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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.

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Hanlon Brothers Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 1- Dairy Queen Help Wanted
- 1- School Help Wanted
- 2- Schedule Updates
- 2- Hokana Auction Ad
- 3- Football Stat Sheet
- 4- Roncalli beats Groton in football
- 5- Obit: Ken Fiedler
- 6- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 7- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column
- 8- Today in Weather History
- 9- Today's Forecast
- 10- Yesterday's Weather
- 10- National Weather map
- 10- Today's Weather Almanac
- 11- Daily Devotional
- 12-2018 Groton Community Events
- 13- News from the Associated Press



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)





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.



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Schedule Updates

1. JV FB will play Webster on Monday 8/20/18 at Groton beginning at 4:30.

2. There will be boys soccer at 5:00 PM on Thursday, 8/23/18, at Groton vs. St. Thomas More.

3. Volleyball schedule for Thursday, 8/23/18 will be: C game at 5, JV at 6, Varsity to follow.

4. Soccer schedule for Saturday, September 29 will be: Varsity Boys at 10AM, Varsity Girls at 12PM, Varsity Boys at 2PM – all vs. Belle Fourche at Groton.



Groto	m	Da	ily	II	ndependent
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Groton Area Roncalli	1st 0 7	2nd 0 7	3rd 0 10	4th 7 7	Final 7 27
First Downs Rushing	Groton 9				Roncalli 16 39-216 Jaden Karst 13-76 Samiuela Mounga 14-47 Antony Martinez 2-47
Penalties					Samiuela Mounga 3-50 Spencer Titus 2-42 Salesi Mounga 3-21 Brandon Fauth 1-8 Had 1, lost 1 10-90
Record Scoring First Quarter Second Quarter Third Quarter	Lucas Hin Thomas (Host Eller 0-1	man 7 Cranford 7 Indale-Edgele	29 yard f		4:04: Jaden Karst, 3 yard run PAT: Gavin Heier kick

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Tigers took Roncalli to a nearly three hour game Groton Area's gridiron team opened its season Friday night in Aberdeen as the Tigers dropped a 27-7 game to the Aberdeen Roncalli Cavaliers. The game lasted nearly three hours, getting over at 9:55 p.m., thanks to a total of 22 penalties.

Groton Area threatened to score first as Jonathan Doeden broke free to get down to the 11 yard line. The Tigers were unable to punch it in and the field goal attempt was no good. Groton lost three fumbles with two of them turning into touchdowns for the Cavaliers. Roncalli's lone fumble was picked up by Darien Shabazz who dashed 29 yards for Groton's score with 4:48 left in the game.

Jonathan Doeden had 33 yards passing and 61 yards rushing. Darien Shabazz had 41 yards rushing, 13 yards receiving, 11 tackles and a fumble recovery that led to a touchdown. Wyatt Locke had 12 tackles. The Tigers will be hosting Ellendale-Edgeley-Kulm on Friday in a game scheduled to start at 7 p.m.



Trey Gengerke gets ready to snap the ball for the Tigers. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Jonathan Doeden (6) flings the ball to Darien Shabazz (4). (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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The Life of Kenneth Harold Fiedler

Kenneth Harold Fiedler, 76, of Aberdeen, passed away Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

Mass of Christian burial will be 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, August 21, 2018, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 409 3rd Avenue SE, Aberdeen, with Father Mike Kelly as celebrant and Father Patrick Grode and Father Joseph Sheehan con-celebrating.

Entombment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens Mausoleum in Aberdeen.

Schriver's Memorial Mortuary and Crematory, 414 5th Avenue NW, Aberdeen, is in charge of arrangements. Friends may sign Ken's online guestbook and also view his service via the live stream service link at www. schriversmemorial.com.

Visitation will be 2:00-6:30 p.m., Monday, at Schriver's Memorial Fellowship Center, with a prayer service and celebration of Ken's life beginning at 6:30 p.m. Visitation continues one hour prior to Mass at the church on Tuesday.

Memorials can be directed to The Presentation Convent, Roncalli Athletic Department or The Fiedler Family Scholarship at Northern State University.

Kenneth Harold Fiedler was born March 18, 1942, in Bowdle, SD to Harold and Clara (Rosin) Fiedler. He attended school in Java, SD and graduated from Java High School with the Class of 1960.

Kenneth was united in marriage to Diane C. Grandpre on September 15, 1962, in Conde, SD. The couple made their home in Java, where in September of 1962, Ken began his career as a jack-of-all-trades at the hometown grocery store – working as a butcher, bagger, stocker, and store

cleaner. In 1964, the couple moved to Aberdeen and Ken began working at what is now Ken's SuperFair Foods. His hard work and determination led him to becoming manager of the store in 1967. In 1972, Ken purchased the Aberdeen store, as well as the location in Ipswich, SD. During the next few decades, he added stores in Groton, Watertown, Miller, Eureka, Clark, and Britton, SD. Ken currently owned stores in Aberdeen, Groton, Ipswich, Eureka, Clark, and Britton. Ken and Diane raised three children and shared 43 years of marriage before she passed away on September 26, 2005. He continued to reside in Aberdeen until the time of his death.

Ken was passionate about his business and the community, serving on the United States National Grocers Board of Directors, as President of the South Dakota Retailers Association, President of the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, and on the Foundation Boards of both Avera and Northern State University. In 1997, he was honored to be named South Dakota Retailer of the Year. Ken also had the pleasure of serving as "Frosty" for the South Dakota Snow Queen Festival and being named NSU "King of the Gyps".

When he wasn't working, Ken enjoyed spending time outdoors camping, fishing with Homer, Norb, and Wes, hunting, snowmobiling with the Gellings, and doing yard work. He also loved traveling with his wife, Dee, to Hawaii and Las Vegas, as well as taking many trips in their motor coach to Minneapolis. Later in life, Ken enjoyed traveling with his friend, Patty.

Ken loved sports, especially the Minnesota Twins and Minnesota Vikings. Closer to home, he enjoyed attending all Roncalli and Northern State University sporting events with the McNearys and the Scheids. Ken was also a fan of Elvis Presley and had a great interest in anything relating to him.

Blessed to have shared in Ken's life are his children: Paula Fiedler of Black Hawk, SD and Kevin (Heidi) Fiedler and Kerry (Keith) Brandenburger, both of Aberdeen; and four grandchildren: Conner and Morgan Fiedler and Craig and Madison Brandenburger.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Diane; his parents, Harold and Clara; his brother, Arlo Fiedler; and his niece, Heidi Fiedler.



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Protecting the Integrity of U.S. Elections

Free and fair elections are a cornerstone of our republic. With the 2018 midterm election less than three months away, making certain the integrity of our voting system remains intact is a top priority. When Americans cast their votes in an election, they are exercising their right to make their voice heard. Many of our young men and women in uniform fight every day to protect our ability to



choose our own leaders safely and freely. Assuring American citizens that their voice will be heard when they cast their ballot is vitally important to our way of life.

While we cannot say they affected the outcome, we know that Russia made extreme efforts to directly influence the 2016 election and attempted to get into at least 21 state election systems. There is also evidence they are trying similar tactics in the upcoming midterm election, with a goal of creating chaos and distrust in our system of government. So far, they have been unsuccessful, and we must make certain proper federal policies are in place to keep it that way.

Fortunately, Congress has taken steps to protect the integrity of our elections. The omnibus spending bill for Fiscal Year 2018 included \$380 million in funding for election security grants to help states protect and modernize their election systems. These funds can be used to make security improvements, implement cybersecurity guidelines and replace outdated electronic voting machines. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of the Secure Elections Act, a bipartisan bill that would streamline cybersecurity information-sharing between federal intelligence agencies and state election agencies. It would also provide security clearances to state election officials. This is a good step toward securing our election systems against future threats while also protecting states' rights in running their elections.

As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Cybersecurity Subcommittee, my colleagues and I have received expert testimony on cyber-enabled information operations to include the gathering and dissemination of information in the cyber domain. While we have taken important steps to protect our elections, more must be done. Ultimately, we must address the broader policy and strategy deficiencies that undermine our overall cyber posture.

Our election system is part of what makes the United States the greatest country in the world. Our ability to develop a strategy to better protect our election system and deter cyber adversaries from attacking it is critical. Doing so will require an ongoing commitment, and I will continue to work with the administration to develop policies that deter and punish bad actors who think they can meddle in our election system. We must continue to make it clear to Russia and others that irresponsible, destabilizing behavior will not be tolerated and those who do attempt to interfere in our elections will face serious consequences. Our confidence in our democratic process depends on it.

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Summer in South Dakota

While I'll likely regret saying this in January when I'm knee deep in the white stuff, every season in South Dakota has its advantages and is worth experiencing, but few, if any, outmatch summer in the 605. The temperature is hard to beat (sometimes quite literally) and there are a ton of things to do outdoors, which means more chances



to spend time with friends and family. And while the summer weather will eventually give way to cooler temps and a new season, I'm taking advantage of every opportunity I can while I'm home this time of year.

Summer is typically pretty quiet in Washington, D.C. Most years, Congress dedicates a few weeks in August to give members more time to travel across their states and spend valuable time hearing from their constituents, something I do every year, not just in August.

This year, though, the Senate will spend a good portion of the month back in Washington, continuing to pass critical legislation and processing important judicial nominations, which have been unnecessarily delayed by some of my Senate colleagues. Despite the obstruction, I'm committed to staying as long as it takes to complete this important work.

Given this year's shorter summer state work period, I'm squeezing in as much road time in South Dakota as I can this month, and I'm glad to have already seen so many familiar faces along the way.

My most recent trip through Madison happened to coincide with Miracle Treat Day, which means one thing: a pit stop at Dairy Queen. Before I got my Blizzard, I ran into DeLon, the owner, and congratulated him on the good work he does year after year for the community and region. It's truly remarkable what he's been able to accomplish for such a good cause.

While I was home, I also made it to Lake County Achievement Days, the Sioux Falls Kiwanis Club's annual pancake feed, and toured several successful local businesses, including Horton in Britton, Specialized Machine in Tea, Enertech Global in Mitchell, and employee-owned Inland Truck Parts in Sioux Falls.

Fortunately for me, but unfortunately for the audience, I imagine, I joined Mogen's Heroes on stage at the Sioux Empire Fair for our annual rendition of "You Are My Sunshine." Speaking of fair season, summer wouldn't be complete without a stop at the Turner County Fair, which happens to be South Dakota's longest running fair. It's always a good time.

There's no question that South Dakotans are my best advisors, so I'm always eager to hear what's on people's minds. I met with folks from Mobridge, Selby, and Java and spent time with community leaders in Faith and Britton. I appreciate everyone who joined me for coffee in Philip, Langford, and Pierpont and all of the young leaders who invited me to address the Sioux Falls Young Professionals Network.

Thankfully, summer isn't over, nor are my stops around the state. I look forward to catching up with you and your family soon, so if we cross paths, please be sure to say hello. In the meantime, if you have questions about how I can help you navigate the federal bureaucracy, or if you have an idea or feedback about something I'm working on, please don't hesitate to write, call, or email – I'm all ears.

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Today in Weather History

August 18, 1936: A tornado moved east, ending southeast of Gettysburg. A farmhouse and four barns were destroyed near Gorman, in Potter County. Property damage was estimated at \$20,000.

August 18, 1938: A tornado destroyed a barn, unroofed a gym, and damaged other buildings near Stephen, in Hyde County. The funnel moved northeast then curved to the northwest. There were two other tornadoes on this day. One moved northeast from near Worlsey and Broadland in Beadle County producing estimated F3 damage. The other was an estimated F2 and also started off in Beadle County and moved northeast into Kingsbury County. This storm injured three people.

August 18, 1983: High winds up to 80 mph caused extensive damage to trees, structures, and cars, in Lyman, Hyde, Faulk, and Brown Counties. In Presho, several homes lost their roofs. Hay bales were scattered, metal siding was ripped from outbuildings, and a ballpark lost three large fence sections. Gusty winds up to 75 mph were recorded at Ordway, in Brown County, causing damage to a mobile home. Two hangers at the Aberdeen airport received extensive damage, with roofs and doors torn off.

August 18, 2009: Numerous thunderstorms developed along a stationary front and trained over the same locations producing very heavy rains along with large hail. Nickel size hail falling for several minutes piled up to 6 to 8 inches deep near Harrold in Hughes County. Massive rains of 2 to nearly 5 inches resulted in the flash flooding of numerous roads. Several of the streets were washed out. Some rainfall amounts included 3.05 inches at Warner, 3.15 inches southwest of Bristol, 4.40 inches in Webster, and 4.50 inches east of Warner.

1925: During the late morning hours a severe hailstorm struck southeastern Iowa destroying crops along a path six to ten miles wide and 75 miles long. The hail also injured and killed poultry and livestock, and caused a total of 2.5 million dollars damage. The hailstorm flattened fields of corn to such an extent that many had to leave their farms in search of other work.

1931: The Yangtze River in China peaks during a horrible flood that kills 3.7 million people directly and indirectly over the next several months. This flood was perhaps the worst natural disaster of the 20th century.

1925 - During the late morning hours a severe hailstorm struck southeastern Iowa completely destroying crops along a path six to ten miles wide and 75 miles long. The hail also injured and killed poultry and livestock, and caused a total of 2.5 million dollars damage. The hailstorm flattened fields of corn to such an extent that many had to leave their farms in search of other work. It was one of the worst hailstorms of record for the nation. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - Hurricane Alicia ravaged southeastern Texas. The hurricane caused more than three billion dollars property damage, making it one of the costliest hurricanes in the history of the U.S. Just thirteen persons were killed, but 1800 others were injured. The hurricane packed winds to 130 mph as it crossed Galveston Island, and spawned twenty-two tornadoes in less than 24 hours as it made landfall. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Thirteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Orlando FL with a reading of 98 degrees, and Portland ME with a high of 94 degrees. Newark NJ reached 90 degrees for the thirty-sixth time of the year, their second highest total of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Twenty-two cities, from the Carolinas to the Upper Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date, pushing the total number of daily record highs since the first of June above the 1100 mark. Afternoon highs of 102 degrees at Greensboro NC and 105 degrees at Raleigh NC equalled all-time records. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Scobey. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley produced torrential rains in eastern Virginia during the late morning and afternoon hours. Totals ranged up to twelve inches at Yorktown. Williamsburg VA was deluged with 10.78 inches of rain between 6 AM and 10 AM, with 6.72 inches reported in just two hours. Flash flooding caused nearly twelve million dollars damage in Accomack County VA. Early evening thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region produced walnut size hail and wind gusts to 80 mph around Casper WY. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the Yellowstone Park area, causing fifteen mudslides. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



Published on: 08/18/2018 at 5:46AM

We're still expecting showers and thunderstorms to move into western South Dakota this afternoon, then eventually into central South Dakota by late afternoon or early evening. This is all associated with low pressure and a cold front moving into the region. This precipitation will eventually spread eastward across the region overnight and through the day Sunday. Overall, the threat for severe storms is fairly low, although there could be a few strong or marginally severe storms over central South Dakota late this afternoon into early evening, with gusty winds and small hail possible. Although, there is a threat for heavy rain through tonight over portions of central South Dakota, as is shown in the Day One Excessive Rainfall Outlook. Rainfall of 1 to 2+ inches are possible in and near the yellow "slight risk" area.

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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 80.6 F at 4:44 PM

High Outside Temp: 80.6 F at 4:44 PM Heat Index: Low Outside Temp: 53.5 F at 6:56 AM High Gust: 8.0 Mph at 4:15 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 109° in 1959

Record High: 109° in 1959 Record Low: 38° in 2002 Average High: 82°F Average Low: 56°F Average Precip in Aug: 1.33 Precip to date in Aug: 0.25 Average Precip to date: 15.19 Precip Year to Date: 10.14 Sunset Tonight: 8:36 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:39 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart Valid Sat, Aug 18, 2018, issued 4:29 AM EDT DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center Prepared by Gallina with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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OUR GOOD AND GREAT GOD

If God did not exist, Voltaire once said, it would be necessary to invent Him. But we who believe in Him know that He does exist and that He is good, great and glorious! We find these facts in Psalm 135.

The Lord is good. And with no reservations. He is not good to us because we are good, or not good people who are evil. We are wrong when we say to others, God will not be good to you if you are not good. He is good to everyone, and His goodness is never conditioned by what we do or do not do. But, He does punish those who willing do what is wrong.

The Lord is great. Some good people are not great, and some great people are not good. But our Lord is as great as He is good. After He created good things He created us so that He might impart His goodness to us. It is because of His greatness that He is willing to provide us with a variety of His good things to enjoy and in which to find joy, happiness, and pleasure.

The Lord is glorious. Our God is above all gods. People began to worship when they realized there was more to what is than himself or nature. But God revealed Himself to man and man discovered the everliving, ever-loving, and everlasting God. But, unfortunately, that was not enough, and people continued to create gods of their own making - whether a piece of stone in Africa, a piece of gold in America, a bushy god in the jungles, or a mental god in academia.

How great is our God! A God who is great and good and glorious - yet in spite of all that He is, He loves us.

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for Your unending love and desire to reveal Yourself to us. Fill our hearts with awe. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 135:3a & 5a Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good. I know the greatness of the Lord.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

• Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)

• 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)

- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
 - 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
 - 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
 - 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
 - 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
 - 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
 - 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
 - 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
 - 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
 - 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
 - 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
 - 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party
 - Best Ball Golf Tourney
 - SDSU Golf Tourney
 - Sunflower Golf Tourney
 - Santa Claus Day
 - Fireman's Stag
 - Tour of Homes
 - Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
 - School Events

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News from the Associated Press

Celtics' Kyrie Irving to visit reservation in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Boston Celtics star Kyrie Irving is set to visit the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, where his late mother was once part of the tribe.

The Rapid City Journal reports that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will hold a ceremony for Irving on Thursday in honor of his first visit to the reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border. Irving's late mother, Elizabeth Ann Larson, left the tribe after her adoption as a child.

The tribe says Irving supported the Dakota Access pipeline protests that attracted thousands of demonstrators just outside the reservation.

Irving recently released a version of his basketball shoes with a Standing Rock seal on the heels.

Cowboy turned lawmaker hopes to be South Dakota governor By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Billie Sutton planned to be a world champion saddle bronc rider, but a rodeo accident that claimed his burgeoning career and his ability to walk led instead to a political rise that could make Sutton the first Democrat elected South Dakota governor in over four decades.

A horse flipped over on Sutton in 2007, partially paralyzing him and ending a ride that had brought him among the top 30 in the world for professional rodeo. Sutton said the injury awoke in him a "service over self" mentality. In the ensuing years, he started a family and became the top state Senate Democrat before launching a bid for governor.

"I was faced with a choice: Take the easy way and give up, or live by the values I was raised with. Do it the cowboy way: Never give up and never quit," Sutton said at a campaign kickoff last year on his family's ranch.

Sutton has since taken in more than \$1.2 million — the campaign says he's on track to raise more than any previous Democratic candidate for South Dakota governor — running as a "pro-life and pro-Second Amendment" moderate and anti-corruption champion seeking to bolster his base by attracting Republican and independent voters in heavily conservative South Dakota.

The 34-year-old community bank investment executive has much to overcome: a nearly 100,000-voter GOP advantage and a top-tier opponent, U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, who has won four terms in Congress and easily triumphed in her June primary election to succeed Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard. Sutton in May reported having about \$880,000 in the bank, while Noem had more than \$1 million.

Sutton has branded Noem "politics as usual," contending residents are sick of partisan divisions and that he wants to represent all of South Dakota. Sutton recently chose a Republican businesswoman (she switched parties) to be his running mate.

Wearing his cowboy hat and rolling his wheelchair down a line of people at the Sioux Empire Fair, Sutton's standard greeting was, "Billie Sutton, running for governor." He quickly encountered a Republican. "I don't care much about party affiliation," Sutton said. "I just think we need to do what's right."

Steve Jarding, a longtime Democratic strategist, said Sutton is making the campaign about his vision, not about his party, and enjoys a strong family name — his grandfather was the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor in 1978. Jarding said Sutton can appeal to mainstream Republicans, particularly supporters of Noem's primary opponent, Attorney General Marty Jackley, whose loss under a barrage of negative ads from Noem may have left a lingering division in the state GOP.

Jarding said Sutton "could break that drought, and Republicans could feel fine about it."

De Knudson, a moderate Republican and former Sioux Falls city councilor, switched her support to Sutton after Jackley's loss. It was a text message from her son on primary night asking Knudson to back Sutton — cemented later by his pick of former Republican Michelle Lavallee as lieutenant governor — that

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led Knudson to hold a recent campaign fundraiser at her Sioux Falls home.

"After being a senator for eight years, Billie has created a record that is very, very moderate, like so many of you are, about open government, transparency and really reaching across the aisle," Lavallee told those who attended.

But Sutton's strategy to transcend party labels didn't sway 28-year-old computer programmer Adam Jungers, who asked Sutton at the fair, "As a pro-life conservative, why should I vote for you?" Afterward, Jungers said he would stick with Noem.

Noem — first elected to Congress in 2010 — said her values match South Dakota's, invoking a campaign pledge to not raise taxes nor grow state government, improve transparency and fight federal intrusion. She said Sutton is surrounded by liberal Democrats who support Planned Parenthood and labor unions.

"What Democrat Billie Sutton says and what he really believes and what his supporters believe are two very different things," Noem said.

But Sutton did vote for a 20-week abortion ban in 2016, and his campaign notes his support this year for a resolution endorsing South Dakota's right-to-work status.

This legislative session, Sutton focused on government transparency, early-childhood education and economic development, but came out of the Republican-controlled Legislature with few victories. Sutton said he launched the governor campaign over frustration with corruption in South Dakota and the GOP-led repeal of a voter-imposed government ethics overhaul in 2017.

Voters will decide a similar "anti-corruption" ballot measure this year, and Sutton has made government integrity a major focus of his bid.

Fellow Democratic Sen. Troy Heinert said Sutton approaches lawmaking with the attitude of someone who rides bucking horses for a living: "110 percent focused."

"What's been bad for him personally has been good for South Dakota," Heinert said. "He could still be riding broncs at the National Finals Rodeo, but ... he didn't let his accident stop him."

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: http://apne.ws/3Gzcraw

White Lake gets new \$5.1M school with day care

WHITE LAKE, S.D. (AP) — Students in a small South Dakota town are preparing to start their school year Monday by walking into a new \$5.1 million building that also houses a day care.

The new White Lake School District building held an open house Aug. 16, the Daily Republic reported. "It's going to be a memorable year here at the White Lake School District," said Bob Schroeder, the district's superintendent.

The facility also houses a preschool and the city day care. Schroeder said day care providers can be difficult to find in a town with a population of 372, leading him to seek the city's approval for housing White Lake's day care.

The development came as enrollment boosted to a total of 126 students, up 12 from the previous year's 114. The new school is broken up into different wings that separate grade levels. Kindergarten and day care share the same wing with first through fifth grade, while middle school and high school also share the same wing. A weight room with updated equipment and the music room each have their own wing.

Nearly half the project's cost went toward a new heating, ventilation, air and cooling system at the school. Janitors have an app on their computers that allow them to monitor the heating and cooling of the building from outside the boiler room.

Schroeder said the district will keep the lunchroom and gymnasium inside the old school for tournaments and other events. There will be an auction Oct. 14 for the rest of the facility, which was built in 1939.

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

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South Dakota high schools to enforce pre-contest timeouts

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota high school officials will be enforcing new rules on how to administer athletic contests to improve safety.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association will require registered officials to hold "a pre-contest medical timeout" beginning this fall, the Daily Republic reported. The timeout will be a short meeting held at the start of the first athletic contest for administrators, officials and coaches to discuss emergency personnel and protocols.

The medical timeout formalizes the process already in place in many school districts across the state, said John Krogstrand, the association's assistant executive director.

Before the athletic contest, officials will need to identify a qualified medical professional on site and an emergency action plan in place for the venue. Officials will also need to know each team's game administrator, the facility's emergency exits and whether there's an automated emergency defibrillator present.

Usually, a school principal, athletic director or superintendent can serve as the game administrator and control crowds. The qualified medical professional can be a paramedic, emergency medical technician, doctor, nurse or athletic trainer.

The policy's goal is to emphasize safety and minimize risk, said Krogstrand.

"We've seen cases where a little planning can help save a life and makes for a safe event for everyone," he said.

Mitchell High School Activities Director Cory Aadland said the requirement provides structure so there aren't assumptions about any emergency action.

"The challenge, of course, is that you can't train for every situation or prepare for everything that could possibly happen," Aadland said. "But you prepare as best as you can."

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

South Dakota resident fights officials over rodent issue By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, The Rapid City Journal

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — The man whose dusty hands grip the dirt-caked steering wheel calls out the birds by name as his pickup barrels a trail through the grass unusually tall and green this summer for Fall River County. Like porpoises tailing a ship in a marine bay, the birds burst out of the pasture, encircling the truck.

"Meadowlark," said David Zimiga, the man hired for this ranch, pointing at zigzagging birds. "Those two are doves."

Susan Henderson, his boss, sits resolutely next to him in the cab. A wide, straw hat covers her curly, gray hair.

"You think there are prairie dogs in this grass?" she asks, in her high drawl. She nods to the foliage that should, in theory, be eaten or cleared away by the burrowing rodents. "That's rich."

As Zimiga dips the pickup's nose down toward the creek, Henderson tenses up.

"Watch out, David. Watch out!" she said.

Zimiga rams the truck into a ravine, water creeping up the hubcaps, before the tires catch the border of tall bunch grass, blue and yellow wildflowers dotting the brush.

"This is my road, Susan," Zimiga said diplomatically. "There's no other way across."

He smoothly summits the banks. The tree bearing the nest of the golden eagles — who along with burrowing owls and bald eagles star in the ongoing court drama 70 miles away in Rapid City enfolding the ranch — looms in the field. It's a sight only visible so far to people following Henderson's lawsuit through blurry photographs entered as exhibits. But it's clear the eagles, only a football field or so removed from the pasture the county intends to kill prairie dogs on with poisonous gas tablets, wouldn't need to swoop far to pick off any dazed or dead dog with a liver still congealed with toxins.

"They (county weed and pest board members) won't even come out here," Henderson told The Rapid

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City Journal as she sat in the pickup truck, pointing to the eagle's nest. "But if they want to use poisons on my land, I want them to come out and look at what they'd be destroying."

Ranch culture prizes precedent. But what's going on in Fall River County might be new. Plenty of landowners across South Dakota can recall run-ins with a county weed and pest board, the un-elected, administrative bodies whose sometimes thankless job it is to protect agricultural lands from noxious weeds or critter or insect nuisances that can significantly hamper cash crops or livestock that producers rely on for incomes. But not many can remember a board getting sued. Maybe over weeds. But not pests. And definitely not prairie dogs.

"If she wins," said Scott Guffey, Weed and Pest Board Supervisor for Pennington County. "It could totally change how we do business."

In April, four months after a declaration of prairie dogs by the board on her land, Henderson sued the Fall River County Weed and Pest Board and its supervisor, Nina Steinmetz, arguing the county's application of poison would kill the nesting burrowing owls and eagles on her land. After a May court date, she won a preliminary injunction, giving her the summer to self-control prairie dogs. On July 10, however, she submitted to the court a revised complaint, arguing not only are prairie dogs not a "statewide pest," but that the board's "methodology" for determining how many prairie dogs live on her property is "faulty and wholly inaccurate."

In a court response, attorneys for the board denied new allegations and argued, instead, the board operates like a traffic officer who is allowed police powers. Moreover, attorney Rebecca Mann argued, the only remedy for appealing county board decisions — and both sides agree the notice of declaration of infestation issued to Henderson arrived in early December — is by filing an appeal with the circuit court within 20 days.

"Plaintiff's claim is untimely," Mann wrote.

The stage is set for a September 5 hearing that could undercut the broad authorities weed and pest boards have to do their jobs, or — viewed by the stubborn landowner's perspective — allow her some peace of mind that her land is free from poisons.

"I wasn't going to let them push this girl around," Henderson said.

Life on Henderson's pastoral 8,100 acres — she claims she's one of the largest landowners in this wideopen county sandwiched to the east by the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and to the west by Wyoming — can feel far off from the sterile courtroom drama.

To the east, a row of humped hills — what some locals call the hogbacks — ripple toward the Nebraska border. One pointy hill Henderson calls a "volcano." To the south runs a long coal train out of Wyoming. "The railroad was here before we were," she said. Her grandfather homesteaded the land. To the west eight miles is the ghost town of Provo, farther along are the former army bunkers now overtaken by a doomsday prophet luring far-off buyers interested in purchasing a dorm for the coming apocalypse. It's remote country. But there are people here, too — and the county government.

Northward is one of the neighbors who a summer earlier filed a complaint with the county weed and pest board, saying prairie dogs from Henderson's land were encroaching — the legal word for scampering, burrowing or invading — from his neighbor to the south. Henderson said the county's weed and pest supervisor Steinmetz visited her and proposed poisoning the dogs, but she relented.

"They got me to use poison after I first took over the ranch in 1991, and I poisoned the whole pond," Henderson said. "I had dead hawks everywhere."

Henderson prefers managing prairie dogs like her father did, with water tankers. She runs a hose down the burrows, turns on the water, and drowns the dogs. She also hires a shooter out of Pringle.

"It's the only sure way to clear those towns," Henderson said. "Then I'll run a grader over those holes and clamp them shut."

Steinmetz, at least last summer and fall, was sympathetic, giving Henderson time to cull the dogs to a manageable population. But at a December meeting of the Fall River County Weed & Pest Board, members voted to declare an infestation on Henderson's land. They gave Henderson till April 1 to achieve an 80 percent kill. Come late March, Steinmetz and a Department of Agriculture employee, Ron Moehring,

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drove out to a highway along Henderson's land and counted the prairie dogs.

"We didn't even see tire tracks," Steinmetz told a courtroom in May.

The board moved to eradicate some prairie dogs. According to South Dakota's pest law, SDCL 38-22, the board can act like a policeman spotting a mugging or speeding car. So the board sent a letter on April 17, telling Henderson it was coming onto her land to deliver Fumitoxin, a lethal gas, into the burrows and leave her with the nearly \$9,000 bill. Henderson's attorney — former state attorney general Roger Tellinghuisen — filed a lawsuit within a week, requesting a temporary injunction from a judge.

"If the Board is allowed to administer their poison on the subject property, there is a high likelihood that bald eagles, golden eagles and burrowing owls will be disturbed, damaged and/or killed," the lawsuit stated.

Fumitoxin is a common and powerful fumigant that is often used on grain storage to wipe out insects and is approved for use by licensed applicators by South Dakota's Department of Agriculture. But 7th Circuit Judge Jane Wipf Pfeifle agreed with Henderson's attorney and a letter from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, that no emergency existed and the poisons would endanger the burrowing owls and eagles against "incidental take." Henderson was given the summer to shoot or drown her way to a problem, whichever she saw fit.

But the latest court documents, before the September hearing date, ask philosophical questions about operations of a weed and pest board in ranch country. How does a county count prairie dogs? Are prairie dogs considered "pests "under state law? And just what is an infestation?

At Wall Drug, tourists can spend \$10 and buy a plush prairie dog with a South Dakota license plate around its neck. The animals, along with buffalo and jackalopes, function as a kind of cute, yipping state mascot. But 17 miles north on a dirt road, is Josh Geigle's family ranch. And prairie dogs aren't anybody's friend in ranch country.

"We've joked around the table with different neighbors that if the city people want prairie dogs, let's just put them in their backyard," said Geigle, who said he sees it like if mice were filling his kitchen.

The acreage surrounding Geigle's ranch has been in the family for nearly a century. He said the critters are industrious, eating or clipping grass ten-times their height to clear a lookout for predators like badgers or hawks. Geigle can't run cattle on dog towns and has to walk his horse across.

"The old-timers say back in the 30s this entire bottom-land here was a dog-town," he said.

On the two dog-towns on either side of his parents' house, he treats the dogs with poison oats. Untreated oats are put around the rim of the burrows to lure the prairie dogs. Once the dogs are hooked, poison is added. This treatment effectively manages small towns. He's used Fumitoxin, or aluminum phosphide tablets, which are dropped down a hole that is covered and activated with water. He get strays this way. And it's a team effort.

"We work with them (neighbors) to poison what we can, and the town kind of does this," he moves his hands backward and forward like playing an accordion. "Do they have a purpose for the landscape, ecologically? Maybe. But I'm going to say, 'not in my backyard."

South Dakota is home to nearly a quarter of the acres impacted by prairie dogs in the country. Prior to 2001, prairie dogs were a state-declared pest. But in the late 1990s, conservation organizations pressured the Department of Interior to consider putting prairie dogs on a federal protected species list. So in 200 the legislature cycle created a new category — species of management concern — and slotted prairie dogs into it. Since then, prairie dogs can be considered pests, under certain conditions.

Today, prairie dogs are subject to two separate routes of government-enforced mediation. The state's Game, Fish, and Parks Department steps in when prairie dogs encroach onto private land from public land, such as the national grasslands. When prairie dogs encroach from private land, complaints are supposed to go to the Department of Agriculture.

A building adjacent the juvenile detention center in southeastern Rapid City carries the label "Pennington County Weed & Pest." A rain garden of antlers runs around the perimeter. Inside, colorful maps detail military campaigns against foes: the pine beetle and Canadian thistle. Guffey runs operations for the entire county from here and knows his role.

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"We do the Department of Agriculture's dirty work," he said.

Chapter 38-22 of South Dakota Codified Law allows Guffey the power of the South Dakota Weed and Pest Commission, which leases authority of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. Each spring, Guffey places notices in county papers-of-record, declaring war on pests and noxious weeds. According to state law 38-22-16.1, "weeds or pests in any amount (are) considered infestation." Guffey (or staff) have police powers to enter private property without the owner's permission. But he prefers a cooperative approach.

When a neighbor complained of prairie dogs running on their property from a Rapid City auto salvage dealer, Guffey drove out to talk to both parties. Eventually neighbors split the costs to hire a commercial applicator to handle the prairie dogs.

'I try to get landowners to work together to solve the problem," he said.

Just how to count prairie dogs is not spelled out in statute, however. In the days before Henderson's April 1 deadline, Moehring drove with Steinmetz out to a public road adjacent to count dogs. Moehring said at trial he did simple math: multiplying dogs by holes and reaching an estimated 8,000 dogs.

Guffey agrees it's not rocket science.

"You look out in the field and you see them. It's pretty obvious," he said.

But which way are they moving? State law says dogs must be on the complainant's property, not near a fence or road. And they must've moved from the neighbor's. And even if this can be ascertained, supervisors must determine a kill-rate. Guffey once requested an "80 percent kill" of prairie dogs from a landowner.

"'How do you know what 80 percent is?"" Guffey said one homeowner asked. "And I was like, good question."

Guffey now declares a "reasonable attempt" needs to be made to manage a population.

But it's these statutes that Henderson's legal team has tried to poke holes in. More broadly, how do landowners at any point challenge the board's decisions? In court, Judge Wipf Pfeifle appeared perplexed, too.

"Where is there due process?" she asked the county's attorney.

Mann replied she didn't think there was any.

"That would be one of the very few governmental bodies that would be able to act with no ability of somebody to challenge it," the judge replied.

In court documents, Mann said due process comes from the courts. That particular state law, Mann wrote, "provides no mechanism for appealing or challenging a county weed and pest board resolution or decision." Such an appeal, like a property owner disputing a county board's property line, goes straight to circuit court.

From the office of the Pennington County Weed & Pest supervisor, Guffey thinks due process is in the time he gives landowners to self-regulate.

"I would say due process is we give them three or four months with prairie dogs to take care of the problem on their own," he said.

Last session in Nebraska, the legislature repealed a 2012 state law that allowed county weed and pest boards authority to enter private property without the owner's permission to eradicate prairie dogs. In April, however, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts vetoed the legislation, arguing the law would damage property rights of neighbors afflicted by prairie dog encroachment.

Henderson becomes animated talking about the Nebraska decision or a case in 2010 in Utah, where two girls exposed to Fumitoxin later died. But her most persuasive case is that she's handling the infestation on her own.

"He's been shooting like mad," Henderson said of her hunter.

As she climbs back into her pickup, Zimiga navigates back over the creek and heads toward the pasture at the center of the lawsuit. On these acres directly east of the house, where neighbors initially complained the dogs lived, the prairie is like a microcosm of the land before agriculture.

"They might not come out today," Zimiga said. "They can be truck-shy."

But it only takes a few minutes. Zimiga pumps the brakes and throws the truck into a low-growling idle. His hand rises again. "There's one," he said, calmly.

In the blurry distance — the horizontal heat waves jiggling almost like a Road Runner cartoon short — a

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small, white and brown burrowing owl stands on its thin legs.

"See," Henderson said. "I told you they're everywhere."

As if on cue, more animals join the burrowing owls on the eastern pasture: a badger with a bushy white tail lopes through the grass. Pronghorn are spotted on the horizon. The grass also hides rattlesnakes and rodents, including prairie dogs. But this wetter summer has meant more grass and less literal turf battles between prairie dogs and ranchers. The previous summer, when the first complaint was received, came early.

"See, this whole thing got started," Henderson said, "when they (her neighbors to the east) tore up their land and ran those dogs onto me first. They did it in the middle of the night. Now, they're wanting me to pay. Well, I'm not about to."

"This whole thing," is what Henderson calls the various constituent elements of this fight with the Fall River County Weed and Pest Board, as if it's all one giant problem, like a stubborn cow sitting in a roadway. The state laws. The burrowing owls. The weed and pest board.

"If we don't protect this land and the critters on it, who will?" she says, her foot on the pickup, the broad brimmed hat shadowing half her face. Before letting the visitors back down the driveway toward the county road, she emphasizes a point. "You asked what'll happen next?"

"They're going to be totally defeated," Henderson said. "That's what happens next."

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

North Dakota bottle collector finds relics in South Dakota By CORA VAN OLSON, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — This man's treasure was definitely another man's trash long ago. Tom Askjem, of Buxton, North Dakota, collects bottles, but not just any bottles; he collects antique medicinal bottles, and during his frequent digs in Yankton, he's found numerous items in old outhouse pits.

"I started a hobby called 'bottle digging' when I was about 12 years old on my parents' farm with an 1898 farmhouse," Askjem told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan . "I started digging around through some of the junk in the woods and found some 7-Up and Coca-Cola bottles. I drank a lot of soda as a kid, and I thought seeing the evolution of the container was interesting."

Hoping to discover more old bottles, Askjem did some research into the different ways people go about it. He learned that many antique bottles are found in the outhouse pits behind early homesteads and houses. So, he asked his parents where the old outhouse was on their property.

"They told me the general area, but I don't believe we found it until we were pushing around some stuff in the woods with a tractor and a bunch of stove ashes came up," Askjem said. Stove ashes were often thrown over the use layer of an outhouse to neutralize the smell.

"Of course after 100 years, there's no smell left, but bottles were often thrown down the pits," Askjem said. "I'm 27 now, so I guess I've been at this 15 years and I've dug almost 1,000 outhouse pits since then, most of them in the last five years."

Askjem has found many different kinds of bottles, but typically medicine bottles. Some still have their corks and contain what was once laudanum or menthol, which he dumps out. Some have the pharmacy name embossed on the side, and these are the bottles Askjem seeks.

"I've got dozens of different kinds. I've dedicated a good portion of my life to this," Askjem said. "Some of the bottles can have value. I get maybe a couple of hundred dollars worth of bottles per pit. I give a lot to the home owner; it gives them a conversation piece, so maybe \$100 per pit."

Askjem is mostly interested in antique bottles from the Dakotas, and spends about three weeks a year in Yankton on digs.

"'Mother City of the Dakotas' — that's why I'm here, I've done a lot of digging up north, but I get some of the earliest stuff here," he said.

"There are so many bottles out there. I learned this with years of collecting. I thought, 'OK, I'm going

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to collect all the bottles from this state,' to slowly find out that there's more than I will ever be able to put on shelves in my house. So I just have to stick to the Dakotas, and even that's sort of overwhelming."

When figuring out where to dig, he goes off information from old maps, drawings or pictures of towns from 100 or more years ago.

"I push probe rods through the ground, and I feel for compaction. Where the outhouse pit was, there's a telltale clay cap over the top," Askjem said. "Underneath it is a bunch of stove ashes, and they loosen up and you can hear them crunching around, and then often I'll hit artifacts."

"Then I dig around and get the parameters of the pit, a lot of them around here are about six-feet deep," Askjem said.

One of his more recent digs in Yankton started out by studying an old drawing. The house was built in 1877 and is still standing. Askjem was able to figure out where to dig relatively quickly and during the course of digging down about five feet, he unearthed several broken bottles, some intact bottles, an intact glazed brown jug and an intact Edison-style bulb, among other things.

Some of his finds offer some mystery.

"I found a pair of brass knuckles in a pit in Crookston, Minnesota. I'm guessing it had a most interesting story behind it," Askjem said. "A saloon fight or maybe a murder weapon, but here's no way to find out." He also once found a pill bottle full of bills, silver coins, and silver certificates from the 1950s.

The earliest piece he found in Yankton was from the 1860s Civil War era.

"I'm writing a book on all the Yankton bottles, on all the different drugstores that put their names on them, the history of all that. I'm hoping this winter to put it together," Askjem said. "I've found pieces of bottles I don't have yet, but there are some collectors out there who have them, and they're working with me. So they will send me pictures of stuff I don't have and hopefully, between all of us, we'll be able to get a complete book together."

In the meantime, Askjem continues what is for him both a hobby and a calling: finding and unearthing his favorite artifacts of the old West.

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

SD Lottery By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

01-31-32-47-56, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 2 (one, thirty-one, thirty-two, forty-seven, fifty-six; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: two) Estimated jackpot: \$88 million

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL Aberdeen Roncalli 27, Groton Area 7 Arlington/Lake Preston 50, Dell Rapids St. Mary 12 Baltic 36, Hanson 0 Bison 34, Dupree 0 Bon Homme 41, Parkston 0 Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 14, Beresford 6

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Britton-Hecla 34, Hamlin 0 Burke 55, Scotland 0 Canistota 52, Menno/Marion 6 Canton 35, Sioux Valley 6 Castlewood 38, DeSmet 0 Clark/Willow Lake 34, Florence/Henry 6 Colman-Egan 36, Elkton-Lake Benton 0 Colome 72, Centerville 6 Corsica/Stickney 58, Avon 8 Custer 40, Bennett County 12 Deuel 26, Dakota Hills 6 Faulkton 34, Langford 14 Garretson 30, Howard 16 Gregory 12, Kimball/White Lake 6 Harding County 56, Edgemont 6 Hettinger/Scranton, N.D. 44, Lemmon/McIntosh 24 Hill City 35, Newell 6 Hitchcock-Tulare 58, Iroquois 8 Ipswich/Edmunds Central 36, Tiospa Zina Tribal 14 Irene-Wakonda 54, Viborg-Hurley 14 Lead-Deadwood 19, Red Cloud 16 Lower Brule 56, Crazy Horse 0 McCook Central/Montrose 7, Flandreau 6 McLaughlin def. Standing Rock, N.D., forfeit Mobridge-Pollock 20, Redfield/Doland 6 Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 40, Stanley County 7 Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 46, Estelline 0 Parker 28, Chester 2 Philip 12, Kadoka Area 8 Sioux Falls Christian 36, Winner 0 Sully Buttes 46, Potter County 20 Timber Lake 44, Faith 14 Wall 39, New Underwood 0 Webster 54, Tri-State 0 Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 14, Wagner 0

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, https://scorestream.com/

Newspaper: Many South Dakota kids unsupervised after school

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Thousands of South Dakota children are left unsupervised after school due to a lack of state funding for after-school and out-of-school activities, according to a newspaper investigation. Karla Johnson, the incoming director of the South Dakota Afterschool Network, told the Argus Leader that parents have been struggling to find affordable child care in South Dakota for nearly 40 years. "We've kind of shoved (the issue) under a rug and not addressed it," Johnson said.

More than 1 in 4 South Dakota children are unsupervised after school, according to a recent study by Augustana University and nonprofit Sioux Falls Thrive. The finding means South Dakota has the highest statewide average of unsupervised children in the U.S., compared to the national average ratio of 1 in 5. After-school programs can improve students' social skills and mental health, said John Hegg, a school

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counselor in the Sioux Falls School District.

Unsupervised children often spend hours alone on phones, tablets or computers without having regular face-to-face interaction, Hegg said. The "screen time" can lead to factors that feed an increase in depression, anxiety, loneliness and thoughts of suicide, he said.

The state's existing after-school programs, many of which already have long waitlists, could face a blow if Congress approves a \$3 billion cut to the federal education department as part of next year's federal budget proposed by President Donald Trump's administration.

The cut would eliminate the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program, which provides about \$6 million in federal funds for South Dakota programs for children in high-poverty and low-performing schools.

Mary Stadick Smith, the South Dakota Department of Education's interim secretary, said "communities likely need to look at a variety of options, including partnerships among various entities, to fund and run out-of-school time programs" without federal funding.

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

Authorities ID woman killed in I-90 crash near Mitchell

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Howard woman who died in a three-vehicle crash on Interstate 90.

The Highway Patrol says the car driven by 76-year-old Joan Spader was rear-ended late Monday morning when she slowed because of a crash ahead of her. Her vehicle was then pushed into a third vehicle. She died at the scene, about 4 miles east of Mitchell.

Former House speaker to head health care advocacy group

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former speaker of the South Dakota House of Representatives will lead the state's main health care advocacy group following the abrupt departure of its former president.

Tim Rave will serve as the interim president of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations beginning later this month. He'll replace Scott Duke, who the Argus Leader said could not be reached for comment.

The Sioux Falls-based association represents hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living centers and other health care organizations.

The 51-year-old Rave served more than a decade in the South Dakota Legislature, including as speaker of the House during the 2009-10 session before being elected to the Senate. He left the Legislature to join Sanford Health, where he is executive director of public policy.

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

Pierre police use less-than-lethal ammo to end standoff

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Police in Pierre used less-than-lethal ammunition to end an early morning standoff with a man who claimed to have a gun in a parking lot.

KCCR radio reports that officers responded to the scene about 1 a.m. Friday and made contact with an 18-year-old man who told them he had a gun and would shoot them if they didn't shoot him first.

Police negotiated with the man for about an hour before using the less-than-lethal ammo and taking him into custody. Less-than-lethal ammo includes such things as rubber bullets and beanbag rounds.

The man was checked out at a hospital and then taken to jail. Police determined he did not have a gun.

Information from: KCCR-AM, http://www.todayskccr.com/

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Governor appoints Sioux Falls attorney to judgeship

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is appointing Sioux Falls attorney James Power to a judgeship in the Second Circuit.

Power has been with the Woods, Fuller, Shultz and Smith firm since 2006. Before that, the Alabama native practiced law in Atlanta and clerked for a law firm in Dallas.

He holds a law degree from George Washington Law School in Washington, D.C. He also holds a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in theology.

Power will succeed Judge Larry Long, who is retiring in September. The Second Circuit includes Lincoln and Minnehaha counties.

2 State Penitentiary inmates sentenced for prison attacks

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Two inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary have been sentenced for separate assaults on corrections employees.

The attorney general's office says 26-year-old Kevin Tripp was sentenced to serve an additional 10 years behind bars, and 25-year-old James Dornbusch had six years added to his time.

Authorities say Tripp attacked a Department of Social Services employee working at the prison in Sioux Falls last October. They say Dornbusch assaulted two correctional officers in September 2016.

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.

Church group's opposition stuns advocates of `tort reform' By ANDREW DeMILLO, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — So-called tort reform has been an easy sell in states controlled by Republicans, and backers of a lawsuit-limiting proposal on the ballot in Arkansas this fall expected little trouble winning passage until they ran into a surprising obstacle from a reliable conservative ally.

A Christian group has begun rallying churches and abortion opponents against the measure, saying that limiting damage awards in lawsuits sets an arbitrary value on human life, contrary to anti-abortion beliefs, and conflicts with biblical principles of justice and helping the poor.

Proponents of the measure are stunned by the opposition and worried that it could stir dissension among conservatives who must work together on numerous issues.

"The biggest problem is not the damage" to the tort reform proposal, said Republican Rep. Bob Ballinger, a sponsor of that measure. "The biggest hurdle is the damage to the pro-life cause."

The religious argument also could offer tort reform opponents in other states a new weapon for fighting limits. The legal restrictions have been making headway in recent years as the GOP has won control of roughly two-thirds of state legislatures.

Arkansas' measure is an effort by an array of pro-business groups, including the state Chamber of Commerce, to reinstate legal caps that have been chipped away over the years by court rulings.

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The amendment would cap damages for noneconomic losses, such as pain and psychological distress, to \$500,000 and punitive damages to \$500,000 or three times the amount of compensatory damages awarded, whichever is higher. It also would cap attorneys' contingency fees at one third of the net amount recovered.

The conservative Family Council Action Committee, which championed Arkansas' ban on gay marriages, is organizing meetings with church leaders to call for the measure's rejection.

"The Bible is full of references to justice, and (the proposal) creates an environment where the powerful can tip the scales of justice against everybody else, but especially the poor," Jerry Cox, the Family Council's head, said at a recent breakfast meeting with pastors.

Pastors were handed informational booklets emblazoned with the words "Don't Put A Price Tag On Human Life." Flyers left on each table offered attendees inserts for their church bulletins.

Rose Mimms, the head of Arkansas Right to Life, also spoke out against the measure, writing in an editorial on the conservative website townhall.com that it "erodes our own pro-life efforts in the state." The organization has not taken an official position on the measure.

Industry groups backing the tort reform amendment questioned whether the Family Council's actions were motivated by \$150,000 in donations the group received from a Little Rock law firm. Trial lawyers are the leading opponents of the tort reform movement.

"They have sold their brand to trial lawyers to be able to promote this issue," said Carl Vogelpohl, the campaign manager for Arkansans for Jobs and Justice, which is backing the tort reform proposal. Cox said the donation wasn't a factor and that his group announced its position before receiving the money. Using church meetings to rally opposition especially angered the measure's supporters.

"When you go to church and you hear somebody speak up against something, generally, you're thinking, 'Well, I'm getting a 100 percent clear picture," said Republican Rep. Marcus Richmond, the House majority leader.

The nearly hourlong presentation to pastors by Cox and two other officials from his group alternated between a seminar and sermon, as they described the types of claims that could be constrained by the measure.

"Can I get an 'amen?" Cox asked at one point.

"Amen," the audience repeated back in approval.

Stephen Harrison, a pastor who attended the breakfast, said later he wanted to research the proposal before taking a stance.

However, Harrison, who pastors the nondenominational Family Church in Pine Bluff, said, "I don't want to vote for something that will devalue human life or put a price tag on what a life is worth."

Vogelpohl said an equally compelling argument could be made to anti-abortion groups and other Christian conservatives that limiting damages could improve medical care in the state and help attract more doctors.

The spending on the effort to rally churches pales in comparison to the more than \$3 million both sides of the issue have raised. The measure still faces a lawsuit from a former judge who argues it should be disqualified from the ballot.

Follow Andrew DeMillo on Twitter at www.twitter.com/ademillo

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Germany: No preparations made in case of alien landing

BERLIN (AP) — The German government says it has made no preparations for the possibility that aliens might land in the European country.

In a response to questions from opposition Green Party lawmaker Dieter Janecek, the government said "there are no protocols or plans for a possible first contact with alien life."

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Justifying that stance, the government added it believes "a first contact on German territory is extremely unlikely, based on today's scientific knowledge." Janecek linked the government's responses to a media article Saturday.

Separately, German news agency dpa reported Saturday the classic children's book "The Little Prince" has been translated into Klingon — the fictitious language of the eponymous space race in the science fiction franchise "Star Trek."

Dpa quoted Saarbruecken-based translator Lieven L. Litaer as saying the book, titled "ta'puq mach," will be published in October.

Short sentence recommended for former Trump campaign adviser By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Trump campaign adviser should spend at least some time in prison for lying to the FBI during the Russia probe, prosecutors working for special counsel Robert Mueller said in a court filing Friday that also revealed several new details about the early days of the investigation.

The prosecutors disclosed that George Papadopoulos, who served as a foreign policy adviser to President Donald Trump's campaign during the 2016 presidential race, caused irreparable damage to the investigation because he lied repeatedly during a January 2017 interview.

Those lies, they said, resulted in the FBI missing an opportunity to properly question a professor Papadopoulos was in contact with during the campaign who told him that the Russians possessed "dirt" on Hillary Clinton in the form of emails.

The filing by the special counsel's office strongly suggests the FBI had contact with Professor Joseph Mifsud while he was in the U.S. during the early part of the investigation into Russian election interference and possible coordination with Trump associates.

According to prosecutors, the FBI "located" the professor in Washington about two weeks after Papadopoulos' interview and Papadopoulos' lies "substantially hindered investigators' ability to effectively question" him. But it doesn't specifically relate any details of an interview with the professor as it recounts what prosecutors say was a missed opportunity caused by Papadopoulos.

"The defendant's lies undermined investigators' ability to challenge the Professor or potentially detain or arrest him while he was still in the United States," Mueller's team wrote, noting that the professor left the U.S. in February 2017 and has not returned since.

Prosecutors note that investigators also missed an opportunity to interview others about the professor's comments or anyone else at that time who might have known about Russian efforts to obtain derogatory information on Clinton during the campaign.

"Had the defendant told the FBI the truth when he was interviewed in January 2017, the FBI could have quickly taken numerous investigative steps to help determine, for example, how and where the Professor obtained the information, why the Professor provided the information to the defendant, and what the defendant did with the information after receiving it," according to the court filing.

Prosecutors also detail a series of difficult interviews with Papadopoulos after he was arrested in July 2017, saying he didn't provide "substantial assistance" to the investigation. Papadopoulos later pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI as part of a plea deal.

The filing recommends that Papadopoulos spend at least some time incarcerated and pay a nearly \$10,000 fine. His recommended sentence under federal guidelines is zero to six months, but prosecutors note another defendant in the case spent 30 days in jail for lying to the FBI.

Papadopoulos has played a central role in the Russia investigation since its beginning as an FBI counterintelligence probe in July 2016. In fact, information the U.S. government received about Papadopoulos was what triggered the counterintelligence investigation in the first place. That probe was later take over by Mueller.

Papadopoulos was also the first Trump campaign adviser to plead guilty in Mueller's investigation. Since then, Mueller has returned two sweeping indictments that detail a multi-faceted Russian campaign

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to undermine the U.S. presidential election in an attempt to hurt Clinton's candidacy and help Trump. Thirteen Russian nationals and three companies are charged with participating in a conspiracy to sow discord in the U.S. political system primarily by manipulating social media platforms.

In addition, Mueller brought an indictment last month against 12 Russian intelligence operatives, accusing them of hacking into the computer systems of Clinton's presidential campaign and the Democratic Party and then releasing tens of thousands of private emails through WikiLeaks.

According to that indictment, by April 2016, the Russian intelligence operatives had already stolen emails from several Democratic groups including the Clinton campaign and were beginning to plan how they were going to release the documents. That same month, according to court papers, Mifsud told Papadopoulos that he had met with senior Russian government officials in Moscow and had learned that they had "dirt" on Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails."

Read the sentencing memo: http://apne.ws/tNIPFAC

Another trial looms for ex-Trump campaign chairman Manafort By MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — As jurors weigh Paul Manafort's fate in a sprawling financial fraud case, the former Trump campaign chairman still has another trial looming in the nation's capital — and prosecutors there have a whole new set of charges and a huge volume of evidence.

The trial now underway in Alexandria, Virginia, is the first case brought by special counsel Robert Mueller to go to trial. The jury will return Monday to begin a third day of deliberations on 18 counts, including tax and bank fraud and failure to disclose foreign bank accounts.

In the District of Columbia, Manafort is scheduled to go on trial in September on charges including conspiracy to defraud the United States, failing to register as a foreign agent, money laundering, witness tampering and making false statements.

Neither case involves allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination by the Trump campaign, which are at the heart of Mueller's larger investigation. But President Donald Trump has expressed a keen interest in Manafort's fate as he seeks to publicly undermine Mueller's probe.

The charges in D.C. could result in an even lengthier sentence than what Manafort faces in Virginia. In a status report filed back in February, prosecutors did a preliminary calculation of how federal sentencing guidelines would apply to Manafort if convicted on all charges. In Virginia, they calculated a sentence of roughly eight to 10 years on the tax fraud charges plus an additional four to five years on the bank fraud. In the District, they calculated a guidelines range of 15 to 20 years, and that was before prosecutors brought the witness tampering charge.

Those guidelines are only rough estimates and will be officially calculated by a probation officer before sentencing. And sentencing guidelines are not binding on the judge.

The fact that Manafort faces a second trial is entirely of his own choosing. Prosecutors preferred to bring all the charges in the District of Columbia, where their investigation is based and where all other defendants have been charged. But prosecutors lacked venue to bring the tax and bank-fraud charges against Manafort anywhere but Virginia, where Manafort owns a home.

Prosecutors requested that Manafort waive his venue rights so all charges could be brought in D.C., but he refused.

In some ways, the decision to face some charges in Virginia appears to have paid off for Manafort.

Judge T.S. Ellis III has expressed skeptical opinions about the government's case from the outset. In a pretrial hearing, he speculated that prosecutors only decided to bring charges against Manafort to pressure him to "sing" against Trump. He also questioned the fairness of a special counsel law that has allowed Mueller to commit millions of taxpayer dollars to his investigation.

During the trial, prosecutors have been frustrated by comments Ellis has made in front of the jury about the evidence and his frequent exhortations to move the three-week trial along at a quicker pace.

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Despite those frustrations, prosecutors were able to introduce hundreds of documents, including emails from Manafort himself seeming to acknowledge some of the financial misdeeds prosecutors say are at the heart of the case.

In the District, meanwhile, Manafort will face a judge who has already seen fit to put him in jail ahead of trial. U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who will oversee the criminal trial in Washington, ordered Manafort jailed because of concerns about his alleged efforts to contact two witnesses. Prosecutors filed witness tampering charges against him in June.

Initially Manafort was confined to a "VIP" jail in Warsaw, Virginia., where his cell had a private bathroom and he had phone and computer access. But after Manafort's lawyers complained about lengthy 100-mile trips to meet with him, Ellis transferred him to a stricter holding facility in Alexandria. Once a familiarly dapper figure in political circles, known for jet-black dyed hair and a tanned complexion, Manafort is now gaunter and grayer.

Officials have not said whether Manafort would be transferred to a jail in the Washington area in advance of the September trial.

In the D.C. trial, Manafort may face an even taller stack of evidence. In a court filing Thursday, Manafort's defense lawyer, Kevin Downing, said the special counsel's office has sent him "well over 1,000 proposed exhibits — most of which have not been a part of the trial before Judge Ellis," for review ahead of the September trial in the District.

Associated Press writer Stephen Braun contributed to this report.

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan dies at age 80 By JOHN HEILPRIN and FRANCIS KOKUTSE, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Kofi Annan, one of the world's most celebrated diplomats and a charismatic symbol of the United Nations who rose through its ranks to become the first black African secretary-general, has died. He was 80.

His foundation announced his death in Switzerland's capital, Bern, on Saturday in a tweet, saying he died after a short unspecified illness. It did not give details and remembered the Nobel Peace Prize winner as "radiating genuine kindness, warmth and brilliance in all he did."

The president of Ghana, where Annan was born, said in a tweet that "I am ... comforted by the information, after speaking to (Annan's wife) Nane Maria, that he died peacefully in his sleep."

Annan spent virtually his entire career as an administrator in the United Nations. His aristocratic style, cool-tempered elegance and political savvy helped guide his ascent to become its seventh secretarygeneral, and the first hired from within. He served two terms from Jan. 1, 1997, to Dec. 31, 2006, capped nearly mid-way when he and the U.N. were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.

During his tenure, Annan presided over some of the worst failures and scandals at the world body, one of its most turbulent periods since its founding in 1945. Challenges from the outset forced him to spend much of his time struggling to restore its tarnished reputation.

His enduring moral prestige remained largely undented, however, both through charisma and by virtue of having negotiated with most of the powers in the world.

When he departed from the United Nations, he left behind a global organization far more aggressively engaged in peacekeeping and fighting poverty, setting the framework for the U.N.'s 21st-century response to mass atrocities and its emphasis on human rights and development.

"Kofi Annan was a guiding force for good," current U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "It is with profound sadness that I learned of his passing. In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations. He rose through the ranks to lead the organization into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination."

Even out of office, Annan never completely left the U.N. orbit. He returned in special roles, including as the U.N.-Arab League's special envoy to Syria in 2012. He remained a powerful advocate for global causes

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through his eponymous foundation.

Annan took on the top U.N. post six years after the collapse of the Soviet Union and presided during a decade when the world united against terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks — then divided deeply over the U.S.-led war against Iraq. The U.S. relationship tested him as a world diplomatic leader.

"I think that my darkest moment was the Iraq war, and the fact that we could not stop it," Annan said in a February 2013 interview with TIME magazine to mark the publication of his memoir, "Interventions: A Life in War and Peace."

"I worked very hard — I was working the phone, talking to leaders around the world. The U.S. did not have the support in the Security Council," Annan recalled in the videotaped interview posted on The Kofi Annan Foundation's website.

"So they decided to go without the council. But I think the council was right in not sanctioning the war," he said. "Could you imagine if the U.N. had endorsed the war in Iraq, what our reputation would be like? Although at that point, President (George W.) Bush said the U.N. was headed toward irrelevance, because we had not supported the war. But now we know better."

Despite his well-honed diplomatic skills, Annan was never afraid to speak candidly. That didn't always win him fans, particularly in the case of Bush's administration, with whom Annan's camp spent much time bickering. Much of his second term was spent at odds with the United States, the U.N.'s biggest contributor, as he tried to lean on the nation to pay almost \$2 billion in arrears.

Kofi Atta Annan was born April 8, 1938, into an elite family in Kumasi, Ghana, the son of a provincial governor and grandson of two tribal chiefs.

He shared his middle name Atta — "twin" in Ghana's Akan language — with a twin sister, Efua. He became fluent in English, French and several African languages, attending an elite boarding school and the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi. He finished his undergraduate work in economics at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1961. From there he went to Geneva, where he began his graduate studies in international affairs and launched his U.N. career.

Annan married Titi Alakija, a Nigerian woman, in 1965, and they had a daughter, Ama, and a son, Kojo. He returned to the U.S. in 1971 and earned a master's degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management. The couple separated during the 1970s and, while working in Geneva, Annan met his second wife, Swedish lawyer Nane Lagergren. They married in 1984.

Annan worked for the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa in Éthiopia, its Emergency Force in Egypt, and the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, before taking a series of senior posts at U.N. headquarters in New York dealing with human resources, budget, finance, and staff security.

He also had special assignments. After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, he facilitated the repatriation from Iraq of more than 900 international staff and other non-Iraqi nationals, and the release of western hostages in Iraq. He led the initial negotiations with Iraq for the sale of oil in exchange for humanitarian relief.

Just before becoming secretary-general, Annan served as U.N. peacekeeping chief and as special envoy to the former Yugoslavia, where he oversaw a transition in Bosnia from U.N. protective forces to NATO-led troops.

The U.N. peacekeeping operation faced two of its greatest failures during his tenure: the Rwanda genocide in 1994, and the massacre in the Bosnian town of Srebrenica in July 1995.

In both cases, the U.N. had deployed troops under Annan's command, but they failed to save the lives of the civilians they were mandated to protect. Annan offered apologies, but ignored calls to resign by U.S. Republican lawmakers. After became secretary-general, he called for U.N. reports on those two debacles — and they were highly critical of his management.

As secretary-general, Annan forged his experiences into a doctrine called the "Responsibility to Protect," that countries accepted — at least in principle — to head off genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and war crimes.

Annan sought to strengthen the U.N.'s management, coherence and accountability, efforts that required huge investments in training and technology, a new whistleblower policy and financial disclosure requirements.

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In 1998, he helped ease a transition to civilian rule in Nigeria and visited Iraq to try to resolve its impasse with the Security Council over compliance with weapons inspections and other matters. The effort helped avoid an outbreak of hostilities that seemed imminent at the time.

In 1999, he was deeply involved in the process by which East Timor gained independence from Indonesia, and started the "Global Compact" initiative that has grown into the world's largest effort to promote corporate social responsibility.

Annan was chief architect of what became known as the Millennium Development Goals, and played a central role in creating the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the U.N.'s first counter-terrorism strategy.

Annan's uncontested election to a second term was unprecedented, reflecting the overwhelming support he enjoyed from both rich and poor countries. Timothy Wirth, president of the United Nations Foundation, which disburses Ted Turner's \$1 billion pledge to U.N. causes, hailed "a saint-like sense about him."

In 2005, Annan succeeded in establishing the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council. But that year, the U.N. was facing almost daily attacks over allegations about corruption in the U.N. oil-forfood program in Iraq, bribery by U.N. purchasing officials and widespread sex abuse by U.N. peacekeepers — an issue that would only balloon in importance after he left office.

It emerged that Annan's son, Kojo, had not disclosed payments he received from his employer, which had a \$10 million-a-year contract to monitor humanitarian aid under the oil-for-food program. The company paid at least \$300,000 to Kojo so he would not work for competitors after he left.

An independent report criticized the secretary-general for being too complacent, saying he should have done more to investigate matters even if he was not involved with the awarding of the contract.

World leaders agreed to create an internal U.N. ethics office, but a major overhaul of the U.N.'s outdated management practices and operating procedures was left to Annan's successor, Ban Ki-moon.

Before leaving office, Annan helped secure a truce between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, and mediated a settlement of a dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria over the Bakassi peninsula.

At a farewell news conference, Annan listed as top achievements the promotion of human rights, the fighting to close the gap between extreme poverty and immense wealth, and the U.N. campaign to fight infectious diseases like AIDS.

He never took disappointments and setbacks personally. And he kept his view that diplomacy should take place in private and not in the public forum.

In his memoir, Annan recognized the costs of taking on the world's top diplomatic job, joking that "SG," for secretary-general, also signified "scapegoat" around U.N. headquarters.

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Richard Holbrooke called Annan "an international rock star of diplomacy."

After leaving his high-profile U.N. perch, Annan didn't let up. In 2007, his Geneva-based foundation was created. That year he helped broker peace in Kenya, where election violence had killed over 1,000 people.

He also joined The Elders, an elite group of former leaders founded by Nelson Mandela, eventually succeeding Desmond Tutu as its chairman after a failed interlude trying to resolve Syria's rising civil war.

Annan "represented our continent and the world with enormous graciousness, integrity and distinction," Tutu said Saturday in a statement, adding that "we give great thanks to god" for him.

As special envoy to Syria in 2012, Annan won international backing for a six-point plan for peace. The U.N. deployed a 300-member observer force to monitor a cease-fire, but peace never took hold and Annan was unable to surmount the bitter stalemate among Security Council powers. He resigned in frustration seven months into the job, as the civil war raged on.

Annan continued to crisscross the globe. In 2017, his foundation's biggest projects included promotion of fair, peaceful elections; work with Myanmar's government to improve life in troubled Rakhine state; and battling violent extremism by enlisting young people to help.

He also remained a vocal commentator on troubles like the refugee crisis; promoted good governance, anti-corruption measures and sustainable agriculture in Africa; and pushed efforts in the fight against illegal drug trafficking.

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Annan retained connections to many international organizations. He was chancellor of the University of Ghana, a fellow at New York's Columbia University, and professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore.

His homeland of Ghana was shaken by his death. "One of our greatest compatriots," President Nana Akufo-Addo said, calling for a week with flags at half-mast. "Rest in perfect peace, Kofi. You have earned it." Annan is survived by his wife and three children. Funeral arrangements weren't immediately announced.

Kokutse reported from Accra, Ghana. Associated Press writer Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed.

Pakistan's Imran Khan sworn in as prime minister By MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's cricket star-turned-politician Imran Khan was sworn in as prime minister on Saturday despite protests by opposition parties, which accuse the security services of intervening on his behalf in last month's elections.

Khan' s Tehreek-e-Insaf party won the most seats in the July 25 national elections but fell short of an outright majority. It allied with independents to form a coalition, and Khan was elected by the National Assembly on Friday. Khan had campaigned on promises to combat Pakistan's endemic corruption and break powerful landowners' monopoly on political power.

Opposition parties have held regular protests since last month's election, alleging vote rigging by the powerful security establishment. Security officials have rejected the allegations, and Khan has vowed to investigate the charges of voting fraud, saying neither he nor his party was involved in any wrongdoing. "We have not committed any rigging," he told lawmakers in a speech after being sworn in.

Khan secured 176 votes in the assembly on Friday, defeating the opposition's candidate, Shahbaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League, who got 96 votes. Sharif and his party's lawmakers disrupted Khan's speech by chanting slogans against him. Khan responded by saying no one could blackmail him through such protests.

Khan has promised "ruthless accountability" to combat corruption, and has said he will move to a small house in Islamabad rather than live in the lavish prime minister's residence.

Khan acquired a reputation as a playboy during his cricketing years but embraced conservative Islam after entering politics.

His first wife was the wealthy British heiress Jemima Goldsmith, whom he married in 1996. Their two sons live with Goldsmith. He married his second wife, British journalist Rehman Khan, in 2015, but they divorced within a year. Earlier this year, he married his spiritual adviser, Bushra Maneka, who attended Saturday's ceremony when Khan took the oath as premier.

Khan emerged as a critic of the so-called War on Terror after the 9/11 attacks, accusing the United States of fueling extremism by carrying out drone strikes in Pakistan that killed civilians. He has also expressed support for a controversial law that makes blasphemy against Islam punishable by death.

His critics in Pakistan have branded him "Taliban Khan," accusing him of sympathizing with extremists. Khan has denied those charges, and struck a more moderate tone in this year's campaign, saying he was committed to defeating Islamic extremists and cultivating good relations with the U.S., which for years has demanded that Pakistan do more to combat militancy.

Khan has expressed support for a peace process in neighboring Afghanistan that would end 17 years of war between the U.S.-backed government and the Taliban.

Also on Saturday, Khan's party nominated Arif Alvi as its candidate for the Sept. 4 presidential election. The ruling party's candidate usually wins the post, which is a ceremonial one. The president is indirectly elected by lawmakers from the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies.

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AP source: Omarosa has video, audio, texts By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's not just audiotapes.

Omarosa Manigault Newman has a stash of video, emails, text messages and other documentation supporting the claims in her tell-all book about her time in the Trump White House, a person with direct knowledge of the records told The Associated Press Friday.

Manigault Newman has made clear that she plans to continue selectively releasing the pieces of evidence if President Donald Trump and his associates continue to attack her credibility and challenge the claims in her book, "Unhinged." She's already dribbled out audio recordings of conversations, and video clips, texts or email could follow, according to the person who described what Manigault Newman has called a multimedia "treasure trove." The person was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly and asked for anonymity.

"I will not be silenced. I will not be intimidated. I'm not going to be bullied by Donald Trump," the former Trump aide told The Associated Press this week as she seemed to dismiss a threat from Trump's campaign. She spoke to the AP hours after Trump's campaign announced it was filing an arbitration action against her alleging she'd violated a signed agreement with the campaign that prohibits her from disclosing confidential information.

She told PBS in a separate interview this week: "I have a significant amount, in fact, a treasure trove, of multimedia backup for everything that's not only in "Unhinged," but everything that I assert about Donald Trump."

Manigault Newman claims Trump officials offered her a job on the campaign as a way of silencing her, after she was fired from the White House. She's accused Trump of being racist and suffering from a mental decline.

The White House has countered by branding Manigault Newman as a disgruntled former staffer with credibility issues who is now trying to profit from a book based on false attacks against an individual she has called a mentor and has admired for more than a decade.

Trump has also lashed out at Manigault Newman, calling her a "lowlife," 'wacky and deranged" and a "dog."

Simon & Schuster this week also dismissed threatened legal action from Trump's campaign. A campaign attorney told Simon & Schuster in a letter that "Unhinged" violated Manigault Newman's confidentiality agreement, but the publisher responded that it was acting "well within" its rights.

"Unhinged" has spent the past few days at No. 2 on Amazon.com's best-seller list, trailing only Rachel Hollis' lifestyle book "Girl, Wash Your Face."

Manigault Newman was director of communications for a White House office that networks with various constituency groups until she was fired last December by chief of staff John Kelly, citing "significant integrity issues." Before joining the administration, Manigault Newman handled African-American outreach for Trump's presidential campaign. She has known Trump since 2003, when she became a contestant on Trump's TV show, "The Apprentice."

She has already released several secret audio recordings, including of the meeting in which she was fired by Kelly.

In another recording, Trump's daughter-in-law, Lara Trump, is heard offering Manigault Newman \$15,000 a month - after she was fired from the White House - for a campaign job requiring her to be "positive." Lara Trump is a senior adviser on Trump's re-election campaign.

Manigault Newman also alleges that tape exists of Trump using a racial slur while working on "The Apprentice." Trump has denied this, saying on Twitter that "I don't have that word in my vocabulary, and never have. She made it up."

AP National Writer Hillel Italie in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap

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Trump military parade plans unravel over costs By LOLITA C. BALDOR and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The cancellation of President Donald Trump's Veterans Day parade came swiftly when senior White House and Pentagon leaders saw the estimated \$92 million price tag play out in public, setting off a chaotic volley of tweets and accusations between the president and the mayor of the nation's capital.

The drama that unfolded Thursday and Friday also highlighted, not for the first time, a disconnect between the Pentagon and the White House when it comes to turning some of Trump's more mercurial ideas into reality.

While Defense Secretary Jim Mattis dismissed the price estimate for the parade as fiction — likening the report of it as the work of someone who had been smoking pot — Trump wasn't denying the projected costs. He was lashing out at Washington, D.C., politicians he claimed were to blame for the sky-high price.

"When asked to give us a price for holding a great celebratory military parade, they wanted a number so ridiculously high that I cancelled it. Never let someone hold you up!" Trump tweeted.

He held out hope of holding the parade next year instead, and said this year he would travel to Paris for events marking the centennial of the end of fighting in World War I, which falls on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. "Now we can buy some more jet fighters!" he added.

Despite Trump blaming municipal authorities for the high estimate, the bulk of the cost was the \$50 million Pentagon portion that would cover military aircraft, equipment, personnel and other support. The remaining \$42 million would cover costs borne by the city and other agencies and largely involved security costs.

The Republican president's finger-pointing set off a social media spat with D.C.'s Democratic Mayor Muriel Bowser. She shot back on Twitter Friday that she was the one who "finally got thru to the reality star in the White House with the realities (\$21.6M) of parades/events/demonstrations in Trump America (sad)."

District of Columbia officials called the price-gouging charge by Trump "patently false." A city official said the \$21.6 million estimate of the costs the city would incur was their "best stab at it," since they did not know what the exact route would be or how long it would last. The official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said there had been little interaction with the Pentagon and few details provided.

Trump decided he wanted a military parade in Washington after he attended France's Bastille Day celebration in the center of Paris last year. Several months later Trump praised the French parade, saying, "We're going to have to try and top it."

It was a demand that drew criticism not just from Trump's political opponents but some Republicans too. As the Pentagon began planning for the U.S. version, the cost became a politically charged issue — as did the prospect of streets in the nation's capital being churned up by tank treads.

According to officials familiar with the unfolding events, senior Pentagon leaders were briefed Wednesday about the parade costs. But officials said the estimates were still preliminary and so were not submitted to Mattis or Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private meetings and conversations.

When details came out publicly Thursday, senior White House officials, including Chief of Staff John Kelly, were angry about the \$92 million amount, which was more than triple early estimates of \$10 million to \$30 million by the White House budget director. It's not clear when Trump was told, but the order to cancel the parade came quickly and was made by the end of the work day. The Pentagon announced the decision just before 8 p.m.

Throughout the day, multiple U.S. officials had confirmed the \$92 million estimate that was put together by the interagency parade planning group. And Pentagon officials did not push back or at any point suggest the reporting was wrong.

Still, when asked about the price Thursday evening, Mattis excoriated the media and said he had seen no such estimate.

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"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," Mattis told reporters traveling with him.

He said 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.

Mattis' comments came hours after the estimate was made public, and not long after the cancellation decision was made — giving his staff plenty of time to ensure he was made aware of the planning estimate's accuracy.

One reason for the political sensitivity was that Trump himself had boasted that the cancellation of a major military exercise with South Korea amid easing tensions with North Korea would save the U.S. "a tremendous amount of money." The Pentagon later said the Korea drills, which typically take place every August, would have cost \$14 million — an amount dwarfed by the estimated cost of the parade.

The cancellation of those drills, like Trump's demand for a parade, initially caught the Defense Department unawares. Mattis was also widely viewed as being unenthusiastic about the president's plans to set up a Space Force as a new branch of the military — but as in the other cases, he has toed the line of the commander in chief.

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, which can carry significant costs in personnel, aircraft and support.

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.

Associated Press writer Ashraf Khalil contributed to this report.

Janet Jackson, Daddy Yankee celebrate release of new song By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Janet Jackson's fans were so energetic at an event Friday for her new single that one fan chimed in so the icon could speak without interruption.

"Everybody, be quiet. We can't hear her," a girl yelled, as Jackson and the rest of the packed room at Samsung 837 in New York burst into laughter.

The excitement was around Jackson's festive song "Made for Now," which features Puerto Rican rapper Daddy Yankee and was released Friday. Jackson thanked the crowd for attending and said, "Please spread the love."

She introduced Yankee to the stage, calling him her "partner-in-crime in this song." He noted that the room included a diverse group of people, saying: "The beautiful thing is we got everybody in the building." "Thank you Janet for uniting the country," he added.

Officials investigate cause of death for Colorado mom, kids By KATHLEEN FOODY and JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

FREDERICK, Colo. (AP) — The bodies of two young girls were submerged in crude oil for four days before authorities discovered them, according to court documents filed by an attorney defending the girls' father against accusations that he killed his children and wife.

The motion filed Friday by Christopher Watts' attorney, James Merson, also asked that DNA swabs be taken from the girls' necks. The request quotes an expert who believes the oil would not eliminate DNA and said samples can be obtained "after strangulation."

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Authorities separately announced that the Weld County Coroner's Office had performed autopsies on Friday and confirmed the bodies as 34-year-old Shanann, 4-year-old Bella and 3-year-old Celeste Watts. Police did not release any information about how the mother and daughters died. More testing is planned

to help determine the cause of their deaths.

Richard Eikelenboom, the expert cited by Watts' attorney, also recommended taking DNA samples from the girls' hands and the hands and nails of their mother. Eikelenboom has testified in several high-profile criminal trials, often on so-called "touch DNA" when small samples of genetic material are left on a surface.

After his wife and daughters were reported missing on Monday and before his arrest, Watts told reporters he missed them, and longed for the simple things like telling his girls to eat their dinner and gazing at them as they curled up to watch cartoons.

Authorities are expected to file formal charges Monday against Watts, an oil and gas worker who authorities said dumped his wife and daughters' bodies on his employer's property.

Police said the mother, Shanann, was found dead on property owned by Anadarko Petroleum, one of the state's largest oil and gas drillers, where 33-year-old Christopher Watts worked as an operator. Investigators found the bodies of Bella and Celeste nearby.

Watts was fired on Wednesday, the same day he was arrested, the company said. He did not respond to reporters' questions when he was escorted into the courtroom Thursday.

Merson, Watts' attorney through the Colorado State Public Defender's Office, left Thursday's court hearing without commenting to reporters. He did not respond to multiple messages seeking comment by The Associated Press.

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

The family's two-story home is just outside Frederick, a small town on the grassy plains north of Denver, where fast-growing subdivisions intermingle with drilling rigs and oil wells.

According to a June 2015 bankruptcy filing, 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.

But the family remained caught between a promising future and financial strain from debt and other obligations.

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.

Details about what led police to arrest Watts late Wednesday night on suspicion of three counts of murder and tampering with evidence likely were to be revealed next week.

Prosecutors will ask a court to unseal the affidavit for Watts' arrest after filing formal charges, which are due by mid- afternoon on Monday, said Krista Henery, a spokeswoman for district attorney Michael Rourke.

Family and friends of Shanann Watts are left searching for answers, trying to reconcile Watts' cheery Facebook posts about her daughters, her pregnancy and her love for her husband with the pending charges.

Ashley Bell met Shanann Watts about two years ago, when the mother of two came into Bell's new tanning salon in nearby Dacono. The two women quickly became friends, and before long they were texting or calling each other almost daily. Their daughters played together during salon visits.

"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," he said. Shanann Watts had recently shared with family and friends that she was pregnant with their third child.

The case has focused attention on Colorado's lack of a law allowing homicide charges in the violent

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deaths of fetuses, which is the case in 12 states. Proposals to allow homicide charges in the violent deaths of fetuses in Colorado have been stymied by debate about how to avoid infringing on abortion rights.

Republican lawmakers last tried to change the law after a 2015 case in Boulder County. A woman named Dynel Lane was charged with attempted murder and unlawful termination of a pregnancy for cutting open a pregnant woman's belly and removing her unborn baby girl. Prosecutors said they could not charge Lane with murder because a coroner found no evidence the infant lived outside the womb.

State law does allow a homicide charge if a fetus was alive outside the mother's body and then killed. State lawmakers in 2013 also allowed prosecutors to add extra felony charges against anyone who commits a crime that causes the death of a fetus.

Drew reported from Raleigh, North Carolina. Associated Press writers James Anderson, 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.

This story has been corrected to provide the correct spelling of the city of Dacono.

Manafort judge says he fears for jurors' safety By MATTHEW BARAKAT, STEPHEN BRAUN and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The judge in Paul Manafort's financial fraud trial saiys he has received threats and he fears for the "peace and safety" of the jurors deciding the fate of the former Trump campaign chairman.

U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III revealed his concerns Friday when explaining why he doesn't intend to make jurors' names public at the end of the trial. Jury lists are presumed to be public unless a judge articulates a reason for keeping them secret.

"I've received criticism and threats," Ellis said. "I imagine they would, too."

The judge said he is currently under the protection of U.S. marshals.

Jurors ended their second day of deliberations Friday a half-hour early, without reaching a verdict. They sent a note to the judge asking to wrap up at 5 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. because a juror had an event to attend. They return Monday morning.

The financial fraud trial is the first courtroom test of the Russia probe led by special counsel Robert Mueller. And while the case doesn't involve allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination by the Trump campaign, it has been closely watched by President Donald Trump as he seeks to publicly undermine Mueller's probe.

On Friday, Trump issued a fresh defense of Manafort and called him a "very good person."

"I think the whole Manafort trial is very sad," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"When you look at what's going on, I think it's a very sad day for our country," he said. "He worked for me for a very short period of time. But you know what, he happens to be a very good person and I think it's very sad what they've done to Paul Manafort."

Manafort is accused of hiding from the IRS millions that he made advising Russia-backed politicians in Ukraine, and then lying to banks to get loans when the money dried up. He faces 18 felony counts on tax evasion and bank fraud.

The case 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 onetime 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.

Manafort's defense says he wasn't culpable because he left the particulars of his finances to others. His attorneys told jurors to question the prosecution's case as they sought to tarnish the credibility of Manafort's longtime protege Rick Gates, who was the government's star witness.

Prosecutors say Manafort earned some \$60 million consulting for the Russia-backed political party in

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Ukraine, and hid at least \$16 million in income from the IRS between 2010 and 2014. They 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.

AP writers Darlene Superville and Anne Flaherty contributed to this report. Online: https://apnews.com/8b1cea8ba9ba49f98e06c77782add2ba

Trump warns he'll revoke clearance of Justice Dept official By JILL COLVIN and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that he suspects he'll "very quickly" revoke the security clearance for a Justice Department official whose wife worked for the firm involved in producing a dossier on Trump's ties to Russia.

Signaling that his efforts to target clearances over his frustration with the Russia investigation were not over, Trump tweeted that it was a "disgrace" for Bruce Ohr to be in the Justice Department.

His comments came two days after he yanked the security clearance of former CIA Director John Brennan, saying he had to do "something" about the "rigged" federal probe of Russian election interference. Critics have cast it as an act of political vengeance.

Ohr has come under Republican scrutiny for his contacts to Glenn Simpson, co-founder of Fusion GPS. The opposition research firm hired former British spy Christopher Steele during the 2016 presidential campaign to compile the dossier on Trump and his Russia ties.

Ohr's wife, Nellie, worked for Fusion GPS during the campaign — something Trump has tweeted about to highlight his assertions of political bias behind the Russia investigation.

Former U.S. security officials on Thursday issued scathing rebukes to Trump for moving against Brennan. Trump's admission that he acted out of frustration with 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, 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 15 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 seven former CIA directors, six former CIA deputy directors and two former national intelligence directors, James Clapper and retired Navy Adm. Denny Blair. Clapper and former CIA Director Michael Hayden have appeared on a White House list of people who may also have their security clearances revoked.

Then on Friday, 60 former CIA officials issued their own statement, joining a chorus of opposition from the intelligence community to Trump's decisions to threaten to or actually pull clearances. They said former government officials have a right to express unclassified views on national security issues without fear of being punished for doing so.

They said they did not necessarily concur with all the opinions expressed by Brennan, or the way in
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which he expressed them. But they said they believe the "country will be weakened if there is a political litmus test applied before seasoned experts are allowed to share their views."

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 supposed "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 whitecollar 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.

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.

Associated Press writer Deb Riechmann and Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

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

6.1 quake shakes Costa Rica near Panama; no major damage

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — A strong earthquake shook southern Costa Rica near the border with Panama on Friday evening, toppling items from store shelves and knocking out power in places, but authorities said there was no major damage or reports of serious injuries.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 6.1 quake struck at 5:22 p.m. at a depth of about 12 miles (19 kilometers). Its epicenter was about 12 miles (19 kilometers) north of the town of Golfito. The USGS initially estimated the magnitude at 6.0.

Alexander Solis, president of the National Emergencies Commission, said there were a handful of localities where power failed and objects fell without serious consequences. He said hospitals were only reporting some people having suffered panic attacks.

"We have checked in practically the entire country with no reports at this time of important damage," Solis said.

Ellery Quesada, a journalist with Channel 9 in Palmar Norte, near the epicenter, told The Associated Press that the quake was felt strongly in the region, some power poles had reportedly toppled and several aftershocks were felt afterward.

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The USGS recorded at least one subsequent temblor of magnitude 4.6. Earlier it had calculated the magnitude at 4.9.

Photos circulating on social media showed shattered wine bottles and other products lying on shop floors in Palmar Norte.

In neighboring Panama, civil defense officials said via Twitter that the quake was felt strongly in the border provinces of Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro but no damage had been detected.

Panamanian media reported shaking was felt at a stadium in the city of David where a youth baseball championship game was being played, but play was not halted.

As Musk admits to job stress, Tesla's board may have to act By TOM KRISHER and STAN CHOE, AP Business Writers

Elon Musk's erratic behavior was front and center again this week as the CEO of Tesla conceded that he's overwhelmed by job stress, pushing his electric car company's stock down and bringing pressure on its board to take action.

Musk's revelation, in a Thursday interview with The New York Times, came as government regulators are reportedly investigating whether his recent out-of-the-blue tweet about taking Tesla private violated disclosure requirements.

Now, experts say Tesla has reached an intersection where the board must decide the direction of its leadership. Among their suggestions: Remove Musk as CEO, permanently or via a temporary leave of absence, or appoint a No. 2 executive who could act as a steadying hand.

"It's kind of bizarre," said Charles Elson, director of the corporate governance center at the University of Delaware. "It's a drama we shouldn't be watching."

Tesla presents plenty of challenges for the top executive: It routinely loses money and is burning through cash as it ramps up development of its Model 3 sedan, a less-expensive electric car it hopes appeals to the mass market. A large number of investors known as short-sellers have bet against the company.

Musk has added to those pressures with lofty projections for profits and production that Tesla often fails live up to. Plus, the eccentric billionaire is the head of at least two other companies, including the rocket company Space X.

Musk admitted to the Times that the past year has been the most "difficult and painful" of his career. The newspaper reported that during an hour-long telephone interview on Thursday, an emotional Musk acknowledged that he was working up to 120 hours a week and sometimes takes Ambien to get to sleep. Yet he said he has no plans to give up his dual role as Tesla's chairman and CEO.

"If you have anyone who can do a better job, please let me know. They can have the job. Is there someone who can do the job better? They can have the reins right now," he told the paper.

Tesla's board showed no sign of taking action on Friday. In a statement to The Associated Press, directors praised Musk's leadership, saying he had put hundreds of thousands of popular cars on the road, created tens of thousands of jobs and created significant returns for shareholders. Musk was not involved in crafting the statement.

Shares of Tesla Inc. tumbled about 9 percent, closing Friday at \$305.50, their lowest level since Aug. 1. For the week, the company shares lost 14 percent, or \$8.5 billion in market value.

Recent developments put board members in a difficult position because Musk, who entered Tesla as a major investor and built the company into a force that has changed the perception of electric cars, is the company's public identity.

But Erik Gordon, a University of Michigan business and law professor, said the board has a duty to shareholders.

"If the board does not get him out of this slot at a minimum on a leave of absence basis, I think the board is going to be seen by a lot of people who love the company as being derelict in their duties," Gordon said Friday.

The board has stood behind Musk despite some bizarre behavior. For instance, in a recent tweet he

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labeled a diver who aided in the cave rescue of Thai soccer players as a pedophile. He later apologized. But a tweet Musk said he fired off on Aug. 7 while driving to the airport may force the board to act. In it, Musk said he had "funding secured" to take Tesla private. Investors pushed Tesla's shares up 11 percent in a day, boosting its value by \$6 billion.

There are multiple reports that the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating the disclosure, including asking board members what they knew about Musk's plans. Experts say regulators likely are investigating if Musk was truthful in the tweet about having the financing set for the deal.

Musk told the Times he stands by the tweet.

At a normal company, Musk, 47, would have been replaced already, Elson said. But Tesla isn't quite normal. Elson said most of the company's directors have relationships with Musk, who owns about 20 percent of the company.

"At some point the board is going to have to assert its authority," Elson said. "They're at a point where they're going to have to distance their oversight from any prior relations."

But even if Tesla's board wanted to remove Musk as CÉO, it would be dangerous to do it abruptly given how much faith investors have in Musk, said David Whiston, equity strategist at Morningstar. Even with this week's losses, Tesla's market value is \$52.12 billion, slightly higher than General Motors.

"Without the cult of personality around Elon, they're just a cult of personality that's burning a lot of cash." It's clear from the interview that Musk is overworked, and Whiston said the best course may be to bring in another executive to help with day-to-day operations. The challenge would be finding someone good at the job yet willing to work at a company so dominated by one person, Whiston said.

The Times cited people familiar with the situation as saying Tesla has been trying to find a No. 2 executive to help relieve some of the pressure on Musk.

Tesla's board earlier this week formed a special committee to evaluate proposals to take the company private. Tesla later disclosed that Musk had talked with the Saudi Arabia government investment fund about a deal.

Krisher reported from Detroit. Choe reported from New York.

Sales director for Backpage.com pleads guilty to conspiracy By JACQUES BILLEAUD, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The sales and marketing director of Backpage.com pleaded guilty Friday to conspiring to facilitate prostitution, acknowledging that he participated in a scheme to give free ads to prostitutes in a bid to draw them away from competitors and win over their future business.

Dan Hyer is the second Backpage.com employee to plead guilty in cases in Arizona in which the site has been accused of ignoring warnings to stop running prostitution ads, some of which involved children. Authorities say the site has brought in \$500 million in prostitution-related revenue since its inception in 2004.

Some of the site's operators also are accused of laundering money earned from ad sales after banks raised concerns that they were being used for illegal purposes. In all, six others affiliated with Backpage. com, including founders Michael Lacey and Jim Larkin, still face charges in the case.

Hyer, 49, faces a maximum fine of \$250,000 and up to five years in prison for his conviction. As part of the plea, prosecutors will dismiss 50 charges of facilitating prostitution and 17 money laundering charges against Hyer. It's unclear whether the plea deal calls for Hyer to testify against others in the case.

Hyer said about 10 or 11 years ago his company would copy ads from the adult section of Craigslist and other sites, repost them on Backpage.com and then offer client a free ad, which prosecutors say was offered for a trial period. Hyer also said the ads were sometimes illegal because they contained links to another site that lets customers post reviews of their experiences with prostitutes.

The object of the strategy was to compete with Craigslist and increase Backpage.com's revenues, Hyer said. An indictment filed in the case alleged Backpage.com used the strategy in Nashville and other cities and planned to expand such efforts in Los Angeles and New York.

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Asked by U.S. District Judge Steven Logan whether he was agreeing to the plea deal because he believed he was guilty of the conspiracy charge, Hyer responded, "Yes, your honor." Moments before pleading guilty, an emotional Hyer lifted his glasses to wipe his eyes with a tissue.

Backpage.com is a Dutch-owned limited liability corporation. Its principal place of business is in Dallas, and federal officials say it kept its bank accounts and servers in Arizona.

Another employee of the site, CEO Carl Ferrer, has previously pleaded guilty to a separate federal conspiracy case in Arizona and state money laundering charges in California.

In addition, the company pleaded guilty to human trafficking in Texas and in a money laundering conspiracy case in Arizona. Ferrer has agreed to testify against others.

The six remaining defendants in the Arizona case are scheduled for trial in January 2020. They have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Sentencing for Hyer is scheduled for Nov. 19.

Follow Jacques Billeaud at twitter.com/jacquesbilleaud. His work can be found at https://bit.ly/2GGWEPO.

Miss America: Leadership bullied, manipulated, silenced me By WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — The reigning Miss America says she has been bullied, manipulated and silenced by the pageant's current leadership, including Gretchen Carlson.

In a letter sent Friday to former Miss Americas, Cara Mund says she decided to speak out despite the risk of punishment.

Her letter is reminiscent of the movie "Mean Girls," in which characters Gretchen and Regina bully the heroine and make her life miserable. That's what happened to her in real life, Mund wrote. Gretchen Carlson is chairwoman of the Miss America Organization; Regina Hopper is its CEO.

Her letter exponentially increased the turmoil surrounding the pageant three weeks before the next Miss America is to be crowned in Atlantic City.

"Let me be blunt: I strongly believe that my voice is not heard nor wanted by our current leadership; nor do they have any interest in knowing who I am and how my experiences relate to positioning the organization for the future," Mund wrote. "Our chair and CEO have systematically silenced me, reduced me, marginalized me, and essentially erased me in my role as Miss America in subtle and not-so-subtle ways on a daily basis. After a while, the patterns have clearly emerged, and the sheer accumulation of the disrespect, passive-aggressive behavior, belittlement, and outright exclusion has taken a serious toll."

The Miss America Organization said it would reach out to her directly to address her concerns.

"The Miss America Organization supports Cara," the group said in a statement. "It is disappointing that she chose to air her grievances publicly, not privately. Her letter contains mischaracterizations and many unfounded accusations."

Mund said she's been left out of interviews, not invited to meetings and called by the wrong name. When she obliquely hinted at trouble with pageant leadership in an interview earlier this month with The Press of Atlantic City, Mund said she was swiftly punished by having her televised farewell speech cut to 30 seconds, and was told a dress she had been approved to wear in the traditional "show us your shoes" parade cannot be worn.

This year's competition will not include swimsuits, and pageant officials from at least 19 states have called for the current leadership to resign.

Mund said she was given three talking points to be made in every appearance: "Miss America is relevant. The #MeToo movement started with a Miss America, Gretchen Carlson. Gretchen Carlson went to Stanford." (Mund said she was allowed to mention that she went to Brown to show that both women were highly educated.)

"Right away, the new leadership delivered an important message: There will be only one Miss America at a time, and she isn't me," Mund wrote.

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Mund, who was Miss North Dakota and won the crown on a platform of increasing the number of women elected to political office, said she was treated better by the previous Miss America leadership that was forced from power after sending emails ridiculing the appearance, intellect and sex lives of former Miss Americas.

She cites examples of mistreatment including being excluded from the nationally televised announcement that swimsuits were being eliminated — even though she was with Carlson at the TV studio where it was made. She says pageant handlers ridiculed her clothing choices and chided her for wearing the same outfits too often. When she reached out to former Miss Americas to see if they had been treated similarly, "I was reprimanded by Regina who told me that problems and concerns had to be kept `in the family."

Follow Wayne Parry at http://twitter.com/WayneParryAC

Manafort judge says he's received threats, won't name jurors By MATTHEW BARAKAT, STEPHEN BRAUN and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

ALEXÁNDRIA, Va. (AP) — The judge in Paul Manafort's financial fraud trial said Friday he has received threats and he fears for the "peace and safety" of the jurors deciding the fate of the former Trump campaign chairman.

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AP writers Darlene Superville and Anne Flaherty contributed to this report. Online: https://apnews.com/8b1cea8ba9ba49f98e06c77782add2ba

Arrest made in more than 100 synthetic pot overdoses in park

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — A 53-year-old man has been arrested in connection with more than 100 synthetic-marijuana overdoses, many of them in the same New Haven park, after authorities say they caught him with 32 bags of the drug, police said Friday.

Some of the victims identified John Parker, of New Haven, as one of the people who was dealing K2 on the New Haven Green, where most of the overdoses occurred Wednesday and Thursday, Police Chief Anthony Campbell said. No deaths were reported, and officials said most people recovered quickly.

No overdoses were reported Friday.

Parker, who was arrested Wednesday, was charged with drug crimes after being found in possession of the K2 bags, Campbell said. He was also charged in connection with drug sales in the city earlier this year, the chief said.

Campbell also said two other people were arrested — one by New Haven police and one by federal authorities — but investigators were trying to determine whether they were connected to the overdoses.

Authorities described chaotic scenes at the park near Yale University, with people falling unconscious at the same time. Others became nauseated and vomited, officials said. Some people who overdosed returned to the green and overdosed again, officials said.

Parker was detained on \$225,000 bail. A public defender said there was no proof linking any drugs Parker may have had to the overdoses.

The arrests do not mean all the bad K2 has been located, Campbell said.

"We want people to be warned that what they have could be extremely dangerous and they should not use it," he said.

One of the other men arrested, Felix Melendez, 37, was charged with drug crimes during the investigation, but Campbell said it hadn't been determined whether he was connected to the overdoses. He was found in possession of K2 and received a two-year probation sentence earlier this year for selling the same drug on the green.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Melendez had a lawyer who could respond to the allegations.

Federal authorities arrested a third person, who was not identified, Campbell said.

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 New York overdosed on K2, none fatally.

Bishop: I have 'profound remorse' after sex abuse report By NATALIE POMPILIO, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania bishop named in a grand jury report on rampant sexual abuse by Roman Catholic clergy said Friday he has "profound remorse" and offers his "heartfelt apology" to the victims.

Speaking at a Mass of forgiveness, Harrisburg Bishop Ronald Gainer opened by reading the first paragraph of this week's stunning report that said more than 300 predator priests had abused more than 1,000 children in six Pennsylvania dioceses. Forty-five of the priests named in the report served in the Harrisburg diocese.

The first paragraph of the nearly 900-page report said the grand jury knows the truth: that child sex abuse within the Catholic church happened everywhere.

"In the name of our global church, I voice again my heartfelt sorrow and sincere apology to all survivors of clergy sexual abuse," Gainer said.

While acknowledging the church is faced with a "spiritual crisis," Gainer said most of the abuse happened

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long ago. The diocese has taken "significant and effective measures to protect our children and remove any person who intends to do harm to them," he said.

The grand jury report criticized Gainer for failing to advocate the defrocking of an abusive priest. The diocese defended Gainer, saying he took swift action against that priest and another abusive priest after becoming bishop in 2014.

In early August, the diocese released the names of 71 priests and other members of the church who had been accused of child sex abuse and said it was holding accountable all Harrisburg bishops of the last 70 years, announcing their names would be stripped from church properties.

Friday's Mass attracted an unusually large turnout of some 350 worshippers. They included Irene Youngman, a retired social worker from Hershey, and her friend, Susan Shebosky, a retiree from Harrisburg, each of whom held a cigar box filled with white ribbons. They intended to distribute the ribbons as a way to show support for abuse victims.

Youngman said she was so angry when the grand jury's report came out Tuesday that she stayed home from Mass that day.

"There's such a sense of betrayal. And an anger I have that the hierarchy isn't responding," she said. "I hope they will do more than they've done already. Hold the bishops accountable."

Shebosky encouraged fellow Catholics to speak up.

"Too many Catholics are in our homes, gnashing our teeth about this and I think we need to come out in a positive, supportive way and not let this be brushed aside," she said.

Steve Ciccocioppo Sr., a retired rail worker from Harrisburg, said the church had suffered a "black eye," but predicted it would "withstand and grow stronger." Ciccocioppo, who said he is a friend of Gainer's, expressed confidence in the bishop's leadership.

"He's deeply in turmoil about it, but he's going to put an end to this. Things are in the process of changing that need to be changed," he said.

The grand jury report faulted Gainer over his handling of the case of the Rev. Joseph Pease, an abusive priest who retired in 2003 after admitting to sexual misconduct with a minor. In a 2014 letter to the Vatican, Gainer said he didn't want to kick Pease out of the priesthood altogether, asking that he instead live the rest of his life "in prayer and penance, without adding further anxiety or suffering to his situation, and without risking public knowledge of crimes."

The report cited another 2014 case in which Gainer failed to call for the defrocking of a priest who'd admitted that he'd sexually abused seven young girls, raping one of them over a period of years. The Rev. James Beeman had been suspended from ministry since 1991; he died in 2016.

The diocese said in a statement that since canonical trials weren't a viable option against either priest at the time, Gainer took action to make permanent the existing penalties against each one.

The form letter that Gainer sent in each case "is regrettably not written well and does not accurately represent the action that was taken," the statement said. "Unlike recent attempts to portray this as a cover-up, this was the only means of resolving their canonical status."

Associated Press writer Michael Rubinkam in northeastern Pennsylvania contributed to this story.

The grand jury report: http://media-downloads.pacourts.us/InterimRedactedReportandResponses. pdf?cb=22148

Aretha Franklin's funeral set for Aug. 31 in Detroit By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Aretha Franklin's funeral will be held Aug. 31 in her hometown of Detroit. The late singer's publicist, Gwendolyn Quinn, said Friday that the funeral, to be held at Greater Grace Temple, is limited to the Queen of Soul's family and friends.

Public viewings will take place Aug. 28-29 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

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from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Franklin will be entombed at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit, along with her father Rev. C.L. Franklin; sisters Carolyn Franklin and Erma Franklin; brother Cecil Franklin; and nephew Thomas Garrett. Franklin died Thursday at her home in Detroit from pancreatic cancer. She was 76.

This story has been corrected to show that the date of the funeral will be Aug. 31, not Aug. 30.

Anger engulfs families as Italy buries its bridge victims By COLLEEN BARRY, FRANCES D'EMILIO and PAOLO SANTALUCIA, Associated Press

GENOA, Italy (AP) — With anger and grief, Italians began burying some of their dead Friday from the Genoa highway bridge collapse, holding funerals in the victims' hometowns. Several angry families rebuffed the offer of a state funeral and the cardinal of Naples was merciless in his condemnation of negligence by Italian officials.

Saturday has been declared a national day of mourning in Italy and will include a state funeral at the industrial port city's fair grounds for those who plunged to their deaths as the 45-meter (150-foot) tall Morandi Bridge gave way Tuesday.

But many of those who lost loved ones declined to participate in the state funeral. Some cited the need to bid farewell in private while others blamed the loss of at least 38 lives on those responsible for the bridge's safety.

Anger and sadness erupted at the funeral Friday for four men in their 20s, all friends from the Naples seaside suburb of Torre del Greco, whose lives were snuffed out as they drove over the bridge heading to a vacation in Spain.

"You can't, you mustn't die for negligence! For carelessness! For irresponsibility! For superficiality!" thundered Naples Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe in his homily.

Finding the cause of the bridge's collapse during a driving rainstorm might take weeks or months to determine. But Genoa prosecutors say they are focusing their investigation into possible criminal blame on design flaws or inadequate maintenance on the heavily traveled bridge, which was completed in 1967 and linked two high-speed highways in the city.

"My boy and the others suffered murder," said Roberto Battiloro, whose 29-year-old son, a videographer, was one of the four friends who died. "They died an absurd, blameless death just for going on holiday."

His voice shaking with anger, Battiloro said his son was the "victim of a cruel fate, but also of whoever didn't think that on that bridge could be the children of those who are despairing today."

"I have died inside, but I have to find the clarity of mind to say that four boys were not No. 27, No. 28, etc (on the victims' list), but people who loved life," Battiloro declared.

Other private funerals were held in Piedmont and elsewhere in Italy.

Survivors, for their part, were shocked at how they escaped with their lives.

Davide Capello, 33, a firefighter and soccer player, was driving alone on the bridge when his Volkswagen Tiguan and the road it was on plunged to the ground. He immediately understood that the structure was collapsing, watching in shock as a car in front of him "disappeared in darkness."

"It came down, everything, the world came down," he told The Associated Press in an interview Friday, adding that he managed to walk away physically unharmed but psychologically traumatized.

His car plunged nose first, then stopped with a crash, air bags releasing all around him. He said he saw only gray, as concrete dust covered the windows.

Capello used the touch-screen phone in the car to call colleagues at the Savona dispatch center, who sent help. He then called his girlfriend and his father, a retired firefighter, who told him to get out of the car immediately for fear that it would destabilize or something heavy would fall on top of it.

Since neither the car's windows nor its doors would budge, he unclipped his seat belt and climbed out through a hole in the rear of the car that was blasted open by the crash. Outside, he said, "there was an unreal silence" — destroyed vehicles and piles of broken concrete and asphalt, but no signs of life, no

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cries for help.

Rescue workers then helped him climb down from the rubble.

"I got out with my own legs," said Capello, who plays for a Serie C club in Liguria. "I don't know if anyone else managed to. I was saved by a miracle."

"The car protected me. Besides God, the car also did its job," Capello said.

On Thursday, prosecutors said as many as 20 people could still be missing in the bridge collapse, but cautioned that some people initially reported as unaccounted for might be on vacation and hadn't yet contacted their families.

Civil protection department officials said Friday there might only be five people missing, but the exact number was fluctuating.

Excavators have begun clearing large sections of the collapsed bridge. Rescuers have been tunneling through tons of jagged steel and concrete blocks to look inside crushed vehicles.

Several vehicles, abandoned by their fleeing occupants on the intact ends of the bridge, were gingerly removed Friday. Among them was a green food delivery truck, which — its windshield wipers swishing, its gear shift in reverse — had halted only few meters (yards) from the jagged edge of the abyss.

For many, the truck at the brink became a symbol of destiny and survival. Highway workers, directed by firefighters, backed it off the bridge and into a nearby tunnel.

Authorities are worried about the stability of large remaining sections of the bridge, which was built over or adjacent to several apartment buildings. Hundreds of residents in those buildings have been evacuated — and there is no guarantee they will ever return to those homes.

Emergency workers also want to quickly remove the tons of debris that fell into the dry riverbed under the bridge so it doesn't create a dam that floods the rest of the city if heavy rains fall again.

Barry reported from Milan and D'Emilio from Rome.

This story has been corrected to give the confirmed death toll as 38.

US ends Syria stabilization funding, cites more allied cash By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is ending funding for Syria stabilization projects as it moves to extricate the U.S. from the conflict, citing increased contributions from anti-Islamic State coalition partners.

The State Department said it had notified Congress on Friday that it would not spend some \$230 million that had been planned for Syria programs and would instead shift that money to other areas. Most of that money, initially pledged by former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in February, had been on hold and under review since he was fired in March. A small fraction of that amount was released in June.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the cut, which was authorized by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and does not include humanitarian aid funds, will be more than offset by an additional \$300 million pledged by coalition partners, including \$100 million that Saudi Arabia announced it had contributed late Thursday.

"As a result of key partner contributions by coalition members, Secretary Pompeo has authorized the Department of State to redirect approximately \$230 million in stabilization funds for Syria which have been under review," she said in a statement.

Nauert said Pompeo's decision took into account the White House's desire to increase burden sharing with allies.

The funds will be redirected "to support other key foreign policy priorities," said Nauert, who along with other officials rejected suggestions that the elimination of the funds showed diminishing U.S. interest in Syria.

Nauert, along with David Satterfield, the acting assistant secretary of state for the Middle East, and Brett

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McGurk, the special envoy for the anti-IS coalition, told reporters on a conference call that the U.S. would remain active in Syria until the Islamic State has been defeated.

"This decision does not represent any lessening of U.S. commitment to our strategic goals in Syria," Nauert said.

Still, the move was seen as a sign the administration is heeding Trump's demand to end U.S. involvement in Syria and reduce its commitment there.

Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, denounced what he said amounted to Trump "sprinting down the path of abdicating American leadership on the global stage."

"By ending U.S. contributions to stabilization efforts in the most vulnerable Syrian communities recently liberated from the terrors of ISIS, this message of U.S. retreat and abandonment is an embarrassment," he said.

Democrats on the House Foreign Affairs Committee concurred, calling the move "astonishingly shortsighted." In a tweet, they said it was an indication of a "lack of US leadership" that is "undercutting US interests in Syria and around the world."

In a bid to reassure its partners in the coalition against IS as well as opponents of Syrian President Bashar Assad, Pompeo appointed veteran diplomatic troubleshooter, James Jeffrey, to be a special envoy for Syria, Nauert said.

Jeffrey, a former U.S. ambassador to Turkey, Iraq and Albania who also served as a deputy national security adviser to President George W. Bush, will hold the title of "special representative for Syrian engagement." Jeffrey, who retired in 2012, also holds the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service: career ambassador. He will lead U.S. efforts to reinvigorate a long-stalled peace effort known as the "Geneva Process" between Assad, the opposition and other countries with equities in Syria, Nauert said.

Yet Friday's funding cut is the latest Trump administration financial retreat from Syria. In May, the State Department announced that it had ended all funding for stabilization programs in Syria's northwest. IS militants have been almost entirely eliminated from that region, which is controlled by a hodgepodge of other extremist groups and government forces.

In June, the administration freed up a small portion — \$6.6 million — of the \$200 million that Tillerson had pledged in order to continue funding for the White Helmets, a Syrian civil defense organization, and the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism, a U.N. agency that is investigating war crimes committed during the conflict.

That left \$193.4 million in limbo that would have had to have been returned to the Treasury Department on Sept. 30 at the end of this budget year if it had remained unspent.

Last month, the U.S. helped to organize the evacuation through Israel of White Helmet workers from Syria's south, where Assad's Russian-backed forces launched a new offensive despite a de-escalation agreement between Washington and Moscow.

Nauert said that Friday's decision would not affect "life-saving, needs-based humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Syrians" or U.S. support for the White Helmets or the U.N. mechanism.

Pakistani lawmakers elect Imran Khan as prime minister By MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Cricket star-turned-politician Imran Khan was chosen Friday as Pakistan's next prime minister, elected on a promise to reform a system rife with corruption and traditionally controlled by the country's powerful landowners.

In the vote by lawmakers at the National Assembly, Khan secured 176 votes, defeating the opposition's candidate, Shahbaz Sharif of the Pakistan Muslim League party, who got 96 votes.

Khan's populist Tehrik-e-Insaf party won the most seats in the July 25 elections but fell short of securing a majority in the 342-seat house. He is to be sworn in as prime minister on Saturday.

Khan's supporters celebrated across the country when Speaker Asad Qaiser announced Friday's result.

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In his first speech to lawmakers as premier, Khan dismissed allegations of election fraud and vowed to enforce "ruthless accountability" to combat corruption.

A graduate of Oxford University, Khan formed his party in 1996 in the eastern city of Lahore, vowing to forge a corruption-free "new Pakistan" with justice for all without discrimination.

He challenged the parties of three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif and former President Asif Ali Zardari over the past two decades, but was not able to make a strong showing until 2013 when his became the third-largest party in the lower house of parliament. He was finally able to triumph over his opponents in last month's vote.

Nawaz Sharif was disqualified from contesting the election last year by the Supreme Court for concealing assets abroad. He is currently serving a 10-year jail term in a corruption case involving the purchase of luxury apartments in London. Opposition candidate Shahbaz Sharif is his younger brother.

Addressing lawmakers, the younger Sharif insisted that last month's elections were manipulated in Khan's favor. Sharif and his supporters chanted slogans against Khan during his speech, claiming he was brought to power by the military.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the head of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, in his first speech as lawmaker, also claimed that the national elections were rigged.

Khan acquired a reputation as a playboy during his cricketing years but has since embraced conservative Islam after entering politics.

He has married three times. His first wife was the wealthy British heiress Jemima Goldsmith, whom he married in 1996. Their two sons live with Goldsmith, who has publicly supported Khan's political ambitions and praised his skill as a leader, even after their divorce in 2004.

He married his second wife, British journalist Rehman Khan, in 2015; they divorced within a year. Earlier this year, he married his spiritual adviser, Bushra Maneka.

In his 2011 book "Pakistan: A Personal History," Khan noted his ambition to come to power when his Islamic nation was ready to hold free and fair elections.

Aside from tackling corruption and a vision to introduce "surgical reforms" in governance, one of the key challenges now facing Khan is how to improve ties with the United States.

Khan's election as prime minister came a day after the Foreign Ministry confirmed the suspension of a U.S. military training program for Pakistani soldiers. Thursday's announcement underscored the persistent tensions between the two allies in the war on terror.

The program is the latest to suffer from cuts to U.S. security aid to Pakistan, announced at the beginning of this year. The U.S. accuses Pakistan of harboring militant groups and providing safe havens for insurgents who carry out attacks in neighboring Afghanistan, a charge Islamabad denies.

Pakistan has repeatedly reminded the U.S. that it has lost thousands of soldiers — more than the U.S. and NATO combined in Afghanistan — in its fight against militants in its territory.

Mattis says further Taliban assaults likely in weeks ahead By ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Western-backed Afghan defenses will not break under the weight of Taliban violence in advance of scheduled parliamentary elections in October, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said.

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 Thursday 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

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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.

Next mission for women with military service: Run for office By LAURIE KELLMAN and BILL BARROW, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dragon winds around a cherry tree in the tattoo across MJ Hegar's arm and back, over the shrapnel wounds she had, at one point, not wanted to see with her young children around.

But nine years after being shot down in Afghanistan, then winning a lawsuit against the federal government, writing a book and now running for a Texas congressional seat, Hegar isn't hiding much anymore.

"I carry my service with me wherever I go," Hegar said in a telephone interview near her home in Round Rock, outside Austin. "We don't see my family and my childhood and my service as different chapters. It's all a package deal."

Hegar is part of a crop of female veterans running for Congress in this year's midterm elections. Almost all Democrats and many of them mothers, they are shaped by the Sept. 11 attacks and overseas wars, including the longest war in American history. Many are retiring from the military and looking for another way to serve the country.

They're part of a record number of women running for seats in Congress, but in certain ways, they are a class apart.

The female veterans claim expertise in national security and veterans issues, with a track record of thriving in institutions dominated by men. Regardless of party, they cast themselves as the antidote to bitterly partisan politics — describing themselves as "mission-driven" and trained by the military to work toward a common goal.

"I flew 89 combat missions as a U.S. Marine. My 90th mission is running for Congress to take on politicians who put party over country," said Kentucky Democratic candidate Amy McGrath, the first female Marine to fly an F/A-18 in combat.

The increase in candidates with military experience is no accident, and the hopefuls are expected to be propelled by Democratic luminaries. Former Vice President Joe Biden, for example, is expected to campaign for McGrath, among others, according to officials close to them who spoke on condition of anonymity because the schedule is not set.

Two Democrats — Massachusetts Rep. Seth Moulton, a retired Marine Corps captain and Bronze Star recipient, and Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who lost her legs and partial use of an arm when her

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helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade in Iraq — have been instrumental in recruiting veterans to run for office.

Moulton said female veterans in his party carry a particular authority when talking to voters concerned about President Donald Trump's leadership.

"It's the year of the woman, but it's also the year of yearning for bringing integrity and honor back to politics," Moulton said. "We need Democrats with the credibility to tell people what's really going on."

The women are hardly the first to use their military service to their political advantage — men have been doing it for decades.

One of the traditional knocks against female candidates is "they aren't tough enough, they aren't strong enough, and they might not have the leadership skills," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Not female candidates who are veterans, particularly of combat.

"They kind of automatically get that kind of respect as leaders; it's well-earned," Walsh said. "It's such a logical next step for people who are committed to this country and are committed to service."

But their campaigns highlight a set of political concerns specific to female veterans.

The candidates acknowledge that their extraordinary stories of trailblazing military careers could make it difficult for some voters to relate to them. Will they come off as too tough or hawkish? Is it possible for any candidate, male or female, to overemphasize his or her military background in the post-9/11 era?

McGrath, who retired as a lieutenant colonel, opened her campaign with an online video in which she wears a bomber jacket, a fighter jet in the background.

McGrath sees herself as a bridge to male voters who "sort of see women as being weaker," she said in a telephone interview. "But yeah, I have to make an effort to reach out to women and make sure that they're not scared, or think that I'm too militant."

Out came a 30-second spot that mentioned the 89 combat missions — but focused on McGrath taking her three children to the pediatrician.

"I'm Amy McGrath and I approved this ad," she says, as her young son takes off down a hallway with his pants down. "Because I'd like to see the other guys running deal with this."

She upset popular Lexington Mayor Jim Gray in the Democratic primary and will take on Republican Rep. Andy Barr in November, a closely watched race considered competitive in a district Barr won by 22 points in 2016. Poised for the different calculus of the general election, Barr last week released an ad quoting McGrath saying of herself, "Hell yeah, I'm a feminist" and calling herself "a progressive."

"Seriously? Is that all you got?" McGrath retorted in a video response, sharing the screen once again with a fighter jet. But this time, she traded her bomber jacket for a denim one.

Much of Hegar's story was already public by the time she decided to challenge Republican Rep. John Carter in the Austin-area district, so she went for the full reveal — tattoos and all.

Her video, "Doors," features the door of the helicopter in which she was shot down on her third tour of Afghanistan as a combat search and rescue pilot. Her medals, including a Purple Heart, play a role, as does Hegar's 2012 lawsuit against the federal government that forced it to repeal the ban on women in combat.

The spot also features an intimate detail: One of Hegar's first memories was of her father throwing her mother through a glass door.

"That's been one of the most difficult transitions for me, is talking about myself more," Hegar said. "I hope that they take away that we have to start putting our faith in people who have a history of putting other people first, fighting against intimidation and bullying, and trying to do the right thing."

Air Force veteran Gina Ortiz Jones, the Democratic nominee for a House seat in West Texas, hopes her active military duty and intelligence work will "neutralize this perceived strength" of Republicans as strong on security issues.

That could be important in the race for the San Antonio-area seat, currently held by Republican Rep. Will Hurd, a former CIA operative. Ortiz Jones supports single-payer health insurance, a position that could be considered too liberal for the district.

"'Liberal' isn't a word that is normally used to describe my work in national security," she said.

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If these women win, they will join an exclusive club in Congress.

Just 19 percent of lawmakers are veterans — the same percentage that are women. Only four members are both: Sens. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, and Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill.; and Reps. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., and Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii.

"It kind of reminds me of a fighter squadron, with so few women," said McSally, a retired Air Force veteran who was the first woman to fly in combat and is now running for U.S. Senate.

All the candidates have stories about being among the only women working among men and have used their platform to speak out about abuses in the military.

McSally told The Wall Street Journal in April that she was pressured into having sex in high school with a coach and that she became an Air Force pilot in part to regain a sense of power. But even there, she told the paper, she had "similar, awful experiences in the military on the spectrum of abuse of power and sexual assault." She did not elaborate.

Pennsylvania's Chrissy Houlahan, a retired Air Force officer and now a congressional candidate, said she cringed more than once when a male colonel "used blonde jokes" to introduce her for presentations to superior officers.

"I definitely felt some overt sexism," she said.

New Jersey's Mikie Sherrill is a former helicopter pilot and prosecutor whose time at the Naval Academy dovetailed with the Tailhook sexual assault scandal in the Navy and Marine Corps. In the 1990s, she said, speaking out when she felt sexually harassed "would really have impacted the way I was treated in the squadron."

But these days, with a generation of women retiring from the military and a record number running for Congress, "it's become a lot easier to talk about these things," she said.

Barrow reported from Atlanta.

Follow Laurie Kellman at https://twitter.com/APLaurieKellman and Barrow at https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP

News outlets challenge Maryland online ad law

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — News outlets filed a Tawsuit on Friday challenging a Maryland law meant to fight foreign meddling in online political advertising because they say it creates unfair burdens on media sites that publish such ads.

The Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association and several newspapers, including The Washington Post and The Baltimore Sun, filed the federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the legislation passed in April. The law went into effect without the signature of the governor, who had concerns about its requirements.

The challengers argue the law infringes on free speech because it requires them to publish information about political ad buyers. The newspapers also say the law includes onerous requirements for them to make data on ad buyers available to election officials on request.

The lawsuit states that "there is a stark difference between requiring speakers to disclose who they are and the source of their funding, and imposing that burden on newspapers and other Internet publishers, especially in the circumstances here."

The plaintiffs asked for an expedited court schedule because they say the state won't delay the rules while the lawsuit plays out.

A spokeswoman for state Attorney General Brian Frosh declined comment on the lawsuit, as did the office of the administrator of the Maryland Board of Elections. Both are named as defendants.

Supporters of the measure said it was the first of its kind in the country because of the powers it gave the attorney general and elections officials. New York also enacted a measure this year to increase transparency for online political ads.

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A sponsor of the law, Maryland Delegate Alonzo Washington, had argued in February that the law would provide greater accountability and transparency for ads on social media platforms. He cited online political ad buys linked to Russia during the 2016 election cycle.

But Maryland's Republican Gov. Larry Hogan expressed concerns about the legislation, and declined to sign it. He said that while the law had admirable goals, he was concerned about its constitutionality because of the requirements it would put on media organizations.

Stocks jump as hopes rise for progress on China trade talks By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose late in the day Friday as investors welcomed signs of progress in resolving the trade dispute between the U.S. and China. The Wall Street Journal reported that the countries hope to have a resolution by November.

Industrial, health care and basic materials companies made some of the biggest gains. The report came a day after China said it will send an envoy to Washington for the first talks between the countries since early June.

Marina Severinovsky, an investment strategist at Schroders, said stocks could jump if the U.S. and China make real progress toward a trade agreement. But stocks in emerging markets might make even bigger gains.

"The rally that could come, if there is a better outcome, would be in emerging markets," she said. "China has suffered pretty greatly ... the U.S. has held up pretty well."

The late gains came in spite of weak results for several chipmakers. Electric car maker Tesla took its biggest drop in two years on reports of a wider government investigation into the company and concerns about CEO Elon Musk's health.

The S&P 500 index rose 9.44 points, or 0.3 percent, at 2,850.13. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 110.59 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,669.32. The Nasdaq composite edged up 9.81 points, or 0.1 percent, to 7,816.33. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 7.19 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,692.95.

The Wall Street Journal cited officials in both the U.S. and China as it said negotiators want to end the trade war before U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping meet at multilateral events in November.

Industrial companies made some of the biggest gains after agricultural equipment maker Deere posted stronger than expected sales. Its stock rose 2.4 percent to \$140.59.

Construction equipment maker Caterpillar rose 2.3 percent to \$139.34 and engine maker Paccar added 2.3 percent to \$67.16.

Chipmakers fell after two companies gave weaker forecasts for the third quarter. Nvidia said it no longer expects much revenue from products used in mining digital currencies, and its stock fell 4.9 percent to \$244.82. Applied Materials slumped 7.7 percent to \$43.77.

While big names like Netflix, Facebook and Amazon slipped, Apple led technology companies slightly higher overall. Apple stock rose 2 percent to \$217.58.

Nordstrom jumped 13.2 percent to \$59.18 after raising its annual profit and sales forecasts and posting better earnings and sales than analysts expected. It's been a mostly difficult week for department stores as Macy's and J.C. Penney both plunged after issuing their quarterly reports.

The S&P 500 finished this week with a solid gain of 0.6 percent, but it took a difficult path to get there. Stocks fell early this week due to worries about Turkey's currency crisis, and later investors fretted about China's economic growth.

The recovery started Thursday as investors hoped the upcoming talks between the U.S. and China will help end the impasse that has resulted in higher tariffs from both countries.

The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong has fallen 13 percent since early June as the dispute has dragged on, and other emerging market indexes have also taken a hit. The S&P 500 has risen over that time.

Tesla was hit with a series of reports that concerned shareholders. The Wall Street Journal reported that

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the Securities and Exchange Commission started investigating the electric car maker last year to determine if it made false statements about production of its Model 3 sedan.

The SEC is also reportedly looking into CEO Elon Musk's comment on Twitter about possibly taking the company private.

Tesla stock rose from about \$345 a share to about \$380 following Musk's tweet last week, which said Tesla could go private for \$420 a share. On Friday it dropped 8.9 percent to \$305.50.

Musk also gave an emotional interview to the New York Times, published Friday, about the stress he's experienced as the company tries to ramp up production. He said this year has been "excruciating" and described working up 120 hours a week, raising concerns about his health.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.86 percent from 2.87 percent.

U.S. crude picked up 0.7 percent to \$65.91 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, added 0.6 percent to \$71.83 per barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline dipped 0.3 percent to \$1.98 a gallon. Heating oil inched up 0.1 percent to \$2.10 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1.3 percent to \$2.95 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold was little changed at \$1,184.20 an ounce. Silver fell 0.6 percent to \$14.63 an ounce. Copper added 0.5 percent to \$2.63 a pound.

The dollar dipped to 110.60 yen from 110.88 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1443 from \$1.1365.

The German DAX lost 0.2 percent and France's CAC 40 fell 0.1 percent. The FTSE 100 in Britain was little changed.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index added 0.4 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.4 percent. In South Korea, the Kospi gained 0.3 percent.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Aug. 18, the 230th day of 2018. There are 135 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

On this date:

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

In 1954, during the Eisenhower administration, Assistant Secretary of Labor James Ernest Wilkins became the first black official to attend a meeting of the president's Cabinet as he sat in for Labor Secretary James P. Mitchell.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers.

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In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage.

In 1988, Vice President George H.W. Bush accepted the presidential nomination of the Republican National Convention in New Orleans.

In 1993, a judge in Sarasota, Fla., ruled that Kimberly Mays, the 14-year-old girl who had been switched at birth with another baby, need never again see her biological parents, Ernest and Regina Twigg, in accordance with her stated wishes. (However, Kimberly later moved in with the Twiggs.)

In 2001, fire broke out at a budget hotel outside Manila, killing 75 people.

Ten years ago: Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) resigned as the president of Pakistan. Tropical Storm Fay pounded Cuba with torrential rain and wind before sweeping across the Florida Keys.

Five years ago: David Miranda, partner of Guardian reporter Glenn Greenwald, who'd received leaks from former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, was detained for nearly nine hours at London's Heathrow airport, triggering claims authorities were trying to interfere with reporting on the issue. Usain Bolt won his third gold medal of the world championships held in Moscow, anchoring Jamaica to victory in the 4 x 100-meter relay.

One year ago: Steve Bannon, President Donald Trump's top White House strategist, was forced out of his post by Trump; Bannon returned immediately as executive chairman to Breitbart News, which he led before joining Trump's campaign. Billionaire investor Carl Icahn resigned from his unpaid post as Trump's adviser on deregulation efforts, as The New Yorker was preparing to publish an article detailing his potential conflicts of interest. A Los Angeles judge rejected an effort by Roman Polanski's victim to end a four-decade-old sexual assault case against the fugitive director. (Polanski pleaded guilty to having unlawful sex with the girl when she was 13; he fled the country on the eve of sentencing in 1978.)

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 91. Movie director Roman Polanski is 85. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 83. Actor-director Robert Redford is 82. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 76. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 73. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 68. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 68. Comedian Elayne Boosler is 66. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinsons) is 63. Actor Denis Leary is 61. Actress Madeleine Stowe is 60. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT'-nur) is 57. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 57. The former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 56. Bluegrass musician Jimmy Mattingly is 56. Actor Adam Storke is 56. Actor Craig Bierko (BEER'-koh) is 54. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 50. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 49. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 49. Actor Christian Slater is 49. Actor Hadjii is 42. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 42. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 40. Country musician Brad Tursi (Old Dominion) is 39. Actress Mika Boorem is 31. Actress Maia Mitchell is 25. Actress Parker McKenna Posey is 23.

Thought for Today: "Memory is more indelible than ink." — Anita Loos (1888-1981).