

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 17, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 039 ~ 1 of 52

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

“Forgiving is
rediscovering the
shining path of peace
that at first you thought
others took away when
they betrayed you.”

-Dodinsky

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Groton Ford Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Dairy Queen Help Wanted
- 1- School Help Wanted
- 2- Football action tonight on GDILIVE.COM
- 2- Hokana Auction Ad
- 3- Mosquito Control last night
- 4- City Council Agenda
- 4- West Nile Virus Update
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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.



Put our experienced team to work for you!

GROTON
Ford

GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311



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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It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Aberdeen Roncalli
Cavaliers**

VS

Groton Area Tigers



Friday, Aug. 17, 2018
in Aberdeen, 7:00 pm

TIMED ONLINE

9445 State Line Road, Frederick, SD 57441

AUCTION

OPENS: TUES., AUG. 21 / CLOSSES: TUES., AUG. 28 2018

TRACTORS

2003 Case STX440 4WD
2005 John Deere 8420 MFWD
Allis Chalmers 7040 2WD

COMBINE & HEADS

2009 John Deere 9770 STS
2006 John Deere 635 flex head
2009 John Deere 612C chopping corn head

DRILL

Great Plains grain drill, 20', 6" spacing, 3 pt., mounted gauge, rubber press wheels

FERTILIZER CADDY

Pattison CB1600 fertilizer caddy w/pump

DISCS

John Deere 235 disc
Sunflower disc
John Deere 712 disc chisel

OTHER TILLAGE EQUIPMENT

Landoll 7430 VT-Plus vertical tillage
John Deere 726 mulch finisher
Rite Way landroller, 42'

GRAIN CART & GRAVITY BOX

Brent Avalanche 1084 grain cart
Minnesota 260 gravity box

TRUCK

2004 Freightliner Classic XL tri-axle flat top sleeper 60"

TRAILERS

2013 Featherlite 8270 aluminum livestock trailer
2010 Timpette hopper bottom trailer
1996 Timpette hopper bottom trailer
1999 Doonan 502DB14 step deck trailer
EZ-Trail 680 header trailer

LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

1993 IHC 4900 truck
(3) Vern's creep feeders 150 bu.
Wheel loader livestock water tank

ATTACHMENTS

MDS pallet forks for John Deere 840 loader
Snow/silage bucket
John Deere material bucket



PREVIEW: August 13-28 from 8AM-5PM
LOADOUT: Thursday, August 30 from 8AM-5PM

TIRES & PARTS

(4) Skid steer loader tires
Landoll disc blades & bearings
John Deere grill guard
(10) John Deere suitcase weights

Complete terms, lot listings and photos at

SteffesGroup.com

Randy Kath MN47-007



COLE & HOLY HOKANA | 701.210.0548

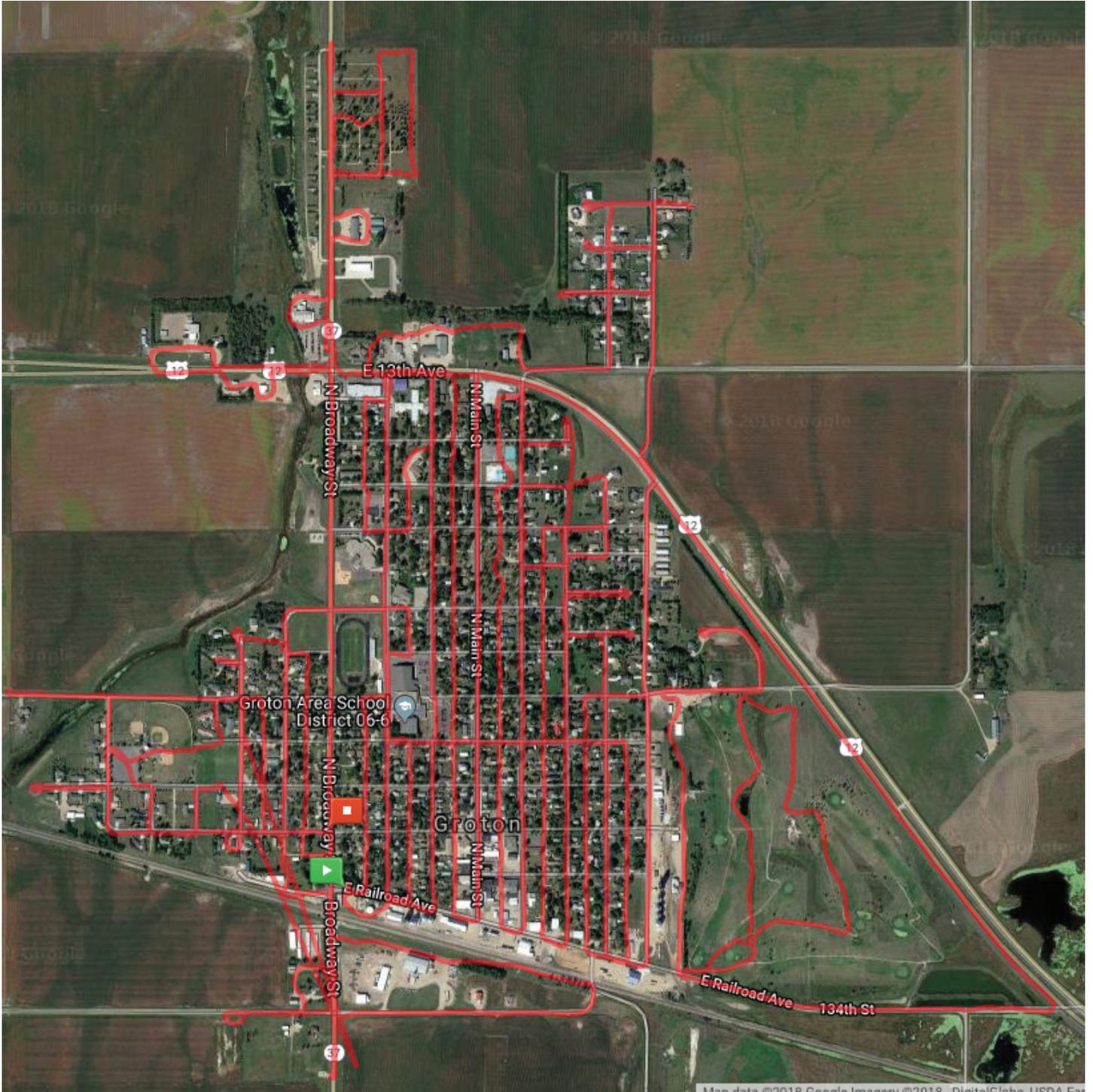
or Dave Krostue at Steffes, 218.779.6865 or Randy Kath at Steffes, 701.429.8894

Steffes Group, Inc. | 24400 MN Hwy 22 South, Litchfield, MN 55355 | 320.693.9371

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Mosquito Control last night



**30.4 miles. 8.5 gallons Evolver 4x4
67 degrees - Wind was basically calm**

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda August 20, 2018 – 7:00pm Groton Community Center

1. Minutes
2. Bills
3. July finance report
4. September meeting dates
5. First reading of Ordinance #720 – 2019 Appropriation Ordinance
6. Jail renovation
7. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1

(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)

8. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
9. Adjournment

West Nile Virus — South Dakota

August 15, 2018



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

Human cases: 41 (Median age: 53; range 2-89)

Hospitalized: 13

Deaths: 2

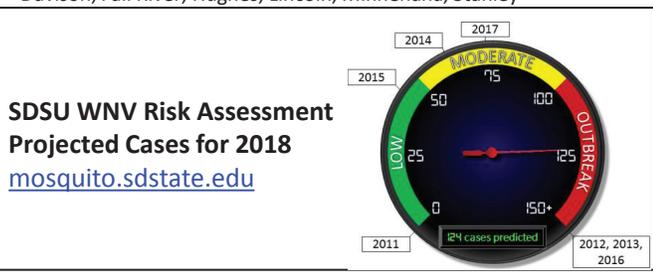
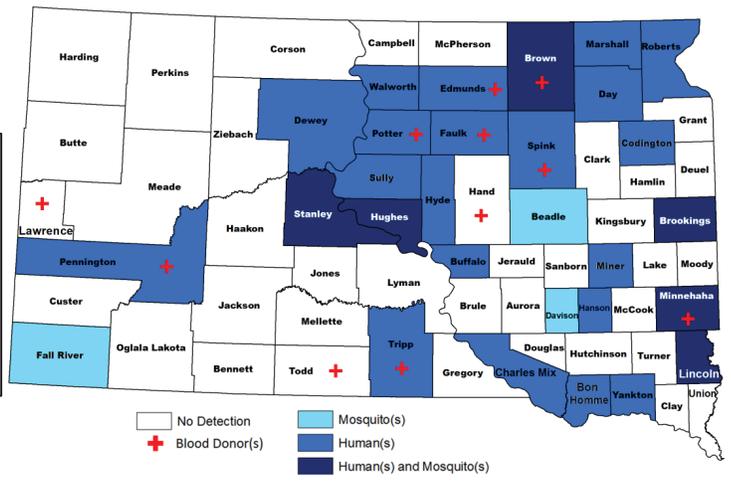
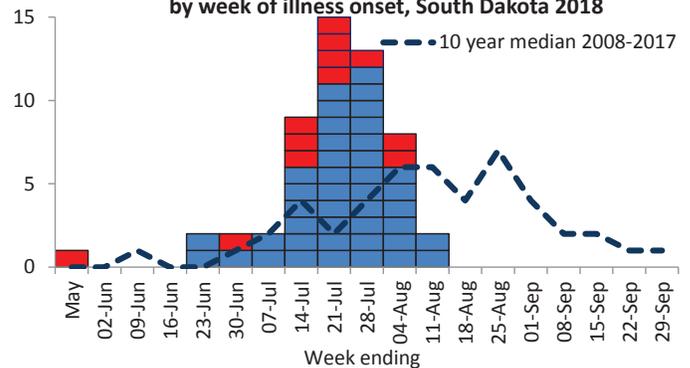
County Counts

Human cases: Bon Homme (1), Brookings (1), Brown (3), Buffalo (1), Charles Mix (1), Codington (2), Day (2), Dewey (2), Edmunds (3), Faulk (1), Hanson (1), Hughes (2), Hyde (1) Lincoln (2), Marshall (2), Miner (1), Minnehaha (4), Pennington (2), Potter (1), Roberts (1), Spink (1), Stanley (1), Sully (1), Tripp (1), Walworth (1), Yankton (2)

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

Positive mosquito detections: Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Davison, Fall River, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley

West Nile Cases (blue) and blood donors (red) by week of illness onset, South Dakota 2018



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

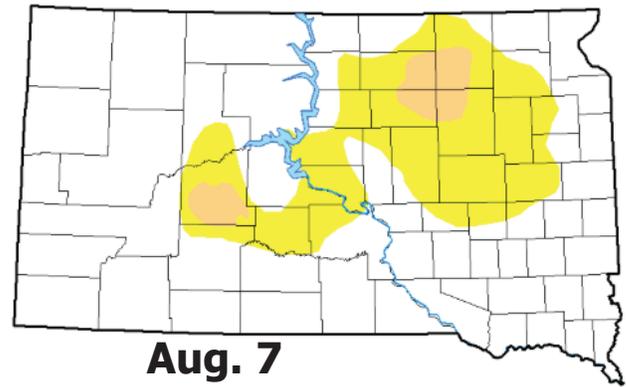
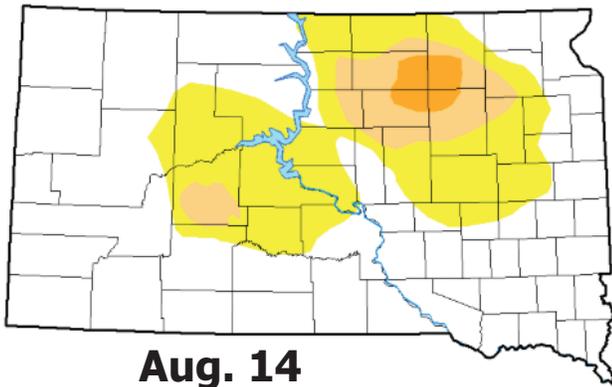
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Drought Monitor

Drought Classification

None D0 (Abnormally Dry) D1 (Moderate Drought) D2 (Severe Drought) D3 (Extreme Drought) D4 (Exceptional Drought)



Above-normal rains from the upper-level low reached parts of Kansas by the Tuesday morning data cut-off time, but the rest of the region was much drier than normal, with little rainfall reported. D0-D2 were contracted in central and southern Kansas, but the northeast part of the state was still drier than normal for the week. D2-D4 expanded in northeast Kansas, and D0-D1 were expanded in southeast Nebraska, to reflect dryness at the 3 to 9-month time scale. D0-D1 expanded, and D2 was introduced, in the Dakotas. A weaker-than-normal monsoon, coupled with record 1-month evaporative demand due to high temperatures, have stressed vegetation and lowered streamflows in Colorado. D0 was trimmed slightly in eastern Colorado where it has been wet, but D2-D3 expanded in the northwest to central region where precipitation deficits mounted and stream levels were low. According to August 12 USDA reports, 59% of the pasture and rangeland in Colorado was in poor to very poor condition, and 42% of the topsoil was short or very short of moisture; 35% of the pasture and rangeland in Kansas was in poor to very poor condition. As noted by the South Dakota State Climatologist, the lack of rain and high evaporation accompanying hot temperatures have taken a toll on crop conditions in the central and north central regions. Impacts include soybeans, which are in a critical time for grain fill, are flipping their leaves to reduce water use/loss, corn is turning brown and dead in places, and stock ponds are at very low levels. Statewide, according to USDA reports, 16% of the pasture and rangeland in South Dakota is in poor to very poor condition and 38% of topsoil and 39% of subsoil is short to very short of moisture.

New members join activities association board

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Two new members joined the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors on Thursday.

Randy Soma of Brookings defeated Craig Boyens of Watertown as a replacement for Steve Moore of Watertown. Moore took a new position as activities director at Sioux Falls Washington and could no longer serve on the board because it already has one member from Sioux Falls.

Craig Cassens of Faulkton is on the board after defeating Paul Nepodal of Deubrook. Cassens replaces Jim Aisenbrey of Baltic who resigned for health reasons and died in April.

This was also the first board meeting for three other members. Silas Blaine of Crazy Horse will serve the year remaining in the term of Roger Bordeaux of Tiospa Zina. Bordeaux can't serve on the board because he is no longer a superintendent.

The board terms of Sandy Klatt of Brandon Valley and Bud Postma of Madison expired and were filled by Jerry Rasmussen of Dakota Valley and Paul Turman of Pierre.

At Thursday's meeting the board also selected new members for its finance committee. They include board chairman Brian Maher of Sioux Falls, board member David Planteen of Langford Area and Huron Activities Director Terry Rotert. Also on the finance committee are board member Steve Morford of Spearfish, Jeff Danielson of Watertown, Mark Naugle of Custer, Chuck Wilson of Todd County, Adam Shaw of Madison and Darla Meyer of Pierre.

At the meeting the board appointed the site selection committee which is tasked with finding venues for state championship contests. The committee will be chaired by board member Moe Ruesink of Sioux Valley. He will be joined by board members Soma and Blaine.

The site selection committee also includes activities directors from the communities that host the most state events. They include Casey Meile of Sioux Falls, Jared Vasquez of Rapid City Stevens, Gene Brownell of Aberdeen Central, Randy Marso of Brandon Valley and Craig Boyens of Watertown.

—30—

E-tickets available for district tournaments

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Fans who attend high school district sports tournaments this year will be able to download tickets to their phones. The South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors approved the new service at their Thursday meeting.

"I think it will be a really smooth process," said SDHSAA Finance Director Isaac Jahn.

Jahn explained that fans will be able to purchase tickets online and store them on their phones or access them on their phones through an email.

"You don't have to buy scanners or anything like that," Jahn assured the board, which represents schools from around the state.

The ticketing program is run by a company called Huddle. Jahn said Huddle will reimburse school districts for the e-tickets sold for their event about a week after the contest.

Tickets may be purchased through the Go Fan app.

—30—

Activities board approves corporate sponsorships

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — A year ago the South Dakota High School Activities Association was struggling to keep its corporate sponsors from defecting to the SDHSAA Foundation. At Thursday's meeting, the SDHSAA Board of Directors approved a full slate of corporate sponsors for the new school year.

Corporate sponsors and their yearly donations include:

- Lead partner, Sanford Health, \$125,000
- Financial services partner, Dakotah Bank, \$75,000
- Community partner, Farmer's Union Insurance, \$62,500
- Military partner, S.D. Army National Guard, \$50,000

Billion Automotive makes an in-kind donation of vehicles for use by SDHSAA staff.

Dakotah Bank replaces First Premier Bank and Premier Bankcard as the financial services partner. First Premiere expressed an interest in making its contribution to the SDHSAA Foundation.

Funds from corporate sponsors are used to buy catastrophic insurance for school districts.

"That covers every high school student in the state," said SDHSAA Executive Director Daniel Swartos.

Thursday the board also received an update from Pierre Superintendent Kelly Glodt representing the SDHSAA Foundation. Glodt reported that the foundation has \$388,504 on hand and \$10,331 available for disbursement. The foundation's plan is to make significant contributions to South Dakota school districts.

"Our goal is to build those dollars," Glodt said, "to where we have some substantial dollars for the future."

SDHSAA Board Chairman Brian Maher of Sioux Falls suggested that it might be best to re-invest the money available for disbursement in order to help the principal grow.

Maher said that \$10,000 "spread across our state isn't really that much money."

—30—

Recruiting officials priority for activities board

By Dana Hess

For the S.D. Newspaper Association

PIERRE — Recruiting more officials for sports contests is one of the goals set by the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors at its strategic planning session Wednesday.

"This problem isn't our problem alone," said SDHSAA Chairman Brian Maher of Sioux Falls, noting problems with retaining sports officials around the country.

Reporting on a National Federation of State High School Associations session on the recruitment of officials, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch said officials who quit cite time away from their families and the lack of sportsmanship as the deciding factor.

"They don't like getting beat up," Auch said.

Other goals for the year include establishing an evaluation process for executive director Daniel Swartos and a review of the management of post-season events including site selection, management fees, reimbursement and finances.

—30—

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Today in Weather History

August 17, 1961: Intensive rainfall occurred during the overnight hours on the 17th through the early morning hours on the 18th. Some rainfall amounts include 4.13 inches in Clark, 2.52 inches 1 W of Summit, 2.50 in Andover, 2.20 in Waubay, 2.15 in Wilmot, 2.12 in Wheaton, and 2.10 in Clear Lake.

August 17, 2007: An estimated four to six inches of rain and hail to the size of baseballs caused localized flooding between Piedmont and Tilford in Meade County, especially near poor drainage areas and at a barricade along a frontage road. The water washed over several roads and was several inches deep on Interstate 90, forcing law enforcement officials to close it for a couple of hours. Torrential rains estimated at four to six inches fell west of Hermosa in Custer County between 6 pm and 8 pm MST. Battle and Grace Coolidge Creeks overflowed their banks and several dry canyons filled with water and drained into the creeks. State highways 40 and 36 were flooded in numerous spots. A river gauge on Battle Creek just east of Hermosa crested at 14.91 feet at 9 pm, rising from 2.63 ft at 7:30 pm and above the flood stage of 8.0 feet. About six inches of water covered Highway 79 at the Battle Creek bridge. A railroad bridge about 3/4 mile downstream became clogged with debris and water rose behind the embankment and flooded six homes. At about 8:30 pm MST, a section of the embankment failed, flooding a new subdivision on the other side. All of the approximately 20 houses were damaged; three homes were washed off their foundations, and one of those houses was carried a half a mile east of the subdivision by the flowing water. There were no injuries.

1899: Hurricane San Ciriaco set many records on its path. Killing nearly 3,500 people in Puerto Rico, it was the deadliest hurricane to hit the island and the strongest at the time, until 30 years later when the island was affected by the Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, a Category 5 hurricane, in 1928. It was also the tenth deadliest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded. San Ciriaco is also the longest lasting Atlantic hurricane in recorded history, continuing for 28 days. On August 17, the hurricane turned back to the northwest and made landfall near Hatteras, North Carolina on the following day. San Ciriaco remains the strongest hurricane to make landfall on the Outer Banks since 1899.

1946: An estimated F-4 tornado killed 11 people and injured 100 others in the Mankato, Minnesota area around 6:52 PM. The deaths and most of the injuries occurred in the complete destruction of the 26 cabins at the Green Gables tourist camp, 3 miles southwest of Mankato. A 27-ton road grader was reportedly hurled about 100 feet. Another tornado an hour later destroys downtown Wells, Minnesota.

1969: The music festival, known as Woodstock, should have ended on this day. Jimi Hendrix, the last act to perform, was delayed due to rain on Sunday evening. Jimi Hendrix took the stage at 8:30 am Monday morning.

1915 - A hurricane hit Galveston, TX, with wind gusts to 120 mph and a twelve foot storm surge. The storm claimed 275 lives, including forty-two on Galveston Island, with most deaths due to drowning. Of 250 homes built outside the seawall (which was constructed after the catastrophic hurricane of 1900), just ten percent were left standing. (The Weather Channel)

1969 - Camille, the second worst hurricane in U.S. history, smashed into the Mississippi coast. Winds gusted to 172 mph at Main Pass Block LA, and to 190 mph near Bay Saint Louis MS. The hurricane claimed 256 lives, and caused 1.3 billion dollars damage. Several ocean going ships were carried over seven miles inland by the hurricane. The hurricane produced winds to 200 mph, and a storm surge of 24.6 feet. Complete destruction occurred in some coastal areas near the eye of the hurricane. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Northern and Central Plains Region. One thunderstorm spawned a tornado near Fairbury NE, along with baseball size hail and wind gusts to 100 mph, causing severe crop damage west of town. Ten cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Syracuse NY hit 97 degrees for the first time in twenty-two years. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Patchy Fog
then Sunny

High: 89 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 57 °F

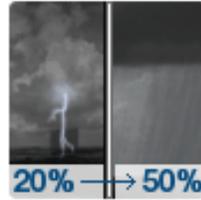
Saturday



Sunny

High: 89 °F

Saturday
Night



Slight Chance
T-storms then
Chance
Showers

Low: 64 °F

Sunday



Showers
Likely

High: 74 °F

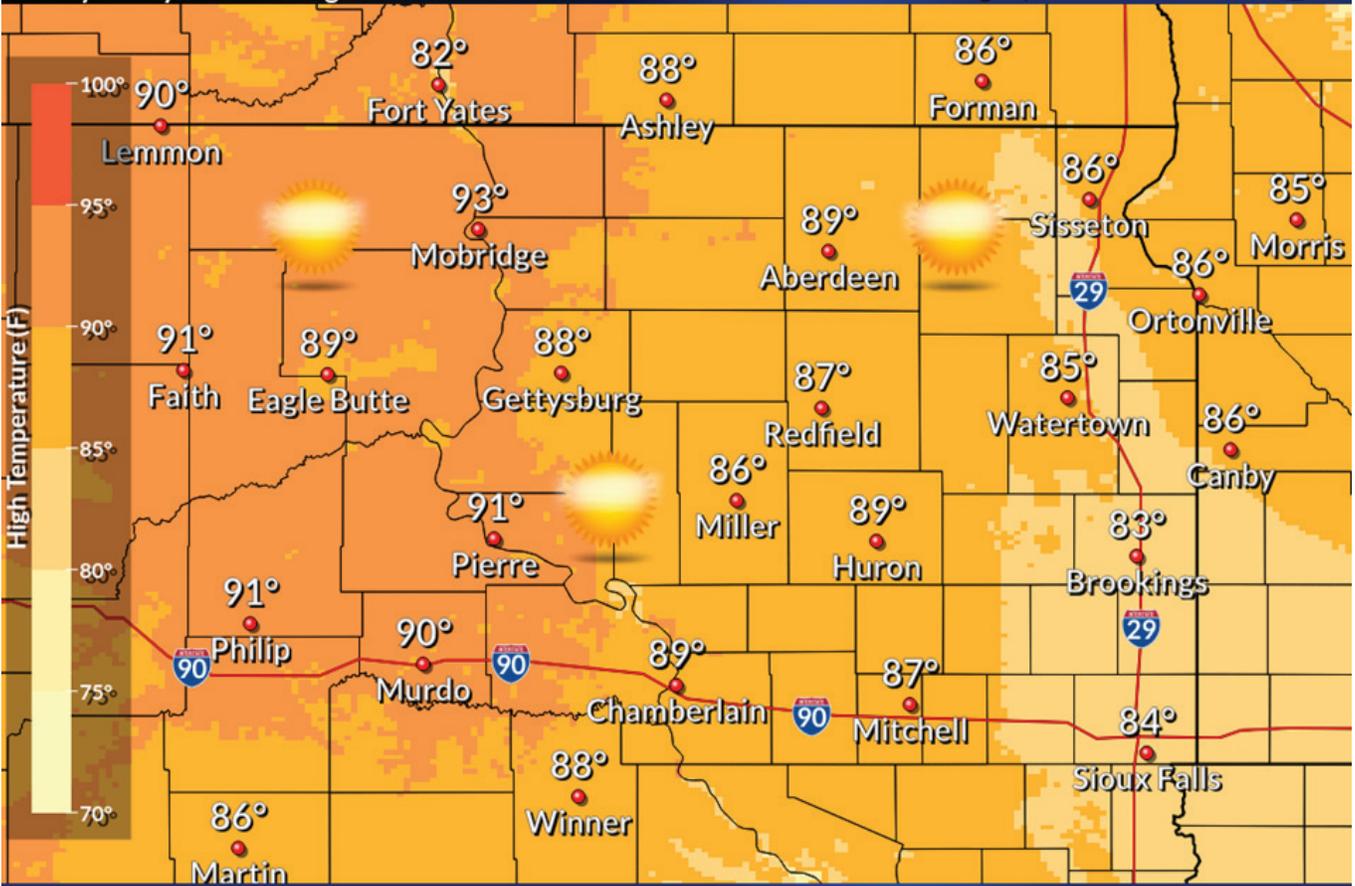
Very Warm Again Today!

Mostly Sunny Skies and Light Winds

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Aug 17, 2018 5:24 AM CDT



NWSAberdeen

weather.gov/abr

Published on: 08/17/2018 at 5:28AM

With surface high pressure in place today, winds will remain fairly light with mostly sunny skies. Temperatures will stay very warm, with highs in the upper 80s to lower 90s.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 84.3 F at 5:02 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 61.8 F at 6:21 AM

High Gust: 13.0 Mph at 2:10 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1976

Record Low: 39° in 2012

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.25

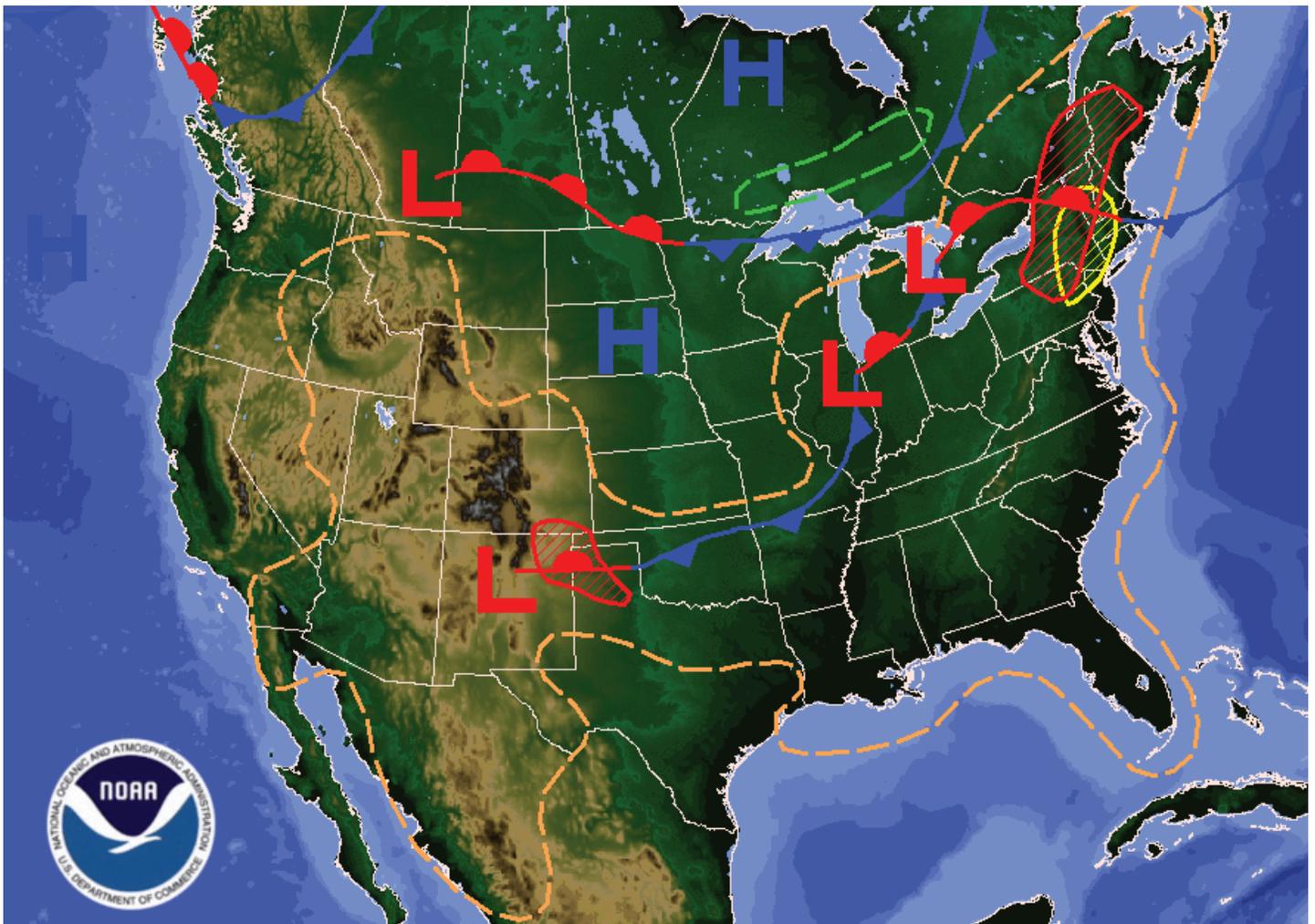
Precip to date in Aug: 0.25

Average Precip to date: 15.11

Precip Year to Date: 10.14

Sunset Tonight: 8:38 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:38 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Aug 17, 2018, issued 4:36 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



FINDING SATISFACTION

Satisfaction is an elusive goal. Although it is high on most peoples agendas, few ever find it without a struggle. Perhaps it is because most people overlook satisfaction as spiritual need and try to find it in the material things of life.

Satisfaction cannot be found in material things. Those who seek satisfaction from the material world never have enough of anything - whether it is money, education, property or power. More does not fill any need. It simply generates the desire for more.

David addressed this issue in Psalm 131. Lord, he realized, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I dont concern myself with matters that are too great or too awesome for me to grasp. What a remarkable statement: he had the wisdom and insight to think small.

It is interesting to note that David willingly took a step backward to take a step forward - my heart is not proud. To move to the higher ground in life, we must begin with an attitude of humility. A proud heart comes from thinking of ourselves more highly that we ought to. But humility, on the other hand, puts us in a place where God can reach us and bless us with the good things He has to offer us.

And notice what he said about being too ambitious: Im not going to get involved with matters that are too great or too awesome. He made a conscious decision to focus on what was within his power and potential to achieve. He was willing to be content with the gifts God had for him. And, God granted those gifts.

Prayer: Lord, help us to take our eyes off of the things of this world and find all that we need in honoring You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 131:1 Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I dont concern myself with matters that are too great or too awesome for me to grasp.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

Yankton man faces numerous charges in Box Elder incident

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — A Yankton man accused of shooting at a police officer and briefly taking hostages at gunpoint in Box Elder is facing several charges including attempted murder.

The Rapid City Journal reports 31-year-old Justin Littrell also is charged with aggravated assault of an officer, burglary, kidnapping, attempted kidnapping and making threats. He also faces drug and weapons counts.

The incident Tuesday began with police responding to a report of a man screaming. Littrell allegedly shot at officers, fled into a nearby yard and took two people hostage, then fled again when police closed in and entered a home occupied by a 10-year-old girl.

No one was hurt.

It wasn't immediately clear if Littrell has an attorney.

Sioux Falls parents sentenced in fatal crash that son caused

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls couple has been sentenced for trying to cover up a fatal crash caused by their teenage son following a drug dispute.

Fifty-two-year-old Joseph Lingor was given about two months in jail for being an accessory to a felony. Fifty-six-year-old Vicki Lingor got about four months of community service for obstructing an officer, a misdemeanor.

Authorities say then-15-year-old Alex Lingor forced another vehicle off the road and into a tree in February 2017 after getting stiffed on a \$25 marijuana deal, causing the death of 15-year-old Kareem Cisse. He was sentenced in June to about two months in jail for manslaughter and other charges.

Man sentenced to prison for raping injured teenage girl

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge man has been sentenced to nearly 3 ½ years in prison for raping a 15-year-old girl on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation after she'd been run over by a vehicle.

Authorities say the girl had been drinking at a party in April 2014 when she was dragged and run over by a vehicle driven by friends. They say Cottier found her alongside a road, took her home and sexually assaulted her.

He and another man then took the girl to a hospital, where she reported the assault.

Cottier pleaded guilty in April to sexual abuse of a minor in a plea deal with prosecutors. The U.S. attorney's office says he was recently sentenced to 41 months in prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release.

Highway Patrol teams up with tribe to enforce weekend powwow

FORT THOMPSON, S.D. (AP) — The Crow Creek Sioux tribe is teaming up with the South Dakota Highway Patrol to enforce this weekend's Crow Creek Dakota Nation powwow.

The tribe invited the patrol to help enforce tribal laws during the event Friday through Sunday. The process involves troopers being sworn in after a training and orientation program. The tribe and the state also signed a memorandum of understanding for the operation.

Patrol Superintendent Col. Craig Price says troopers volunteer for the assignment and take pride in working as a team with the tribal officers.

Judge orders new federal review of Keystone XL pipeline

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A federal judge has ordered the U.S. State Department to conduct a more thorough review of the Keystone XL oil pipeline's proposed pathway after Nebraska state regulators changed the route, raising the possibility of further delays to a project first proposed in 2008.

U.S. District Judge Brian Morris of Montana said in a ruling Wednesday that the State Department must supplement its 2014 environmental impact study of the project to consider the new route. Morris declined to strike down the federal permit for the project, approved by President Donald Trump in March 2017.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission rejected pipeline developer TransCanada's preferred route in November 2017, but approved a different pathway that stretches farther to the east. The "mainline alternative" route is five miles longer than the company's preferred route, cuts through six different Nebraska counties and runs parallel to an existing TransCanada-owned pipeline for 89 miles.

State Department officials "have yet to analyze the mainline alternative route," Morris wrote in his ruling. The State Department has "the obligation to analyze new information relevant to the environmental impacts of its decision."

Last month, the State Department declared the pipeline would not have a major impact on Nebraska's water, land or wildlife. The report said the company could mitigate any damage caused.

It's not clear whether the additional review will delay the 1,184-mile project. TransCanada spokesman Matthew John said company officials are reviewing the judge's decision, and noted that the project has already faced numerous federal reviews. He said company officials are still working with local, state and federal stakeholders.

"We do not anticipate that the ruling will impact the current construction preparation activities we are currently undertaking," John said in an email.

Environmentalists, Native American tribes and a coalition of landowners have prevented the company from moving ahead with construction. In addition to the federal lawsuit in Montana that seeks to halt the project, opponents also have a lawsuit pending before the Nebraska Supreme Court. Oral arguments in the Nebraska case aren't expected until October.

Critics of the project have raised concerns about spills that could contaminate groundwater and the property rights of affected landowners.

Pipeline opponents cheered the decision and said they were confident that the courts would find other violations of federal law raised in the lawsuit.

"We are pleased that Judge Morris has rejected all of the excuses raised by the Trump administration and TransCanada in attempting to justify the federal government's failure to address TransCanada's new route through Nebraska," said Stephan Volker, an attorney for the environmental and Native American groups that filed the Montana lawsuit.

A State Department spokesman said the agency was still reviewing the judge's order but declined to offer additional comments.

The pipeline would carry up to 830,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Steele City, Nebraska, where it would connect with the original Keystone pipeline that runs down to Texas Gulf Coast refineries.

The State Department's new report noted two major spills in South Dakota involving the original Keystone pipeline, which went into operation in 2010, but added that TransCanada has a lower overall spill rate than average in the oil pipeline industry.

Associated Press reporter Matthew Lee contributed from Washington.

Follow Grant Schulte on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/GrantSchulte>

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Weak economic growth likely in rural parts of 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy is expected to continue growing slowly in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states, but the ongoing trade disputes remain a concern.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says grain prices have fallen even lower since the trade disputes erupted.

The overall economic index for the region increased slightly to 54.8 in August from July's 53.8.

That score still suggests growth because it is above 50, while any score below 50 indicates a shrinking economy.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

The bankers remain concerned about the economy. The confidence index remained in negative territory but climbed to 46.5 in August from July's 42.7.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, Aug. 12

Mental health study would benefit the county

So, it's come down to this.

Three of the five Pennington County commissioners opposed a request to seek a grant to document the area's glaring lack of mental health resources and ways to address it.

Sounds simple, doesn't it? It would be a freebie for the county and could help it better understand a critical need. But, apparently, nothing is simple when it comes to health care in South Dakota.

In rejecting the request made by the director of the county's Health and Human Services Department, Ron Buskerud, George Ferebee and Mark DiSanto essentially said they don't want to know about the scope of the problem or they might have to address it.

They believe it is not the county's responsibility to provide mental health care even though that is exactly what is happening at the county jail where people suffering from mental illnesses are being held while awaiting an evaluation at the state mental hospital in Yankton or a sentencing in a courtroom.

While jail employees are doing an admirable job of taking on a task that was thrust upon them, it is an archaic way to treat complicated problems. The jail is not a hospital and the staff is not comprised of medical personnel. It also costs taxpayers plenty of money to house the mentally ill while they languish in a legal system not designed for them.

It's not that the commissioners don't have a point, however. They are correct when they say state government should be addressing what all agree is a serious problem in South Dakota. It's true that state lawmakers have done practically nothing in recent years to improve mental health care.

So, this is what it has come down to: residents stuck with a local and state government that would rather do nothing or point fingers than address a problem that can strike anyone and has the power to take lives as is evident in the record number of suicides reported in 2017 in the state.

But, nonetheless, Buskerud, Ferebee and DiSanto did county residents no favors on Tuesday.

This was not a request for county money; it was a request to submit a proposal to the Helmsley Charitable Trust, which had invited the county to make the request in the first place. If approved, the foundation would have done an assessment of the behavioral health system and recommendations to improve it.

That's it. The commission would not have been obligated to take any action after the assessment. It would be valuable information though that could be put to good use.

The county commission, for example, could take the data and use it to lobby state lawmakers and the next governor to improve mental health care in South Dakota. The state often says it lacks data to address health care problems. This would be an answer to that tired response.

Maybe the county will get another chance, however. Ferebee and Buskerud are leaving the commission

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at the end of the year. If the county is again asked to apply for a Helmsley grant, their replacements could join Deb Hadcock and Lloyd LaCroix to vote for a study that just might open the eyes of a Legislature that too often looks the other way when it comes to mental health care in this state.

American News, Aberdeen, Aug. 14 **Faulkton getting it right, again**

Our friends in Faulkton always seem to be one of those groups of people who many times are navigating the learning curve.

They often are ahead of the times rather than behind them. While some are thinking, they often are doing. While some are talking about new ground, they are breaking it.

That is why one of the state's biggest pieces of artwork is being created there.

Thanks to some innovative Faulkton folks, the 110-foot grain elevator in their community is being used as a canvas by internationally known artist Guido van Helten.

It is just one more of the many reasons to visit Faulkton.

Here are some other recent examples of "doing it right":

— Fall may not be here officially, but fall athletes are now on college campuses throughout this land.

It is no different in Aberdeen. However, those football and soccer players at Northern State have new facilities to practice upon, and they look dazzling.

— Sometimes, last place isn't so bad. The first-year Hub City Hotshots may have missed the inaugural Expedition League playoffs and finished last in their division, but it was still good to have a team in Aberdeen.

We look forward to a second season of hosting the college-age players from around the nation and beyond. They provided the loyal group of long-time baseball fans with some entertaining summer nights at Fossum Field.

"I didn't know enough about Aberdeen before I got here. It was just another town starting baseball up," manager Jacob Jarreau said. "But I learned, there are really passionate fans here. That's what I love."

— Speaking of baseball, Christian Cox (and his family) have been making sports headlines for decades in South Dakota. That tradition continued when Cox pitched the Aberdeen Circus team to a win over Sturgis in the state amateur baseball tourney. Cox struck out 22 and went 3-for-4 at the plate including a home run. That is an incredible performance, even for the Cox family. And congrats to his team for finishing as state champion runners-up.

— Congratulations to American News 2018 Readers' Choice winners. It is fun to highlight some of the best businesses and people in the region.

— Gov. Dennis Daugaard recently pledged \$2.5 million to help build the new almost \$15 million School for the Blind and Visually Impaired on the Northern State University campus. The governor-controlled grant comes from the state Future Fund. Plus, there could be another \$2.5 million next year, depending on the next governor and on the fund's status, state officials said. We hope so.

— A new, much expanded store for Runnings, a remodeled McDonald's and a new home for the Red Rooster coffee shop. We love it when our local businesses find ways to make changes and improvements. Thanks to all of our many business owners in this region for all that you do for us your customers and your communities.

— We know it just started, but still we are approaching the midway (pun intended) points of the Brown County Fair. That is how fast it goes. So we hope you are and will take in the sights, sounds and events.

The Daily Republic, Mitchell, Aug. 13 **Week in review: the best, worst**

CHEERS to the efforts of many of the area's youth presenting at county 4-H achievement days over the last few weeks. The level of pride and hard work that is put forth by children of all ages is a very cool experience and teaches about working with animals but also traits for professionalism and respect. Whether 4-H participants qualify for the South Dakota State Fair or not, they are learning attributes that

will serve them for life.

HISSES to the news that fatalities on South Dakota highways are up over last year, with 77 so far in 2018. There were 61 fatalities around this time last year. The numbers are in the news because the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally concluded this weekend, which is an event that unfortunately results in dangerous incidents for motorcyclists both in the Black Hills and on the way to and from the event. One good note is that the number of reported crashes was down during the Rally in the Hills.

The message remains the same as it always does: pay attention to the road, wear a seat belt and a helmet and drive with safety in mind.

CHEERS to the new rule from the South Dakota High School Activities Association which is being put into place this season for all sports. It calls for athletic officials to meet with school administrators, coaches and potential emergency and medical personnel to make sure they're on the same page in case there's an incident during the game.

A number of South Dakota's fall sports move into gear this week, with soccer, girls tennis, boys golf and football. The vast majority of sporting events will go off without any issue but having a plan for the instance that someone is seriously injured or a having a medical incident is good planning, not just for players, but for spectators as well.

HISSES to the news that Mitchell police are preparing to replace their body cameras after just three years. It's necessary considering the camera batteries don't last long more than a few hours after being fully charged. Much like the dwindling battery life on older cell phones, it's currently a downside of advancing technology.

Body cameras are a necessary item of policing in 2018 but given that the budget request is nearly \$20,000 to replace the cameras, it's understandably frustrating to be spending that much money for just a few years of service.

Report: Weak farm economy leading to fewer farm loans

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — More farm loan applications are being rejected in rural parts of 10 Plains and Western states in reaction to weak farm commodity prices and income.

The latest Rural Mainstreet survey says nearly one-third of bank CEOs reported rejecting a higher percentage of farm loans, while nearly 55 percent indicated their banks had raised collateral requirements in the face of weak farm prices and income.

The region's economic index rose to 54.8 in August from 53.8 in July. That score still suggests growth because it is above 50, while any score below 50 indicates a shrinking economy.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss says the recent trade disputes have weakened "already anemic grain prices."

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

Woman sues surgeon who wrongly removed her kidney

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An Iowa woman is suing a South Dakota surgeon and his practice for wrongly removing one of her kidneys.

The lawsuit filed by Dena Knapp alleges that Dr. Scott Baker erroneously removed her healthy right kidney instead of removing an adrenal gland and a mass on the gland during a surgery in Sioux Falls in 2016.

The Argus Leader reports the lawsuit alleges the erroneous surgery resulted in an incurable and progressive kidney disease in Knapp's remaining kidney that has caused pain and mental distress.

Knapp eventually had a second surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to remove the gland and mass.

Baker did not immediately return a call for comment.

The federal lawsuit also names The Surgical Institute of South Dakota, where Baker is partner. The

institute declined comment.

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

Ditech Financial to close Rapid City call center

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — More than 450 Rapid City workers face layoffs after a mortgage lending firm announced plans to close its call center in the city.

Ditech Financial LLC confirmed that the company will shutter the Rapid City mortgage and financial call center in November 2019 when its lease expires.

"This outcome has been part of a thorough evaluation process in selecting the locations that will best accommodate our long-term business requirements and the needs of our customers," the firm announced in a statement.

Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender told the Rapid City Journal that the closure was expected, but remains bad news for the company's employees and the city.

"The closing is due to a condition of the national company and not an indicator of a poor local economy," Allender said. "The good news is, Ditech's employees will be very marketable in the Rapid City area."

Ditech was founded in 1995 as one of the first online mortgage lenders. It has 7,000 employees in North America with headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota and Fort Washington, Pennsylvania.

The announcement continues a statewide trend of call center job cuts. Sioux Falls has lost more than 1,000 call center jobs in the last three years, according to KELO-TV.

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

Small grains harvest in the final stages in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's small grains harvest is in the final stages.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 80 percent of the spring wheat is harvested, 89 percent of the oats are done and 97 percent of the winter wheat is in the bin.

Development of the corn and soybean crops in the state is slightly ahead of the average pace.

Soil moisture supplies continue on a downward trend. Topsoil moisture is rated 62 percent adequate to surplus, with 61 percent of subsoil moisture in those categories.

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

This story has been corrected to show that topsoil moisture is rated 62 percent adequate to surplus, not 63 percent.

4 state workers credited with saving suicidal runaway

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are crediting four state Transportation Department workers with saving the life of a suicidal runaway who jumped from an Interstate 90 bridge in Sioux Falls and tried to run into traffic.

The person climbed onto the overpass Wednesday afternoon. Before law officers arrived, the workers diverted traffic, broke his fall when he jumped and then held him down as he tried to run into traffic.

The person was eventually taken to a hospital. One worker was treated at the scene for minor scrapes.

Man gets year in prison for theft from low-income program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man has been sentenced to a year in federal prison for stealing from a program that provides legal services to low-income people including on American Indian reservations in the Dakotas.

Authorities allege 56-year-old Kevin Lewis embezzled nearly \$25,000 while working as an attorney for

Dakota Plains Legal Services between 2014 and 2017. He was fired about a year ago.

Lewis agreed to plead guilty to a theft charge in a deal with prosecutors. The U.S. attorney's office says he was ordered to pay restitution.

Reports of counterfeit money surfacing again in Huron

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Huron police are investigating more reports of counterfeit money being circulated at local businesses.

Authorities say there was an initial rash of bogus bills a few weeks ago, and a suspect was arrested after officers talked to witnesses and watched surveillance video.

Police say reports of fake \$100 bills are surfacing again, and they're cautioning businesses to be diligent about checking bills of that amount.

Former US security leaders blast Trump for yanking clearance

By JILL COLVIN and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former U.S. security officials issued scathing rebukes to President Donald Trump on Thursday, admonishing him for yanking a top former spy chief's security clearance in what they cast as an act of political vengeance. Trump said he'd had to do "something" about the "rigged" federal probe of Russian election interference.

Trump's admission that he acted out of frustration about the Russia probe underscored his willingness to use his executive power to fight back against an investigation he sees as a threat to his presidency. Legal experts said the dispute may add to the evidence being reviewed by special counsel Robert Mueller.

In an opinion piece in The New York Times, former CIA Director John Brennan said Trump's decision, announced Wednesday, to deny him access to classified information was a desperate attempt to end Mueller's investigation. Brennan, who served under President Barack Obama and has become a vocal Trump critic, called Trump's claims that he did not collude with Russia "hogwash."

The only question remaining is whether the collusion amounts to a "constituted criminally liable conspiracy," Brennan wrote.

Later Thursday, the retired Navy admiral who oversaw the raid that killed Osama bin Laden called Trump's moves "McCarthy-era tactics." Writing in The Washington Post, William H. McRaven said he would "consider it an honor" if Trump would revoke his clearance, as well.

"Through your actions, you have embarrassed us in the eyes of our children, humiliated us on the world stage and, worst of all, divided us as a nation," McRaven wrote.

That was followed late Thursday by a joint letter from 12 former senior intelligence officials calling Trump's action "ill-considered and unprecedented." They said it "has nothing to do with who should and should not hold security clearances — and everything to do with an attempt to stifle free speech."

The signees included six former CIA directors, five former deputy directors and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. Two of the signees — Clapper and former CIA Director Michael Hayden — have appeared on a White House list of people who may also have their security clearances revoked.

Trump on Wednesday openly tied his decision to strip Brennan of his clearance — and threaten nearly a dozen other former and current officials — to the ongoing investigation into Russian election meddling and possible collusion with his campaign. In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Trump again called the probe a "rigged witch hunt" and said "these people led it!"

"So I think it's something that had to be done," he said.

The president's comments were a swift departure from the official explanation given by the White House earlier Wednesday that cited the "the risks" posed by Brennan's alleged "erratic conduct and behavior." It marked the latest example of the president contradicting a story his aides had put forward to explain his motivations.

Attorneys said the revocation appeared to be within the president's authority. But they noted the power

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play also could be used to reinforce a case alleging obstruction of justice, following the president's firing of former FBI Director James Comey and his repeated tweets calling for the investigation to end.

Patrick Cotter, a former assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York and a longtime white-collar defense attorney, said that while a prosecutor could argue that Trump's targeting of clearances was intended as a warning that "if you contribute to, participate in, support the Russia probe and I find out about it, I'm going to punish you," it is likely not obstruction in itself.

But, he said the move would be a "powerful piece of evidence" for prosecutors as part of a pattern to demonstrate an intent to use presidential power in connection with the probe.

Renato Mariotti, a former federal prosecutor agreed.

"What it shows is that the president is fixated on the Russia investigation, he's angry about it, and he wants to do everything he can to discourage or slow down the investigation," he said.

Special Counsel Mueller and his team have been looking at Trump's public statements and tweets as they investigate whether the president could be guilty of obstruction.

"I don't think it advances the criminal obstruction case, but I think it's factually relevant," said Mark Zaid, a national security attorney. "I think it shows the state of mind and intent to interfere or impede any unfavorable discussion of his potential connection to Russia."

Former CIA directors and other top national security officials are typically allowed to keep their clearances, at least for some period. But Trump said Wednesday he is reviewing the clearances of several other former top intelligence and law enforcement officials, including former FBI Director Comey and current senior Justice Department official Bruce Ohr. All are critics of the president or are people who Trump appears to believe are against him.

The initial White House statement about Brennan's clearance made no reference to the Russia investigation. Instead, the president said he was fulfilling his "constitutional responsibility to protect the nation's classified information," even though he made no suggestion that Brennan was improperly exposing the nation's secrets.

"Mr. Brennan's lying and recent conduct characterized by increasingly frenzied commentary is wholly inconsistent with access to the nations' most closely held secrets," Trump said.

Just hours later, his explanation had changed.

"You look at any of them and you see the things they've done," Trump told the Journal. "In some cases, they've lied before Congress. The Hillary Clinton whole investigation was a total sham."

"I don't trust many of those people on that list," he said. "I think that they're very duplicitous. I think they're not good people."

The episode was reminiscent of Trump's shifting explanations for firing Comey and the evolving descriptions of the Trump Tower meeting between top campaign aides and a Kremlin-connected lawyer — both topics of interest to Mueller.

And it underscores why the president's lawyers are fearful of allowing Trump to sit down for an interview with Mueller's team, as Trump has repeatedly said he is interested in doing.

In announcing Comey's firing, the White House initially cited the former FBI director's handling of the probe into Democratic rival Clinton's emails, seizing on the FBI director's decision to divulge details of the probe to the public during her campaign against Trump.

But a few days after Comey was dismissed, Trump told NBC's Lester Holt in an interview that he was really thinking of "this Russia thing" when he fired Comey.

Trump later changed again, tweeting that he "never fired James Comey because of Russia!"

Early this month, he admitted in a tweet that the Trump Tower meeting, which was arranged by his son, Donald Trump Jr., "was a meeting to get information on an opponent."

That directly contradicted a July 2017 statement from Trump Jr. — written with the consultation of the White House — that claimed the meeting had been primarily about adoption.

Associated Press writer Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

___ Follow Colvin and Lucey on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and https://twitter.com/catherine_lucey

Slain Colorado mother painted rosy picture of married life

By KATHLEEN FOODY and JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

FREDERICK, Colo. (AP) — Shanann Watts' Facebook page painted a portrait of a happy married life — of a woman dedicated to her husband and their two young children. She called her husband "my ROCK!" and said he was "the best dad us girls could ask for."

But that idyllic image was shattered Wednesday when her husband, 33-year-old Christopher Watts, was arrested on suspicion of killing his family in Colorado.

Police said the mother, who was pregnant, was found dead on property owned by Anadarko Petroleum, one of the state's largest oil and gas drillers, where Christopher Watts worked. Investigators found what they believe are the bodies of 4-year-old Bella and 3-year-old Celeste nearby on Thursday afternoon.

They have not released any information about a motive or how the three were killed.

"As horrible as this outcome is, our role now is to do everything we can to determine exactly what occurred," John Camper, director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, said at a news conference in Frederick, a small town on the grassy plains north of Denver, where fast-growing subdivisions intermingle with drilling rigs and oil wells.

The deaths also left family and friends searching for answers.

Shanann Watts, 34, was one of the first customers to visit Ashley Bell's tanning salon in nearby Dacona two years ago. The two women quickly became friends, and before long they were texting or calling each other almost daily. Their daughters also played together during salon visits.

Bell said she never detected that anything was amiss with the Watts family.

"I just don't understand it," said Bell, who described Christopher Watts as a loving father.

Shanann Watts was from North Carolina, and her parents' next-door neighbor, Joe Beach, said he saw her recently when she visited the neighborhood of modest homes in Aberdeen.

"We were talking about general things, about how her two girls were doing and how life was out in Colorado. She didn't give me an indication that there was anything wrong. She seemed pretty happy."

But a June 2015 bankruptcy filing captures a picture of a family caught between a promising future and financial strain.

Christopher Watts had gotten a job six months earlier as an operator for Anadarko, and paystubs indicate his annual salary was about \$61,500. Shanann Watts was working in a call center at a children's hospital at the time, earning about \$18 an hour — more for evenings, weekends or extra shifts she sometimes worked.

The couple had a combined income of \$90,000 in 2014. But they also had tens of thousands of dollars in credit card debt, along with some student loans and medical bills — for a total of \$70,000 in unsecured claims on top of a sizable mortgage.

They said in the filing that their nearly \$3,000 mortgage and \$600 in monthly car payments formed the bulk of their \$4,900 in monthly expenses.

Christopher Watts, who is being held without bail, is expected to be formally charged by Monday with three counts of murder and three counts of tampering with evidence.

After his wife and daughters were reported missing and before he was arrested, he stood on his porch and lamented to reporters how much he missed them, saying he longed for the simple things like telling his girls to eat their dinner and gazing at them as they curled up to watch cartoons.

He did not respond to reporters' questions when he was escorted into the courtroom Thursday.

His attorney, James Merson with the Colorado State Public Defender's Office, left the hearing without commenting to reporters and did not respond to a voicemail left at his office Thursday by The Associated Press.

Drew reported from Raleigh, North Carolina. Associated Press writers Colleen Slevin and Thomas Peipert in Denver, Courtney Bonnell and Michelle A. Monroe in Phoenix and researcher Jennifer Farrar in New York contributed to this report.

Mattis says further Taliban assaults likely in weeks ahead

By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The Taliban is likely to keep up its recent surge of violence in advance of scheduled parliamentary elections in October but Western-backed Afghan defenses will not break, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said Thursday.

In his most detailed comments on the Taliban's assault on the eastern city of Ghazni since it began Aug. 10, Mattis said the Taliban had six objectives in and around the city and failed to seize any of them. He would not specify the six sites.

In Ghazni, provincial police chief Farid Mashal said Thursday that roads were being cleared of mines planted by Taliban who temporarily held entire neighborhoods of the city that they had besieged. The fighting continued for five days with more than 100 members of the Afghan National Security forces killed and 20 civilians. Scores of Taliban were also killed, according to Afghan officials.

Mattis said some Taliban fighters were still holed up in houses in the city "trying to get resupplied." He said businesses are reopening, and overall, "it's much more stable" in Ghazni, showing that the Taliban have fallen short.

"They have not endeared themselves, obviously, to the population of Ghazni," Mattis said. "They use terror. They use bombs because they can't win with ballots."

The Taliban operation followed a familiar pattern, Mattis said in remarks to reporters flying with him Thursday evening to Bogota, Colombia, where he was winding up a weeklong tour of South America.

The insurgents likely were trying to gain leverage in advance of an expected cease fire offer by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, he said. And they likely were hoping to sow fear in advance of the October elections, he added.

"They achieved a degree of disquiet," he said, but nothing more.

"So we'll continue to see this sort of thing," he said, even though the Taliban lack the strength to hold territory they seize for brief periods. "They will never hold against the Afghan army."

The Afghan war has been stalemated for years. The Taliban lack the popular support to prevail, although they benefit from sanctuary in Pakistan. Afghan government forces, on the other hand, are too weak to decisively break the insurgents even as they develop under U.S. and NATO training and advising.

Mattis has said he believes the Afghan security forces are gaining momentum and can wear down the Taliban to the point where the insurgents would choose to talk peace. So far that approach has not produced a breakthrough.

Next week will mark one year since President Donald Trump announced a revised war strategy for Afghanistan, declaring there would be no time limit on U.S. support for the war and making a renewed push for peace negotiations.

NFL players, coaches protecting skin on every given sun day

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr., AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The toughest opponent for many NFL players and coaches during the blazing hot days of training camp sits far above the football field.

The sun's powerful ultraviolet rays are a leading cause of skin cancer, and shade is rare at most practice sites. So, slathered-on sunscreen, big bucket hats, long-sleeved T-shirts and slick sunglasses serve as lead blockers.

"I do it regularly, being red-haired with freckles, Irish heritage," Dolphins offensive tackle Sam Young said of using sunscreen. "I go to a dermatologist once a year to make sure everything is good."

Young doubles up on the protection by also wearing long sleeves during practice, despite steamy conditions that are more suited for lounging at the beach than playing on a football field.

"To me, it's not worth the risk," said Young, who grew up in South Florida and has family members who have had skin cancer. "I try to be as practical as I can about it. Sleeves mean one less thing to have to worry about."

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And, there are plenty of concerns for those who spend so many hours on sun-splashed fields.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. The organization estimates there will be 5.4 million new cases of non-melanoma this year among 3.3 million people, and 91,270 new cases of melanoma — a more serious and aggressive form of skin cancer. Melanoma is usually curable, however, when detected in its early stages.

The NFL and American Cancer Society teamed up this summer to launch an initiative as part of its “Crucial Catch” campaign in which free sunscreen is being provided to players, coaches, fans, team employees and media at camps around the country. Some sites — such as at Jets and Giants camp — have several receptacles where people can get sunscreen from a dispenser, while packets of lotion are being handed out at others.

“One of the things we try to do here that we haven’t done before (is) to look at the skin cancer part of it,” first-year Lions coach Matt Patricia said, “and see if there’s anything you have questions about as a person, ‘Hey, this doesn’t look right,’ or, ‘What do you think about this?’”

Falcons coach Dan Quinn said he’s had a spot “removed or checked on” in annual skin cancer checks during physical exams. He and some of his assistants normally wear long shirts under their T-shirts during practice — despite the Georgia heat and humidity.

“We all remind one another,” Quinn said. “For the players and for the coaches, we always have the lotion that we need or the spray to use. They’re pretty mindful.”

Well, some are.

Plenty of players acknowledge they often hit the field focused more on picking up blocks than putting on sunblock.

“I probably should, but I’m just too lazy,” said Washington rookie wide receiver Trey Quinn, who was “Mr. Irrelevant” as the last player selected in this year’s draft. “Hopefully my mom doesn’t see this. She’d probably recommend with my pale skin to wear a little sunscreen, but it’s available to us and it’s up to us to be adults and make decisions for ourselves.”

Most players and coaches don’t usually reapply sunscreen during practice, although the American Cancer Society recommends doing so after two hours in the sun.

Jets defensive end Henry Anderson usually remembers to put lotion on his arms before practice — not that it stays on long.

“Sometimes, I’ll get a little red because O-linemen are rubbing your arms and rubbing your skin and stuff,” he said. “I guess it does the job. I still get kind of burned here and there, but I just don’t really want to wear sleeves out to practice in this weather.”

The American Cancer Society says the lifetime risk of melanoma is higher for people who are white, especially those with fair skin that freckles or burns easily. But people of all skin colors are vulnerable, and sun damage can occur at any time of year.

Broncos linebacker Justin Simmons, who is black, recently wore tights and a long-sleeve shirt while practicing in the elevated altitude of Colorado. He also regularly wears sunscreen.

“When you’re out here, yeah, you have to,” Simmons said. “I just tan easy — very rarely does my skin break. But you have to put it on. You’re so much closer to the sun. It may feel a little bit more humid, like where I’m from in South Florida, and may not feel as humid here. But you’re so much closer and the sun is beaming on you.

“You have to protect your skin.”

Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman, Texans owner Bob McNair and Jaguars coach Doug Marrone are among some in the NFL community who have been successfully treated for melanomas.

But there have also been several who have been devastated by skin cancer, including former Steelers coach Bill Cowher, who lost his wife Kaye to melanoma in 2010. Former NFL assistant coach Jim Johnson died from that form of cancer in 2009, while former coach Buddy Ryan and former NFL player and coach Jack Pardee also dealt with it.

“Down in Houston with Mr. McNair, he would always remind us, ‘Hey, make sure you put sunscreen on.

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It's important," said Titans coach Mike Vrabel, a Texans assistant the past four seasons. "It's something that he went through, and as you're out there every single day, just being conscious of it."

Vrabel's quarterback certainly is. Marcus Mariota grew up in Hawaii, so he's used to sunny days. He doesn't use sunscreen, but wears a long-sleeved hoodie at practice, something he started doing last year.

"But today was a steamer," Mariota said recently. "I did consider putting on sunscreen. It's just slippery and messy. I'm not a big fan."

That's a common sentiment among players, particularly in the heat and humidity of training camp.

"I don't like doing it," Giants backup quarterback Davis Webb said. "I don't want it slipping on my hands, so I am not putting it on at practice. When I golf or I'm at the beach, I like to throw it on."

Dolphins rookie kicker Jason Sanders grew up in sunny Orange County, California, but is using sunscreen this summer for the first time in his football career.

"I get my upper arms to prevent the farmer's tan, and my neck, too," he said. "I get it on my ears and neck, but stay away from my face because I sweat a lot out here. I would say two out of three days I put sunscreen on. Some days when I kick, I don't want to be all lathered up. You can feel it when you're sweating this much. I don't want to get it anywhere near my eyes."

Just as long as it gets on every other exposed area.

Between blocks and screens, NFL players and coaches are doing everything under the sun to protect themselves.

"I think we can always get more information on all of that topic in general," Patricia said. "But (it's) something we have to be conscious about when we're out in the sun that long."

AP Pro Football Writer Teresa Walker and AP Sports Writers Tom Canavan, Pat Graham, Larry Lage, Brett Martel, Charles Odum, Stephen Whyno and Steve Wine contributed.

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

Trump's military parade delayed until at least 2019

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department says the Veterans Day military parade ordered up by President Donald Trump won't happen in 2018.

Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman, said Thursday that the military and the White House "have now agreed to explore opportunities in 2019."

The announcement came several hours after The Associated Press reported that the parade would cost about \$92 million, according to U.S. officials citing preliminary estimates more than three times the price first suggested by the White House.

According to the officials, roughly \$50 million would cover Pentagon costs for aircraft, equipment, personnel and other support for the November parade in Washington. The remainder would be borne by other agencies and largely involve security costs. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss early planning estimates that have not yet been finalized or released publicly.

Officials said the parade plans had not yet been approved by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Mattis himself said late Thursday that he had seen no such estimate and questioned the media reports.

The Pentagon chief told reporters traveling with him to Bogota, Colombia, that whoever leaked the number to the press was "probably smoking something that is legal in my state but not in most" — a reference to his home state of Washington, where marijuana use is legal.

He added: "I'm not dignifying that number (\$92 million) with a reply. I would discount that, and anybody who said (that number), I'll almost guarantee you one thing: They probably said, 'I need to stay anonymous.' No kidding, because you look like an idiot. And No. 2, whoever wrote it needs to get better sources. I'll just leave it at that."

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The parade's cost has become a politically charged issue, particularly after the Pentagon canceled a major military exercise planned for August with South Korea, in the wake of Trump's summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Trump said the drills were provocative and that dumping them would save the U.S. "a tremendous amount of money." The Pentagon later said the Korea drills would have cost \$14 million.

Lt. Col. Jamie Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said earlier Thursday that Defense Department planning for the parade "continues and final details are still being developed. Any cost estimates are pre-decisional."

The parade was expected to include troops from all five armed services — the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard — as well as units in period uniforms representing earlier times in the nation's history. It also was expected to involve a number of military aircraft flyovers.

A Pentagon planning memo released in March said the parade would feature a "heavy air component," likely including older, vintage aircraft. It also said there would be "wheeled vehicles only, no tanks — consideration must be given to minimize damage to local infrastructure." Big, heavy tanks could tear up streets in the District of Columbia.

The memo from Mattis' office provided initial planning guidance to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His staff is planning the parade along a route from the White House to the Capitol and would integrate it with the city's annual veterans' parade. U.S. Northern Command, which oversees U.S. troops in North America, is responsible for the actual execution of the parade.

Earlier this year, the White House budget director told Congress that the cost to taxpayers could be \$10 million to \$30 million. Those estimates were likely based on the cost of previous military parades, such as the one in the nation's capital in 1991 celebrating the end of the first Gulf War, and factored in some additional increase for inflation.

One veterans group weighed in Thursday against the parade. "The American Legion appreciates that our President wants to show in a dramatic fashion our nation's support for our troops," National Commander Denise Rohan said. "However, until such time as we can celebrate victory in the War on Terrorism and bring our military home, we think the parade money would be better spent fully funding the Department of Veteran Affairs and giving our troops and their families the best care possible."

Trump decided he wanted a military parade in Washington after he attended France's Bastille Day celebration in the center of Paris last year. As the invited guest of French President Emmanuel Macron, Trump watched enthusiastically from a reviewing stand as the French military showcased its tanks and fighter jets, including many U.S.-made planes, along the famed Champs-Elysees.

Several months later Trump praised the French parade, saying, "We're going to have to try and top it."

Detroit residents remember Aretha Franklin, impact on city

By COREY WILLIAMS and JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — To the rest of the world, she was the "Queen of Soul" — a woman whose strong and soulful voice could effortlessly jump multiple octaves whether belting out tear-jerking ballads or jump-and-shout gospel.

To residents in her hometown of Detroit who followed her more than 50-year career, she was simply "Aretha" or more personally "Ree-Ree" — the city's favorite daughter, often singing at the Baptist church her father once led or headlining charity functions for kids or the less fortunate.

"She was a pioneer woman for Detroit," said Myron Pullin, fighting back tears Thursday morning outside New Bethel Baptist Church after learning of Franklin's death from pancreatic cancer.

"It really hurt my heart. I wanted to cry," Pullin, 56, added beneath somber, gray and swollen clouds. "Her music touches you, but her voice. Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight, they're beautiful singers, but to me, Aretha just stood out differently from all of them."

Franklin, who died at her home in Detroit, had moved to the city from Tennessee as a young child.

"She was just special and she always came home and she always gave back," Pullin said. "She really, really always loved Detroit."

The feeling was mutual. Franklin is so beloved in Detroit that not one, but two streets bear her name.

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"Few people in the history of our city have been as universally loved or left as indelible a mark as Aretha," Mayor Mike Duggan said in a statement. "From the time her father gave Aretha her start in the New Bethel choir, it was clear to everyone how special she was. She was a performer without peers. Throughout her extraordinary life and career, she earned the love — and yes, the respect — of millions of people, not just for herself and for women everywhere, but for the city she loved so dearly and called home."

In 2010, she and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice performed a duet at Philadelphia's Mann Music Center to raise money for urban children and awareness for music and the arts. "It is a joint effort for the inner-city youth of Philadelphia and Detroit," Franklin said at the time.

She also worked with the United Negro College Fund and in 2005 held a party in the Detroit area for dozens of people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

"Detroiters realize how deeply I appreciate the city in which I was raised," Franklin wrote in her 1999 autobiography, "Aretha: From These Roots."

She continued, "And it is in Detroit that I continue to cultivate my career; it is to Detroit that I direct most of my charitable activities; and it is from Detroit that I receive much love and support, which I reciprocate."

Abdul "Duke" Fakir, the lone surviving original member of the Four Tops, told the AP earlier in the week about a recent conversation they had about the city.

"She was telling me she rides around the city every now and then — she talks about how beautiful it is again," Fakir said.

Lisa McCall, whose quarter-century career working with Franklin started at age 12 as a dancer and continued for many years as her main choreographer, said Franklin was loyal to her "camp," many of whom were from Detroit. They had a two-hour conversation when McCall was diagnosed with breast cancer 15 years ago, and another heart-to-heart came more recently.

"She heard I was ill and she called me — she gave me hope and inspired me," McCall said Thursday, adding that she still has the card that came with a bouquet of flowers Franklin had sent. "Then, last year in the dressing room she said, 'Lisa, you've been through this — I hope I come out on top like you.' ... I knew what she meant."

McCall said Franklin was an inspiration both personally and professionally. The singer trusted the choreographer to assemble the team of dancers and make sure they were ready to perform at venues across the country.

"I think that's why I always hire Detroit artists — because of Aretha. She kept Detroit artists working," McCall said. "She always gave opportunities to Detroiters ... because she said we have great talent.

"She's Detroit's queen — she's our queen," McCall added. "She belongs to us."

Associated Press writer Russell Contreras in Albuquerque, New Mexico, contributed to this story.

Online:

For more, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/ArethaFranklin>

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Former US security leaders blast Trump for yanking clearance

By JILL COLVIN and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former U.S. security officials issued scathing rebukes to President Donald Trump on Thursday, admonishing him for yanking a top former spy chief's security clearance in what they cast as an act of political vengeance. Trump said he'd had to do "something" about the "rigged" federal probe of Russian election interference.

Trump's admission that he acted out of frustration about the Russia probe underscored his willingness to use his executive power to fight back against an investigation he sees as a threat to his presidency. Legal experts said the dispute may add to the evidence being reviewed by special counsel Robert Mueller.

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In an opinion piece in The New York Times, former CIA Director John Brennan said Trump's decision, announced Wednesday, to deny him access to classified information was a desperate attempt to end Mueller's investigation. Brennan, who served under President Barack Obama and has become a vocal Trump critic, called Trump's claims that he did not collude with Russia "hogwash."

The only question remaining is whether the collusion amounts to a "constituted criminally liable conspiracy," Brennan wrote.

Later Thursday, the retired Navy admiral who oversaw the raid that killed Osama bin Laden called Trump's moves "McCarthy-era tactics." Writing in The Washington Post, William H. McRaven said he would "consider it an honor" if Trump would revoke his clearance, as well.

"Through your actions, you have embarrassed us in the eyes of our children, humiliated us on the world stage and, worst of all, divided us as a nation," McRaven wrote.

That was followed late Thursday by a joint letter from 12 former senior intelligence officials calling Trump's action "ill-considered and unprecedented." They said it "has nothing to do with who should and should not hold security clearances — and everything to do with an attempt to stifle free speech."

The signees included six former CIA directors, five former deputy directors and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. Two of the signees — Clapper and former CIA Director Michael Hayden — have appeared on a White House list of people who may also have their security clearances revoked.

Trump on Wednesday openly tied his decision to strip Brennan of his clearance — and threaten nearly a dozen other former and current officials — to the ongoing investigation into Russian election meddling and possible collusion with his campaign. In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Trump again called the probe a "rigged witch hunt" and said "these people led it!"

"So I think it's something that had to be done," he said.

The president's comments were a swift departure from the official explanation given by the White House earlier Wednesday that cited the "the risks" posed by Brennan's alleged "erratic conduct and behavior." It marked the latest example of the president contradicting a story his aides had put forward to explain his motivations.

Attorneys said the revocation appeared to be within the president's authority. But they noted the power play also could be used to reinforce a case alleging obstruction of justice, following the president's firing of former FBI Director James Comey and his repeated tweets calling for the investigation to end.

Patrick Cotter, a former assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York and a longtime white-collar defense attorney, said that while a prosecutor could argue that Trump's targeting of clearances was intended as a warning that "if you contribute to, participate in, support the Russia probe and I find out about it, I'm going to punish you," it is likely not obstruction in itself.

But, he said the move would be a "powerful piece of evidence" for prosecutors as part of a pattern to demonstrate an intent to use presidential power in connection with the probe.

Renato Mariotti, a former federal prosecutor agreed.

"What it shows is that the president is fixated on the Russia investigation, he's angry about it, and he wants to do everything he can to discourage or slow down the investigation," he said.

Special Counsel Mueller and his team have been looking at Trump's public statements and tweets as they investigate whether the president could be guilty of obstruction.

"I don't think it advances the criminal obstruction case, but I think it's factually relevant," said Mark Zaid, a national security attorney. "I think it shows the state of mind and intent to interfere or impede any unfavorable discussion of his potential connection to Russia."

Former CIA directors and other top national security officials are typically allowed to keep their clearances, at least for some period. But Trump said Wednesday he is reviewing the clearances of several other former top intelligence and law enforcement officials, including former FBI Director Comey and current senior Justice Department official Bruce Ohr. All are critics of the president or are people who Trump appears to believe are against him.

The initial White House statement about Brennan's clearance made no reference to the Russia investi-

gation. Instead, the president said he was fulfilling his "constitutional responsibility to protect the nation's classified information," even though he made no suggestion that Brennan was improperly exposing the nation's secrets.

"Mr. Brennan's lying and recent conduct characterized by increasingly frenzied commentary is wholly inconsistent with access to the nation's most closely held secrets," Trump said.

Just hours later, his explanation had changed.

"You look at any of them and you see the things they've done," Trump told the Journal. "In some cases, they've lied before Congress. The Hillary Clinton whole investigation was a total sham."

"I don't trust many of those people on that list," he said. "I think that they're very duplicitous. I think they're not good people."

The episode was reminiscent of Trump's shifting explanations for firing Comey and the evolving descriptions of the Trump Tower meeting between top campaign aides and a Kremlin-connected lawyer — both topics of interest to Mueller.

And it underscores why the president's lawyers are fearful of allowing Trump to sit down for an interview with Mueller's team, as Trump has repeatedly said he is interested in doing.

In announcing Comey's firing, the White House initially cited the former FBI director's handling of the probe into Democratic rival Clinton's emails, seizing on the FBI director's decision to divulge details of the probe to the public during her campaign against Trump.

But a few days after Comey was dismissed, Trump told NBC's Lester Holt in an interview that he was really thinking of "this Russia thing" when he fired Comey.

Trump later changed again, tweeting that he "never fired James Comey because of Russia!"

Early this month, he admitted in a tweet that the Trump Tower meeting, which was arranged by his son, Donald Trump Jr., "was a meeting to get information on an opponent."

That directly contradicted a July 2017 statement from Trump Jr. — written with the consultation of the White House — that claimed the meeting had been primarily about adoption.

Associated Press writer Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

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

Police work to stop overdoses after 76 fall ill

By DAVE COLLINS, Associated Press

Police swarmed a Connecticut park near Yale University and searched people's homes for drugs Thursday in an effort to prevent more overdoses from a batch of synthetic marijuana blamed for sending more than 70 people to the hospital.

Social workers and mental health professionals also responded to the New Haven Green, where most of the overdoses happened Wednesday. Authorities described a chaotic scene where people were dropping to the ground unconscious, others vomiting and some becoming lethargic.

Officials said 76 people overdosed Wednesday and 17 more fell ill Thursday. Officials weren't certain whether Thursday's overdoses involved the same batch of "K2" synthetic marijuana. No deaths were reported, and most of those brought to local hospitals have been discharged.

Synthetic marijuana, called "spice" and other names, usually is plant material sprayed with chemicals or other substances that is sold in small, colorful packets. It has been blamed for other mass overdoses across the country. In May, more than 50 people in Brooklyn, New York, overdosed on K2, none fatally.

Some of the New Haven victims tested positive for the powerful opioid fentanyl, also blamed for overdoses, but authorities believe this week's overdoses were caused solely by synthetic marijuana.

Police Chief Anthony Campbell said one of three people arrested in connection with the overdoses apparently gave K2 away for free in an effort to get people hooked. The names of the suspects haven't been released.

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Campbell said New Haven provides an array of services to people addicted to drugs, many of whom come from other towns where such treatment programs aren't available.

"New Haven is a place where we really are trying to help people," Campbell said. "Someone ... with malice in their heart took advantage of that, took advantage of this vulnerable population. But that will not stop this city from reaching its hand out to those who are in need and treating them and providing those services."

The 16-acre Green, which the National Park Service says dates back to 1638 and is one of the oldest in New England, is a focal point of downtown New Haven. It's surrounded by parts of Yale University, shops, churches and government buildings, and serves as a hub for area bus service.

Campbell also said officers were executing search warrants Thursday in an effort to get all the bad drugs off the streets. He said that in addition to state charges, the suspects could also face federal charges.

Mayor Toni Harp said plans were being finalized for Jim Carroll, President Trump's nominee for drug czar, to visit New Haven on Monday.

"This is happening nationwide," Harp said. "We're eager to raise awareness at the highest levels of the federal government for a better sense of what happened and the challenges that urban centers face in terms of combatting a persistent, vexing presence of people with substance abuse disorder."

Officials were still trying to determine what exactly made people sick. Toxicology tests remained pending. Doctors said some victims improved after being given the opioid overdose antidote drug naxolone, while others did not.

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy said the state departments of Public Health and Mental Health and Addiction Services were helping New Haven officials. He said state health officials delivered 50 doses of naxolone to the city to help replenish its supply.

"Today's emergency is deeply troubling and illustrative of the very real and serious threat that illicit street drugs pose to health of individuals," the Democratic governor said.

New Haven first responders were called to a similar overdose outbreak on the Green on July 4, when more than a dozen people became sick from synthetic marijuana. The city also saw more than a dozen synthetic marijuana overdoses in late January. No deaths were reported in either outbreak.

The state Senate Republican leader, Len Fasano, of North Haven, criticized New Haven officials on Thursday for not addressing drug use on the Green — a claim the mayor disputed. Fasano said the Green has become "a place of despair" and "no longer an attraction for families or economic development."

Remains found in New Mexico desert tunnel are missing boy

By MORGAN LEE and RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Forensic investigators said Thursday they identified the remains of a Georgia boy whose father is accused of abducting him and performing purification rituals on the child as he died at a remote New Mexico desert compound. The cause of the child's death remained unknown.

The body of Abdul-ghani Wahhaj (ahb-DOOL' GAH'-nee wah-HAJ') was found Aug. 6 in an underground tunnel. It was so severely decomposed that investigators could not yet determine how the severely disabled boy reported missing in December had died, New Mexico's Office of the Medical Investigator said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for the office said it will be examining both the body and where the remains were located to seek to determine a cause and manner of death. A prosecutor said no charges regarding the death are imminent because officials don't yet know how the boy died.

"All we have is a positive ID," Donald Gallegos, the district attorney for Taos County in northern New Mexico, said in an interview. "We'll need something else, actual cause of death, manner of death."

Authorities have said they believe Abdul-ghani died in February, when he was 3.

The boy's father, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj (see-DAHJ' IBN wah-HAJ'), was among five people arrested on suspicion of child abuse at the compound near the Colorado state line, where authorities say 11 hungry children were found living in filth during a raid earlier this month. A search a few days later turned up the

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body in a tunnel.

Prosecutors seeking to keep Sirah Ibn Wahhaj and four members of his extended family behind bars said in court on Monday that he had been training some children at the compound to use firearms and carry out attacks on an anti-government mission that might target schools.

An FBI agent, citing interviews with two children from the compound, said Abdul-ghani died as relatives performed a ritual on the boy to cast out demonic spirits while reading from the Quran.

State District Court Judge Sarah Backus on Monday said the evidence provided by prosecutors was troubling but did not indicate any clear threat to public safety from the defendants, who have no criminal records.

She admonished prosecutors for apparently expecting her to take the defendants' Muslim faith into account in her decision.

Defense attorneys disputed accusations of neglect and said guns on the property were legally owned.

The judge's order cleared the way for the release of three defendants — two women and one man — on house arrest with ankle monitors.

But they had not been released as of Thursday amid concerns about their safety, in part stemming from threats of violence against Backus based on her order to release them.

Siraj Ibn Wahhaj will continue to be held on a warrant from Georgia that accuses him of abducting his son from the boy's mother. Defendant Jany Leveille, a native of Haiti, has been transferred to the custody of federal immigration authorities.

Gallegos said his office will appeal Backus' decision to allow the release of the three suspects.

"We gave her all the evidence we needed to and some of the evidence wasn't allowed," he said. "We'll just see what another set of eyes and ears has to say."

Von Chelet Leveille, a brother of Jany Leveille who lives in Haiti, said in an interview that he learned of Abdul-ghani's death last winter amid daily WhatsApp text and voice conversations with his sister after her arrival in New Mexico.

The boy's father previously had met with a faith healer in London and was desperate to explore new remedies for his son's health problems, stemming from a lack of oxygen and blood flow at birth, Von Chelet Leveille said.

Von Chelet Leveille also said his sister told him that Abdul-ghani died while his father was performing an alternative, meditative Islamic healing ritual called ruqya that involves reading from the Quran.

The boy's body was stored in a tunnel and washed every few days, and it showed little sign of decomposition for several months in the high-desert winter and spring, Von Chelet Leveille said from his home in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

That helped instill in his sister a belief that Abdul-ghani would be resurrected as Jesus — a fulfillment of the Islamic prophecy that Jesus will someday return and restore justice on earth.

"It was crazy to me," he said. "They kept saying to me, 'You're not here, you're not seeing what we're seeing.'"

Von Chelet Leveille said the firearms training at the compound was a defensive measure because the family feared people might not tolerate their view that the boy would be resurrected as a black, Muslim person.

Kelly Golightley, a defense attorney for Jany Leveille, cautioned that her client's brother comments were "from someone who wasn't there."

"I think that we really need to be careful about jumping to conclusions," she said.

Authorities say Abdul-ghani initially was reported missing last year from Jonesboro, Georgia, by his mother after Siraj Ibn Wahhaj said he was taking the child to a park and didn't return.

The mother, Hakima Ramzi, now has "some sense of closure in this matter," said her lawyer, M. Khuram Baig.

He said she will cooperate with authorities in their investigation of the death if asked and that her "attention will now turn toward giving her son a proper burial in accordance with Islamic traditions."

Contreras reported from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Associated Press writer Ben Nadler in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Judge finds conspiracy to kill Kim with VX, women to testify

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP) — Two women accused in the brazen assassination of the North Korean leader's half brother were told Thursday to make their defense after a Malaysian judge found evidence they participated in a "well-planned conspiracy" to kill, extending their murder trial until next year.

Indonesia's Siti Aisyah and Vietnam's Doan Thi Huong are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. They face the death penalty if convicted.

High Court Judge Azmi Ariffin found inadequate proof of a political assassination and said he wasn't persuaded by defense arguments that the women thought they were playing a prank for a hidden-camera show. But enough evidence had been presented in the six-month trial to infer the women and four North Korean suspects at large had meticulously engaged in a "well-planned conspiracy" to kill Kim "systemically," he said.

"I must therefore call upon them to enter their defense," the judge said after reading his ruling for more than two hours.

Indonesian Ambassador Rusdi Kirana told reporters outside court that he was shocked by the decision but his government will abide by it.

In Huong's village in Vietnam, her family said they were sad to hear she was not acquitted. Her father, Doan Van Thanh, said he could not sleep the night before, anxious to hear the ruling.

"I had hoped the court would announce that she is innocent but now we are really worried for her," he said. Huong's brother, Doan Van Binh, said the family hopes she will receive a fair trial.

Aisyah, 25, and Huong, 29, told the court they would testify under oath in their defense. Aisyah, who will be the first to take the stand when the trial resumes Nov. 1, later cried and was consoled by her lawyers and Indonesian officials. Huong was calm. The judge set hearing dates that extend until next February.

The women are accused of colluding with four North Korean suspects who fled the country the morning Kim was killed. Aisyah and Huong are the only suspects in custody.

According to the case presented so far, the four men known to Aisyah and Huong by code names recruited and trained the women and supplied the banned chemical weapon they smeared on Kim's face.

Airport security footage shown in court captured the moment of the attack and prosecutors also said the camera images linked the women to the four male suspects. Shortly after Kim arrived at the airport, Huong was seen approaching him, clasping her hands on his face from behind and then fleeing. Another blurred figure was also seen running away from Kim and a police investigator testified that it was Aisyah.

Kim died within two hours of the attack.

Defense lawyers have said the prosecution failed to show the two women had any intention to kill — key to establishing they are guilty of murder.

But the judge said their intention to kill can be inferred from targeting Kim's eyes, where the nerve agent would penetrate faster. He said evidence pointed to a "simultaneous act" by the women and that their subsequent hurrying to separate washrooms was not a "mere coincidence" but established their intention to cause Kim's death.

"There is no slightest doubt in my mind that it can be inferred that their desperate act of rushing to the toilet was solely for the purpose to decontaminate the poisonous VX on their hands," Azmi said. He said they seemed worried and tense before washing their hands, but relaxed afterward.

"The onus is on the accused to explain their conduct," he added.

Lawyers for the two women have said their clients were pawns in a political assassination with clear links to the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

The judge said the four North Koreans played a "substantial role" and were "part of the chain that led to

the murder” of Kim. The defense has argued the real culprits are the four North Korean suspects and have pointed to an embassy employee who helped arrange their travel as evidence of embassy involvement.

Azmi said he “cannot rule out that this could be a political assassination,” but found no concrete evidence of one.

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea and have made it clear they don’t want the trial politicized.

Kim, the eldest son in the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor. It is thought he could have been seen as a threat to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s rule.

India’s Vajpayee, who set off nuke race and peace, has died

By ASHOK SHARMA, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a Hindu nationalist who set off a nuclear arms race with rival Pakistan but later reached across the border to begin a groundbreaking peace process, died Thursday after a long illness. He was 93.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, where Vajpayee had been hospitalized for more than two months with a kidney infection and chest congestion, announced his death.

Vajpayee, a leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, had suffered a stroke in 2009.

A onetime journalist, Vajpayee was in many ways a political contradiction: He was the moderate leader of an often-strident Hindu nationalist movement. He was a lifelong poet who revered nature but who oversaw India’s growth into a swaggering regional economic power. He was the prime minister who ordered nuclear tests in 1998, stoking fears of atomic war between India and Pakistan. Then, a few years later, it was Vajpayee who made the first moves toward peace.

Vajpayee’s supporters saw him as a skilled politician who managed to avoid fanaticism, a man who refused to see the world in black and white.

But his critics considered him the leader of a fanatic movement — a movement partially rooted in European fascism — that sought power by stoking public fears of India’s large Muslim minority.

The one thing both sides could agree on was his honesty. Vajpayee was that rare thing in Indian politics: untainted by corruption scandals.

One of seven children of a schoolteacher in central India, Vajpayee joined India’s Hindu revivalist political movement in his late 20s. Elected to Parliament in 1957, he became the best-known figure in its moderate wing, and helped the Bharatiya Janata Party become one of India’s few national political parties.

One of India’s longest-serving lawmakers, Vajpayee was elected nine times to the powerful Lok Sabha, or lower house of Parliament. He also served two terms in the Rajya Sabha, or upper house.

He led the party to its first national electoral victory in 1996, but lasted just 13 days as prime minister before he resigned in the face of a no-confidence motion. He returned to power in 1998 for 13 months after forging an alliance of 22 parties, mostly regional power brokers with disparate local appeal. He again served as India’s prime minister from 1999 to 2004.

It was in India’s relations with Pakistan where Vajpayee’s influence may last the longest.

While India’s nuclear weapons program is believed to date to the 1980s, New Delhi had long insisted its atomic program was purely for peaceful purposes. That changed within a month of Vajpayee returning to the prime minister’s post in 1998, when he approved a series of nuclear weapons tests that shocked the world and pushed Islamabad to launch its own tests.

But the next year, when Islamabad sent fighters across the cease-fire line that divides the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir between the nations, Vajpayee resisted military pressure to launch a broad counter-attack of Indian forces.

After 11 weeks and more than 1,000 deaths, Pakistan ordered the fighters to withdraw. India earned international praise for its caution.

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His peace efforts began with a groundbreaking bus ride to Lahore, Pakistan, in February 1999, where he met with then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The diplomatic journey inaugurated the first regular bus service between the two nations.

Then, just before leaving office in 2004, he launched a peace process that, while often rocky, remains the basis of ongoing negotiations.

Vajpayee avoided bedrock nationalist issues, like plans to build a Hindu temple at the site of a demolished north Indian mosque. But critics excoriated him for failing to quickly quell anti-Muslim riots that shook the state of Gujarat in 2002. More than 1,100 people, almost all of them Muslim, were killed in the riots, which began after a train fire killed 60 Hindu pilgrims. Muslims were accused of setting the fire, though the true cause was never known.

Vajpayee's public response to the riots reflected his many contradictions.

In the days after the pogrom, Vajpayee said he could not understand how Hindus could burn women and children alive, sadly asking a group of Muslim survivors: "Have we lost our way so much that we cease to be humans?"

Just a year later, though, he told a mostly Hindu audience, "Wherever there are Muslims in large numbers, they do not want to live in peace."

While known for his poetry and gifted with a politician's common touch - as a parliamentarian he would take his dogs for walks in public - he was not known for public introspection. Few people could claim to understand what drove him. He never married, but lived with his adopted daughter, her husband and their daughter.

Vajpayee quickly dropped from sight after the BJP lost power to the long-dominant Congress party in 2004 elections. As his health failed, Vajpayee stayed out of the limelight even when the BJP returned to power a decade later and Narendra Modi became prime minister.

Modi's government presented Vajpayee as an icon, seeking inspiration from his political career and cashing in on his stature and popularity as a statesman acceptable across political divides.

"It was Vajpayee's exemplary leadership that set the foundations for a strong, prosperous and inclusive India in the 21st century. His futuristic policies across various sectors touched the lives of each and every citizen of India," Modi tweeted Thursday.

Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Congress party, said "India has lost a great son" who was "loved and respected by millions."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo extended his condolences in a statement praising Vajpayee's contributions to India and to the development of bilateral relations.

In 2015, the government honored Vajpayee with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, while his Dec. 25 birthday was declared "Good Governance Day" in a tribute to his leadership.

Vajpayee's body is to be taken to his New Delhi home and then to the BJP's office on Friday for people to pay their last respects. His funeral is to be held Friday afternoon.

The government announced the national flag will be flown at half staff in mourning for seven days at government offices and Indian embassies abroad.

This story has been corrected to show that Vajpayee's second tenure as prime minister was for 13 months instead of 11 months.

APNewsBreak: Google clarifies location-tracking policy

By RYAN NAKASHIMA, Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google has revised an erroneous description on its website of how its "Location History" setting works, clarifying that it continues to track users even if they've disabled the setting.

The change came three days after an Associated Press investigation revealed that several Google apps and websites store user location even if users have turned off Location History. Google has not changed its location-tracking practice in that regard.

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But its help page for the Location History setting now states: "This setting does not affect other location services on your device." It also acknowledges that "some location data may be saved as part of your activity on other services, like Search and Maps."

Previously, the page stated: "With Location History off, the places you go are no longer stored."

The AP observed that the change occurred midday Thursday, a finding confirmed by Internet Archive snapshots taken earlier in the day.

The AP investigation found that even with Location History turned off, Google stores user location when, for instance, the Google Maps app is opened, or when users conduct Google searches that aren't related to location. Automated searches of the local weather on some Android phones also store the phone's whereabouts.

In a Thursday statement to the AP, Google said: "We have been updating the explanatory language about Location History to make it more consistent and clear across our platforms and help centers."

The statement contrasted with a statement Google sent to the AP several days ago that said in part, "We provide clear descriptions of these tools."

Jonathan Mayer, a Princeton computer scientist and former chief technologist for the Federal Communications Commission's enforcement bureau, said the wording change was a step in the right direction. But it doesn't fix the underlying confusion Google created by storing location information in multiple ways, he said.

"The notion of having two distinct ways in which you control how your location data is stored is inherently confusing," he said Thursday. "I can't think off the top of my head of any major online service that architected their location privacy settings in a similar way."

K. Shankari, a UC Berkeley graduate researcher whose findings initially alerted the AP to the issue, said Thursday the change was a "good step forward," but added "they can make it better." For one thing, she said, the page still makes no mention of another setting called "Web & App Activity." Turning that setting off that would in fact stop recording location data.

Huge tech companies are under increasing scrutiny over their data practices, following a series of privacy scandals at Facebook and new data-privacy rules recently adopted by the European Union. Last year, the business news site Quartz found that Google was tracking Android users by collecting the addresses of nearby cellphone towers even if all location services were off. Google changed the practice and insisted it never recorded the data anyway.

Critics say Google's insistence on tracking its users' locations stems from its drive to boost advertising revenue. It can charge advertisers more if they want to narrow ad delivery to people who've visited certain locations.

Several observers also noted that Google is still bound by a 20-year agreement it struck with the Federal Trade Commission in 2011. That consent decree requires Google to not misrepresent to consumers how they can protect their privacy.

Google agreed to that order in response to an FTC investigation of its now-defunct social networking service Google Buzz, which the agency accused of publicly revealing users' most frequent Gmail contacts.

A year later, Google was fined \$22.5 million for breaking the agreement after it served some users of Apple's Safari browser so-called tracking cookies in violation of settings that were meant to prevent that.

The FTC has declined to say whether it had begun investigating Google for how it has described Location History.

Vatican in 'shame and sorrow' over abuses in Pennsylvania

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican expressed "shame and sorrow" Thursday over a scathing Pennsylvania grand jury report about clergy who raped and molested children in six dioceses in that state, calling the abuse "criminally and morally reprehensible" and saying Pope Francis wants to eradicate "this tragic horror."

In a written statement using uncharacteristically strong language for the Holy See even in matters like the long-running abuse scandals staining the U.S. church, Vatican spokesman Greg Burke sought to assure

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victims that "the pope is on their side."

Pope Francis himself wasn't quoted in the statement, and there was no mention of demands in the United States among some Roman Catholics for the resignation of Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the archbishop of Washington.

The grand jury report made public this week accused the cardinal of helping to protect some molester priests while he was bishop of the Pennsylvania city of Pittsburgh. Wuerl has defended his actions in Pittsburgh while apologizing for the damage inflicted on victims.

Burke said the incidents of abuse graphically documented in the report were "betrayals of trust that robbed survivors of their dignity and their faith."

"The church must learn hard lessons from its past, and there should be accountability for both abusers and those who permitted abuse to occur," he said.

Victims and their advocates for decades have lamented that top Catholic churchmen repeatedly put the reputation of the church ahead of obligations to protect children from harm from pedophile priests.

In a sign that Pope Francis wants to end that pervasive mind set among church hierarchy, including bishops and cardinals, he recently accepted the resignation from cardinal's rank of former Washington archbishop Theodore McCarrick amid allegations that the American prelate had engaged in sexual misconduct.

Resignations by cardinals are extremely rare, and McCarrick's was the first time a prelate lost his cardinal's rank in a sexual abuse scandal.

Burke said Francis "understands well how much these crimes can shake the faith and the spirit of believers and reiterates the call to make every effort to create a safe environment for minors and vulnerable adults in the church and in all of society."

The grand jury report documented how pedophile priests were often protected by church hierarchy or moved to other postings without the faithful being told of the priests' sexual predatory history.

The long-awaited grand jury report was full of vivid examples of horrendous abuse. In one such example, a young girl was raped by a priest visiting her while she was in a hospital following surgery to remove her tonsils. In another, a priest tied up a victim with a rope in a confessional booth, and when the victim refused to perform sex, the priest assaulted him with a crucifix.

Speaking about Francis, Burke said: "Those who have suffered are his priority, and the church wants to listen to them to root out this tragic horror that destroys the lives of the innocent."

Even before the report was released, a series of scandals over the last few decades involving pedophile priests and systematic attempts by pastors and bishops to cover up the abuse by shuttling offenders to new parishes had rocked the faith of many Catholics in the United States.

Similar abuse and determination by protect abusers had also stained the reputation of the Catholic Church in many other countries.

Francis recently did a turnaround on how accusations by victims in Chile were viewed by the Vatican. After casting doubt on the victims' accounts during his visit to Chile earlier this year, Francis apologized to them, hosted the victims at the Vatican and later accepted the resignations of some of the country's bishops, who offered en masse to step down.

On Thursday, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops invited the Vatican to play a key role in investigating the scandal involving McCarrick, who allegedly engaged in sexual misconduct with minors and adult seminarians.

The conference's president, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, said he would go to Rome to ask the Vatican to conduct a high-level investigation known as an "apostolic visitation" to deal with McCarrick's case, working together with a group of predominantly lay experts.

Queen of Soul also leaves a powerful civil rights legacy

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

Aretha Franklin, who was born and rose to fame during the segregation era and went on to sing at the inauguration of the first black president, often used her talent, fortune and platform to inspire millions of

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black Americans and support the fight for racial equality.

"She not only provided the soundtrack for the civil rights movement, Aretha's music transcended race, nationality and religion and helped people from all backgrounds to recognize what they had in common," said longtime civil rights leader the Rev. Joseph E. Lowery.

Franklin, who died Thursday at 76, was a close confidante of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and a financial lifeline to the civil rights organization he co-founded, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The Queen of Soul's commitment to civil rights was instilled by her father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, who also knew King and preached social justice from his pulpit at New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit.

The church, in fact, was the first place King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963. Among those in the congregation were Aretha Franklin and Mahalia Jackson. It was Jackson who later urged the civil rights leader to "tell them about the dream, Martin" at the March on Washington, where he delivered the oration for which he is most famous.

Franklin recorded "Respect" on Valentine's Day 1967. Black Americans had already won federal legislation outlawing segregation and protecting their voting rights, particularly in the Deep South.

But blacks were still a year away from the Fair Housing Act. And just months after the song was recorded, urban centers, including Franklin's hometown of Detroit, would burn, exposing police brutality and unequal living conditions and job opportunities.

"Her songs were songs of the movement," Andrew Young, the former King lieutenant and U.N. ambassador, said Thursday. "R-E-S-P-E-C-T. ... That's basically what we wanted. The movement was about respect."

The SCLC often struggled financially, but Franklin played a vital role in keeping the movement afloat.

"Almost every time we needed money, there were two people we could always count on: Aretha Franklin and Harry Belafonte," Young said. "They would get together and have a concert, and that would put us back on our feet."

King and Franklin were like spiritual siblings, sharing a bond rooted in their Christian faith, Young said. King would often ask Franklin to sing his favorite songs, "Amazing Grace" or "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." When King was assassinated in 1968, Franklin sang "Precious Lord" at his funeral in Atlanta.

Franklin's "Amazing Grace" was also a comfort to the Rev. Al Sharpton when he was a boy. He recalled that his mother would play the song nonstop in their Brooklyn home after his father left.

As an adult and an activist, Sharpton became friends with the soul singer. He noted her unwavering faith, which she brought with her on stage to every performance.

"Whether it was the White House, Radio City Music Hall or the Apollo Theater, she always did gospel numbers," Sharpton said. "She was unapologetically a hardcore, faith-believing Baptist. At the height of her career, she cut a gospel album. Who does that? Her faith is what motivated her."

Long after the civil rights movement ended, Franklin remained committed to social justice, helping Sharpton as he began his organization, the National Action Network, in New York. She would call Sharpton for updates on the emerging Black Lives Matter movement, asking about such cases as those of Trayvon Martin and Eric Garner.

"She gave so much to so many people, from Dr. King, to Mandela, to Barack Obama," said Rev. Jesse Jackson, a longtime friend who visited her the day before her death.

Her presence and influence were as valuable to the movement as her financial contributions, Sharpton said.

"To have someone like that that involved and interested ... was a statement," he said. "It gave all the credibility in the world. Others had celebrity, but she had gravity and respect."

For more, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/ArethaFranklin>

Whack is AP's national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emarvelous>

Phantom of the Courthouse: Manafort trial is Trump-free zone

By STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Donald Trump is the phantom of U.S. District Courtroom 900.

His name has rarely been uttered during the two-week trial of his former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort. References to his campaign and administration have slipped in only through carefully scrubbed exchanges. The Trump name has been so studiously avoided that when the trial judge said “Mr. Trump” during a morning hearing Thursday, courtroom spectators jumped.

This is the first major courtroom test of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian contacts with the Trump campaign. But the president’s absence is strictly intentional. All sides have feared that too much Trump could prejudice the jury somehow — and they don’t know which way — in a case that has little to do with the most polarizing figure in American politics.

Mueller’s team, Manafort’s attorneys and U.S. District Judge T. S. Ellis III all took actions — either before trial or during proceedings in the historic Alexandria courthouse — to erase almost all mentions of the president.

“There is a very real risk that the jurors in this case — most of whom likely have strong views about President Trump, or have likely formed strong opinions as to the well-publicized allegations that the campaign colluded with Russian officials — will be unable to separate their opinions and beliefs about those matters from the tax and bank fraud matters to be tried before them in this case,” Manafort’s lawyers said in a June filing.

Trump’s absence from the trial also has much to do with how the special counsel’s team has built its case and the way Manafort’s lawyers responded.

The prosecution’s massive cache of Manafort-related emails and financial documents — and the witnesses that prosecutors put on — were largely designed to establish a narrative that Manafort’s crimes were of his own making and committed long before he took over Trump’s campaign in April 2016.

In any case, the trial does not involve allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination with the Trump campaign. But the president has been watching it closely as he seeks to publicly undermine Mueller’s probe. In recent weeks, Trump has blasted out tweets minimizing Manafort’s campaign role and comparing him — sympathetically — with mobster Al Capone.

Manafort’s attorneys, too, have mostly steered clear of Trump references, preferring to go after the prosecution’s star witness, Rick Gates — who also worked for Trump — and chip away at the government’s hundreds of emails, tax documents and financial records.

The trial’s Trump sensitivity held to the end. In closing arguments, defense attorney Richard Westling listed all of the Republican presidents and national candidates that Manafort had advised to show his bona fides as a “highly regarded political consultant.”

They included “Trump” but said no more about him.

So it was no surprise Thursday morning when courtroom spectators waiting for Ellis to send jurors to deliberate on Manafort’s fate suddenly looked up, startled.

Ellis had addressed a well-coiffed man in a dark suit sitting in a back row about a routine criminal case. “Mr. Trump.”

For a moment, as spectators swiveled around, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Trump, no relation, had the courtroom’s rapt attention.

Then, grinning, he answered the judge’s question.

President Trump’s role — or lack thereof — in the case has been an issue from the outset.

In a filing last June, the defense had submitted a formal motion asking Ellis to prohibit any evidence concerning “Manafort’s or the Trump campaign’s alleged collusion with the Russian government.” Prosecutors agreed to limit their references to the Trump campaign but said they wanted to make reference to it during testimony concerning Manafort’s bank fraud charges.

“We’ll try to do it in a discreet way, but it’s hard to take out those facts, if not impossible,” prosecutor Greg Andres said during a later hearing. Ellis agreed to restrict references to Trump, but gave prosecutors leeway to carefully use them in the bank fraud evidence.

At trial, prosecutors flashed an image on courtroom wall screens of a note between Manafort and Gates documenting a 2013 meeting and a request to leave a group of tickets "for Trump."

The reference was never explained in testimony.

Defense lawyers also ventured into Trump territory as they tried to sting at prosecution witness Gates. Lawyer Kevin Downing asked whether Mueller's investigators had interviewed Gates about his role in the Trump campaign.

That prompted an immediate objection from prosecutors and a sidebar conference with Ellis.

Associated Press writer Matthew Barakat contributed to this report.

Bishops request Vatican investigation as abuse crisis grows

By DAVID CRARY, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Responding to what it calls a "moral catastrophe," the leading body of U.S. Catholic leaders said Thursday it would ask the Vatican to investigate the scandal involving a former cardinal who allegedly engaged in sexual misconduct with children and adult seminarians.

The request by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for an investigation into the actions of Theodore McCarrick came as the Vatican expressed "shame and sorrow" over a grand jury investigation this week that found rampant sexual abuse of more than 1,000 children by about 300 priests in six Pennsylvania dioceses over a 70-year period. Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said that victims should know "the pope is on their side."

The Pennsylvania scandal and the damaging allegations about McCarrick — one of the most influential Catholics in the country — have engulfed the church in scandal reminiscent of what happened in Boston with clergy sex abuse in the 2000s.

The conference president, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, said a full investigation is necessary "to prevent a recurrence, and so help to protect minors, seminarians, and others who are vulnerable in the future."

Using formal church terminology for high-level Vatican investigations, DiNardo said he would travel to Rome and ask the Vatican to conduct an "apostolic visitation" to address the McCarrick case, working in concert with a group of predominantly lay experts.

DiNardo also deplored the findings of the grand jury report and said the bishops would work to create a new process to review allegations of misconduct by bishops.

"We are faced with a spiritual crisis that requires not only spiritual conversion, but practical changes to avoid repeating the sins and failures of the past," DiNardo said. "I have no illusions about the degree to which trust in the bishops has been damaged by these past sins and failures."

Any in-depth investigation of the McCarrick case is likely to shed light on the timetable for when senior Catholic officials in the U.S. and at the Vatican know about the multiple allegations against McCarrick. Some U.S. Catholics sought to warn Vatican officials about McCarrick in 2000, but he was still appointed Washington archbishop and made a cardinal in 2001.

If the accusations against McCarrick are substantiated, that could confront Pope Francis with major decisions in terms of possible punishments.

McCarrick, the 88-year-old retired archbishop of Washington and confidante to three popes, was ordered removed from the public ministry by Francis in June. The sanction was issued pending a full investigation into a "credible" allegation that he fondled a teenager more than 40 years ago in New York City.

Cardinal resignations are extremely rare, and McCarrick's was the first time a prelate had lost his cardinal's rank in a sexual abuse scandal.

There were also calls Thursday for the resignation of Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who replaced McCarrick and also served in Pennsylvania when some of the abuse allegedly occurred.

The release of the Pennsylvania report this week worsened the crisis for the church, with dozens of examples of shocking abuse committed against children by priests.

Burke said Pope Francis is committed to reform and "those who have suffered are his priority, and the church wants to listen to them to root out this tragic horror that destroys the lives of the innocent."

In the bishops' statement, the council acknowledged that "one root cause is the failure of episcopal leadership. The result was that scores of beloved children of God were abandoned to face an abuse of power alone. This is a moral catastrophe. It is also part of this catastrophe that so many faithful priests who are pursuing holiness and serving with integrity are tainted by this failure."

Associated Press Writers Nicole Winfield and Frances D'Emilio contributed to this report.

Manafort jury ends first day of deliberations with questions

By MATTHEW BARAKAT, STEPHEN BRAUN and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The jury in the fraud trial of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort ended its first day of deliberations with a series of questions to the judge, including a request to "redefine" reasonable doubt.

The questions came after roughly seven hours of deliberation, delivered in a handwritten note to U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III. Ellis read the questions aloud to lawyers for both sides as well as Manafort before he called the jury in to give his answers.

Along with the question on reasonable doubt, the jury asked about the list of exhibits, rules for reporting foreign bank accounts and the definition of "shelf companies," a term used during the trial to describe some of the foreign companies used by Manafort.

Ellis told the jurors they need to rely on their collective memory of the evidence to answer most questions. As for reasonable doubt, he described it as "a doubt based on reason" and told jurors it does not require proof "beyond all doubt."

The jury concluded deliberations around 5:30 p.m. after receiving Ellis' answers. Deliberations will resume Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Jurors began their deliberations Thursday morning in the case against Manafort, who prosecutors say earned \$60 million advising Russia-backed politicians in Ukraine, hid much of it from the IRS and then lied to banks to get loans when the money dried up.

Manafort's defense countered that he wasn't culpable because he left the particulars of his finances to others.

The financial fraud trial calls on the dozen jurors to follow the complexities of foreign bank accounts and shell companies, loan regulations and tax rules. It exposed details about the lavish lifestyle of the one-time political insider, including a \$15,000 jacket made of ostrich leather and \$900,000 spent at a boutique retailer in New York via international wire transfer.

It's the first courtroom test of the ongoing Russia probe led by special counsel Robert Mueller. While allegations of collusion are still being investigated, evidence of bank fraud and tax evasion unearthed during the probe has cast doubt on the integrity of Trump's closest advisers during the campaign.

"When you follow the trail of Mr. Manafort's money, it is littered with lies," prosecutor Greg Andres said in his final argument Wednesday, asking the jury to convict Manafort of 18 felony counts.

In his defense, Manafort's attorneys told jurors to question the entirety of the prosecution's case as they sought to tarnish the credibility of Manafort's longtime protege — and government witness — Rick Gates.

The government says Manafort hid at least \$16 million in income from the IRS between 2010 and 2014. Prosecutors say Manafort declared only some of his foreign income on his federal income tax returns and repeatedly failed to disclose millions of dollars that streamed into the U.S. to pay for luxury items, services and property.

Bridge collapse highlights Italy's aging infrastructure

By COLLEEN BARRY, AP Business Writer

MILAN (AP) — Collapsed concrete, twisted metal, crushed cars.

While the disaster in Genoa was the deadliest in recent years, Italy has seen other bridge and highway collapses that have raised alarm about the state of its aging transportation infrastructure.

The 51-year-old Morandi Bridge was a key artery that linked highways to Milan and France, a vital lifeline for both commercial traffic as well as vacationers bound for the mountains and famous Mediterranean beaches.

"When it was inaugurated, it was vaunted as an engineering achievement, representing the most advanced technology and a model that Italy spread throughout the world," said Antonio Occhiuzzi, president of Italy's CNR society of civil engineers.

"It was a project that was constantly under surveillance," he said. "Notwithstanding all these efforts, it came down. It is a little metaphor for the country."

Designed by Italian engineer Riccardo Morandi, its unusual features included concrete-encased stay cables, which he used in several of his bridge designs instead of the more common steel cables. Experts say the concrete can deteriorate relatively quickly.

"About the project, there were a lot of concerns since the very beginning," said Enrico Musso, a professor of transport economics at Genoa's University of Studies. "On this kind of project, only three bridges were built around the world, and the other two already had serious problems."

One built in Venezuela partially collapsed two years after its opening after being struck by a tanker, killing seven. Another built in Libya and opened in 1972 was shut down in October 2017, according to the Italian news agency ANSA.

Many technicians had advised replacing the Genoa bridge, too.

In the wake of Tuesday's collapse, prosecutors are investigating both its possible design flaws as well as maintenance, although they have not identified any targets. Some in the government blame Italy's partially privatized highway system, alleging that too much emphasis is put on profits.

The disaster, in which dozens of vehicles plunged 45 meters (150 feet) when part of the bridge collapsed, is spurring calls to retrofit or replace others in Italy that are operating well beyond their expected lifespan and despite technological advances.

A survey published this week by the CNR engineering group cited four other major highway overpass collapses in the last two years alone — all related to structural weakness. They caused three deaths and four injuries.

The survey excluded smaller incidents that did not cause injury, but Italian media counted three more highway collapses going back to 2004 that caused four deaths and four injuries.

"What are worrisome are the ones built in the 1950s and 1960s, most of which are at the end of their lifespans," Occhiuzzi said, adding that they often are difficult to retrofit efficiently and probably cheaper to replace.

He also noted that the recent collapses occurred in northern, central and southern Italy, defying stereotypes of a well-maintained, wealthy north versus a neglected south.

The government is focusing blame for the Morandi Bridge collapse on the Autostrade per l'Italia company operating the A10 highway that includes the bridge, citing a lack of maintenance, and is pledging to revoke Autostrade's highway concession. Cabinet ministers have said there was a cozy relationship between the knitwear making Benetton family that controls Autostrade and previous governments that prevented proper oversight.

In a statement Thursday, Autostrade said it was prepared to take "rigorous action," beyond any criminal charges, if it emerges that any of its managers or workers were in any way responsible for the disaster. It said it was conducting its own internal inquiry and cooperating with authorities.

The company expressed "its closeness to the families of the victims and the injured," and added that "our apologies are in our words and deeds."

The government has granted two dozen companies the right to manage Italy's 6,003 kilometers (3,730

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miles) of highway and more than 1,034 kilometers (642 miles) of bridges and viaducts and 865 kilometers (537 miles) of tunnels. Another 26,000 kilometers (16,155 miles) of provincial and toll highways and interchanges are controlled by the state-run ANAS agency.

Autostrade, by far the biggest of these private companies, controls 3,020 kilometers (1,876 miles) of highway.

The Morandi Bridge was scheduled for a major retrofit. The business daily *il Sole 24 Ore* said the 20 million euro project aimed to reinforce two vertical support structures on the span, including one that collapsed.

Interior Minister Matteo Salvini also has blasted European Union spending rules. But the EU says that not only has it "encouraged investment in infrastructure," but also has approved 2.5 billion euros for Italian infrastructure, including roads, in the 2014-2020 budget, and that it approved in April another 8.5 billion euro investment plan for Italian motorways, including the Genoa area.

Still, figures from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development show that Italian investments in roads sank most dramatically among the top five European economies after the 2008 economic crisis, never fully recovering.

From a level of just under 13.6 billion euros a year in 2007, second only to France, Italy dropped to 3.8 billion euros in 2014.

In that period, Occhiuzzi said, Italy pulled back dramatically on both infrastructure and research investment. But he said retrofitting old projects hasn't been prioritized because it is not glamorous and requires studies of old technology that no longer exists. He also said assigning blame for collapses always involves more than one factor.

Building roads, bridges and viaducts on the 1,200-kilometer (745-mile) Italian peninsula and two major islands are part of the complexity of resolving the infrastructure issue.

The Morandi Bridge embodied this geographical challenge. Genoa is tucked picturesquely between the mountains and the Mediterranean, and motorists exiting a tunnel near the city make a gentle descent toward the Ligurian coastline,

"Everyone loves the Italian panorama characterized by a rugged landscape and green vistas near the sea. But that beauty is also its weakness," Occhiuzzi said.

Simone Somekh in Rome and Raf Casert in Brussels contributed.

US newspapers to Trump: We're not enemies of the people

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Newspapers from Maine to Hawaii pushed back against President Donald Trump's attacks on "fake news" with a coordinated series of editorials in defense of a free press on Thursday — and, not surprisingly, Trump didn't take it silently.

The campaign was set in motion by an editor at the *Boston Globe*, which argued in its own editorial that Trump's label of the media as the enemy of the people "is as un-American as it is dangerous to the civic compact we have shared for more than two centuries."

Trump denounced the effort on Twitter, saying the *Globe* was in collusion with other newspapers.

"There is nothing that I would want more for our country than true FREEDOM OF THE PRESS," the president typed. "The fact is that the press is FREE to write and say anything it wants, but much of what it says is FAKE NEWS, pushing a political agenda or just plain trying to hurt people."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate on Thursday passed a resolution with no objections stating that "the press is not the enemy of the people."

Cognizant of heated feelings on the issue, the *Globe* hired extra security on Thursday, said Jane Bowman, newspaper spokeswoman. "Journalistic outlets have had threats throughout time but it's the president's rhetoric that gives us the most concern," Bowman said.

It was not clear how many newspapers participated. Marjorie Pritchard, the editor who launched the campaign, said earlier in the week that some 350 news organizations indicated they would, but she did not

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immediately return messages on Thursday. Even with the coordinated effort, there was some significant blowback from newspapers that wrote to say they would not participate.

The Radio Television Digital News Association called on broadcasters and web sites to express support. Since Monday, there have been 2,240 mentions of either "First Amendment" or "free press" by broadcasters across the country, said Dan Shelley, the group's executive director. One TV station, WPSD in Paducah, Kentucky, showed a copy of the First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of the press on its screen before every commercial during newscasts, he said.

"It has been a big source of conversation all across the country," Shelley said. "Just because people are talking about it, it's a victory in my book."

Editorial boards at the Portland (Maine) Press-Herald and the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and many places in between weighed in to support the effort.

"The true enemies of the people — and democracy — are those who try to suffocate truth by vilifying and demonizing the messenger," wrote the Des Moines Register in Iowa.

In St. Louis, the Post-Dispatch called journalists "the truest of patriots." The Chicago Sun-Times said it believed most Americans know that Trump is talking nonsense. The Fayetteville (North Carolina) Observer said it hoped Trump would stop, "but we're not holding our breath."

The Morning News of Savannah, Georgia, said it was a confidant of the people.

"Like any true friend, we don't always tell you what you want to hear," the Morning News said. "Our news team presents the happenings and issues in this community through the lens of objectivity. And like any true friend, we refuse to mislead you. Our reporters and editors strive for fairness."

The New York Times encouraged readers to subscribe to a local newspaper. "We're all in this together," the Times said.

That last sentiment made some journalists skittish. Some newspapers, including the Wall Street Journal, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Times-Picayune in New Orleans, the Rome (N.Y.) Daily Sentinel and the Richmond (Virginia) Times-Dispatch, contained editorials or columns explaining why they weren't joining the Globe's effort. Some worried that it played into the hands of Trump and his supporters who think the media is out to get him. The idea of a coordinated campaign simply left others cold, with one newspaper referencing a longtime rivalry.

"We prize our independence, both from government and from other media outlets," the New York Daily News wrote. "Coordination, especially with Boston, isn't in our nature."

There was also some scolding of the press — from the press — for letting distaste for Trump show up where it shouldn't in news stories.

"Just as his lack of restraint has often been the president's self-inflicted wound, the bias of some of the press has hurt journalism, at the very moment when it is most needed to save itself," said the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "It is time for a truce."

It remains unclear how much sway the effort will have. Newspaper editorial boards overwhelmingly opposed Trump's election in 2016. Polls show Republicans have grown more negative toward the news media in recent years: Pew Research Center said 85 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said in June 2017 that the news media has a negative effect on the country, up from 68 percent in 2010.

At the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, where five staff members were killed by a gunman in June, editors said Thursday they were not participating in the effort because they care more about what the community thinks than the president. But Trump can do some good by giving a Presidential Medal of Freedom to one of the slain employees, Wendi Winters, who had tried to stop the gunman by charging at him before being killed, they said.

"The president could use the occasion of presenting the medal to Wendi's family as a moment of change in his approach toward those whose job it is to question his presidency," the newspaper's editorial board wrote. "He could honor her work by expressing his belief in the importance of journalism to our country — even when he feels unfairly treated."

Associated Press correspondents Ted Anthony, Alanna Durkin Richer, Hannah Fingerhut, Skip Foreman, Amanda Kell, Jack Jones, Herb McCann, David Runk and Juliet Williams contributed to this report.

Washington cardinal entangled in two sex-abuse scandals

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Washington, is facing a storm of criticism and calls for his resignation after becoming entangled in two major sexual abuse scandals roiling the church that he has served with distinction since 1966.

A scathing grand jury report this week on rampant abuse in six Pennsylvania dioceses accused Wuerl of helping to protect some child-molesting priests while he was bishop of Pittsburgh from 1988 to 2006.

At the same time, Wuerl is facing widespread skepticism over his recent insistence that he knew nothing about years of alleged sexual misconduct by former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, his predecessor in the nation's capital.

The Washington Archdiocese, home to more than 630,000 Catholics, is considered an important power center for the church in the U.S., and Wuerl has been ranked by commentators as one of the most influential of the 10 active American cardinals.

The two scandals represent a stunning turn for the 77-year-old leader, who over the decades earned the respect of fellow bishops across the U.S. and prided himself in taking tough steps to combat clergy sex abuse during his 18 years in Pittsburgh.

Some conservative Catholics are calling for his resignation or ouster, and a petition is circulating to remove his name from a parochial high school in suburban Pittsburgh.

Wuerl has said he has no plans to resign. He apologized this week for the damage inflicted on the victims but also defended his actions in Pennsylvania.

"The Diocese worked to meet or exceed the requirements of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the reporting requirements of Pennsylvania law," Wuerl said. "We showed pastoral concern by reaching out to victims and their families, while reporting allegations to the authorities so they could investigate crimes."

The Vatican on Thursday issued its first statement on the grand jury report, expressing "shame and sorrow" while also suggesting that reforms undertaken by U.S. Catholic leaders had sharply reduced the prevalence of clergy sex abuse since 2002. The statement did not mention Wuerl.

Separately, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops announced an investigation into the McCarrick scandal and said it would invite the Vatican to participate.

Wuerl has not been charged with any wrongdoing but is named numerous times in the grand jury report, which details instances in which he allowed priests accused of misconduct to be reassigned or reinstated.

In one case, Wuerl — acting on doctors' recommendation — enabled priest William O'Malley to return to active ministry in 1998 despite allegations of abuse lodged against him in the past and his own admission that he was sexually interested in adolescents. Years later, according to the report, six more people alleged that they had been sexually assaulted by O'Malley, in some cases after he had been reinstated.

"Cardinal Wuerl does not contest the facts. He should resign," tweeted Matthew Schmitz, senior editor of the conservative Catholic magazine First Things. Many of Schmitz's online followers expressed agreement.

In Wuerl's defense, the archdiocese has released documents that include a detailed account of a case admirers cite as evidence of Wuerl's strong stand against sex abuse.

The case surfaced in 1988, when a 19-year-old former seminarian, Tim Bendig, filed a lawsuit accusing a priest, Anthony Cipolla, of molesting him. Wuerl initially questioned Bendig's version of events but later accepted his account and moved to oust Cipolla from the priesthood.

In 1993, the Vatican's highest court ordered Wuerl to restore Cipolla to the ministry, but Wuerl resisted and, after two years of legal procedures, prevailed in preventing Cipolla's return.

Wuerl "made a lot of enemies, but he persisted," said author and journalist Michael Sean Winters, who writes for the National Catholic Reporter. "He risked his career over five years of battling."

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Looking more broadly at Wuerl's career, Winters described him as "kind of exemplary."

"When he gets up and goes to the microphone, everybody listens," Winters said of bishops' conferences he has covered. "He's not an old leftie, he's not a right-wing culture warrior. To use a word that's out of currency, he's a churchman."

The Rev. Thomas Reese, a Jesuit priest who writes for Religion News Service, described Wuerl as an ideological moderate, "not someone who was part of one camp or another."

"He was totally enthusiastic about John Paul II, and then Pope Benedict, and now he's totally enthusiastic about Pope Francis," Reese said. "There are not many people in the church who are totally enthusiastic about all three of them."

Numerous conservative Catholic activists and commentators, though, consider him too tolerant of the LGBT community and too liberal on some other issues. They resent his pivotal role a decade ago in resisting a push by some of his fellow bishops to deny Communion to Catholic politicians who support the right to abortion.

However, the dismay over the latest scandals goes beyond conservative circles.

"The US Catholic Church is very close to becoming a decapitated Church," tweeted Massimo Faggioli, a relatively liberal theologian at Villanova University in suburban Philadelphia. "What Napoleon and Stalin couldn't do, the hierarchy of the Church itself did."

Wuerl was born in Pittsburgh, attended Catholic University in Washington and received a doctorate in theology from the University of Saint Thomas in Rome. He joined the priesthood in 1966, was ordained a bishop by Pope John Paul II in 1986, and served briefly as auxiliary bishop in Seattle before going to Pittsburgh.

Earlier this month, Wuerl proposed that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops create a new process, involving bishops and lay people, to evaluate any allegations or rumors of sexual misconduct against bishops. On Thursday, the conference moved in that direction, announcing plans for "new and confidential channels" for reporting complaints.

"I apologize and humbly ask your forgiveness for what my brother bishops and I have done and failed to do," said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, conference president. "This is a moral catastrophe."

On Wednesday, Wuerl celebrated Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington and referred to "the horror of child sexual abuse" detailed in the grand jury report.

"The pain, the suffering is something that we need to accept responsibility for," he said. "While we work to restore confidence in the ability of the church ... to treat this problem, we need constantly to be there for survivors."

Associated Press writer Nicole Winfield, who covers the Vatican, contributed to this report.

Aretha Franklin's music rising on charts following her death

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Aretha Franklin's music quickly climbed the iTunes' charts following her death on Thursday.

Her "30 Greatest Hits" album hit the No. 1 spot, replacing Nicki Minaj's new album, while "Respect" topped the songs' charts.

More songs from Franklin, including "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "Think," "Chain of Fools" and "I Say a Little Prayer," were in the Top 10.

The iTunes charts tracks digital sales and is updated multiple times each day.

Franklin died of pancreatic cancer at age 76. She had battled health issues in recent years and in 2017 announced her retirement from touring.

For more, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/ArethaFranklin>

The thrill and the truth of Aretha Franklin

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The clarity and the command. The daring and the discipline. The thrill of her voice and the truth of her emotions.

Like the best actors and poets, nothing came between how Aretha Franklin felt and what she could express, between what she expressed and how we responded. Blissful on "(You Make Me Feel Like) a Natural Woman." Despairing on "Ain't No Way." Up front forever on her feminist and civil rights anthem "Respect."

Franklin, the glorious "Queen of Soul" and genius of American song, died Thursday morning at her home in Detroit of pancreatic cancer. She was 76. Few performers were so universally idolized by peers and critics and so exalted and yet so familiar to their fans. As surely as Jimi Hendrix settled arguments over who was the No. 1 rock guitarist, Franklin ruled unchallenged as the greatest popular vocalist of her time.

She was "Aretha," a name set in the skies alongside "Jimi" and "Elvis" and "John and Paul." A professional singer and pianist by her late teens, a superstar by her mid-20s, she recorded hundreds of songs that covered virtually every genre and she had dozens of hits. But her legacy was defined by an extraordinary run of top 10 soul smashes in the late 1960s that brought to the radio an overwhelming intensity and unprecedented maturity, from the wised-up "Chain of Fools" to the urgent warning to "Think."

Acknowledging the obvious, Rolling Stone ranked her first on its list of the top 100 singers. Franklin was also named one of the 20 most important entertainers of the 20th century by Time magazine, which celebrated her "mezzo-soprano, the gospel growls, the throaty howls, the girlish vocal tickles, the swoops, the dives, the blue-sky high notes, the blue-sea low notes. Female vocalists don't get the credit as innovators that male instrumentalists do. They should. Franklin has mastered her instrument as surely as John Coltrane mastered his sax."

The music industry couldn't honor her enough: Franklin won 18 Grammy awards and, in 1987, became the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. But her status went beyond "artist" or "entertainer" to America's first singer, as if her very presence at state occasions was a kind of benediction. She performed at the inaugural balls of Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, at the funeral for civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks and the dedication of Martin Luther King Jr's memorial. Clinton gave Franklin the National Medal of Arts and President George W. Bush awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Franklin's best-known appearance with a president was in January 2009, when she sang "My Country 'tis of Thee" at President Barack Obama's first inauguration. She wore a gray felt hat with a huge, Swarovski rhinestone-bordered bow that became an internet sensation and even had its own website. In 2015, she brought Obama and many others to tears with a triumphant performance of "Natural Woman" at a Kennedy Center tribute for the song's co-writer, Carole King.

Her voice transcended age, category and her own life. Franklin endured the exhausting grind of celebrity and personal troubles dating back to childhood. The mother of two boys by age 16 (she later had two more), she struggled with her weight, family problems and financial setbacks. Her strained marriage in the 1960s to then-manager Ted White was widely believed to have inspired her performances on several songs, including "(Sweet Sweet Baby) Since You've Been Gone," "Think" and "Ain't No Way." Producer Jerry Wexler nicknamed her "Our Lady of Mysterious Sorrows."

Despite growing up in Detroit, and having Smokey Robinson as a childhood friend, Franklin never recorded for Motown Records; stints with Columbia and Arista were sandwiched around her prime years with Atlantic Records. But it was at Detroit's New Bethel Baptist Church, where her father was pastor, that Franklin learned the gospel fundamentals that would make her a soul institution.

Aretha Louise Franklin was born March 25, 1942, in Memphis, Tennessee. The Rev. C.L. Franklin soon moved his family to Buffalo, New York, then to Detroit, where the Franklins settled after the marriage of Aretha's parents collapsed and her mother (and reputed sound-alike) Barbara returned to Buffalo.

C.L. Franklin was among the most prominent Baptist ministers of his time. He recorded dozens of albums of sermons and music and knew such gospel stars as Marion Williams and Clara Ward, who mentored

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Aretha and her sisters Carolyn and Erma. (Both sisters sang on Aretha's records, and Carolyn also wrote "Ain't No Way" and other songs for Aretha). Music was the family business and performers from Sam Cooke to Lou Rawls were guests at the Franklin house. In the living room, the shy young Aretha awed friends with her playing on the grand piano.

"A wonder child," was how Robinson described her to Franklin biographer David Ritz.

Franklin was in her early teens when she began touring with her father, and in 1956 she released a gospel album through J-V-B Records. Four years later, she signed with Columbia Records producer John Hammond, who called Franklin the most exciting singer he had heard since a vocalist he promoted decades earlier, Billie Holiday. Franklin knew Motown founder Berry Gordy Jr. and considered joining his label, but decided it was just a local company at the time.

Franklin recorded several albums for Columbia Records over the next six years. She had a handful of minor hits, including "Rock-A-Bye Your Baby With a Dixie Melody" and "Runnin' Out of Fools," but never quite caught on. The label tried to fit into her a hodgepodge of styles, from jazz and show songs to such pop numbers as "Mockingbird," and Franklin struggled to develop the gifts for interpretation and improvisation that she later revealed so forcefully.

"But the years at Columbia also taught her several important things," critic Russell Gersten later wrote. "She worked hard at controlling and modulating her phrasing, giving her a discipline that most other soul singers lacked. She also developed a versatility with mainstream music that gave her later albums a breadth that was lacking on Motown LPs from the same period.

"Most important, she learned what she didn't like: to do what she was told to do."

In 1966, her contract ran out and she jumped to Atlantic, home to such rhythm and blues giants as Ray Charles. Wexler highlighted her piano playing and teamed her with veteran R&B musicians from FAME Studios in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. The result rocked as hard as the Rolling Stones while returning her to her gospel roots.

Her breakthrough was so profound that Ebony Magazine called 1967 the year of "Retha, Rap and Revolt." At a time of protest and division, Franklin's records were signposts to a distant American dream — a musical union of the church and the secular, man and woman, black and white, North and South, East and West. They were produced and engineered by New Yorkers Wexler and Tom Dowd, arranged by Turkish-born Arif Mardin and backed by an interracial gathering of top session musicians.

"In black neighborhoods and white universities, in the clubs and on the charts, her hits came like cannonballs, blowing holes in the stylized bouffant and chiffon Motown sound," Gerri Hirshey wrote in "Nowhere to Run," a history of soul music that was published in 1984. "Here was a voice with a sexual payload that made the doo-wop era, the girl groups, and the Motown years seem like a pimply adolescence."

The difference between Franklin at Columbia and Franklin at Atlantic shows in a pair of songs first performed by Dionne Warwick: "Walk On By" and "I Say a Little Prayer." On "Walk On By," recorded at Columbia, the arrangement stays close to the cool pop and girl group chorus of the original. "I Say a Little Prayer," an Atlantic release, was a gospel workout, from Franklin's church-influenced piano to the call-and-response vocals. From her years at Atlantic and through the rest of her life, she would rarely stick to anyone else's blueprint for a song, often revising her own hits when she performed them on stage.

One of her boldest transformation came on her signature record and first No. 1 hit, "Respect," a horn-led march with a chanting "sock-it-to-me" chorus and the spelled out demand for "R-E-S-P-E-C-T." Franklin had decided she wanted to "embellish" the R&B song written by Otis Redding, whose version had been a modest hit in 1965.

"When she walked into the studio, it was already worked out in her head," Wexler wrote in Rolling Stone magazine in 2004. "Otis came up to my office right before 'Respect' was released, and I played him the tape. He said, 'She done took my song.' He said it benignly and ruefully. He knew the identity of the song was slipping away from him to her."

In a 2004 interview with the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times, Franklin was asked whether she sensed in the '60s that she was helping change popular music.

"Somewhat, certainly with 'Respect,' that was a battle cry for freedom and many people of many eth-

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nicities took pride in that word," she answered. "It was meaningful to all of us."

She was rarely off the charts in 1967 and 1968 and continued to click in the early 1970s with the funky "Rock Steady" and other singles and such acclaimed albums as the intimate "Spirit in the Dark." Her popularity faded during the decade, but revived in 1980 with a cameo appearance in the smash movie "The Blues Brothers" and her switch to Arista Records, run by her close friend Clive Davis. Franklin collaborated with such pop and soul artists as Luther Vandross, Elton John, Whitney Houston and George Michael, with whom she recorded a No. 1 single, "I Knew You Were Waiting (for Me)." Her 1985 album "Who's Zoomin' Who" received some of her best reviews and included such hits as the title track, a phrase she came up with herself, and "Freeway of Love."

If she never quite recaptured the urgency and commercial success of the late '60s, she never relinquished her status as the singer among singers or lost her willingness to test herself, whether interpreting songs by Lauryn Hill and Sean "Diddy" Combs on her acclaimed "A Rose Is Still a Rose" album or filling in at the 1998 Grammy ceremony for an ailing Luciano Pavarotti. She covered songs by Ray Charles, the Rolling Stones and Sam Cooke, but also music by Stephen Sondheim, Bread and the Doobie Brothers. At an early recording session at Columbia, she was asked to sing "Over the Rainbow."

"If a song's about something I've experienced or that could've happened to me, it's good," she told Time magazine in 1968. "But if it's alien to me, I couldn't lend anything to it. Because that's what soul is about — just living and having to get along."

Being "Aretha" didn't keep her from checking out the competition. Billing herself on social media as "The Undisputed Queen of Soul," she lashed out at Beyonce for even suggesting that Tina Turner deserved the title and had sharp words for Mavis Staples and Gladys Knight, among others. She even threatened to sue Warwick in 2017.

Her albums over the past two decades included "So Damn Happy," for which Franklin wrote the gratified title ballad, and "Aretha Sings the Great Diva Classics," featuring covers of hits by Adele and Alicia Keys among others. Franklin's autobiography, "Aretha: From These Roots," came out in 1999. But she always made it clear that her story would continue, and that she would sing it.

"Music is my thing, it's who I am. I'm in it for the long run," she told The Associated Press in 2008. "I'll be around, singing, 'What you want, baby I got it,' having fun all the way."

For more, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/ArethaFranklin>

Italy lowers confirmed death toll to 38 in Genoa collapse

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA and FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

GENOA, Italy (AP) — The death toll from the collapse of a highway bridge in the Italian city of Genoa that is already confirmed to have claimed at least 38 lives will certainly rise, a senior official said Thursday.

"Unfortunately, the toll will increase, that's inevitable" as rescuers continued to search tons of rubble for the missing, Interior Minister Matteo Salvini told reporters.

On Wednesday, Premier Giuseppe Conte told reporters that 39 people had died.

But on Thursday, the Genoa's prefect office, which reports to the interior ministry lowered the number of confirmed dead to 38. Prefect Office official Raffaella Corsaro attributed the lowered number to a "misunderstanding" about information supplied by ambulance dispatchers.

Corsaro said that there are 15 injured persons. Doctors have said one of the injured is in coma with severe cranial injuries.

Rescuers continued to comb through tons of jagged steel, concrete and dozens of vehicles that plunged as much as 45 meters (150 feet) into a dry river bed on Tuesday, the eve of Italy's main summer holiday.

Salvini declined to cite a number of the missing, saying that would be "supposition," but separately Genoa Chief Prosecutor Francesco Cozzi told reporters there could be between 10 and 20 people still unaccounted for.

Gov. Giovanni Toti, the leader of the Liguria region which includes Genoa, told a news conference that

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a key part of the problem in calculating how many might be missing is that “we don’t know how many cars, how many trucks were on the bridge at that moment” when it collapsed during a violent rainstorm.

“The search and rescue operations will continue until we find all those people that are listed as missing,” Sonia Noci, a spokeswoman for Genoa firefighters, told The Associated Press.

Italy is planning a state funeral for the dead in the port city Saturday, which will be marked as a day of national mourning. The service will be held in a pavilion on the industrial city’s fair grounds and led by Genoa’s archbishop, Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco.

At least six of the dead are foreigners — four French citizens and two Albanians.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella has called the collapse an “absurd” catastrophe that has stricken the entire nation.

Genoa’s two soccer clubs had their weekend matches postponed because of the tragedy. And Italy’s soccer league announced that in all other matches this weekend a minute of silence will be observed in memory of the victims before play begins.

Cozzi has said the investigation of the cause is focusing on possible inadequate maintenance of the 1967 Morandi Bridge or possible design flaws.

In an interview on SkyTG24 TV Thursday, Cozzi said that there was a video of the collapse. Outside experts will study the video to see if it might help determine the cause.

Since the cause is yet to be ascertained, there are “no suspects” at this point, the prosecutor said. But he said prosecutors are considering possible eventual charges that include multiple manslaughter.

Premier Giuseppe Conte says his government won’t wait until prosecutors finish investigating the collapse to withdraw the concession from the main private company that maintains Italy’s highways, Atlantia.

The bridge links two heavily travelled highways, one leading to France, the other to Milan.

A 20 million-euro (\$22.7 million) project to upgrade the bridge’s safety had already been approved, with public bids to be submitted by September. According to business daily Il Sole, improvement work would have involved two weight-bearing columns that support the bridge — including one that collapsed Tuesday.

The bridge, considered innovative when it opened in 1967 for its use of concrete around its cables, was long due for an upgrade, especially since it carried more traffic than its designers had envisioned. Some architects have said the choice of encasing its cables in reinforced concrete was risky since it’s harder to detect corrosion of the metal cables inside.

Frances D’Emilio reported from Rome. Colleen Barry and Daniella Matar in Milan contributed to this report. Follow D’Emilio at <http://www.twitter.com/fdemilio>

Trump team predicts an economic boom, defying most analysts

By JOSH BOAK and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is the latest pickup in U.S. economic growth destined to slow in the years ahead as most analysts say?

Or, as the Trump administration insists, is the economy on the cusp of an explosive boom that will reward Americans and defy those expectations?

On Thursday, President Donald Trump’s chief economic adviser made his case for the boom. Calling mainstream predictions “pure nonsense,” Larry Kudlow declared that the expansion — already the second-longest on record — is merely in its “early innings.”

“The single biggest event, be it political or otherwise, this year is an economic boom that most people thought would be impossible to generate,” Kudlow said at a Cabinet meeting, speaking at the president’s request and looking directly at him. “Not a rise. Not a blip.”

“People may disagree with me,” Kudlow continued, “but I’m saying this, we are just in the early stages.”

The U.S. economy grew for seven straight years under President Barack Obama before Trump took office early last year. Since then, it’s stayed steady, and the job market has remained strong. The stock market is also nearing an all-time high, a sign of confidence about corporate profits.

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Economic growth has picked up this year, having reached a four-year high of 4.1 percent at an annual rate last quarter. Job gains are also running at a slightly faster pace than in 2017. Most analysts see the economy growing a solid 3 percent this year — a potential political asset for Trump and the Republican Party, especially with the approach of November's congressional elections.

Yet it's hard to find any outside mainstream economists who would agree with Kudlow's assertion that the Trump administration can accelerate or even sustain that growth rate. Analysts generally expect that the benefits from Trump's tax cuts and an additional \$300 billion in government spending that he signed into law in February will gradually slow along with economic growth.

Most also say the Fed's continuing interest rate hikes, combined with the trade conflicts Trump has sparked with most of America's trading partners, could also limit growth.

"Economists are incredibly hopeful that the White House is right," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist of Northern Trust. "Unfortunately, most economic analysis and past historical patterns suggest that we're in the middle of a sugar rush that will wear off."

Economists have generally forecast that the pace of annual economic growth will slip to about 2.5 percent in 2019 and then less in the subsequent years.

Even within the government, the leading forecasts are more sober. The Fed expects growth to slip to 2.4 percent in 2019 and 2 percent in 2020. The Congressional Budget Office said this week that growth would likely slow to 1.7 percent in 2020.

Tannenbaum noted that the economy faces two trends that essentially act as a speed limit. First, over time, the economy can grow only as fast as the size of its workforce. Yet the vast baby boom generation is retiring.

What's more, the administration is seeking to limit immigration, which would reduce the number of available workers. During the longest U.S. expansion, from 1991 through 2001, the working-age population grew an average of 1.2 percent a year. Yet from 2008 through 2017, it expanded an average of just 0.5 percent annually.

A second factor is the growth of worker productivity — the amount of output per hour worked — which has fallen by half in the decade since the Great Recession, from a 2.7 percent average rate to 1.3 percent.

Even if the economy did accelerate unexpectedly, the Fed would then likely raise rates faster to avert a pickup in inflation and cause the expansion to slow.

In addition, the tax cuts and government spending that are helping boost economic growth for now have swollen the budget deficit, which is expected to surpass \$1 trillion annually in 2020 — a level Tannenbaum calls "absolutely frightening."

Such high deficits require large-scale government borrowing. Such additional borrowing typically sends interest rates up and makes it harder for businesses to borrow, spend and expand.

On top of that risk, the Trump administration's tariffs, which are meant to force countries to trade on terms more favorable to the U.S., could devolve into a trade war that would imperil economic growth. What's more, a global economic slowdown, stemming from factors beyond the administration's control, perhaps among troubled emerging economies, would likely spill over to the United States.

Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West, noted that the \$1.5 trillion worth of tax cuts that will take effect over the next decade were supposed to spur companies to make additional investments in machinery, vehicles and other technology that would lift worker productivity. But the pace of equipment spending has fallen since the end of last year. That's a sign to him that the growth in 2018 might be fleeting.

"The tax cuts are really not moving the needle for businesses," Anderson said.

Tannenbaum notes that "the data suggest that the vast majority of tax savings have been used by companies to increase dividends and repurchase shares," which gives shareholders more money but doesn't increase corporate investment or workers' wages.

In making his case Thursday, Kudlow played loosely with some data. As director of the White House National Economic Council, he noted that disposable personal income — the pay that people take home after taxes and adjusting for inflation — had climbed 3.1 percent over the past 12 months.

Not exactly. Kudlow was referring to total personal disposable income, which meant he didn't factor in

changes in population. On a per capita basis, the increase in disposable personal income is a more modest 2.3 percent — not much different from what it's been since May 2017.

The per capita income figure can also cut a jagged path over time. It peaked at 4.6 percent at the start of 2015, dipped to 0.3 percent in August 2016 and then began to climb before its recent plateau.

Yet speaking of the most recent gains in personal income, Kudlow assured the president and the country Thursday, "There's no signs that it's abating."

Walmart sees sales rise at stores and online, raises outlook

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart raised its financial outlook for the year on Thursday after beating Wall Street's expectations for the quarter and seeing the strongest growth in more than a decade in sales at established stores. Its shares rose more than 9 percent.

The upbeat report indicates that Walmart's efforts to improve the experience shoppers have at its stores and expand its online services, particularly in grocery, are helping bring people to its websites and stores. Like many other retailers, Walmart is also benefiting from a stronger job market and rising confidence. Home Depot, Macy's and Nordstrom all raised their forecasts this week.

However, not everyone is benefiting. J.C. Penney posted a bigger-than-expected loss and saw a key sales metric fall well short of expectations, and it cut its full-year outlook again.

Walmart said sales were strong across many categories but the grocery business was notable with sales rising the most in nine years, fueled by fresh items like meat and produce. That helped sales at stores open at least a year rise 4.5 percent at Walmart's U.S. division, better than analysts expected. The measure, an indicator of a retailer's health, was helped by a more than 2 percent increase in customer traffic and in transactions.

With shoppers feeling confident, the National Retail Federation trade group raised its annual sales forecast this week, citing the results of tax cuts and an improving job market. But it warned that trade wars between China and the U.S. could dampen consumer confidence in the second half of the year, the busiest time for retail. Walmart said that it's using its scale to mitigate tariff effects.

Since buying Jet.com for more than \$3 billion two years ago, Walmart has been bolstering its online business by acquiring brands like Bonobos and ModCloth. It's also working to speed up delivery to compete better with Amazon, and is expanding same-day grocery delivery.

Walmart is also revamping its website with a focus on fashion and home furnishings. It has teamed up with Lord & Taylor to offer the department store dedicated space on its site. The company said the grocery pickup service for online shoppers, at more than 1,800 stores so far, is helping attract new customers and existing ones are adding an extra item in their cart.

Those kinds of moves helped drive a 40 percent increase in online sales in the U.S. for the latest quarter. That was up from a 33 percent increase the previous period, after a dramatic growth slowdown in the critical fourth quarter.

Internationally, Walmart has been refocusing on areas with big growth potential like India and China. In May, it acquired a controlling stake in Flipkart, India's largest online retailer, for \$16 billion in its biggest acquisition yet. And it is selling its British unit, Asda, which has been struggling with intense competition from German no-frills discounters Aldi and Lidl.

But international investments hurt results in the latest quarter. The Bentonville, Arkansas-based retailer lost \$861 million, or 29 cents per share. It was affected by its investment in online retailer JD.com and a loss on selling a majority stake in Walmart Brazil. Adjusted for one-time costs, it earned \$1.29 per share, easily topping Wall Street projections, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue came to \$128.03 billion, also beating projections.

Walmart now expects earnings for the current fiscal year of \$4.90 to \$5.05 per share, excluding charges related to Flipkart. Analysts expected \$4.78 per share, according to FactSet.

Walmart's shares rose \$8.42 to close at \$98.64.

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Asian shares gain on growing hopes for China trade talks

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares made moderate gains early Friday after U.S. stocks jumped on news China is preparing to resume trade discussions with the U.S., the first negotiations in more than a month.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.4 percent to 22,275.67, while the Shanghai Composite index slipped 0.4 percent to 2,694.52. Hong Kong's Hang Seng jumped 0.6 percent to 27,254.14 and in South Korea, the Kospi gained 0.3 percent to 2,246.79. Australia's S&P ASX 200 picked up 0.2 percent to 6,339.30. Shares were higher in Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore.

WALL STREET: Energy and metals prices and shares of industrial companies turned higher. The S&P 500 index climbed 0.8 percent to 2,840.69. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 1.6 percent to 25,558.73 as Walmart and Boeing made big gains. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.4 percent to 7,806.52 and the Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 0.9 percent to 1,685.75.

CHINA TRADE: China will send a trade envoy to Washington later this month in a fresh attempt to end the trade dispute before it causes major damage to the global economy. The two sides haven't talked since early June. After the latest round of talks failed to produce much progress, both countries put taxes on \$34 billion in each other's imports. Those tariffs are set to rise next week, and both countries have threatened even larger increases as early as September.

QUOTABLE: "It's hard to get too excited about the 'low level' trade talks taking place next week," Chris Weston of IG said in a commentary. He said investors should ask "whether we are really going to get a breakthrough in the trade tensions from these players?"

ENERGY: Oil prices were steady after a sharp drop a day earlier. U.S. crude inched up 0.7 percent to settle at \$65.46 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, picked up 0.9 percent to \$71.43 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 110.85 yen from 110.89 yen. The euro was flat at \$1.1379.

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2018. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 17, 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

On this date:

In 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1942, during World War II, U.S. 8th Air Force bombers attacked German forces in Rouen, France. U.S. Marines raided a Japanese seaplane base on Makin Island.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed

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for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1983, lyricist Ira Gershwin died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 86.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide. The musical drama "Dirty Dancing," starring Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, premiered in New York.

In 1988, Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel (RAY'-fehl) were killed in a mysterious plane crash.

In 1996, the Reform Party announced Ross Perot had been selected to be its first-ever presidential nominee, opting for the third-party's founder over challenger Richard Lamm.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

Ten years ago: At the Beijing Olympics, Michael Phelps and three teammates won the 400-meter medley relay for Phelps' eighth gold medal. In tennis, Venus and Serena Williams defeated Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain in women's doubles; Rafael Nadal defeated Fernando Gonzalez of Chile in the men's singles; Elena Dementieva defeated fellow Russian Dinara Safina in the women's singles. Matamoros, Mexico, pitcher Jesus Saucedo had the fifth perfect game in Little League World Series history as he struck out all 12 batters in a 12-0 win over Emilia, Italy. (The game went just four innings because of Little League's mercy rule.)

Five years ago: The attorney for a young man who'd testified he was fondled by former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky said his client had reached a settlement, the first among dozens of claims made against the school amid the Sandusky child sex abuse scandal. Nick Davilla threw six touchdown passes and the Arizona Rattlers defeated the Philadelphia Soul 48-39 in the ArenaBowl. Kansas City's Miguel Tejada was suspended 105 games by Major League Baseball for violating its Joint Drug Program, one of the longest suspensions ever handed down.

One year ago: A van plowed through pedestrians along a packed promenade in the Spanish city of Barcelona, killing 13 people and injuring 120. (A 14th victim died later from injuries.) Another man was stabbed to death in a carjacking that night as the van driver made his getaway, and a woman died early the next day in a vehicle-and-knife attack in a nearby coastal town. (Six suspects in the attack were shot dead by police, two more died when a bomb workshop exploded.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 92. Author V.S. Naipaul is 86. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 77. Actor Robert DeNiro is 75. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 72. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 71. Actor-screenwriter-producer Julian Fellowes is 69. Actor Robert Joy is 67. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 66. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 65. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 63. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 63. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 61. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 60. Author Jonathan Franzen is 59. Actor Sean Penn is 58. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 57. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 56. Singer Maria McKee is 54. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 53. Rock musician Jill Cunniff (kuh-NIHF') is 52. Actor David Conrad is 51. Actress Helen McCrory is 50. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 49. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 49. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 48. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 47. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 44. Actor Bryton James is 32. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 30. Actress Taissa Farmiga is 24. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 23.

Thought for Today: "It is not love that is blind, but jealousy." — Lawrence Durrell, British-born author (1912-1990).