing his mastery of writing about families and colonialism. "He also never wrote falsely. He was a scourge of anyone who used a cliché or an un-thought out sentence. He was very scrupulous about his writing, very severe, too."

Naipaul's fiction and nonfiction reflected his personal journey from Trinidad to London and various stops in developing countries. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001 "for having united perceptive narrative and incorruptible scrutiny in works that compel us to see the presence of suppressed histories."

In an extraordinary career spanning half a century, Naipaul traveled as a self-described "barefoot colonial" from his rural childhood to upper class England, and was hailed as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. From "A Bend in the River" to "The Enigma of Arrival" to "Finding the Centre," Naipaul's books explored colonialism and decolonization, exile and the struggles of the everyman in the developing world.

He was critical of colonialism, but set himself apart from any social movements. He saw himself as a realist, cured of illusions, his outlook defined by the famous opening words of "A Bend in the River" that became the title of a biography by Patrick French: "The world is what it is."

He was equally skeptical of religion and politics, of idealism of any kind, whether revolutionary uprisings or of quests for paradise such as Sir Walter Raleigh's search for the non-existent El Dorado.

"If you come from the New World, as I in large measure do, you see all the absurd fantasies people have taken there and the troubles they have wrought as a result," Naipaul told The Associated Press in 2000. "We were not given a proper history of the New World itself. This was not out of wickedness. It was out of ignorance, out of indifference, out of the feelings that the history of this very small island was not important. These aspects one had to learn and writing took me there. One didn't begin with knowledge. One wrote oneself into knowledge."

Naipaul prided himself on his candor, but he had a long history of offensive remarks. Among his widely quoted comments: He called India a "slave society," quipped that Africa has no future, and explained that Indian women wear a colored dot on their foreheads to say "my head is empty." He laughed off the 1989 fatwa by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini against Salman Rushdie as "an extreme form of literary criticism."

The critic Terry Eagleton once said of Naipaul: "Great art, dreadful politics." Caribbean Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott complained that the author's prose was tainted by his "repulsion towards Negroes." C. L. R. James, a fellow Trinidadian writer, put it differently: Naipaul's views, he wrote, simply reflected "what the whites want to say but dare not."

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul — Vidia to those who knew him — was born on Aug. 17, 1932 in Trinidad, a descendant of impoverished Indians shipped to the West Indies as bonded laborers.

His father was an aspiring, self-taught novelist whose ambitions were killed by lack of opportunity; the son was determined to leave his homeland as soon as he could. In later years, he would repeatedly reject his birthplace as little more than a plantation.

"I was born there, yes," he said of Trinidad to an interviewer in 1983. "I thought it was a great mistake."

In 1950, Naipaul was awarded one of a few available government scholarships to study in England, and he left his family to begin his studies in English literature at University College, Oxford.

There he met his first wife, Patricia Hale, whom he married in 1955 without telling his family.

After graduation, Naipaul suffered a period of poverty and unemployment: he was asthmatic, starving and depending on his wife for income. Despite his Oxford education, he found himself surrounded by a hostile, xenophobic London.

"These people want to break my spirit ... They want me to know my place," he wrote bitterly to his wife.

Naipaul eventually landed a radio job working for BBC World Service, where he discussed West Indian literature and found his footing as a writer. His breakthrough came in 1957 with his first published novel "The Mystic Masseur," a humorous book about the lives of powerless people in a Trinidad ghetto.

Naipaul caught the eye of book reviewers, and in 1959 he won the Somerset Maugham Award with the story collection "Miguel Street." In 1961, Naipaul published the celebrated "A House for Mr. Biswas." That novel, about how one man's life was restricted by the limits of colonial society, was a tribute to Naipaul's father.

"If he had been born in another culture, not a colonial agricultural society, his talent would have given

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him a reasonable chance somewhere and he would have flourished," Naipaul told the AP in 2000. "Part of his pathos was that he was born in the wrong place."

In the years that followed, Naipaul was to travel for extensive periods to pen journalistic essays and travel books. He flew three times to India, his ancestral home, to write about its culture and politics. He spent time in Buenos Aires, Argentina to write about its former First Lady Eva Peron, and went to Iran, Pakistan and Indonesia for books about Islam.

Years before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Naipaul devoted attention to Islamic radicalism in books including "Among the Believers" and "Beyond Belief."

In its Nobel citation, the Swedish Academy called him "a literary circumnavigator, only ever really at home in himself."

Naipaul's nonfiction often provoked much anger, and many were offended by his views about Islam and India — Rushdie, for example, thought Naipaul was promoting Hindu nationalism.

Rushdie tweeted late Saturday night: "We disagreed all our lives, about politics, about literature, and I feel as sad as if I just lost a beloved older brother. RIP Vidia."

Naipaul also continued to publish award-winning novels. "The Mimic Men" won the W.H. Smith Award in 1967, and in 1971 "In a Free State," a meditation on colonialism in Africa, was awarded the Booker Prize.

Africa also provided the setting for his 1979 novel "A Bend in the River." His life of travel and transitions was reflected in the 1987 novel "The Enigma of Arrival," which some considered his masterpiece.

Naipaul received a knighthood in 1990, and in 2001 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

As his literary stature grew, so did his reputation as a difficult, irascible personality. Naipaul was a private man and did not have many friends, but his personal life entered the public domain when Theroux, whose relationship with Naipaul had soured, published a stinging memoir about Naipaul in 1998.

"Sir Vidia's Shadow" described Naipaul as a racist, sexist miser who threw terrifying tantrums and beat up women.

Naipaul ignored Theroux's book, but he did authorize a candid biography that confirmed some of Theroux's claims. The biography, published in 2008, devoted chapters to how Naipaul met and callously treated his mistress, an Anglo-Argentine woman who was married and about a decade younger than he was. It recalled Naipaul's confession to The New Yorker that he bought sex and was a "great prostitute man," and recorded Naipaul's frank and disturbing comments on how that destroyed his wife, Hale, who died of breast cancer in 1996.

"It could be said that I had killed her," he told biographer Patrick French. "I feel a little bit that way."

Two months after Hale died, Naipaul married his second wife, Pakistani newspaper columnist Nadira Khannum Alvi. He spent much of his time living quietly in an isolated cottage in Wiltshire, in the English countryside.

Theroux, who later reconciled with Naipaul, had visited with him recently.

"We had some very ups and downs over the years, but there was great satisfaction in reconnecting," he said. "It took him a long time to make his mark, but when he did, it happened in a big way."

Jill Lawless in London contributed to this story.

Counterprotesters expected to dwarf white supremacists in DC

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — A day after tensions between police and community activists nearly boiled over on the University of Virginia's campus, the city of Charlottesville plans to mark Sunday's anniversary of a deadly gathering of white supremacists with a rally against racial hatred. But some 115 miles (185 kilometers) away in Washington, the principal organizer of last year's "Unite the Right" event will hold a "white civil rights rally," and police are preparing for crowds of counterprotesters.

Jason Kessler, who abandoned his bid to stage a similar anniversary event in Charlottesville, said in

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his permit application that he expects 100 to 400 people to participate in his event Sunday afternoon in Lafayette Park, in front of the White House.

But that could be lower and likely will be dwarfed by counterprotests. Some leading figures in the U.S. white nationalist movement have said they won't attend or have encouraged supporters to stay away.

The National Park Service also issued permits for events organized by DC United Against Hate, New York Black Lives Matter, and other groups. Government and police officials in Washington have expressed confidence the city can manage the events without violence; the mayor and police chief have promised a massive security mobilization to keep protesters and counter-protesters apart.

On Saturday evening on UVA's campus, police had a brief, tense confrontation with students and other activists angry over a heavy security presence. They unfurled a banner reading "Last year they came w/ torches. This year they come w/ badge" and chanted "Why are you in riot gear? We don't see no riot here." More than 200 marched to another part of campus, where many shouted at a line of officers.

Last year, 22-year-old Clara Carlson faced down the group of white supremacists who marched through campus, surrounding her and a group of friends. On Saturday night, she was angry at the police response to the student rally.

"The university administration just let white supremacists roll through grounds with their torches, and for us, they're afraid of us. They are afraid of us because we are demanding change from the university," Carlson said.

The rest of the day had been much quieter, with some residents and businesses expressing that they felt calmer with the police presence in town.

Last year, on Aug. 12, hundreds of white nationalists — including neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members — descended on Charlottesville in part to protest the city's decision to remove a monument to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a park.

Violent fighting broke out between attendees and counterprotesters that day. Authorities eventually forced the crowd to disperse, but a car later barreled into a crowd of peaceful counterprotesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer. A state police helicopter later crashed, killing two troopers.

Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, told The Associated Press that she has been dreading the anniversary of her daughter's death for months. On Sunday morning, she plans to bring flowers to the spot where her daughter was killed.

Bro likened losing a child to standing in shallow water as waves roll continually in: "You let the wave wash over, and you don't chase it. You let it go and you're OK until the next one comes. But today, I feel like high tide is in."

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

Associated Press writer Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia, contributed to this report.

Airplane theft shows potential dangers from airline workers

By RACHEL LA CORTE and KEITH RIDLER, Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — The theft of an empty plane by an airline worker who performed dangerous loops before crashing into a remote island in Puget Sound illustrated what aviation experts have long known: One of the biggest potential perils for commercial air travel is airline or airport employees causing mayhem.

"The greatest threat we have to aviation is the insider threat," said Erroll Southers, a former FBI agent and transportation security expert. "Here we have an employee who was vetted to the level to have access to the aircraft and had a skill set proficient enough to take off with that plane."

Video showed the Horizon Air Q400, a turboprop plane that seats 76 people, doing large loops and other dangerous maneuvers as the sun set on Puget Sound. The flight lasted about 75 minutes, and ended when he crashed into the small island after being chased by military jets. The two F-15C aircraft scrambled from

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Portland didn't fire the plane, authorities said.

Southers said the man could have caused mass destruction.

"If he had the skill set to do loops with a plane like this, he certainly had the capacity to fly it into a building and kill people on the ground," he said.

A U.S. official briefed on the matter told The Associated Press the man was Richard Russell. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on the condition of anonymity. He is presumed to have died in the crash.

Officials said he was a 3.5-year Horizon employee and had clearance to be among aircraft, but that to their knowledge, he wasn't a licensed pilot. He took the empty plane from a maintenance area.

It's unclear how Russell attained the skills to do loops in the aircraft, authorities said. Ground service agents direct aircraft for takeoff and gate approach and de-ice planes, as well as handle baggage.

Gary Beck, CEO of Horizon Air, said it wasn't clear how the man knew to start the engine, which requires a series of switches and levers.

At a news conference, officials from Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air said that they are working with authorities.

"Last night's event is going to push us to learn what we can from this tragedy so that we can ensure this does not happen again at Alaska Air Group or at any other airline," said Brad Tilden, CEO of Alaska Airlines.

Investigators expect they will be able to recover both the cockpit voice recorder and the event data recorder from the plane.

Russell could be heard on audio recordings talking to air traffic controllers, who tried to convince him 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 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

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

Later Russell 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."

Russell's family said in a statement that they are stunned and heartbroken. They referenced the recordings and said that it's clear Russell, who went by the nickname "Beebo," didn't intend to harm anyone and "he was right in saying that there are so many people who loved him."

Ridler reported from, Idaho. AP reporter Mike Balsamo in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Crews make progress battling Southern California wildfire

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

LAKE ELSINORE, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters made significant progress trying to tamp down a wildfire that threatened homes and has been raging for days south of Los Angeles, officials said Saturday.

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 33 square miles (85 square kilometers) by Saturday morning. But firefighters also made progress, with containment rising from 10 to 29 percent.

High temperatures and dry grass and brush have made it difficult for firefighters to get a handle on the blaze. 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.

On Saturday, officials allowed some residents to return to their homes in Lake Elsinore, but others still

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remained under evacuation orders.

The man accused of deliberately starting the fire appeared in court on Friday, but his arraignment was postponed.

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

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.

A fire that broke out near the communities of Fairfield and Vacaville had destroyed a home and two other structures, according to the Vacaville Fire Department. A firefighter suffered a minor injury battling the blaze, which grew to about 2.6 square miles (6.9 sq. kilometers) and was 70 percent contained by Saturday afternoon, officials said.

The largest fire ever recorded in California — the Mendocino Complex — is burning north of Sacramento and has destroyed 119 homes but none in recent days. The fire had reached 508 square miles (1,315 sq. kilometers) and was 67 percent contained by Saturday.

The two-week-old Carr Fire that killed eight people and burned more than 1,000 homes was 55 percent contained.

Elsewhere in the West, a firefighter was injured Saturday and residents in parts of two Washington state cities were told to evacuate due to a growing wildfire.

Authorities say the Grass Valley fire started Saturday morning and windy conditions helped it grow to 1.5 square miles (3.8 sq. kilometers). The fire is burning in grass and timber.

Grant County Sheriff's Office spokesman Kyle Foreman tells the Spokesman -Review that the injured firefighter was flown to Seattle's Harborview Medical Center.

This story has been corrected to say that eight people, not six, died in the Carr Fire.

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.

Tense confrontation amid peaceful vigils in Charlottesville

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — The city of Charlottesville marked the anniversary of last summer's white supremacist violence that sent ripples through the country with largely peaceful vigils and other events, but police had a brief, tense confrontation with demonstrators angry over the heavy security presence there this weekend.

"Why are you in riot gear? We don't see no riot here," activists chanted Saturday evening.

Shortly before a planned evening rally to mark the anniversary of a campus confrontation between torch-carrying white nationalists and counterprotesters, activists unfurled a banner that said, "Last year they came w/ torches. This year they come w/ badges."

A group of more than 200 protesters — students, residents and others — then marched to another part of the University of Virginia's campus, where many in the crowd shouted at officers in riot gear forming a line.

Kibiriti Majuto, a coordinator for UVA Students United, said the students moved to another part of campus because they didn't want to be "caged" in the area where the planned rally area. Majuto said police "were not on our side" last year when white supremacists surrounded counterprotesters on the rotunda.

"Cops and Klan go hand in hand," he said.

Charlottesville city councilman Wes Bellamy said he tried to diffuse the situation and told the police commander that students were upset by the officers' tactics, with "over-the-top" riot gear

After a few minutes, most demonstrators began walking away. There were no immediate reports of

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arrests on campus.

At some point after the UVA rally, dozens of demonstrators marched off campus through other parts of the city, chanting "Whose streets? Our streets" and "Who do you protect? Who do you serve?"

The group made its way to downtown before dispersing.

The rest of the day had been much quieter.

In the downtown shopping district Saturday morning, officers outnumbered visitors. Concrete barriers and metal fences had been erected, and police searched bags at two checkpoints.

"It's nice that they're here to protect us," said Lara Mitchell, 66, who works at a shop selling artwork, jewelry, and other items. "It feels good that they're here in front of our store. Last year was a whole different story. It looked like a war zone last year."

On Aug. 12, hundreds of white nationalists — including neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members — descended on Charlottesville in part to protest the city's decision to remove a monument to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a park.

Fighting broke out between attendees and counterprotesters that day. Authorities eventually forced the crowd to disperse, but a car later barreled into a crowd of peaceful counterprotesters, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer.

The death toll rose to three when a state police helicopter that had been monitoring the event and assisting with the governor's motorcade crashed, killing two troopers.

On Saturday, remembrance events included a "morning of reflection and renewal" at UVA with music, poetry and an address from University President James Ryan.

Ryan recalled how a group of students and community members faced off against the white supremacist marchers near a statue of Thomas Jefferson on campus, calling it a "remarkable moment of courage and bravery."

Clara Carlson was one of those counterprotesters. Carlson, 22, said she feared for her life when she and a group of her friends were surrounded by the phalanx of young white men at the statue, and she added that police didn't intervene to help her or her friends. This year, she said the university is afraid of students demanding change, and she blasted the police presence as heavy-handed.

"They sent police in riot gear," she said, standing on campus. "These state troopers are staying in these very student dorms right here."

Lisa Woolfork, a University of Virginia professor and Black Lives Matter Charlottesville organizer, said police mounted 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

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

But Saturday's security measures comforted some, such as Kyle Rodland, who took his young sons to get ice cream downtown. He said he felt much safer than last year, when he left town with his family and stayed with his parents after seeing people armed with long rifles walking around.

Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, told The Associated Press on Saturday that she has been dreading the anniversary of her daughter's death for months.

Bro likened losing a child to standing in shallow water as waves roll continually in.

"You let the wave wash over, and you don't chase it. You let it go and you're OK until the next one comes," she said. "But today, I feel like high tide is in."

On Sunday, further events marking the anniversary were expected in Charlottesville and Washington, where Jason Kessler, the primary organizer of last summer's rally, has obtained a permit for a "white civil rights" rally.

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

Associated Press writer Sarah Rankin in Richmond, Virginia, contributed to this report.

GOP uncertain as Rep. Chris Collins ends re-election bid

By KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Rep. Chris Collins ended his re-election bid Saturday, days after his indictment on insider trading charges, a move that raised questions about how the Republican Party might replace him with another nominee in one of New York's most conservative districts.

The move came after Collins had defiantly said he would forge ahead with his campaign, even after he was indicted on charges he had passed inside information about a biotechnology company to family members so they could profit from illicit trades.

But Collins reversed himself Saturday. "I have decided that it is in the best interests of the constituents of NY-27, the Republican Party and President Donald Trump's agenda for me to suspend my campaign for re-election to Congress," his statement said.

He went on to say he will fill out his term and "continue to fight the meritless charges brought against me." He has denied any wrongdoing.

Collins' decision to end his re-election bid appeared to boost Democrats' chances of taking in a solidly Republican district, but the announcement left unanswered questions including how Collins' name could be removed from the ballot. Attempts for answers from Republican Party officials went unanswered even as the Democratic nominee, Nate McMurray, called for his opponent's resignation.

"I don't know what they're going to do," McMurray told The Associated Press when asked about the fallout on Saturday. "The whole situation is bizarre, but I welcome it."

McMurray, a supervisor for the town of Grand Island in western New York, said he was "ecstatic" over a sudden interest in his campaign from a Democratic establishment looking to regain a majority in Congress that he felt he "should have been there all along."

In an earlier statement, McMurray had said it is "a continuing disgrace that both parties have not said, with one clear voice, 'Resign, Mr. Collins, and do it today.'"

Wednesday's indictment charges Collins and two others, including his son, with conspiracy, wire fraud and other counts.

Prosecutors say the charges relate to a scheme to gain insider information about a biotechnology company headquartered in Sydney, Australia, with offices in Auckland, New Zealand.

It is unclear whether Collins' name can be removed from the November ballot at this point and whether Republican Party officials will be able to nominate another candidate for the seat.

Under New York state election law, Collins' name could be taken off the ballot under certain narrowly defined circumstances that include death, disqualification or being nominated for a different office such as a county clerkship.

Jessica Proud, a spokeswoman for the New York state Republican Party, said party officials are weighing their options. She said no decision has been made about a possible replacement for Collins on the ballot — if they are able to replace him.

Stefan Mychajliw, the Erie County comptroller, released a statement putting his name forward for the ballot spot and said he hoped to earn the support of county Republican officials in the district.

The district spans an area between the Rochester and Buffalo suburbs and is considering the most Republican-leaning district in New York. The race had not been considered competitive by many observers, including those predicting a "blue wave" that gives Democrats control of the House.

The area backed Trump over Hillary Clinton by nearly 25 percentage points in 2016, when Collins beat his Democratic challenger by more than 2-1.

Collins was an early supporter of Trump's presidential campaign and has been one of Trump's most ardent defenders. In his statement Saturday, Collins warned of Democrats winning the House in the midterm elections "and then launching impeachment proceedings against President Trump."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said Saturday that Collins should resign immediately. "No person is above the law, not the president or his first supporter in Congress," Pelosi said. "This insufficient and overdue announcement does little to drain the toxic cesspool of self-enrichment, special interest deals and corruption that has proliferated in Washington under GOP control."

Associated Press writer Tom Hays contributed to this report.

Maryland puts Durkin on leave amid football investigation

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

Maryland placed head coach DJ Durkin on administrative leave Saturday while the school scrutinizes allegations of poor behavior by the football staff, apparent misdeeds that came to light following the death of a player.

In an open letter, athletic director Damon Evans wrote: "At this time, the best decision for our football program is to place Maryland head football coach DJ Durkin on leave so we can properly review the culture of the program."

Offensive coordinator Matt Canada will serve as interim coach.

Earlier Saturday, the head of the football team's strength and conditioning staff was placed on paid leave while the school investigates claims he verbally abused and humiliated players, according to a person briefed on the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Maryland had not announced the decision regarding Rick Court.

Maryland has also placed two athletic training staffers it did not identify on leave as it investigates the death of Jordan McNair. The 19-year-old offensive lineman was hospitalized May 29 after a team workout and died June 13. Dr. Rod Walters, a former college athletic trainer, has been hired by Maryland to investigate the circumstances of the death. A report is expected by Sept. 15. McNair's parents are being represented by Baltimore attorney Bill Murphy, whose firm is also investigating.

In his open letter, Evans wrote: "The external review into the tragic death of Jordan McNair continues, and we have committed to releasing publicly the report being prepared by an independent and national expert."

ESPN reported that head football athletic trainer Wes Robinson and director of athletic training Steve Nordwall were placed on leave by Maryland.

An ESPN story on Friday quoted unidentified players, former players and former members of Durkin's staff, who contended Court and Durkin created a toxic culture within the program.

"The safety and well-being of our student-athletes is our highest priority," Evans wrote. "These alleged behaviors are not consistent with the values I expect all of our staff to adhere to and we must do better."

Durkin is starting his third season at Maryland. The 40-year-old former Michigan defensive coordinator is 11-15 in two seasons after receiving a five-year, contract worth \$12.5 million in December 2015.

Keisha Staples, the mother of junior defensive back Antoine Brooks Jr., told the AP she is close with a group of about eight players' parents who would like to meet with Evans and school officials to voice their "full support" for Durkin.

Brooks was part of Durkin's first recruiting class in 2016.

Staples said her son has never told her of inappropriate behavior by Durkin or Court, and that Durkin has been open and accessible when any issues have come up with Brooks.

"I'm sure not everybody has had the same experience we've had, but we have had a good experience," Staples said.

Staples said she has never had any interactions with Court.

"I don't want the stigma to be at Maryland this is a toxic culture," Staples said. "This is a football culture."

She added: "They're already dealing with the death of their teammate. Now they have to deal with the loss of their coach."

Durkin brought Court to Maryland to lead the strength and conditioning staff in 2016. Court had been

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the head strength coach at Mississippi State since 2014 under coach Dan Mullen. Court also worked with Durkin at Bowling Green in 2005 and '06, when Durkin was an assistant.

Mississippi State quarterback Nick Fitzgerald expressed support for Court on Saturday. Fitzgerald's first two seasons with the Bulldogs coincided with Court's time leading the strength program at the school.

"He worked us hard," Fitzgerald told the AP. "They were definitely tough workouts, but ultimately he wasn't out to get anybody. He wasn't out to hurt anyone. His job is to make us physically fit and ready for the season and that's exactly what he did. From what I remember, he never really went over the line or did anything crazy like that."

AP Sports Writer Dave Ginsburg in Baltimore contributed to this report.

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In wake of critical book, Trump calls Omarosa 'a lowlife'

By JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump has one word to describe former White House staffer and fellow reality-TV star Omarosa Manigault Newman: "Lowlife."

Manigault Newman claims in an upcoming book, "Unhinged," that Trump used racial slurs on the set of his reality show "The Apprentice." She also says she later concluded that he is a racist and a bigot.

On Saturday, reporters asked Trump during an event at his golf club in New Jersey if he felt betrayed by Manigault Newman. He responded: "Lowlife. She's a lowlife."

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

The book is set for release Tuesday. The White House has already slammed it as "riddled with lies and false accusations."

The Associated Press purchased a copy of the book ahead of its release. In the book, Manigault Newman claims without evidence that tapes exist of Trump 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.

She 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. She also described him as a man who "loved conflict, chaos and confusion; he loved seeing people argue or fight."

Manigault Newman also alleges that Trump allies tried to buy her silence after she left the White House, offering her \$15,000 a month to serve in a "senior position" on his 2020 re-election campaign along with a stringent nondisclosure agreement. She says when she turned down the offer, she received letters from Trump's lawyers telling her to stay quiet.

Wildfire victims among those stung by Trump's trade war

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — Add this to the challenges facing California wildfire victims: Tariffs.

The import tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump are adding thousands of dollars to the cost of building homes. That especially squeezes homeowners who seek to rebuild quickly after losing their houses to natural disasters, such as the wildfires scorching parts of California.

The Trump administration's tariffs have raised the cost of imported lumber, drywall, nails and other key

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construction materials. One building association official said the tariffs could raise the price of a typical new home in California by up to \$20,000, and it could be more for individual homes being custom-built on short order.

That could be enough to keep some people with inadequate homeowners insurance from rebuilding or force them to consider a smaller house.

Other factors also are making home construction more expensive, including a shortage of workers and increased demand that has pushed up the price of materials produced in the U.S. The difference with the tariff-related cost increase: It's a direct result of a governmental policy change.

"This comes at a bad time if you've just had your neighborhood swept up in a firestorm," said Jock O'Connell, an international trade adviser at Beacon Economics in California.

Wildfires have destroyed thousands of homes in California over the past two years, including 1,200 so far this year.

It's not just wildfire victims in the West who have to deal with higher construction costs. Last year, Hurricane Harvey flooded 300,000 structures in Texas.

Trump has imposed the import tariffs on a range of goods as a way to strike back at trading partners he says have not treated the U.S. fairly. His move has set off a trade war, with other nations raising tariffs on U.S. goods in retaliation.

Tariffs now are just over 20 percent on imported Canadian lumber and 25 percent on steel imported from certain nations as well as on a long list of goods from China.

Rob Dietz, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, said typically the price of labor, interest rates and the availability of land are the main variables determining the cost of new home construction, with the price of materials and local fees also having an effect.

"Now, lumber and labor are the top two," he said.

The U.S. imports about one-third of its softwood lumber, mostly from Canada. Among other things, it's used to build the wood framing for new houses.

California Building Industry Association President Dan Dunmoyer said contractors tell him that the tariffs alone could add \$8,000 to \$10,000 to the lumber costs for a typical single-family home and about the same amount for steel products such as nails, other fasteners and wire mesh.

Tariffs also are boosting the cost of appliances, drywall and solar panels, which will be required on all new homes in California starting in two years.

Asked for comment about the impacts of the tariffs on building materials, White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters did not respond directly. In an email, she said, "Instead of retaliating, China should address the longstanding concerns about its unfair trading practices."

APM Homes is rebuilding 50 houses destroyed by fire last October in the Coffey Park neighborhood of Santa Rosa, north of San Francisco. Project manager John Allen said rebuilding costs have not risen as much as the building association predicts, but said they could in time.

Even relatively small price increases can hit homeowners hard, Allen said. "They're already maxing out their insurance," he said.

Insurance policies are another potential obstacle for homeowners wanting to rebuild and faced with rising construction costs.

Many homeowners have policies that do not guarantee rebuilding a home at today's replacement cost but rather an amount tied to an outdated estimate or the value of the mortgage.

In a survey of a group of Californians who lost homes in fires last year, Roadmap to Recovery, a project of insurance customer advocacy group United Policyholders, found that two-thirds of the respondents did not have enough insurance to cover the full cost of rebuilding. The majority of that group was short by at least \$100,000.

Those are the homeowners most affected by the tariffs on construction material and the other factors boosting the cost of rebuilding.

California lawmakers, reacting to reports of wildfire victims with insurance coverage inadequate to rebuild, gave final approval this week to a consumer protection bill. It would require insurers to tell homeown-

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ers every two years how much it will cost to replace their home at current prices, giving homeowners a chance to boost their coverage.

Rising construction costs already are affecting some of Debbie and Rick Serdin's neighbors in Santa Rosa's Coffey Park neighborhood.

They said one neighbor is replacing a two-story house with a single-story model because their insurance coverage wasn't enough to rebuild the home they had. Others are selling their lots, taking their insurance checks and looking to start over somewhere else.

The couple had to tap their insurance policy's coverage on their home's contents and are using a large home construction company instead of an independent contractor to make their rebuild affordable for them. Their two-story home was first bought by Rick's mother more than 30 years ago.

Debbie Serdin, a veterinary technician whose husband works at The Home Depot, said she has been watching construction prices rise for neighbors who have waited to start the rebuilding process.

"Don't put it off," she said. "The longer you wait, the more it's going to cost."

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Follow Cooper at <http://twitter.com/jjcooper> and Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

Turkey's president: US waging "economic war" against Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey's president on Saturday blamed the country's economic downturn on the United States and other nations that he claims are waging "war" against his country.

Speaking in the northeastern province of Rize, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that dollars, euros and gold were now "the bullets, cannonballs and missiles of the economic war being waged against our country."

Erdogan promised supporters that Turkey was taking the necessary precautions to protect its economy but added "the most important thing is breaking the hands firing these weapons."

Turkey was hit by a financial shockwave this week as its currency nosedived over concerns about the government's economic policies and a trade dispute with the United States.

The lira tumbled 14 percent Friday, to 6.51 per dollar, a massive move for a currency that will make Turkish residents poorer and further erode international investors' confidence in the country. The currency drop is particularly painful for Turkey because it finances a lot of its economic growth with foreign money.

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 Erdogan's push to amass power, and a souring in relations with allies like the U.S.

In an opinion piece published in The New York Times on Friday, Erdogan criticized the tensions with the U.S., saying a "failure to reverse this trend of unilateralism and disrespect will require us to start looking for new friends and allies."

Among the issues, 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 pastor has proclaimed his innocence.

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.

President Donald Trump on Friday tweeted that he had authorized the doubling of steel and aluminum tariffs on Turkey. He 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.

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.

Turkey later said Erdogan had held a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss economic

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ties. It did not disclose details, but the move suggests Turkey might gravitate further from its NATO allies toward cooperation with Russia, whose relations with the West are at their lowest point since the Cold War.

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 Turkey's 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.

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2018. There are 141 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 12, 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York.

On this date:

In 1859, poet and English professor Katharine Lee Bates, who wrote the words to "America the Beautiful," was born in Falmouth (FAHL'-muhth), Mass.

In 1898, fighting in the Spanish-American War came to an end.

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated Hugo Black to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1944, during World War II, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., eldest son of Joseph and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was killed with his co-pilot when their explosives-laden Navy plane blew up over England.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1962, one day after launching Andrian Nikolayev into orbit, the Soviet Union also sent up cosmonaut Pavel Popovich; both men landed safely Aug. 15.

In 1977, the space shuttle Enterprise passed its first solo flight test by taking off atop a Boeing 747, separating, then touching down in California's Mojave (moh-HAH'-vee) Desert.

In 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

In 1992, after 14 months of negotiations, the United States, Mexico and Canada announced in Washington that they had concluded the North American Free Trade Agreement. Avant-garde composer John Cage died in New York at age 79.

In 2000, the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and its 118-man crew were lost during naval exercises in the Barents Sea.

In 2004, New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey announced his resignation and acknowledged that he'd had an extramarital affair with another man.

Ten years ago: Declaring "the aggressor has been punished," the Kremlin ordered a halt to Russia's devastating assault on Georgia — five days of air and ground attacks that left homes in smoldering ruins and uprooted 100,000 people. Michael Phelps won the 200-meter freestyle for his third gold medal at the Beijing Games.

Five years ago: James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted in a string of 11 killings and dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant. (Bulger is now serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

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One year ago: A car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and hurting more than a dozen others. (The 21-year-old Ohio man accused in the attack, James Alex Fields, would face a state murder charge and federal hate-crimes charges.) President Donald Trump condemned what he called "this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides;" Democrats and some Republicans called on Trump to specifically denounce white supremacy. Two Virginia state policemen were killed in a helicopter crash while monitoring the Charlottesville protests.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Hamilton is 79. Actress Dana Ivey is 77. Actress Jennifer Warren is 77. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 69. Actor Jim Beaver is 68. Singer Kid Creole is 68. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 64. Actor Sam J. Jones is 64. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 62. Country singer Danny Shirley is 62. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 57. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 55. Actor Peter Krause (KROW'-zuh) is 53. Actor Brent Sexton is 51. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pete Sampras is 47. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 47. Actress Yvette Nicole Brown is 47. Actress Rebecca Gayheart is 47. Actor Casey Affleck is 43. Rock musician Bill Uechi is 43. Actress Maggie Lawson is 38. Actress Dominique Swain is 38. Actress Leah Pipes is 30. Actor Lakeith Stanfield is 27. Actress Cara Delevingne (DEHL'-eh-veen) is 26. Actress Imani Hakim is 25.

Thought for Today: "If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things." — Rene Descartes, French philosopher (1596-1650).