

Groton Daily Independent

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

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C.
1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
Groton Area	7	14	6	7	34
Sisseton	0	0	0	0	0

	Groton	Sisseton
First Downs	14	5
Rushing	40-333	48-79
	Jonathan Doeden 17-206	Anthony Tchida 25-77
	Darien Shabazz 5-29	Isiah Grimm 2-11
	Lucas Hinman 14-95	Elijah Kowalzek 5-10
	Kaden Kurtz 2-2	Ty Peterson 16-(-19)
	Jackson Cogley 2-1	
Passing	Jonathan Doeden: 1-7-6	Ty Peterson 2-6-7, 1 Int.
	Kaden Kurtz, 1-1-7	
Receivers	Brodyn DeHoet 1-7	Elijah Kowalzek 1-5
	Korbin Blackmun 1-6	Jesi Thin Elk 1-2
Fumbles	Had 5, lost 4	Had 5, lost 2
Penalties	7-45	5-75
Defense	Jonathan Doeden: 9 tackles, 1 interception, 1 sack	
	Wyatt Locke: 9 tackles, 1 fumble recovery, 1 sack	
	Trey Gengerke: 9 tackles.	
	Brodyn DeHoet: 1 fumble recovery, 2 sacks.	
	Peyton Johnson: 2 sacks	
	Jameson Stange: 1 sack	
	Grady O'Neill 1 sack	
Next Game	Beresford in Groton	at Dakota Valley
Record	2-1	0-2
Scoring		
First Quarter.....	6:18: Lucas Hinman, 27 yard run	
	PAT: Hunter Schaller kick	
Second Quarter	8:50: Jonathan Doeden, 27 yard run	
	PAT: Hunter Schaller kick	
Second Quarter	5:08: Jonathan Doeden, 37 yard run	
	PAT: Hunter Schaller kick	
Third Quarter	8:03: Jonathan Doeden, 49 yard run	
	PAT: Kick no good	
Fourth Quarter	5:19: Lucas Hinman, 27 yard run	
	PAT: Hunter Schaller kick	

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Groton Area shuts out Sisseton



Brodyn DeHoet pushes Sisseton's Anthony Tchida out of the way to clear a path for Lucas Hinman to score on this 27 yard run. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Groton had 40 carries for 333 yards compared to Sisseton's 48 for 79 yards. There was not much for passing on either team as Groton completed two of eight for 13 yards and Sisseton completed two of six for seven yards. DeHoet had one catch for seven yards and Korbin Blackmun had one for six yards. There were 10 fumbles in the game with Groton losing four and Sisseton two. Groton had seven penalties for 45 yards and Sisseton had five for 75 yards.

Groton Area, now 2-1 on the season, will host Beresford on Friday while Sisseton, 0-2, will travel to Dakota Valley.

Jonathan Doeden rushed for 206 yards, had three touchdowns, nine tackles, one interception and one sack to help lead Groton Area to a 34-0 Northeast Conference win over Sisseton on Friday. The game was played in Sisseton.

Doeden scored on touchdown runs of 27, 37 and 49 yards while Lucas Hinman scored on two touchdown runs of 27 yards as 27 seemed to be the lucky number for the night. Hunter Schaller successfully kicked four of the five PATs.

Lucas Hinman had 95 yards rushing and Darien Shabazz had 29 yards rushing.

Wyatt Locke and Trey Gengerke each had nine tackles. Locke and Brodyn DeHoet each had a fumble recovery. DeHoet and Peyton Johnson each had two sacks while Locke, Jameson Stange and Grady O'Neill each had one sack.



Jonathan Doeden pushes Ty Peterson out of the way as he scores on this 27 yard run. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Kosel)

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Peyton Johnson punts the ball. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Hunter Schaller give the ball and swift kick on the opening kickoff. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Wyatt Locke gives Ty Peterson a push to make room for the runner. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

2018 Rural Dakota Pride Honorees Recognized Today During South Dakota State Fair



Courtesy of South Dakota Farmers Union

Each year, during the State Fair, South Dakota Farmers Union recognizes individuals for their selfless contributions to rural communities across the state with the Rural Dakota Pride Award.

Today, individuals from rural communities across South Dakota were recognized. The honorees are pictured here with Doug Sombke, SDFU President. Honorees include (left to right): Joe Schnell, Lake Preston; Diana Runge, Wessington; Tim Holzer, Arlington; Amy Hofer, Doland; Roger Deiter, Faulkton and Marie and John Condon, Millboro.

HURON, S.D. - Each year, during the State Fair, South Dakota Farmers Union recognizes individuals for their selfless contributions to rural communities across the state with the Rural Dakota Pride Award.

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As an organization which supports South Dakota farmers and ranchers, Farmers Union understands the integral connection between those who work in South Dakota's number one industry and their rural communities.

"One cannot survive without the other," says Karla Hofhenke, Executive Director of S.D. Farmers Union. "Without thriving communities, it's difficult to encourage young people to return to their family's farm or ranch. Rural communities are key to the future of South Dakota's agriculture industry, which is why we like to recognize those individuals who help them thrive."

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Offensive Attack Propels No. 7 Wolves Over Marauders and Tigers

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The No. 7 Northern State University volleyball team extended their win streak to six games on Friday with victories over the University of Mary and Fort Hays State University. The Wolves outscored their opponents 150-67, winning both matches in straight sets.

The Wolves sailed through the opener of the day, defeating UMary 25-10, 25-10, and 25-11 in non-conference action. Northern hit .427 in the match with 45 kills, 52 digs, nine blocks, and five service aces. They held the Marauders to a .032 attack percentage and just 20 kills.

All five hitters tallied an attack percentage above .300 in the win, led by Morgan Baufield hitting .500. Baufield, as well as freshman Sally Gaul did not record an attack in the match. Gaul was second on the team hitting .476, however was one of three players to record a team high ten kills. The freshman also added two blocks and one dig. Jenna Reiff and Laura Snyder each grabbed ten kills apiece as well, hitting .471 and .389 respectively. Hailey Busch added nine kills, hitting .333, while Ashley Rozell rounded out the team total with one.

Reiff, Snyder, and Baufield led the team at the net with four blocks each, while Rozell and Jaiden Langlie grabbed double figure digs with 12 and ten respectively. Lexi Boesl and Bry Goar added nine and seven digs each as defensive specialists, while Busch tallied eight and Reiff notched four. Rozell paced the Wolves offense with 33 assists, and was one of three players to record an ace. Baufield and Langlie notched an ace apiece as well, and Busch led the team with two.

The momentum only continued in the second match of the day, as the Wolves defeated the Tigers 25-13, 25-12, and 25-11. Northern hit .430 in the win with 43 kills, 53 digs, nine blocks, and eight aces. Defensively, the held FHSU to a .066 hitting percentage.

Reiff led the team in the match with 13 kills in 19 attempts, for a .684 hitting percentage. The junior did not suffer a hitting error, and added a team leading six blocks. Busch was second on the team with 11 kills, hitting at a .500 clip. Baufield and Regan Dennis followed with six and five kills respectively, while Gaul, Snyder, and Lexi Lockhart notched two apiece.

Rozell dished out 38 total assists and led the team with four service aces. She added six digs and one block to the team total. Goar, Boesl, and Langlie led the team defensively with nine digs each. Busch was close behind with eight, while Baufield tallied five. Snyder added to the defensive effort, notching four blocks.

Northern returns to action tomorrow with an 11:30 a.m. match against Lindenwood and a 7 p.m. match versus the hosts No. 22 Augustana.

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A semi trailer caught on fire just east of Groton last night. The Groton Fire Department responded to the fire. Douglas Dobbins took this photo around 11:30 p.m. about one-half mile west of Groton along US12. The photo below was taken Saturday morning by Paul Kosel of what is left of it after the fire.



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Democracy and the Informed Citizen: Join our Efforts to Solidify Media Presence in Our State, Nation

By Sherry DeBoer, Executive Director, S.D. Humanities Council

It is hard to imagine losing the editorial checks and balances that protect our First Amendment rights, our freedom of information.

These rights have been championed throughout history by traditional media outlets, some of whom stood against dictatorial attempts to censor public information. And while the First Amendment is not currently under direct attack, it is indirectly threatened by the potential extinction of traditional media, as digitization continues to divide both our attention spans and our already partisan nation. We must re-establish positive relationships with traditional media.

Bolstered by a grant from the Carnegie Mellon Institution, the South Dakota Humanities Council and the South Dakota Newspaper Association will host a series of "Democracy and the Informed Citizen" public forums this year focused on reinforcing public value for our media.

We must fight for our media the way our media has historically fought for us, such as when the Washington Post battled the Nixon administration to publish the Pentagon Papers in 1971.

At the time, Post Editor Ben Bradlee and publisher Katherine Graham worried about litigation and backlash from President Richard Nixon and the value of their recently offered public shares. But they ultimately reported the ugly truth of the Vietnam War.

The Post decided the public's right to know what the government was hiding outweighed tangible risks to the paper's existence. As revenue losses threaten traditional media, we must secure our news ecosystem and its ability to audaciously reveal such wrongdoings. "Democracy and the Informed Citizen" examines the state of news in 2018 and considers ways to move forward as an informed, cohesive democracy.

Traditional media faces an onslaught of new challenges in this frenzied smart-phone era: a President who announces his own news via Twitter, accusations of "fake news," competition from online outlets restrained by neither accountability nor industry standards.

Gaining credibility is no longer as easy as printing a newspaper or broadcasting a signal. Ironically, traditional media outlets are chastised as much as or more than their uncredentialed digital counterparts, some of which earn money by spreading intentional lies. As digital advertising revenue lines the pockets of online publications, newspapers, television and radio stations have no choice but to chase the same online clicks. Meanwhile, truth and accountability trail behind.

By asking "What's True, What's False, and What's Important?" our forums lead us to perhaps the most salient question: how do we know which sources to trust?

During our kickoff event at the University of South Dakota in April, we asked Washington Post editor Martin Baron, a 14-time Pulitzer winner.

We Are Hiring!

Housekeeping

Laundry

Stop in or call

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

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The veteran editor's advice? Think critically.

"If... they're trying to reinforce your point of view, you should be highly suspicious of those news sources, because their purpose is just to tell you that you're right all the time."

We're promoting infoliteracy, a relatively new skill necessitated by our complex digital media era. An infoliterate citizen distinguishes real news from fake news by recognizing and dismissing biased sources.

In 1971, The Post faced factual disputes, as newspapers have since the invention of the printing press, but not the extra layer of mistrust created by "fake news," which forces readers to sort stories fabricated by agenda-seekers and liars from those written by real reporters.

Graham's courageous decision to publish led to a Supreme Court decision that the McNamara Report - and its stunning revelation that the government promoted a war it knew was unwinnable - was public property. It also boosted the paper's reputation.

Democracy depends on us to support news reporting capable of challenging the institutions we depend upon and trust.

We must discern our sources of information.

Ruling in favor of The Post and the New York Times, Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart wrote: "In the absence of the governmental checks and balances present in other areas of our national life, the only effective restraint upon executive policy and power in the areas of national defense and international affairs may lie in an enlightened citizenry—in an informed and critical public opinion which alone can here protect the values of democratic government."

We hope the 2018 initiative will encourage citizens to value media institutions that are willing to stake their names and reputations on their reporting, and to be part of the "informed and critical public opinion" that makes our democracy special.

Partnership Bringing Democracy Initiative Programming, Forums

As part of a special partnership created to promote the initiative, SDHC and the South Dakota Newspaper Association will host a series of public forums focusing on public trust and the media. The South Dakota forums will feature Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, current and former journalists, journalism professors and others.

In conjunction with this democracy-themed programming, groups around the state will read and discuss the 2018 One Book South Dakota, "Informing the News: The Need for Knowledge-Based Journalism" by Thomas E. Patterson.

SDHC will also host journalism and social media experts at the South Dakota Festival of Books in September led by Patterson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Timothy Egan and Jacqui Banaszynski, as well as digital storytelling expert Andy Boyle of Axios and Emmy-winning ABC News correspondent Linsey Davis, who files reports for World News, Good Morning America, 20/20 and Nightline.

We urge you to find and attend an event in your area, and to please support your local newspapers.

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Today in Weather History

September 1, 1990: Several severe thunderstorms in northwest South Dakota dropped from penny to softball size hail during the afternoon and early evening hours which caused a good deal of structural damage to houses and farm buildings. The largest hailstone of 4 inches in diameter was reported at Sorum in Perkins County. There was also a wind gust to 86 mph measured at Buffalo during a severe thunderstorm.

September 1, 2010: A couple of weak tornadoes touched down briefly in the late evening west of Tulare with no damage occurring.

1862: The Battle of Ox Hill (or Chantilly) is also known as the only major Civil War battle to have been fought during a storm. "A severe thunderstorm erupted, resulting in limited visibility and an increased dependence on the bayonet, as the rain soaked the ammunition of the infantry and made it useless." From Taylor, Paul. He Hath Loosed the Fateful Lightning: The Battle of Ox Hill (Chantilly), September 1, 1862.

1894: The Great Hinckley Fire, which burned an area of at least 200,000 acres or perhaps more than 250,000 acres including the town of Hinckley, Minnesota occurred on this day. The official death count was 418 though the actual number of fatalities was likely higher.

1897 - Hailstone drifts six feet deep were reported in Washington County, IA. (The Weather Channel)

1914 - The town of Bloomington, MI, was deluged with 9.78 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (31st-1st) (The Weather Channel)

1955 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, soared to an all-time high of 110 degrees during an eight day string of 100 degree weather. (David Ludlum)

1974: Lt. Judy Neuffer became the first female to fly a Hurricane Hunter aircraft through the eye of a hurricane.

1979 - A home in Centerville TN was hit by lightning and totally destroyed. It marked the third time that the house had been hit by lightning since being built in 1970. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Cool Canadian air invaded the Midwest. Six cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Indianapolis IN with a reading of 44 degrees. Hot weather continued in the northwestern U.S. Five cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Hanover WA, where the mercury soared to 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Upper Mississippi Valley. Ely, MN, was drenched with three inches of rain in two hours, and pelted with one inch hail. The heavy rain flooded streets and basements, and the high water pressure which resulted blew the covers off manholes. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather in Oklahoma during the late afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms produced hail two inches in diameter west of Arapahoe, and wind gusts to 70 mph at Luther and south of Harrah. Early morning thunderstorms over Indiana drenched Kokomo with five to eight inches of rain, and spawned a tornado which injured three persons at Bruce Lake. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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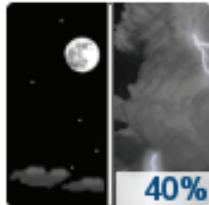
This
Afternoon



Sunny

High: 82 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear
then Chance
T-storms

Low: 60 °F

Sunday



Decreasing
Clouds

High: 77 °F

Sunday
Night



Mostly Clear


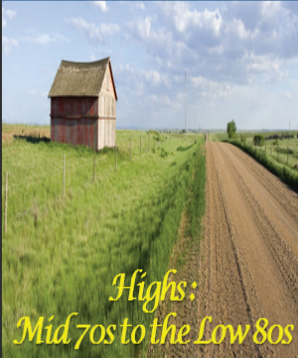



Low: 55 °F


Labor
Day



Mostly Sunny

High: 79 °F

Today	Sunday	Monday
<p>Highs: Upper 70s Mid 80s</p> 	<p>Morning Showers in the East; Dry in the West</p> 	<p>Highs: Mid 70s to the Lower 80s</p> 
<p>Showers and T-Storms Tonight</p> 	<p>Highs: Mid 70s to the Low 80s</p>	<p>Storms Possible in Southeast South Dakota</p> 

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 9/1/2018 8:52 AM Central

Published on: 09/01/2018 at 8:54AM

Seasonal temperatures are expected this Holiday weekend, along with a few chances for showers and thunderstorms. Tonight will feature the best chance for widespread thunderstorms.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.8 F at 6:20 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 65.0 F at 11:16 PM

High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 10:08 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1970

Record Low: 30° in 1893

Average High: 78°F

Average Low: 52°F

Average Precip in Aug: 2.43

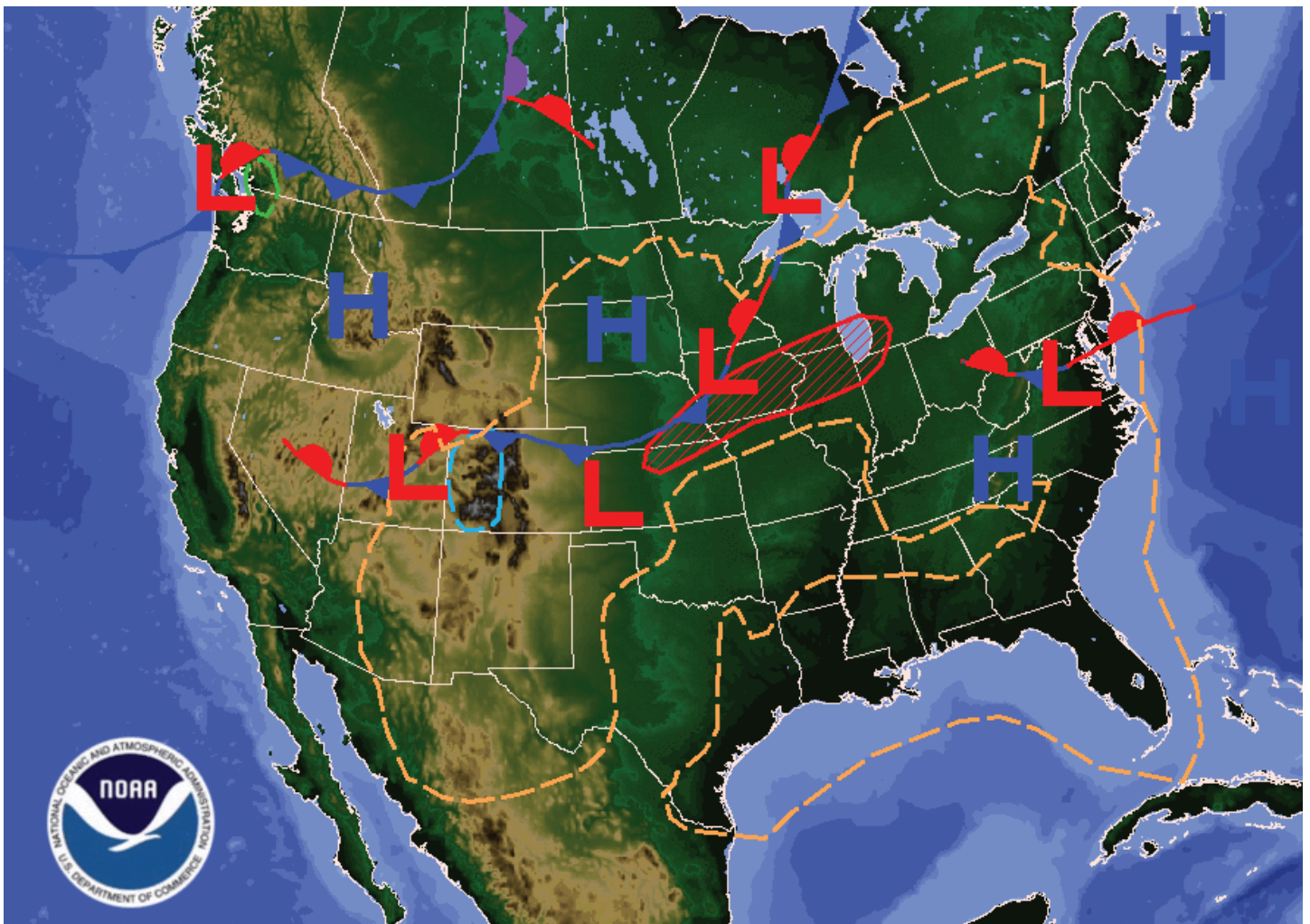
Precip to date in Aug: 1.37

Average Precip to date: 16.29

Precip Year to Date: 11.26

Sunset Tonight: 8:11 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:56 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Sep 01, 2018, issued 5:05 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong 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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OPEN FOR IMPROVEMENT

James had been working at his new job of delivering prescriptions for the local pharmacy. Feeling insecure, he called the pharmacist and asked, I understand that you have a new delivery boy. Hows he doing?

After a brief pause, the pharmacist responded, Oh, yes. James. Hes doing great. After another pause, the pharmacist asked, You know, you sound just like him. He thought for a moment and then asked, James...is that you?

Yes, sir, it is. I was just wondering how I was doing, came the answer.

David did the same thing. Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

David went to God in a state of boldness and with a desire to honor the Lord. Whatever may have forced him to go to God with a desire to make things right with God does not matter to us personally. The fact that he did, however, does.

When I was twelve years old, my mother gave me a Christian Workers New Testament. Underneath my name she wrote one of her favorite quotes: Gods Word will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from Gods Word.

Over the years I have proven that statement to be true on more than one occasion. God gave us His Word to guard us, guide us and guarantee us safe passage through lifes journey to our home with Him in heaven.

If, when we read His Word, we compare our deeds and thoughts to His laws and standards and allow them to search, know and test us, His Word will do its work!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the directions in Your Word that instruct us on how we are to live to please You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

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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

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL(equals)

Alcester-Hudson 26, Corsica/Stickney 14
Beresford 35, McCook Central/Montrose 0
Bon Homme 33, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 0
Britton-Hecla 53, Tri-State 8
Canton 50, Aberdeen Roncalli 6
Castlewood 48, Estelline/Hendricks 7
Chamberlain 55, St. Francis Indian 0
Clark/Willow Lake 41, Waverly-South Shore 7
Colman-Egan 18, Dell Rapids St. Mary 14
Colome 62, Burke/South Central 12
Custer 41, Little Wound 12
Dakota Hills 20, Florence/Henry 6
Dakota Valley 57, Todd County 6
De Smet 20, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 7
Dell Rapids 29, Vermillion 28
Deuel 60, Great Plains Lutheran 20
Elk Point-Jefferson 30, Flandreau 0
Eureka/Bowdle 36, Potter County 20
Faulkton 50, Northwestern 8
Gayville-Volin 56, Centerville 0
Groton Area 34, Sisseton 0
Hamlin 15, Webster 13
Harding County 40, Bison 0
Hill City 40, Edgemont 14
Hot Springs 44, Bennett County 0
Howard 22, Parker 12
Huron 25, Aberdeen Central 15
Irene-Wakonda 65, Chester 6
Kimball/White Lake 27, Parkston 12
Langford 34, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 14
Lead-Deadwood 45, Pine Ridge 14
Lemmon/McIntosh 52, Faith 20
Lennox 41, Tri-Valley 7
Lower Brule 30, Iroquois 0
Madison 43, Belle Fourche 7
Milbank Area 25, Redfield/Doland 8
Mitchell 28, Brookings 14
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 48, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 13
Pierre 28, Yankton 17
Rapid City Stevens 66, Spearfish 6
Standing Rock, N.D. 50, Crazy Horse 0
Stanley County 28, Wagner 14
Sturgis 61, Douglas 27

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Sunshine Bible Academy 22, Tiospa Zina Tribal 6
Tea Area 33, St. Thomas More 6
Timber Lake 76, Newell 6
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 50, Avon 6
Viborg-Hurley 52, Hanson 22
Wall 42, Rapid City Christian 6
Warner 36, Hitchcock-Tulare 6
Watertown 34, Rapid City Central 13
Winner 36, West Central 7
Wolsey-Wessington 50, Platte-Geddes 0

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

Troopers ID man killed in I-90 construction zone crash

PIEDMONT, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Rapid City man who died in a rollover crash in Meade County.

The Highway Patrol says 39-year-old Regie Velasco lost control of his pickup truck Tuesday while entering a construction zone on Interstate 90 west of Piedmont. The patrol says the vehicle struck several cones before rolling several times in the median.

Velasco was ejected from the pickup and died at the scene.

A passenger was seriously injured.

Rapid City district delays new graduation standards

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Rapid City school system has decided to wait a year before implementing new state graduation standards.

Superintendent Lori Simon doesn't want to rush the implementation, The Rapid City Journal reported.

"The state is allowing for flexibility," Simon said, "So what we want to do is take a step back and wait for more clarifying information, as they better define what this is going to look like and develop clearer timelines, and then integrate what's at work within our high school pathways task force. So, it's very fluid."

A state board updated the graduation requirements in July. The plan creates three endorsements and places more emphasis on career and technical education coursework opportunities.

Critics of the new standards say they water down curricula for a baseline diploma. Supporters say the plan provides increased flexibility.

"We all know from our own life experiences that perhaps we graduated from community college with one degree and chose another path, and that pathway was a springboard to another career area," Simon said, who studied music performance between switching to education administration.

Simon hopes to work the new requirements into the district's new pathways program, which would create curricula that emphasize workplace learning in clustered areas. The pathways program is being funded by a grant from the John T. Vucurevich Foundation.

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

South Dakota remembers 1998 Sioux Valley helicopter crash

By STU WHITNEY, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Kim Soyer was in good spirits on the Thursday evening of Aug. 20, 1998, soothed by scenes of late summer with a welcome weekend in sight.

Sitting on the back deck of a house in central Sioux Falls, the Sioux Valley Hospital lab technician shared stories and laughs with a pair of friends who were moving away, making the memories bittersweet.

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When they heard the churning of helicopter blades above, Soyer knew it was the Trauma One chopper carrying several of her colleagues from Sioux Valley — pilot Merton “Tiff” Tiffany, paramedic Shannon Nolte and nurse Melissa “Missy” Wittry.

“I had seen them earlier in the day, so I knew who was on board,” said Soyer, who now works in security at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center. “It was a pretty common sight.”

The crew was headed to Spencer, Iowa, to pick up a patient, one of 15,000 flights that the hospital’s air ambulance teams had flown since starting the helicopter service in 1986.

As Soyer would later relate in a 20th anniversary poem about that fateful night, her reaction to seeing the chopper was a familiar sense of respect and admiration, combined with concern for the emergency patient.

“These aren’t sightseeing adventures,” said Kelby Krabbenhoft, Sioux Valley’s CEO at the time. “They are meticulously planned, cautiously considered.”

One might think it took a tragedy — inarguably the darkest day in the history of Sanford Health — to reveal the heroism of air ambulance teams, who face inherent aviation risks while caring for the most critically injured of patients under challenging conditions.

But for Soyer and others who worked in and around the trauma unit, that understanding was well-established by the time the chopper flew past a gathering of old friends on a late-summer night, only to be reinforced in the most human terms imaginable.

“We raised our glasses high and offered a toast as they went by,” Soyer told the Argus Leader. “And we wished them a good trip.”

Randy Bury had seen his share of close calls. As the director of Sioux Valley’s intensive-air program for all 12 years of its helicopter service, his conversations with dispatchers had teetered on the edge of emergency without ever passing over into despair.

“Ninety-nine percent of the time, it turns out that there’s a good reason that they lost contact with the helicopter,” said Bury, now chief administrative officer at Sanford Health. “The radio’s not working, or there was an unscheduled landing to check on something as a precaution. Most of the time it’s just a false alarm.”

“I remember that night though, I got a call from the communication center, and there was a different tone in the dispatcher’s voice. The message was, ‘Hey, Randy, I think this one’s more serious.’”

His mind went immediately to Merton Tiffany, the 50-year-old combat veteran known for his meticulous approach to flight missions, dating back to his time as a pilot and flight instructor in the Army.

“He flew Apache helicopters while based in Europe, and they had complicated routes they had to fly on international borders,” said Bury. “The story went that Tiff was the only one who had those routes memorized, because he was a perfectionist. I knew that if there was any way to get our aircraft back safely that night, he would have done it.”

As investigators later learned, pilot performance played no role in the tragedy. A poorly fitted pin caused the rotor blade to swing into the tail of the Bell 222 helicopter, sending it crashing into a soybean field near its destination of Spencer, 110 miles southeast of Sioux Falls.

One witness was at the Spencer airport hangar, less than a mile from the crash, when navigation lights in the sky caught his attention.

“Something didn’t seem right,” said Frank Phipps, who was himself a pilot. “I ran around the side of the building. By that time, I knew (the helicopter) was in trouble because I could hear the rotor blades biting into the wind.”

Surrounded by mounting evidence that something terrible had happened, including reports of an explosion and fire, Bury held out for a miracle.

“Even when things sound bad, you continue to hope for the best,” he said. “I didn’t really accept that it was catastrophic until I was on the phone with the fire chief on the scene, telling me he could unequivocally confirm there had been a crash and there were no survivors. And I knew that it was absolutely true.”

For 36 years, Cindy Morrison worked in marketing and public policy at Sioux Valley/Sanford, serving as a positive community voice as part of the management team.

After getting a message from Bury that Trauma One could be in trouble, she hopped in her car to head

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to the hospital, pausing when she hit a red light at 18th and Minnesota.

"I can still see myself sitting at that stoplight, praying that it wasn't a tragedy," she said. "And then my phone started ringing."

What followed was a dizzying series of events in which Morrison arrived at the ER to assess the situation and comfort colleagues, all the while getting more reports about the nature of the crash and the death of three employees.

"Nothing prepares you for that," said Morrison, who worked at Sanford up until last fall. "The grief was just brutal, and there was also a little chaos. You wanted to hope it was just a bad dream, but you knew that was no longer an option."

Her top priority was to notify the families as quickly as possible, a task made more urgent by the flood of media inquiries. Knowing she couldn't hold them off forever, Morrison asked local media outlets to hold off on reporting crash fatalities until family members were contacted.

"That wasn't an easy thing for them to do," she said. "You want to be competitive and the first one on the scene. But there's a certain humanity that comes from being in a smaller community, and their understanding helped ease some of that pressure."

As notifications were made and a new day dawned, Morrison met with Krabbenhoft and fellow executives Dave Link and Becky Nelson to determine a course of action. A health organization whose focus was on helping others seemed momentarily at a loss for how to care for themselves.

"How do you tell an entire workforce that this happened?" said Morrison, "That was our family that we needed to communicate with, and we didn't have all the answers."

Looking back years later, Nelson recalled the painful nature of those discussions.

"We lost three of our own," said the former chief operating officer, who retired in 2013. "It was one of the saddest days of my life."

Krabbenhoft had arrived from Joplin, Missouri, to become the Sioux Valley CEO less than two years earlier and faced an early test of leadership. He needed to show compassion for the families while projecting strength and confidence that the hospital's mission would carry on.

As it turned out, he had help. That message was delivered loud and clear at a memorial service held at Augustana's Elmen Center six days after the tragedy, where a crowd of nearly 2,000 showed up.

The gathering included air ambulance crews from around the region who showed up in uniform and formed lines of tribute to their fallen comrades, a scene that still leads Bury and others to get emotional when recalling it.

"I want to tell all the medical community and those in the emergency response business, you can teach the rest of this world what it means to be on a team," Rev. Brian Mortenson of First Lutheran Church said to the gathering. "The type of teamwork we've witnessed today is quite impressive."

There was talk of pilot "Tiff" as a consummate professional and devoted husband and father. Nolte, 30, was remembered as a skilled paramedic with the perfect temperament to provide care and comfort in equal measures. Wittry, 36, was a farm girl who loved being a flight nurse and embraced challenges, such as caring for victims of the devastating Spencer tornado earlier that year.

Krabbenhoft spoke of rural emergency calls such as childbirth situations and the impact that air ambulance crews have on the communities around them.

"Many of those babies delivered are playing ball, running around the corner and smiling at birthday parties today because a few people decided to climb into a couple thousand pounds of metal and go into the night air to ensure that that child got a chance to live," he said.

The memorial service helped honor the victims and comfort families, but the community also played a role. Morrison recalls being amazed at the sheer magnitude of flowers that arrived at the ER, an endless series of bouquets that overflowed into hallways throughout the hospital.

Once that outpouring faded, though, Sioux Valley employees were left with the difficult task of continuing to care for those in need while nursing a lingering sense of loss.

"Even though everyone's hearts were hurting, we had to take care of everyone," says Morrison. "It puts you in the position of saying, 'Let's keep it together here,' but it's hard. You think it's over when it's over,

but it goes on for years. And though you know things like that can happen, you never think they will.”

Standing in a memorial garden off the lobby of the Sanford USD Medical Center, Bury reflects on the legacy of Tiffany, Nolte and Wittry, whose likenesses are surrounded by inspirational passages, vases of flowers and respectful silence.

In this place of quiet reflection, where a 20th anniversary service was held this week to honor the crew members, the man who led the program was reminded of how tragedy could have tarnished the health system’s intensive air service or sapped the will of its members.

Instead, it reinforced the magnitude of their mission.

“A logical response after something like that happens is, ‘Why would I put myself in that position?’” said Bury of the remaining pilots, nurses and EMTs. “You find out about the makeup of your organization, because people are either going to collapse or they’re going to rally around the situation and say, ‘We have a responsibility to keep going.’ I’ll tell you this: If we could have put a chopper in the air the next day, they would have been up there.”

It took a few weeks, as it turned out, and gained momentum from there. Today, Sanford has its own FAA certificate and maintains an in-house AirMed program with a fleet of four helicopters and four airplanes operating from bases in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota.

Twenty years after that late-summer evening when tragedy struck, the most enduring legacy is a heightened appreciation for those who fly off into the unknown — a common sight for onlookers below and unique sacrifice for those in the air.

“When I think about flight team members, I think about them being subject to call 24/7, taking off in an airplane or helicopter to care for the most critically injured patients that we see,” said Bury. “They take care of them in the back of the aircraft, and they can’t holler down the hallway to get an extra pair of hands. They’re on their own. They’re it. The patient is entirely dependent on them and the medical resources that they can carry with them on that flight. In my mind, those are the real heroes.”

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

Historic Navy hangar in South Dakota gets upgrades

By CORA VAN OLSON, Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — This summer, Yankton officials decided that it was time to spruce up the barrel hangar at Chan Gurney Municipal Airport.

The structure, which dates back to World War II, will get a new roof and all new windows on the north side.

“The barrel hangar was built in 1943 by civilian labor,” said Steve Hamilton, secretary for the Yankton Regional Aviation Association. “In fact, the P&D had an article back in ‘43 where they called for 200 volunteers with hammers to come out and help finish the building, so they could make the deadline established by the Navy training corps.”

The 75-year-old building had two different layers of roofing on it, neither of which was keeping out the weather any longer.

“We had some issues with it, with wind damage and a few leaks, so it was time,” said Dave Mingo, Yankton’s community development director. “There was shingle that had been put on the last time they reroofed it, they were well over 20 years old, and then underneath that there was old mop roofing.”

In “mop” roofing, a burlap-like material covered the roof and was sealed by mopping hot tar over it — using an actual mop. It can still be found on flat roofs of the time. Hot tar roofs are still used today, and can be seen on some of Yankton’s downtown buildings, but the materials and the process have been updated, Mingo told the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan .

“They were trying to get something really cost effective, but in the long term, it ends up saving money to do something a little more substantial to begin with, so that’s what we’re doing,” he said.

This time the top portion of the hangar will be covered with a modern membrane-type roofing material.

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The bottom sections on both sides will be covered with higher-quality shingles.

"One thing that happens up there quite a bit is we get some really high winds," Mingo said. "So we went with a high-wind rated shingle and also with an impact-rated shingle, so if we get some hail, it should be able to survive that without any damage."

The new shingles are rated for 130 mph winds; the old ones only had a 65 mph wind rating.

The new roof cost just under \$80,000.

Once all the work on the roof is finished, in as little as two weeks, according to Mingo, the city will begin replacing the hangar's north-side windows, which have been boarded up for about a decade.

The broken windows were covered by insurance, and new windows were purchased and stored in a city facility until the roof could be done, Hamilton said.

"Windows on the north side of the hangar got hailed out," Mingo said. "We had a few bad hail storms: 2008 and 2010, I believe. As soon as the roofing materials are installed, our staff will go ahead and work on putting the windows in as time permits, but we didn't want the new windows in while they were shingling around them."

Because of the shape of the structure, the shingles on the barrel hangar go all the way down the side, around the windows and to the ground.

The city, which still rents out plane storage space in the barrel hangar, determined that reroofing around the new windows could cause unnecessary problems.

"It's a great improvement for the building," Hamilton said. "It will hopefully maintain its structural integrity for several more decades."

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

07-18-29-32-45, Mega Ball: 17, Megaplier: 3

(seven, eighteen, twenty-nine, thirty-two, forty-five; Mega Ball: seventeen; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$152 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

Federal judge denies states' request to end DACA

By ASTRID GALVAN and NOMAAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Friday declined to order that the U.S. government halt an Obama-era program that shields young immigrants from deportation, marking a blow to President Donald Trump and other opponents of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen said Texas and six other conservative states that sued to block DACA couldn't prove that allowing the program to continue was causing irreparable harm. The judge questioned the legality of DACA but argued that more harm would be done to DACA recipients if they lost the program.

The judge, who has ruled against DACA-related programs in the past, essentially said the states waited too long to ask for the preliminary injunction.

"Here, the egg has been scrambled. To try to put it back in the shell with only a preliminary injunction record, and perhaps at great risk to many, does not make sense nor serve the best interests of this country," Hanen wrote in his ruling.

But he reiterated that he believes DACA as enacted by former President Barack Obama is unconstitutional.

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"If the nation truly wants to have a DACA program, it is up to Congress to say so," Hanen wrote.

The states filed the lawsuit in Texas, hoping Hanen would stop DACA recipients from continuing to renew their enrollment. That would have triggered a conflict with three federal orders that have required the U.S. government to keep accepting DACA renewals, even after Trump tried to end the program last year. Legal experts say such a conflict would have drawn the attention of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. Department of Justice released a statement Friday commending the judge for addressing the legality of the program.

"As the Justice Department has consistently argued, DACA is an unlawful attempt to circumvent Congress, and we are pleased the court agreed today," spokesman Devin O'Malley said.

With the Trump administration now opposing the program, some states that support DACA — along with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF — intervened in the lawsuit to defend it.

The lawsuit followed the same strategy that stopped an expansion of DACA also proposed by former President Barack Obama's administration. After Obama announced he would create a program protecting the parents of children in the U.S. without legal permission, Texas sued in federal court in Brownsville, Texas, where Hanen is based.

Hanen ended up with that case and ruled the expansion of protections was unconstitutional. In that case, an appeals court upheld his ruling, and the Supreme Court split 4-4 after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, leaving the ruling in place.

On Friday, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said he was confident the courts would ultimately find DACA unconstitutional. He said an injunction was denied only because the states waited too long to request it.

Texas was joined in filing the lawsuit by Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina and West Virginia. The states argued that Obama, as president, never had the authority to create a program like DACA because it circumvented Congress.

The state also cited costs to educate immigrants, which lawyers for MALDEF argued were "both irrelevant and grossly inflated." The group also said that unlike the program Hanen struck down, which never went into effect, DACA has allowed hundreds of thousands of people to work and pay taxes in the six years since it started. That, the group argued, benefits federal and state governments.

MALDEF said it was happy with the decision and expects the states to appeal to a higher court.

"Today DACA beneficiaries like myself and my little sister breathe a sigh of relief. We all know DACA works," said Greisa Martinez Rosas, the deputy executive director of United We Dream.

Galvan reported from Phoenix.

Corps: No new impacts found in Dakota Access pipeline review

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON** and **DAVE KOLPACK**, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Friday completed more than a year of additional study of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, saying the work substantiated its earlier determination that the pipeline poses no significant environmental threats.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in June 2017 ruled that the Corps "largely complied" with environmental law when permitting the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline built by Texas-based Energy Transfers Partners.

However, the judge also ordered more study because he said the agency didn't adequately consider how an oil spill under the Missouri River might affect the Standing Rock Sioux tribe's fishing and hunting rights, or whether it might disproportionately affect the tribal community — a concept known as environmental justice. It aims to ensure development projects aren't built in areas where minority populations might not have the resources to defend their rights.

In its initial analysis of the Missouri River crossing that skirts the northern edge of the Standing Rock Reservation along the North Dakota-South Dakota border, the Corps studied the mostly white demographics in a half-mile (0.8-kilometer) radius, which the agency maintained is standard. But if the Corps had gone

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another 88 yards (80 meters) — not quite the length of a football field — the study would have included the reservation.

The tribe accused the Corps of gerrymandering. The tribe believes an oil spill from the pipeline under the Lake Oahe reservoir on the Missouri River — from which the reservation draws its water — could have a detrimental effect on the tribal community. Standing Rock is leading a lawsuit joined by three other Dakotas tribes that seeks to shut down the pipeline.

The Corps said in its summary filed with the court Friday that the chances of an oil spill are low and any impacts to hunting and fishing “will be of limited scope and duration.” On the environmental justice issue, the agency said minority populations, including the tribe, and low-income groups are not at greater risk of “adverse human health or environmental effects.”

The more than 100-page analysis won't be released until a confidentiality review is completed, lawyers for the corps said in court documents.

Mike Faith Jr., the Standing Rock chairman, said the corps failed to take a fresh look at the risks as was ordered by Boasberg.

“Instead, we got a cynical and one-sided document designed to paper over mistakes, not address the tribe's legitimate concerns,” Faith said in a statement. He said the tribe is deciding on its next step.

Boasberg did not immediately rule on whether he was satisfied with the Corps' additional work. However, when he ruled last October that the pipeline could continue operating while the work was done, he hinted it might not take much.

The judge said at the time that he found it likely the Corps would be able to justify its previous decisions, and that the agency “must simply connect the dots” and not “redo its analysis from the ground up.” He noted that the tribe's water intake has been moved about 50 miles (80 kilometers) downstream since pipeline construction began, and said an alternative river crossing near Bismarck that had been studied and rejected would pass much closer to a drinking water intake that serves tens of thousands more people.

The Standing Rock tribe and its supporters have maintained that the only lawful way to resolve the matter would be through a full environmental study that includes consideration of route alternatives. The Corps had planned to do a more thorough study before President Donald Trump took office in January 2017 and pushed through completion of the stalled project.

The pipeline has been operating since June 2017, moving oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois, from which it can be shipped to the Gulf Coast and potentially lucrative markets abroad. It has the capacity to move half of the oil produced daily in North Dakota, the nation's second-leading producer behind Texas.

Rapid City housing project could threaten federal funding

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City could have federal funding recalled on an unbuilt affordable-housing project after a long period of inaction, putting future federal grants to the city at risk.

The city's Legal and Finance Committee discussed solutions Wednesday for the proposed Freeland Ranch Community development. The project has received a total of nearly \$195,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The proposed development of single and multi-family apartments and homes, tiny houses and commercial office space received \$120,000 in 2015 and \$75,000 last year in federal grant funding. More than half the housing units would be affordable and workforce housing, said Kent Hagg, president of nonprofit Freeland Ranch Community Inc.

But the development hasn't progressed since receiving the 2017 grant money designated for road and infrastructure designs. The delay has presented a problem to the city's affordable housing availability, as well as to its immediate compliance with and future retrieval of federal grant funding, the Rapid City Journal reported .

Hagg said the project delay is partly due to city bureaucracy.

The federal government will recall the 2015 and 2017 grant fund allocations if the project is not con-

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structed, completed and occupied by 2020. HUD would also deduct \$195,000 from all future housing grant awards to the city, severely hampering the city's Community Development Block Grant program.

"We're getting down to the wire here," said Barb Garcia, who oversees the city's housing grant allocations.

Without significant progress, Garcia would have to rescind the funding from Freeland Ranch to give her office enough time to reallocate the funds to another worthy project that must then be completed by July 2020.

"We still want to see it happen," Garcia said. "But the timing of it's just taking too long right now."

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

Tribe to use Kyrie Irving donation for youth programs

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) — The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will use money donated by Boston Celtics star Kyrie Irving for drug abuse prevention and youth programs.

The All-Star guard visited the Dakota reservation this month for a naming ceremony into the Lakota tribe. He was given the name Little Mountain. His late mother was enrolled in the tribe before being adopted as a youth.

Tribal spokeswoman Danielle Finn says Irving donated \$110,000 to the tribe, with the stipulation it support the reservation's youth.

The tribe's finance committee decided part of the money will be disbursed by leaders of the reservation's eight districts, with the rest going to drug prevention and education programs.

Irving said during his visit he considers the tribe "family for life." He also has supported the tribe's battle against the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

Rapid City hospital sends garbage 300 miles away

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Regional Health Rapid City Hospital is shipping its garbage more than 300 miles away after the local landfill saw repeated medical waste violations.

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources says the hospital is now sending its non-medical garbage to a transfer station in Wall and then on to a landfill in Ogallala, Nebraska.

The Rapid City Journal says the Denver-based Stericycle remains the hauler for the hospital's medical waste. That waste is taken by truck to a transfer station in Wall and then by semi to another landfill in western Nebraska.

The hospital did not explain why it's shipping its non-medical waste out of state.

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

Kansas State opens season with visit from South Dakota

By DAVE SKRETTA, AP Sports Writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Bill Snyder thought he knew who had won the tightly contested race between Skylar Thompson and Alex Delton to start at quarterback when Kansas State opens the season against South Dakota.

Then the 78-year-old coach watched another practice, and the same nip-and-tuck competition that Thompson and Delton waged all last season — and resulted in both of them playing plenty of snaps all the way through their bowl game — was back to all-square.

"It's unimaginably tight in regards to who is doing the best," Snyder said. "I thought I had the answer, and I started to move in that direction. It's like that old adage, 'You think you got it, but just wait a day.' And I did and that's what happened. I'm not sure yet."

Two things are certain, though: One of them will start and the other will play.

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"I'm committed to that. Both of them will be on the field for a substantial amount of time," Snyder said. "But it's something that I still have to wrestle with. If the decision goes much longer, it will be based on both of them stepping onto the field and then kind of depending the situation."

Whoever takes the first snaps will do so behind an offensive line that returns entirely intact, and is anchored by All-American candidate Dalton Risner. And with a skill-position group that includes bruising running back Alex Barnes, there should be plenty of talent at his disposal.

"Both quarterbacks, we've had so much time with. I've had them for years," wide receiver Zac Reuter said. "We have chemistry with both. I think we're in great shape with whoever is playing."

Maybe they are against South Dakota, a school from the Football Championship Subdivision that went 8-5 and reached the second round of the playoffs last season. But with No. 18 Mississippi State visiting the next week, Snyder would likely prefer a clear-cut starter at quarterback.

"Our offensive line and everybody else is comfortable with either one of them," he insisted. "They both have had the same amount of repetitions and it doesn't get any different from one to the other."

"Everyone wants to say, 'Well he does this, and he does that,'" Snyder said, alluding to the fact that Thompson is a better passer and Delton more athletic. "But they both do the same things."

COYOTES QB

South Dakota lost record-setting quarterback Chris Streveler to graduation — he's playing in the Canadian Football League these days — which means Austin Simmons will take over. He'll be doing so without the help of Michael Fredrick, the Coyotes' leading rusher two of the past three years, who moved to cornerback because of a lack of depth at that position.

"Austin's had a good preseason camp. Continues to get better every day," South Dakota coach Bob Nielson said. "I think the game continues to slow down for him as he sees more and more in practice, and he's going to be a guy that continues to get better."

SIDELINE EXPERIENCE

Nielson began his coaching career in 1989, the same year Snyder arrived at Kansas State. Most of his work has been at small colleges, but he's nevertheless compiled an impressive record of 198-92-1 with a pair of national titles at Minnesota-Duluth.

FIELD EXPERIENCE, TOO

The Coyotes' two-deep roster includes eight starters on each side of the ball that started last season, and played crucial snaps in an upset of Bowling Green. They are led by All-American defensive end Darin Greenfield and all-Missouri Valley safety Andrew Gray.

"There's a different energy," Nielson said. "The guys are excited to gear up for Kansas State."

ADAMS' FAMILY

The Wildcats' defense struggled mightily after safety Kendall Adams went down with a season-ending injury to his Achilles tendon last season. He was back in time for camp and Snyder said he'll be on the field Saturday.

"He's a great leader and enforcer, and as a linebacker it makes you feel a lot safer knowing he's right behind you to clean up anything you might miss," linebacker Sam Sizelove said. "He's so knowledgeable. He's going on his fourth year starting, I think. It's been great to have him back."

NEW COORDINATORS

Kansas State shuffled its coaching staff after last season, losing both of its coordinators. Andre Coleman has taken over the offense with help from Collin Klein and Charlie Dickey, and Blake Seiler is handling the defense with an assist from Brian Norwood.

"We're doing a lot of stuff differently," Barnes said. "Just the fire and intensity that (Coleman) has each and every day, he's really a fireball and that's something that we feed off."

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Authorities ID Belle Fourche motorcyclist killed in crash

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Belle Fourche man who died in a crash in Pennington County involving a motorcycle and a sport utility vehicle.

The Highway Patrol says 57-year-old Bruce Peck lost control of his bike on U.S. Highway 385 north of Hill City on Sunday afternoon and it went into the oncoming lane. The SUV ran over both the motorcycle and Peck.

The two people in the SUV suffered minor injuries.

3 northeastern South Dakota men charged in sex crime cases

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — Three men have been charged with or convicted of sex crimes against children in northeastern South Dakota in cases that date back at least a decade.

The cases were investigated by the FBI or the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux tribe. The Daily Republic reports it wasn't immediately clear if they're connected.

The U.S. attorney's office says 39-year-old Desi Campbell, of Summit, was sentenced to seven years in federal prison for sex crimes against a child under 12 between 2004 and 2008.

Fifty-six-year-old David Seaboy Sr., of Peever, has pleaded not guilty to a similar charge arising from November 2007. He's to stand trial Oct. 16.

In another similar case from 2007, 63-year-old Roland Brant has pleaded not guilty and is set for trial Oct. 16. He's currently in a treatment program in Minnesota.

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

Downtown Sioux Falls building's leaning facade causes scare

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The leaning facade of a downtown building caused a scare in Sioux Falls.

Emergency crews responded to Vishnu Bunny Tattoo and Piercing about midday Thursday after a witness reported that the building's brick facade was leaning out. The building was evacuated and the street closed.

Public Works Director Mark Cotter says it's likely the front of the building will have to be taken down, repaired and re-attached. Crews have braced the wall until work can begin next week.

A woman who identified herself as the owner of the building declined to comment to the Argus Leader .

Superintendent: Email threat not made locally

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The superintendent of the Sioux Falls School District says an email threat of a shooting at Roosevelt High School is an act of "cyber-terrorism" that is not traceable, but was not made locally.

The Argus Leader reports that besides increased security at the high school Thursday, Superintendent Brian Maher says counselors were available to students who were anxious about the threat.

Police say the threat had also been received by other agencies and businesses in the area and is similar to other email hoaxes have been received across the country.

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

High court pick Kavanaugh and his carefully constructed life

By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Judge Brett Kavanaugh's life seems as carefully constructed as the Supreme Court arguments he will hear if he is confirmed to the high court. He checks all the boxes of the ways of Washington, or at least the way Washington used to be.

He's a team player — the conservative team — stepping up to make a play at key moments in politics,

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government and the law dating to the Bill Clinton era and the salacious dramas of that time.

Yet in a capital and a country where politics has become poisonously tribal, Kavanaugh has tried to cover his bases, as Washington insiders have long done. He's got liberal friends, associates and role models. He was a complicated figure in the scandal-ridden 1990s, by turns zealous and restrained as an investigator.

If he wins confirmation, he'll be seated with Justice Elena Kagan, the Obama-era solicitor general who hired him to teach at Harvard when she was dean of the law school, as well as with his prep school mate, Justice Neil Gorsuch. Kavanaugh's law clerks have gone on to work for liberal justices. He's served with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in mock trials of characters in Shakespeare plays, a night out from the real-life dramas.

Amateur athlete, doer of Catholic good works, basketball-coaching dad, Yale degrees, progression from lawyer to White House aide to judge — it's all there in a rarefied life of talent and privilege, though strikingly not one of great personal wealth.

The only skeleton in Kavanaugh's closet that the White House has owned up to is as American as apple pie.

Spending on baseball games helped drive him into debt one year, the White House said. He's also been ribbed for hoarding gummy bears when he worked as an aide to President George W. Bush. Because Republicans are not releasing critical documents for the Senate hearings that begin Tuesday, it remains to be seen if anything else is rattling around.

To critics, like Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee lining up to question him, Kavanaugh's collegial disposition is "Much Ado About Nothing" (Kavanaugh's 2012 mock trial for Washington's Shakespeare Theatre Company, Ginsburg presiding).

"From the notorious Starr report, to the Florida recount, to the president's secrecy and privilege claims to post-9/11 legislative battles including the Victims Compensation Fund, to ideological judicial nomination fights, if there has been a partisan political fight that needed a very bright legal foot soldier in the last decade, Brett Kavanaugh was probably there," New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, now Senate Democratic leader, said in 2006 hearings that preceded Kavanaugh's confirmation as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

His judicial record since? With some ideological mashup, it's been conservative in the main, reflecting views that could swing the court right on abortion, gay rights, executive power and more for decades to come.

Kavanaugh heads into the hothouse of confirmation hearings representing the hopes of President Donald Trump and the right that he will do just that. One question from senators, whether expressed or implied, will be how far the apple fell from the tree.

HIS FATHER'S SON?

E. Edward Kavanaugh, 77, was a fixture in the Washington influence game years before Trump began calling it a swamp. Brett Kavanaugh's dad lobbied for the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Fragrance Association, the national trade group for companies making personal care products.

He fought against government regulation and advocates who wanted cosmetics-testing stopped on animals, calling those activists "zealots who cannot comprehend that a child's life is more important than a dog's."

"He is known by my colleagues in Congress as a straight shooter," Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch said of Brett Kavanaugh's father in supporting the son's confirmation as a federal judge in 2006. "In this case, the apple did not fall far from the tree."

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, who tangled with the dad in hearings over potential health risks of cosmetics, finds the son's record on regulation also troubling. "You don't have to look at his genes," Wyden told The Associated Press. "Just look at his record."

An AP review of Kavanaugh's dozen years on the D.C. appeals court and his wider public record shows him opposed to a variety of regulations, on greenhouse gases and more, as well as to the structure of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau established after the 2008 financial crisis, and to administra-

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tion policies that circumvent Congress and risk “a runaway executive branch.” Yet he is deferential to the presidency, an approach that raises questions about whether he would protect special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into possible coordination between Trump’s 2016 campaign and Russia if that matter came before the high court.

His mother, Martha Kavanaugh, went on to become a prosecutor and state judge in Maryland, where Kavanaugh was raised as an only child, attending Georgetown Preparatory School as Gorsuch did.

UP THE LADDER

Brett Michael Kavanaugh’s career progression: law clerk for federal appeals judges, fellowship with then-Solicitor General Kenneth Starr, law clerk for Justice Anthony Kennedy (with high-school classmate Gorsuch), associate counsel in the Starr investigation, law-firm partner, Bush White House associate counsel, White House staff secretary, judge. He first dated Ashley Estes, then Bush’s personal secretary, on Sept. 10, 2001; they married in 2004 and have two daughters.

He’s from a wealthy family. In 2005 his father earned just over \$13 million in compensation and a send-off retirement package as the cosmetic group’s president. But his own family’s finances are apparently modest.

Public disclosure forms for 2017 showed only two investments, together worth a maximum of \$65,000, along with the balance on a loan of up to \$15,000. As well, the White House said he had \$45,000 to \$150,000 of credit card debt in 2016, some of it from buying season tickets to the Washington Nationals for himself and several friends. That debt was paid off by last year, the White House said, and Kavanaugh was reimbursed for the friends’ tickets.

THE MILLION-PAGE MAN

The National Archives has millions of pages of records concerning Kavanaugh and he’s only 53. That’s how plugged in he was in Washington even before becoming a federal judge.

Kavanaugh put his stamp on investigations of the 1993 suicide of Clinton aide Vince Foster and the late 1990s Clinton-Lewinsky impeachment episode as a member of special counsel Starr’s team, served on the Republican legal team in the Bush v. Gore election stalemate of 2000 and had a quiet hand in White House national security and terrorism policy in the crucible of 9/11 and the wars that followed.

Archivists couldn’t process so many records for release in time for the hearings as Republican lawmakers push to get him confirmed before the November elections that could switch Senate control to Democrats.

Altogether, a mountain of material on the Zelig-like Washington player has emerged and an even larger mountain is yet to be revealed.

In a vast collection of released emails from his days as a White House aide, humdrum rules. They reveal little more than long nights at the office and the fact that other aides counted on him to advise when Bush’s travel costs should be billed to the Treasury and when they were too political to ding taxpayers.

AP’s review of Kavanaugh’s judicial record and decades of his writings and speeches does not illuminate whether he would vote to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision establishing the right to abortion. But his record suggests he would vote to support restrictions.

He’s spoken admiringly of Justice William Rehnquist’s dissent in the 1973 Roe v. Wade case, yet recently told a senator that Roe is settled law. In a dissent, Kavanaugh accepted that a 17-year-old in immigration custody had a right to the abortion she wanted. Yet he indicated the Trump administration could delay her abortion while they tried to identify U.S. sponsors with whom she could live and who could counsel her on the abortion decision.

AN EVOLUTION ON ‘DASTARDLY’ DEEDS

A more in-your-face — yet still nuanced— figure emerges in a recently released August 1998 memo to Starr urging that Clinton be asked blushing explicit questions about his sexual interactions with intern Monica Lewinsky so as to understand a “pattern of revolting behavior” and give Congress more information to decide whether Clinton should remain president. As a lead investigator of the Republican-sparked

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investigation, Kavanaugh also floated expansive grounds for impeaching a president, a trigger of some concern to Republicans now should an appetite in Congress grow for Trump's impeachment.

But in a memo later in 1998, he recommended the Starr investigation be brought to a close and its findings turned over to the next president. "We believe an indictment should not be pursued while the President is in Office," Kavanaugh wrote, suggesting this conclusion be reached by his colleagues.

The Starr report did bring on Clinton's impeachment by the House, for perjury and obstruction of justice. The Senate acquitted Clinton and he served out his term.

Kavanaugh was also at the center of one of Starr's many tangents, the investigation of the death of Foster, Clinton's deputy White House counsel. In one way, Kavanaugh was a moderating force in that investigation. His ultimate finding, embraced by Starr, was that Foster indeed killed himself, and nothing was found connecting that self-inflicted shot in a Washington-area park nefariously to the Clintons, as the conspiracy theories had it. Yet the mere fact Starr took on that matter and Kavanaugh pursued it gave those conspiracy theories enough credence to persist, which they still do.

A decade later, in his 2006 confirmation hearings, Kavanaugh said he came to realize it was a mistake for a special counsel investigation to grow so broad, as if "Judge Starr was somehow the permanent special investigator of the administration." Such prosecutorial reports, he said, can damage people's reputations and the credibility of the investigation itself.

And in 2009, he wrote in the Minnesota Law Review that the country would have been better off if investigators such as Starr and himself had let Clinton focus on Osama bin Laden and other issues of the day rather than become entangled in a criminal probe. Put off criminal investigation until a president is out of office, he suggested. "If the President does something dastardly, the impeachment process is available."

Said Schumer: "Seems exactly like the kind of man President Trump would want on the Supreme Court if legal issues from the Mueller probe arise."

Associated Press writers Richard Lardner, Mark Sherman and Jessica Gresko contributed to this report.

Trump: Canada 'will be out' of trade deal unless it's 'fair'

By LUIS ALONSO LUGO, PAUL WISEMAN and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump warned Canada on Saturday that it "will be out" of a revised North American trade agreement unless it's "fair" to the United States, and he threatened to scrap the current deal should Congress "interfere" with the negotiations.

"There is no political necessity to keep Canada in the new NAFTA deal," Trump said in one of a series of tweets as he visited his Virginia golf club while three former presidents and a range of political dignitaries attended a Washington memorial for John McCain. Trump wasn't invited.

But it's not clear whether the Trump administration has the authority to strike a deal with just Mexico, as it announced Monday, and exclude Canada. Also, Congress must approve any rewrite of the North American Free Trade Agreement, signed under President Bill Clinton, and might refuse to endorse a deal that leaves longtime ally Canada on the sidelines.

Talks to keep Canada in the trade bloc are to resume this coming week as Washington and Ottawa try to break a deadlock over issues such as Canada's dairy market and U.S. efforts to shield drug companies from generic competition.

"As we've said all week, we're working toward a modernized NAFTA that is good for the middle class and people working hard to join it," said Adam Austen, a spokesman for Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland. "With good will and flexibility on all sides, a win-win-win outcome is achievable. Canada, of course, will only sign a deal which is good for Canada."

Trump notified Congress on Friday that he plans to sign an agreement in 90 days with Mexico to replace NAFTA and hopes Canada can be brought on board, too. Congress would have to approve any agreement.

"There is no political necessity to keep Canada in the new NAFTA deal. If we don't make a fair deal for the U.S. after decades of abuse, Canada will be out," Trump tweeted. "Congress should not interfere w/

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these negotiations or I will simply terminate NAFTA entirely & we will be far better off..."

Earlier, he said he loved Canada, but says "they've taken advantage of our Country for many years!"

A U.S.-Mexico deal sealed on Monday excluded Canada. Freeland then hurried to Washington for talks aimed at preserving Canada's membership in the regional trade agreement.

But Freeland couldn't break an impasse in four days of negotiations with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. American and Canadian negotiators will return to negotiations Wednesday.

The talks had taken an odd turn for the worse Friday over news that Trump had told Bloomberg News that he wasn't willing to make any concessions to Canada.

The 24-year-old NAFTA tore down most trade barriers dividing the United States, Mexico and Canada. Trade between the three countries surged. But many manufacturers responded to the agreement by moving factories south of the border to take advantage of low Mexican wages, then shipping goods north to the United States and Canada.

Trump has charged that the deal wiped out American factory jobs. He has pledged to negotiate a better deal or withdraw from NAFTA altogether. Talks on a new trade deal started a year ago but bogged down over U.S. demands, including some meant to return manufacturing to the United States.

A few weeks ago, the United States began negotiating with Mexico, leaving Canada on the sidelines. Outgoing Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto wanted to sign a deal before he left office Dec. 1. The deal announced Monday would, among many other things, require that 40 percent to 45 percent of a car be made in a North American country where auto workers made at least \$16 an hour — that is, not in Mexico — before qualifying for duty-free status.

Canada doesn't have much of an objection to the auto provisions of the U.S.-Mexican deal, which would benefit Canadian workers too. Ottawa does have other complaints. Neither U.S. nor Canadian negotiators are talking publicly about the issues that divide them.

Experts have said the flashpoints include trade barriers that protect Canadian dairy farmers and Ottawa's insistence on keeping NAFTA provisions for resolving disputes.

Also nettlesome is a provision in the U.S.-Mexico deal that shields U.S. makers of biologics — ultra-expensive drugs produced in living cells — from generic competition for 10 years instead of the eight Canada is willing to live with: The Canadians fear the protection will drive up drug prices and make their government health care system more costly.

The Trump administration had insisted that it wanted a deal by Friday, beginning a 90-day countdown that would let Mexico's Nieto sign the pact before leaving office.

But under U.S. trade rules, the U.S. team doesn't have to make public the text of the revamped agreement for 30 additional days, buying more time to reach a deal with the Canadians.

Gillies reported from Toronto. AP Economics Writer Christopher Rugaber contributed to this story.

Online:

U.S. Trade Representative: <https://ustr.gov/>

Papadopoulos: Trump 'nodded' at suggestion of Putin meeting

By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump "nodded with approval" at the suggestion of a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to a court filing that seeks leniency for a former campaign aide who lied to the FBI.

Lawyers for George Papadopoulos are seeking probation, saying the foreign policy adviser misled agents during a January 2017 interview not to harm an investigation but rather to "save his professional aspirations and preserve a perhaps misguided loyalty to his master."

Papadopoulos is a pivotal figure in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation as the first Trump campaign aide to plead guilty and cooperate with prosecutors. The revelation that he'd been told by a

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professor during the campaign that Russia had "dirt" on Democrat Hillary Clinton in the form of emails helped trigger the FBI's counterintelligence investigation in July 2016 into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign.

The 16-page defense memo filed late Friday paints Papadopoulos as an eager-to-please campaign aide who was in over his head, and aims to counter the prosecution's narrative that Papadopoulos's deception irreparably damaged the investigation.

The defense lawyers say Papadopoulos was hired by the campaign in March 2016 despite having no experience with Russian or U.S. diplomacy. That month, he traveled to Italy and connected with a London-based professor who introduced him to a woman described as a niece of Putin's even though that was not true. That professor, Joseph Mifsud, would later tell him that individuals in Moscow possessed "dirt" on Clinton.

When Papadopoulos returned to Washington, he was "eager to show his value to the campaign" and "witnessed his career skyrocketing to unimaginable heights." At a March 31 meeting of Trump's national security adviser, Papadopoulos proposed that he could leverage his newfound Russian connections to arrange a meeting between Trump and Putin.

"While some in the room rebuffed George's offer, Mr. Trump nodded with approval and deferred to Mr. Sessions who appeared to like the idea and stated that the campaign should look into it," defense lawyers wrote. That language is a reference to Jeff Sessions, who at the time was a Republican senator from Alabama and key campaign aide and later became the Trump administration's attorney general.

Sessions, however, told the House Judiciary Committee last November that he resisted the idea of any Russia meeting.

"I pushed back at his trip and I was concerned that he not go off somewhere, pretending to represent the Trump campaign," Sessions told lawmakers. "He had no authority for that."

The inclusion of details about that meeting by defense lawyers seems intended to show that Papadopoulos provided the Mueller team with valuable insight about Trump campaign operations, even though prosecutors have said in their own sentencing memo that he did not provide "substantial assistance to them."

One morning in January 2017, two FBI agents knocked on the door of Papadopoulos's mother's home seeking to interview him. He agreed to accompany them to their office thinking they wanted to ask him about a Russian businessman, Sergei Millian, but soon the questions shifted to Russian influence in the election — and Papadopoulos was "surprised" and caught "off guard," the defense lawyers wrote.

Defense lawyers acknowledge that Papadopoulos "lied, minimized, and omitted material facts" to the FBI about his foreign contacts, including about when he had learned from Mifsud that the Russians had dirt on Clinton.

"Out of loyalty to the new president and his desire to be part of the administration, he hoisted himself upon his own petard," they wrote.

But they rejected the idea that those lies impeded the investigation, calling that argument by prosecutors speculative.

Papadopoulos was arrested on July 27, 2017 and began cooperating with federal investigators. He participated in four proffer sessions with prosecutors and provided important information, including a description of the March 2016 meeting at which he proposed to arrange a meeting with Putin "and the reactions of the people in the room."

"George Papadopoulos is now a convicted felon," the lawyers wrote. "When it came time to make a good decision he made a bad one. His arrest and prosecution served as notice to all involved that this was a serious investigation. He was the first domino, and many have fallen in behind. Despite the gravity of his offense, it is important to remember what Special Counsel said at George's plea of guilty: he was just a small part of a large-scale investigation."

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McCain tributes echo with criticism of Trump

By LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McCain's daughter opened his memorial service by posing her father's legacy as a direct challenge to President Donald Trump, setting a tone that echoed the senator's own fighting spirit as former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush eulogized him Saturday at the Washington National Cathedral.

Bush and Obama, both challenged by McCain in their bids for the White House, drew on the senator's legacy at home and abroad to talk of the nation's values in remarks that at times seemed a clear rebuke of Trump and his brand of politics.

Obama spoke of the long talks he and McCain would have privately in the Oval Office and the senator's understanding that America's security and influence came not from "our ability to bend others to our will" but universal values of rule of law and human rights.

"So much of our politics, our public life, our public discourse can seem small and mean and petty, tracking in bombast and insult and phony controversies and manufactured outrage," Obama said in another not-so-veiled nod to Trump. "It's a politics that pretends to be brave and tough but in fact is born in fear. John called on us to be bigger than that. He called on us to be better than that."

Bush said one of the great gifts in his life was becoming friends with his former White House rival. He said they would in later years recall their political battles like former football players remembering the big game.

But mostly Bush recalled a champion for the "forgotten people" at home and abroad whose legacy will serve as a reminder, even in times of doubt, of the power of America as more than a physical place but a "carrier of human aspirations."

"John's voice will always come as a whisper over our shoulder — we are better than this, America is better than this," Bush said.

Bush, a Republican, and Obama, a Democrat, spoke during the service at McCain's request.

Trump was not on hand for the ceremony, after McCain's family made clear he was not invited.

But Meghan McCain made sure Trump was part of the memorial in another way, leveling pointed criticism at the president in her eulogy.

"We gather here to mourn the passing of American greatness — the real thing, not cheap rhetoric from men who will never come near the sacrifice he gave so willingly, nor the opportunistic appropriation of those who lived lives of comfort and privilege while he suffered and served," she said, her voice first choking back tears then raising to anger.

Later, she said to applause, "The America of John McCain has no need to be made great again because America was always great."

In another clear swipe at Trump, she said some resented her father for being "a great fire who burned bright" and what he revealed about their own characters. Those critics, she said, still have an opportunity to emulate her father's legacy.

Those gathered Saturday morning to eulogize the six-term senator included three former presidents, scores of members of Congress, current and former world leaders and family and friends. Among those in the front row were Barack and Michelle Obama, George and Laura Bush, Bill and Hillary Clinton, as well as Dick Cheney and Al Gore.

McCain's motorcade arrived from the Capitol, where he laid in state overnight, and the procession made a stop at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where McCain's wife, Cindy, placed a wreath. His flag-draped casket was escorted by military body bearers up the cathedral steps under gray skies.

It was the last public event in Washington, where McCain lived and worked over four decades, and part of McCain's five-day, cross-country funeral procession. He died Aug. 25 at age 81.

"His death seems to have reminded the American people that these values are what makes us a great nation, not the tribal partisanship and personal attack politics that have recently characterized our life," said former Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, a longtime friend and fellow global traveler who McCain once considered as his vice presidential running mate.

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"This week's celebration of the life and values and patriotism of this hero, I think have taken our country above all that," he said. "In a way, it's the last great gift that John McCain gave America."

Trump, meanwhile, left the White House in the presidential motorcade shortly after 10:30 a.m., as the service was underway, headed to his Virginia golf course.

Two of his top aides, White House chief of staff John Kelly and Defense Secretary James Mattis, flanked Cindy McCain as she placed the wreath at the memorial and joined the service. Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner are attended.

McCain was a decorated veteran who was held for more than five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He refused early release. Trump obtained deferments for his college education and a foot ailment.

McCain had long urged the Senate and the polarized nation to recognize the humanity even in bitter political opponents. McCain's request for speeches by the former presidents, to some, represents that ideal.

"We weaken our greatness when we confuse our patriotism with tribal rivalries that have sown resentment and hatred and violence in all the corners of the globe," McCain wrote in his farewell letter to the nation, read posthumously by a longtime aide. "We weaken it when we hide behind walls, rather than tear them down, when we doubt the power of our ideals, rather than trust them to be the great force for change they have always been."

By all accounts, McCain ended up liking both Bush and Obama but was not especially close to either man. Bush delivered McCain a decisive defeat in the race for the GOP presidential nomination in 2000. Obama defeated McCain eight years later in the general election.

McCain's service and dedication to working across the aisle — even as he sometimes infuriated his opponents — was a major theme of Friday's ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda.

Of those who spoke at Friday's ceremony, fellow Republican Mitch McConnell had perhaps the fullest sense of the McCain experience. The two had served in the Senate together since McCain's 1986 election.

McCain is to be buried Sunday at his alma mater, the U.S. Naval Academy, next to his best friend from the Class of 1958, Adm. Chuck Larson.

"Back," McCain wrote on the last page of his recent memoir, "where it began."

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

GOP makes Pelosi issue even for Democrats who keep distance

By JOHN HANNA and BILL BARROW, Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Paul Davis kicked off a promising Democratic campaign to flip a GOP-leaning Kansas congressional district with a pledge to oppose Nancy Pelosi's return as House speaker. It didn't change the GOP's strategy for keeping the seat: Republicans have branded him a "Pelosi liberal."

Davis is among dozens of Democratic candidates across the U.S. who have backed away from Pelosi, including in Democratic strongholds such as California and New York. And Republicans are lobbing similar attacks against them, using the veteran California liberal's name as code for what's supposed to make GOP-leaning and centrist voters nervous about the left, including support for big government — and more recently, a desire to impeach President Donald Trump.

In Kansas, a GOP super PAC tied Davis, a former state lawmaker, to Pelosi in an ad because of his propensity to vote with his own party in the Legislature when he was the state House leader.

Pelosi, the U.S. House speaker when Democrats controlled the chamber in 2007-11, has been among Republicans' go-to attacks for more than a decade, with consultants from both parties estimating that the GOP has spent tens of millions on ads linking other Democrats to her. The spotlight on her has intensified with former President Barack Obama and 2016 presidential nominee Hillary Clinton no longer front-and-center.

"It's just kind of this tired of old playbook, I think, that they have been using for years and years," Davis said in an interview.

Democrats need to pick up at least 23 new House seats for a majority in the 435-member House. With

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a narrow majority, a small group of recalcitrant freshmen could leave Pelosi short of the 218 votes necessary to become speaker.

But Republican operatives and candidates argue that such Democrats can't avoid being associated with Pelosi because she's the most likely Democrat to become the new speaker if her party regains the majority. Pelosi recently told The Associated Press that she's not going anywhere and has a strong national political following.

"It's probably a motivating factor for Republican-leaning voters," said Pat McFerron, a Republican political consultant in Oklahoma. "Here's your risk of a Paul Davis in office: You're not just electing Paul Davis."

Davis is vying for retiring five-term Republican Rep. Lynn Jenkins' seat and raised \$1.6 million before the state's August primary, when he was unopposed for the Democratic nomination. GOP nominee Steve Watkins, a first-time candidate, engineer and Army veteran, emerged from a six-person primary with 26 percent of the vote.

Watkins called Davis a "safe" vote for Pelosi and "a vote for Donald Trump's impeachment hearings."

Davis said the legal problems of former Trump associates Paul Manafort and Michael Cohen are "concerning" but added that it is not responsible to "prejudge" special prosecutor Robert Mueller's investigation. Davis also said he has differences with top Democrats on issues such as environmental regulation and is willing to buck them in Washington.

But he ducked the question of exactly whom he would support instead of Pelosi.

"I have to win a race first, and I'm not spending a great deal of time thinking about what happens after Election Day," he said.

The Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan, sponsored the ad that called Davis a "Pelosi liberal." It also features Pelosi in attack ads in a neighboring Kansas district, Kentucky, New Jersey and New York.

In upstate New York, the PAC linked Democratic nominee Anthony Brandisi to Pelosi in an ad, suggesting he'd be a "rubber stamp" for tax increases. Brandisi hasn't declared his support for Pelosi, adding, "Where leaders have been in power for long periods of time, I believe change is good thing."

In southern Kansas, Republican Rep. Ron Estes' campaign tweeted that Democrat James Thompson would vote "with Pelosi in lock step."

Thompson said he opposes Pelosi for speaker because, "it's time to move in a new direction." He also called the GOP attacks on her "awfully misogynistic in some aspects."

Other congressional Democrats have been GOP foils. In Missouri, Republican Senate nominee Josh Hawley rarely misses an opportunity to attack Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer in his bid to unseat Sen. Claire McCaskill. In Kansas in 2014, a crucial re-election tactic for veteran Republican Sen. Pat Roberts was attacking then-Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

But Pelosi's hometown of San Francisco is an ideal symbol when Republicans seek to portray Democrats as out of touch in GOP-leaning areas.

"Nancy Pelosi is absolutely toxic across the country," said Congressional Leadership Fund spokeswoman Courtney Alexander.

Pelosi has defenders. She remains an effective fundraiser and has kept her party relatively unified in the minority. Passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 hurt Democrats as they lost the House majority that year, but some of its changes have become popular with voters over time.

"We let them demonize her and make her this big negative when she's ushered in life-changing successes for this country," said Democratic Rep. Cedric Richardson, of Louisiana, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Barrow reported from Atlanta.

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

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AP Exclusive: Franklin funeral bishop apologizes to Grande

By JOSH REPLOGLE, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The bishop who officiated Aretha Franklin's funeral apologized Friday to Ariana Grande for how he touched her onstage and a joke he made about her name.

Bishop Charles H. Ellis III led Franklin's funeral and awkwardly greeted Grande on stage after she performed "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman." Images of the moment showed Ellis' hand holding Grande well above her waist, with his fingers pressing against one side of her chest.

The preacher apologized in an interview with The Associated Press at the cemetery where Franklin was interred late Friday.

"It would never be my intention to touch any woman's breast. ... I don't know I guess I put my arm around her," Ellis said. "Maybe I crossed the border, maybe I was too friendly or familiar but again, I apologize."

He said he hugged all the performers during Friday's eight-hour service.

"I hug all the female artists and the male artists," Ellis said. "Everybody that was up, I shook their hands and hugged them. That's what we are all about in the church. We are all about love."

He added: "The last thing I want to do is to be a distraction to this day. This is all about Aretha Franklin."

Many people posted close-up images of the moment on Twitter, tagging it #RespectAriana.

Ellis also apologized to Grande, her fans and Hispanic community for making a joke about seeing her name on the program and thinking it was a new item on the Taco Bell menu.

"I personally and sincerely apologize to Ariana and to her fans and to the whole Hispanic community," Ellis said. "When you're doing a program for nine hours you try to keep it lively, you try to insert some jokes here and there."

Ellis' touching of Grande overshadowed some criticism earlier in the ceremony the short dress Grande wore for her performance. Numerous people posted criticisms online that the dress was too short for church.

Grande's representative did not return an email message seeking comment Friday.

DeVos: No plans to take action on funding to arm teachers

By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary Betsy DeVos says she has "no intention of taking any action" regarding any possible use of federal funds to arm teachers or provide them with firearms training.

DeVos' comments came Friday after a top official in her department, asked about arming teachers, said states and local jurisdictions always "had the flexibility" to decide how to use federal education funds.

Frank Brogan, assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education, said arming educators "is a good example of a profoundly personal decision on the part of a school or a school district or even a state." President Donald Trump and DeVos have said schools may benefit from having armed teachers and should have that option.

DeVos said Friday that "Congress did not authorize me or the Department to make those decisions" about arming teachers or training them on the use of firearms.

Her comments were in a letter to Virginia Rep. Bobby Scott, the top Democrat on the House committee overseeing education, and were posted by the department on Twitter.

"I will not take any action that would expand or restrict the responsibilities and flexibilities granted to state and local education agencies by Congress," DeVos wrote.

Democrats and education groups have argued, however, that the funds are intended for academics, not guns.

DeVos heads a federal commission on school safety that was formed after the deadly Valentine's Day shooting at a Florida high school.

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An early draft of the commission's report recommends that states and communities determine "based on the unique circumstances of each school" whether to arm its security personnel and teachers to be able to respond to violence. The draft's section on training school personnel was reviewed by AP.

That approach, the draft says, "can be particularly helpful" in rural districts where the nearest police unit may be far away. Other recommendations included employing school resource officers and ensuring they worked closely with the rest of the school staff.

In an interview with The Associated Press Thursday, Brogan cited the "school marshal" program in Texas where school employees can volunteer to carry weapons on campuses after undergoing training. Educators from some remote rural schools also told the panel that they rely on armed school personnel because the police may take too long to arrive. Others, however, argued that arming teachers is dangerous and could make schools feel like prisons.

Brogan said the Every Student Succeeds Act, a bipartisan law that shifts education authority to states, provides about \$1 billion in annual funding for various school needs, including 20 percent specifically set aside for school safety.

"The people at the local level who've been there for years could make the decisions about what services to purchase, what equipment to buy to fulfill the general broad obligations laid out in that law," he said.

It would be up to Congress, not the U.S. Department of Education, to place any restrictions or barriers to use those funds for purposes not currently in the law, a department spokeswoman said.

The debate arose earlier this month after a small rural school district in Oklahoma and the state of Texas asked the department to clarify what the funds can be used for.

"The position is: You have the language ... the language was written specifically to and always interpreted to mean 'this is your money,'" Brogan said.

Democratic lawmakers and teachers blasted the idea, accusing the Trump administration of acting in the interests of the National Rifle Association, and several congressmen called for legislation that would prohibit the use of those funds for guns.

Senator Patty Murray, the top Democrat on the Senate commission overseeing education, said on Twitter that she was "extremely disappointed that (DeVos) is moving forward with this awful plan to allow federal funds to be used to arm teachers."

"I hope she reconsiders and we need to keep pressure on her until she does," Murray added.

Brogan also clarified that the commission will tackle gun control as instructed by the White House. DeVos had told a Senate hearing in June that the panel will not look at guns "per se," causing confusion. Brogan said the commission will consider age restrictions for gun purchases, as well as whether people with mental health problems who are likely to harm themselves and others can possess weapons.

Brogan said the panel will produce a tool kit "that provides recognized best practices, not just the shiny new object on school safety, but what people are already doing that seems to be showing a track record of success that can be put out there in inventory fashion."

"You cannot do that with a uniform approach to this thing because the country is so very different, place to place, school to school, state to state," Brogan said. "There is no one way to make schools safe."

Besides recommendations on arming and training school staff, the research and best practices identified by the panel will include suggestions on equipping schools with magnetometers and other safety tools, character development programs and the impact of video games and movies on violent behavior. The report will be issued in "very late fall or by the end of the year," Brogan said.

The commission was created by President Donald Trump in March after 17 people were killed in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The panel is chaired by DeVos and also consists of the heads of the departments of Justice, Health and Human Services and Homeland Security.

This story has been corrected to delete reference to Brogan saying agency will let states decide on use of federal funds to arm teachers.

Calls for respect for black America at Franklin funeral

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

DETROIT (AP) — As Aretha Franklin was remembered at her funeral Friday as a proud black woman who also used her magnificent voice to stand up for the black community she loved, several speakers used the moment to continue to demand respect for black America.

Amid the gospel, personal reflections and grief were calls to register and turnout to vote in November and condemnation of President Donald Trump, who, upon her death, referred to Franklin as “someone who worked for me” — a comment that rankled many African-Americans.

“No — she used to perform for you,” the Rev. Al Sharpton said to cheers and applause from the crowd. “She worked for us. Aretha never took orders from nobody but God.”

Franklin’s civil rights legacy was mentioned often during the eight-hour service, and was tied to her faith and roots in the black church. Many also mentioned her father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, and his civil rights leadership, which influenced his daughter from a young age.

Late Friday, Franklin was laid to rest in a mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery, the final resting place of her father.

None of the politicians present — including former President Bill Clinton and former Attorney General Eric Holder — took the opportunity to turn the event partisan. Michigan Democratic House Rep. Brenda Lawrence took a moment to recognize Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, whose funeral is Saturday.

But others seized on Trump’s comments and Franklin’s message of dignity to speak to the present social and political climate. In pointing out the long lines to pay tribute to Franklin this week, the Rev. Jesse Jackson lamented that the lines to vote often aren’t nearly as long.

“Aretha was on the battleground for 60 years,” Jackson told the audience. “We have long lines to celebrate death, and short lines for voting. Something is missing. If you leave here today and don’t register to vote, you’re dishonoring Aretha.”

Judge Greg Mathis, one of Franklin’s many friends who often talked politics with her, said that his last conversation with Franklin earlier this summer was about the ongoing water crisis in Flint, Michigan, where government negligence has left residents living with lead-tainted water since 2014.

“Her last words to me ... were “Go back up there and sock it to ‘em!,”” Mathis told the crowd before vowing that he would in her memory.

Some made a statement without saying a word. When she was shouted out from the stage, California Democrat Rep. Maxine Waters — who has called frequently for Trump’s impeachment and is a campaign rally punching bag for the president — acknowledged the crowd with the “Wakanda salute,” from the movie “Black Panther,” closing her fists and crossing her arms over her chest to applause.

Many in the audience, including President Clinton, stood and cheered.

“Everybody just point over there and tell her, ‘We got your back!’” said Bishop Charles H. Ellis III, pastor of Greater Grace Temple, which the audience shouted in Waters’ direction.

Georgetown University sociologist Michael Eric Dyson took several shots at Trump in his remarks, assigning the president several nicknames: “orange apparition,” “lugubrious leech,” “doppelganger of deceit and deceit,” “lethal liar,” “dimwitted dictator,” “foolish facist.”

“She ain’t work for you,” Dyson shouted over applause. “She worked above you. She worked beyond you. Get your reposition right.”

Whack is The Associated Press’ national writer on race and ethnicity. Follow her work on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/emaravelous> .

AP sources: Former spy said Russia had ‘Trump over a barrel’

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A senior Justice Department lawyer says a former British spy told him at a breakfast meeting two years ago that Russian intelligence believed it had Donald Trump “over a barrel,” according

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to multiple people familiar with the encounter.

The lawyer, Bruce Ohr, also says he learned that a Trump campaign aide had met with higher-level Russian officials than the aide had acknowledged, the people said.

The previously unreported details of the July 30, 2016, breakfast with Christopher Steele, which Ohr described to lawmakers this week in a private interview, reveal an exchange of potentially explosive information about Trump between two men the president has relentlessly sought to discredit.

They add to the public understanding of those pivotal summer months as the FBI and intelligence community scrambled to untangle possible connections between the Trump campaign and Russia. And they reflect the concern of Steele, a longtime FBI informant whose Democratic-funded research into Trump ties to Russia was compiled into a dossier, that the Republican presidential candidate was possibly compromised and his urgent efforts to convey that anxiety to contacts at the FBI and Justice Department.

The people who discussed Ohr's interview were not authorized to publicly discuss details of the closed session and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Among the things Ohr said he learned from Steele during the breakfast was that an unnamed former Russian intelligence official had communicated that Russian intelligence believed "they had Trump over a barrel," according to people familiar with the meeting.

It was not clear from Ohr's interview whether Steele was directly told that or had picked that up through his contacts, but the broader sentiment is echoed in Steele's dossier.

Steele and Ohr, at the time of the election a senior official in the deputy attorney general's office, had first met a decade earlier and bonded over a shared interest in international organized crime. They met several times during the presidential campaign, a relationship that has exposed both men and federal law enforcement more generally to partisan criticism, including from Trump.

Republicans contend the FBI relied excessively on the dossier during its investigation and to obtain a secret wiretap application on Trump campaign aide Carter Page. They also say Ohr went outside his job description and chain of command by meeting with Steele, including after his termination as a FBI source, and then relaying information to the FBI.

Trump this month proposed stripping Ohr, who until this year had been largely anonymous during his decades-long Justice Department career, of his security clearance and has asked "how the hell" he remains employed. He has called the Russia investigation a "witch hunt" and denied any collusion between his campaign and Moscow.

The president and some of his supporters in Congress have also accused the FBI of launching the entire Russia counterintelligence investigation based on the dossier. But memos authored by Republicans and Democrats and declassified this year show the probe was triggered by information the U.S. government earlier received about the Russian contacts of then-Trump campaign adviser, George Papadopoulos.

The FBI's investigation was already under way by the time it received Steele's dossier. The investigation's lead agent, Peter Strzok, told lawmakers last month that "it was not Mr. Ohr who provided the initial documents that I became aware of in mid-September."

Ohr described his relationship with Steele during a House interview Tuesday.

One of the meetings he recounted was a Washington breakfast attended by Steele, a Steele associate and Ohr. Ohr's wife, Nellie, who worked for Fusion GPS, the political research firm that hired Steele, attended at least part of it.

Beside the "over a barrel" remark, Ohr also told Congress that Steele told him that Page, a Trump campaign aide who traveled to Moscow that same month and whose ties to Russia attracted FBI scrutiny, had met with more-senior Russian officials than he had acknowledged.

The breakfast took place amid ongoing FBI concerns about Russian election interference and possible communication with Trump associates.

By that point, Russian hackers had penetrated Democratic email accounts, including that of the Clinton campaign chairman, and Papadopoulos, the Trump campaign associate, was said to have learned that Russians had "dirt" on Democrat Hillary Clinton in the form of emails, court papers say.

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That revelation prompted the FBI to open the counterintelligence investigation on July 31, 2016, one day after the breakfast but based on entirely different information.

Ohr told lawmakers he could not vouch for the accuracy of Steele's information but has said he considered him a reliable FBI informant who delivered credible and actionable intelligence, including about corruption at FIFA, soccer's global governing body.

In the interview, Ohr acknowledged that he had not told superiors in his office, including Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, about his meetings with Steele because he considered the information inflammatory raw source material.

He also provided new details about the department's move to reassign him once his Steele ties were brought to light.

Ohr said he met in late 2017 with two senior Justice Department officials, Scott Schools and James Crowell, who told him they were unhappy he had not proactively disclosed his meetings with Steele. They said he was being stripped of his associate deputy attorney post as part of an internal reorganization that would have occurred anyway, people familiar with Ohr's account say.

He met again soon after with one of the officials, who told him Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein didn't believe he could remain in his current position as director of a law enforcement grant-distribution initiative known as the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces program because the position entailed White House meetings and interactions.

A Justice Department spokeswoman declined comment.

California approves measure to pass on wildfire costs

By JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The California Legislature voted Friday to allow power companies to raise electric bills to cover the cost of lawsuits from last year's deadly wildfires amid fears that Pacific Gas & Electric Co., would otherwise face financial ruin.

The measure is part of a wide-ranging plan to reduce the threat of wildfires, which have killed dozens of people and destroyed thousands of homes in recent years.

Consumer advocates and large energy users blasted legislation they say is a bailout for PG&E, which expects to pay billions of dollars due to fires started by the company's equipment in Northern California last year. The company would be allowed to charge their customers even if the fires are linked to mismanagement by the company.

"Everybody's getting protected, but customers," said Michael Boccadoro, executive director of the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association. "Utility shareholders are protected. Trial attorneys are protected. Insurers are protected. Victims are protected. Labor's protected. Unfortunately, they forgot to protect customers."

California courts have ruled that utilities are entirely liable for damage caused by power lines, even if they've followed all safety regulations. Lawmakers considered changing that standard but backed off amid a barrage of lobbying by wildfire victims and insurance companies.

Fire investigators have blamed PG&E equipment for 12 of last year's wildfires in Northern California's wine country, including two that killed 15 people combined. In eight, investigators said they found evidence of violations of state law and forwarded the findings to county prosecutors. Authorities have not determined fault for the Tubbs Fire, the most destructive in state history, which destroyed thousands of homes in Santa Rosa.

PG&E is facing dozens of lawsuits from insurers, which have spent billions settling insurance claims from homeowners.

Lawmakers worry the costs to PG&E could be so severe that it would struggle to borrow money or would file for bankruptcy, which they fear would lead to even higher spikes in utility bills.

"This is about protecting ratepayers, not helping utilities," said Sen. Bill Dodd, a Napa Democrat who helped craft the legislation. "The fact of the matter is ratepayers would be hurt in a utility bankruptcy."

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Regulators generally don't let utilities bill their customers for lawsuits linked to imprudent management of electrical equipment, but the legislation would create a special process for the 2017 fires. It seeks to take as much as possible from PG&E's investors without harming ratepayers. For the rest, the Public Utilities Commission would have the option to let PG&E collect from customers through a line-item on utility bills for the next two decades.

The cost to ratepayers is unknown because it's not clear which fires will ultimately be linked to PG&E and what its final settlement will look like. Dodd said the average residential ratepayer would pay an estimated \$5.20 extra for every \$1 billion dollars that PG&E must finance.

The bill "puts the needs of wildfire victims first, better equips California to prevent and respond to wildfires, protects electric customers and preserves progress toward California's clean energy goals," PG&E spokeswoman Lynsey Paulo said in a statement.

While the help for utilities is gotten the most attention the bill also includes a variety of other measures to help utility workers

It includes protections for utility workers from job loss or pay and benefit cuts in the event of a utility bankruptcy or change in ownership. That's a major victory for the politically connected International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union.

The bill also would require investor-owned utilities — including PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric — to harden their equipment so it's less likely to cause fires. It would make it easier, in some circumstances, to do prescribed burns, clear dead trees and brush, log trees and build fire breaks. It includes \$200 million a year for those purposes.

It also extends the life of biomass plants, which use trees to generate energy.

Serena matches her easiest win over Venus in US Open rout

By **BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Sports Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Serena Williams kept booming big shots for winners, never allowing herself to feel sorry for the overmatched player on the other side.

So what if it happened to be her big sister?

The Williams sisters, long ago in careers that have spanned 20 years and 30 meetings as professionals, learned they had to view each other only as opponents — and in Serena's eyes, Venus is the best one she's ever played.

"Even though it's difficult, especially for me," Serena said, "we just do the best that we can."

On Friday, it was perhaps the best she's ever done against Venus.

Serena equaled her most-lopsided victory against her sister with a 6-1, 6-2 rout in the third round of the U.S. Open.

Serena shook off an early ankle injury to win seven straight games and seize control in perhaps her most dominant performance since giving birth to her daughter a year ago Saturday.

The sisters' earliest meeting in a Grand Slam tournament in 20 years was over early, with Venus unable to do anything to blunt Serena's power, even after the fans that were part of Friday's single-day record crowd of 70,162 tried desperately to get behind her with pleas of "Come on, Venus!" early in the second set.

"I think it's by far the best match I ever played against her in forever," Serena said of the match that lasted just 1 hour, 12 minutes. "But I don't know about ever, ever. It probably was. I played much better tonight than I have since I started this journey on my way back."

They hadn't played this early in a Grand Slam since Venus won in the second round of the 1998 Australian Open in their first meeting as pros, and only once over the next two decades had either won so decisively. Serena won by the same score in a semifinal victory in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2013.

"I think it's the best match she's ever played against me," Venus said. "I don't think I did a lot wrong. But she just did everything right."

Serena, the No. 17 seed, will face Kaia Kanepi of Estonia, who knocked out top-ranked Simona Halep in the first round.

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Serena, who turns 37 next month, leads the series 18-12 with her sister, 11-5 in Grand Slam tournaments. But this one wasn't expected to be so easy, not with Serena still working her way back into form after returning to the tour in the spring.

But this was the type of tennis that has brought her to 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the ability to pound balls all over the court and chase down the rare shots that looked like they might get past her.

"Obviously that level is definitely where she's going to want to stay during this whole tournament," Venus said.

Serena pounded 10 aces to just one for Venus, the No. 16 seed who was perhaps a little drained after two tough matches to begin the tournament, including a three-setter against 2004 U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in her opener.

Serena had an easier time in the first two rounds, though that was expected to change Friday under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium. They had combined for eight titles in Flushing Meadows, six by Serena, and each had beaten the other in a U.S. Open final.

But there was no beating Serena on this night, and the discouraged look on Venus' face across much of the match indicated she seemed to realize it.

"I mean, she played so well, I never got to really even touch any balls," said Venus, a semifinalist at the U.S. Open last year. "When your opponent plays like that, it's not really anything to be upset about."

It looked as if Serena could have trouble when, in the second game of the match, her right ankle turned awkwardly when Venus hit behind her on a shot. Serena stood near the baseline with her back to the court for quite a few seconds, then motioned to the chair umpire that she wanted to see the trainer at the next changeover.

Serena had the ankle treated with a 2-1 lead, then broke in the next game, helped when Venus missed an easy swinging volley wide. She would break again for a 5-1 lead, then pound two aces in the next service game to wrap up the first set in 31 minutes.

Follow Brian Mahoney on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/Brianmahoney>

More AP tennis coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

US ends funding of UN agency for Palestinian refugees

By SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is ending its decades of funding for the U.N. agency that helps Palestinian refugees, the State Department announced Friday, a week after slashing bilateral U.S. aid for projects in the West Bank and Gaza.

The U.S. supplies nearly 30 percent of the total budget of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, or UNRWA, and had been demanding reforms in the way it is run. The department said in a written statement that the United States "will no longer commit further funding to this irredeemably flawed operation." The decision cuts nearly \$300 million of planned support.

UNRWA released a statement late Friday rejecting "in the strongest possible terms" the Trump administration's criticism of the agency and expressing "deep regret and disappointment."

The U.S. decision comes as President Donald Trump and his Middle East pointmen, Jared Kushner and Jason Greenblatt, prepare for the rollout of a much-vaunted but as yet unclear peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians, and it could intensify Palestinian suspicions that Washington is using the humanitarian funding as leverage.

The Palestinian leadership has been openly hostile to any proposal from the administration, citing what it says is a pro-Israel bias, notably after Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December and moved the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv in May. The Palestinian Authority broke off contact with the U.S. after the Jerusalem announcement.

In 2016, the U.S. donated \$355 million to the UNRWA, which provides health care, education and social

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services to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and it was set to make a similar contribution this year. In January the Trump administration released \$60 million in funds but withheld a further \$65 million it had been due to provide. The remaining amount — around \$290 million — had yet to be allocated.

“When we made a U.S. contribution of \$60 million in January, we made it clear that the United States was no longer willing to shoulder the very disproportionate share of the burden of UNRWA’s costs that we had assumed for many years,” the statement said. “Several countries, including Jordan, Egypt, Sweden, Qatar, and the UAE (United Arab Emirates) have shown leadership in addressing this problem, but the overall international response has not been sufficient.”

The statement criticized the “fundamental business model and fiscal practices” of UNRWA, and what the department characterized as the “endlessly and exponentially expanding community of entitled beneficiaries.”

UNRWA responded by stating that its “programs have a proven track record in creating one of the most successful human development processes ... in the Middle East.” UNRWA added that it has been recognized by the World Bank “for running one of the most effective school systems in the region,” according to a statement released by the agency late Friday.

“This is a reflection of UNRWA’s steadfast commitment to preserving dignity and opportunities,” the statement added.

A spokesman for U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres’ office released a statement late Friday regretting the Trump administration’s decision to cut UNRWA funding, saying the U.N. has appreciated years of U.S. support for the agency.

“UNRWA has a strong record of providing high-quality education, health and other essential services, often in extremely difficult circumstances, to Palestine refugees who are in great need,” the statement added.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes during the war that led to Israel’s establishment in 1948. Today, there are an estimated 5 million refugees and their descendants, mostly scattered across the region — a figure that has become a point of contention. Palestinian leaders assert the right of those refugees to return to land now under Israeli control.

Last Friday, the State Department announced the U.S. was cutting more than \$200 million in bilateral aid to the Palestinians, following a review of the funding for projects in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ spokesman called that U.S. decision an attempt to force the Palestinians to abandon their claim to Jerusalem.

Speaking before the announcement on UNRWA, its representative in Washington, Elizabeth Campbell, said the withdrawal of U.S. funding would leave the agency facing a financial crisis, but noted that Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and others have provided more than \$200 million in new funding to help cover its budget this year.

In recent days, senior Trump administration officials publicly expressed dissatisfaction with UNRWA but stopped short of saying the U.S. would defund the agency.

On Tuesday, Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, complained that “Palestinians continue to bash America” although it’s the main donor for UNRWA. Speaking at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank, Haley also said, “we have to look at right of return” of those classified as Palestinian refugees. She called on Middle East nations to increase aid.

There is deepening international concern over deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the West Bank and Gaza, and the U.S. decision to defund provoked strong and polarized reactions in Washington.

Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of J Street, a liberal advocacy group, said Trump’s decision “has the potential to harm millions of innocent civilians” and “will ratchet up the risk of greater destabilization and conflict across the Middle East.”

But Richard Goldberg, senior adviser at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, called it “a win for U.S. taxpayers and peace” that would make Palestinians more self-sufficient and prepare them “for a true peace with Israel.”

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The State Department statement said the U.S. will intensify dialogue with the United Nations, host governments and international stakeholders about new models and new approaches to help Palestinians, especially schoolchildren, which may include direct bilateral assistance from the U.S. and others.

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

Trump plans to help one-time rival Cruz in Texas campaign

By WILL WEISSERT and STEVE PEOPLES, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — President Donald Trump says he'll ride to the rescue of one-time bitter rival Sen. Ted Cruz this fall, the strongest indication yet that the Texas conservative firebrand is getting nervous about his challenger, a liberal darling with a growing national profile.

Trump tweeted Friday that he will headline "a major rally" for Cruz in October and is "picking the biggest stadium in Texas we can find." He added, "Ted has my complete and total Endorsement (sic)," and called Democratic Rep. Beto O'Rourke "a disaster for Texas - weak on Second Amendment, Crime, Borders, Military, and Vets!"

The tweet of support was a long way from Trump's previous assessment of Cruz' record. He once declared the senator "has accomplished absolutely nothing" for Texans. Cruz has labeled Trump "a sniveling coward." But the promise of presidential assistance suggested Cruz — and his party — are feeling the heat. Trump has long planned to travel to bolster Republican candidates before November's midterm elections, but he was not expected to spend valuable time in reliably-red Texas for a race that for months looked like a Cruz cakewalk.

"Either Ted Cruz is in trouble or it's a remarkable waste of the president's resources," said Republican strategist Rick Tyler, who worked for Cruz's presidential campaign.

The Texas Senate seat, Tyler noted, was supposed to be the GOP's "safest seat this cycle."

Trump's announcement was also likely to further intensify the hype around O'Rourke, who has consistently outraised Cruz and has rocketed to national stardom in recent weeks. Video of O'Rourke, who is giving up his El Paso House seat to run, defending NFL players' right to protest the national anthem has been viewed by millions and was praised by NBA star LeBron James.

National magazines have speculated that O'Rourke could be a vice presidential pick in 2020, or perhaps run for the White House — even if he doesn't pull off the upset in Texas, which hasn't elected a Democrat to statewide office since 1994, the nation's longest political losing streak.

Yet Cruz's race appears to be far tighter than the state's history would suggest.

Those close to Cruz's campaign report that internal polling shows O'Rourke trailing by just 5 or 6 percentage points, which is in line with recent public polls.

Republicans across Texas and Washington have become most concerned with the Democrat's prolific fundraising. Cruz has raised more money than any other Republican Senate candidate this cycle so far. And O'Rourke, who reported having raised nearly \$24 million through June, could ultimately double Cruz's fundraising, despite shunning support of outside political groups.

Cruz has repeatedly attacked his opponent, doing everything from referring to him by his full name, Robert, to criticizing O'Rourke for voting against a bill offering tax breaks for Harvey victims. So far, little has slowed O'Rourke's rise.

A super PAC aligned with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Friday it was prepared to help if necessary. That's despite Cruz's charge, two years ago, that McConnell was a "liar."

"We'll be there for Ted Cruz if he needs us. We're team players," said Chris Pack of the McConnell-backed Senate Leadership Fund.

Trump's announcement followed a series of private discussions between the White House and the Cruz campaign about how the Republican president, who handily won Texas in 2016, could be most helpful, according to Republicans with direct knowledge of the discussions but who asked for anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

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But even in the red state, a Trump visit carries some political risks, particularly in areas with higher concentrations of suburban and minority voters.

Republicans expect Trump to be able to fill a sports stadium, as he suggested on Twitter, although there is some concern that an appearance at a place like Dallas Cowboys stadium in Arlington, which is set between Dallas and Fort Worth, could do more harm than good by energizing O'Rourke's supporters.

Other locations would be more welcome, including Texas A&M's stadium in College Station, which holds more than 100,000 or Texas Tech's in Lubbock which holds roughly 60,000.

A Cruz spokeswoman did not return messages about discussions on scheduling or location for a joint rally with Trump.

Cruz said in recent weeks that he wouldn't be surprised if Trump came to Texas to campaign. But unlike many other Republicans, he hasn't directly appealed for a presidential visit. Asked after a recent rally whether he would need Trump's help, Cruz dodged.

"What we need to win in November is for Texans to show up and vote," he said. "This election is about turnout."

A Trump visit could be the latest in an awkward dance with Cruz that has made the pair one of politics' leading odd couples.

Cruz spent the early months of the 2016 presidential race praising Trump, betting that the reality TV star's supporters would flock to him if their candidate's meteoric rise flamed out. They later clashed bitterly as Cruz finished second for the GOP nomination, with Trump making fun of Cruz's wife's appearance and suggesting that his Cuban-born father had a hand in John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Trump also savaged Cruz on Twitter: "Why would the people of Texas support Ted Cruz when he has accomplished absolutely nothing for them?"

Cruz responded by calling Trump "a sniveling coward," "a pathological liar," and "a serial philanderer." He refused to endorse him during the 2016 Republican National Convention, only to suddenly announce his support barely a month before Election Day 2016.

The relationship has improved since, although resentment lingers among many die-hard Trump supporters. It's not yet clear whether Trump's kind words on Twitter, and the would-be rally, can heal those wounds.

Lula da Silva barred from running for Brazil's presidency

By MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been barred from Brazil's October presidential election by the country's electoral court despite easily leading in the polls — a ruling that adds uncertainty to the race to lead Latin America's largest nation, leaving no clear favorites.

In a session that stretched into the early hours of Saturday, the justices voted 6-1 against the once hugely popular president, who is imprisoned on a corruption conviction he claims is a sham.

Da Silva's left-leaning Workers' Party issued a statement vowing to appeal, but there appeared to be scant chance it would succeed. That would seem to leave the party's fortunes in the hands of its current vice presidential candidate Fernando Haddad, a former Sao Paulo mayor who so far has polled in single digits and would have to count on the borrowed charisma of da Silva to succeed.

Supreme Court Justice Luis Roberto Barroso cast the first vote against da Silva, saying the ruling was "very simple" because the law forbids candidates whose conviction has been upheld on appeal.

"There is no margin here for the electoral court to make any other evaluation but the one showing there is a conviction, and that conviction matters in the candidate's eligibility," Barroso said.

Justice Edson Fachin disagreed, citing a recent call by a U.N. human rights committee calling for da Silva to be allowed to run while he further appeals his conviction.

Even as the justices were debating, the Workers' Party put out ads on social media channels featuring da Silva, holding fast to a strategy to keep the former president front and center as long as possible.

The former firebrand union leader led Brazil during a booming period from 2003 and 2010, promoting social policies that pulled millions from poverty. U.S. President Barack Obama once called him the "most

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popular politician on earth.”

But da Silva and party have lost much of that appeal over the last several years due to a stumbling economy under his hand-picked successor Dilma Rousseff and a sprawling corruption probe that has ensnared many top businessmen and politicians, including da Silva.

The 72-year-old ex-president is serving a 12-year-sentence for corruption and money laundering after being convicted of trading favors with construction company Grupo OAS in exchange for the promise of a beach house apartment.

Justice Barroso said the Workers' Party should replace da Silva within 10 days, and that he should not appear as a presidential candidate in free airtime that is given to political parties on nationwide TV and radio starting on Saturday.

In a statement late Friday, the Workers' Party said it would appeal the electoral court ruling, just as da Silva is fighting to overturn his corruption conviction.

With da Silva out of the race, Haddad was expected to take his place on the Workers' Party ticket. Polls show tepid support for his bid, but the party hopes da Silva's popularity could boost the former mayor's hopes.

On Saturday, Haddad was scheduled to visit Garanhuns, a city in Brazil's impoverished Northeast where da Silva was born.

Nicaragua to expel UN team after critical report

By **LUIS MANUEL GALEANO, Associated Press**

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The government of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is expelling a United Nations human rights team two days after the body published a report blaming it for the violent repression of opposition protests.

Guillermo Fernandez Maldonado, chief of the U.N.'s human rights mission in Nicaragua, said in a news conference Friday that he and his team would leave the country Saturday.

“We put forward the report not to polarize, but rather to make known what we had seen,” Fernandez said. “This has had a lot of media coverage and we did not expect the government's reaction in this sense. We only did our job.”

In a statement, the U.N. human rights regional office for Central America said that it had received a letter Thursday from the foreign ministry notifying it that the government's invitation was over.

“The letter indicates that said invitation was extended with the purpose of accompanying the Verification and Monitoring Commission and that with the reasons, causes and conditions finished that spurred said invitation, the invitation is considered concluded,” according to the statement.

The U.N. statement said the team will continue monitoring and reporting on the situation remotely.

It was a rough day for the U.N. in Central America. While the human rights mission was preparing to leave Nicaragua, military vehicles surrounded the U.N.-backed anti-corruption mission headquarters in Guatemala's capital. Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales is facing an attempt to strip his immunity so he can be investigated for alleged illicit campaign financing.

The U.N. Security Council will discuss the situation in Nicaragua on Sept. 5.

The U.N. issued a statement late Friday saying that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “regrets” Nicaragua's decision to withdraw its invitation to the human rights office and urges it to continue “constructive engagement” with the agency.

The report released Wednesday by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights described repression in the country that stretched from the streets to courtrooms, where some protesters face terrorism charges.

More than 300 people have been killed since popular protests began in mid-April triggered by cuts to the social security system. Ortega reversed the cuts, but demonstrations quickly expanded and turned into a call for him to step down.

In July, the government forcefully cleared the last of the roadblocks erected by protesters that had

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snailed the country's traffic. It also retook the last of the university campuses occupied by students.

The U.N. report called on the government to immediately halt the persecution of protesters and disarm the masked civilians who have been responsible for many of the killings and arbitrary detentions. It also documented cases of torture and excessive force through interviews with victims and local human rights groups.

In response, the government said that the report was biased and did not consider that its actions occurred in the context of what it alleges was a failed coup attempt. It said the report ignored violence committed against members of his Sandinista party.

Ortega has called the protesters "terrorists" working in coordination with domestic and foreign interests which want him removed from office.

The government also accused the U.N. team of overstepping its authority in violation of Nicaragua's sovereignty and said the U.N. had not been invited to evaluate the human rights situation, but to accompany the commission working to end the crisis.

A national dialogue aimed at finding a resolution ultimately stalled, and Ortega accused the Roman Catholic bishops who were mediating talks of working with coup mongers.

Denis Moncada, Nicaragua's foreign minister, met with U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres this week in New York. Guterres' spokeswoman said after the meeting that Nicaragua's path out of the crisis had to be "politically inclusive."

Human Rights Watch's director for the Americas, Jose Miguel Vivanco, issued a statement calling on the U.N. Security Council to apply pressure to Ortega's government.

"Ortega's move to expel the top UN human rights body exposes his administration's determination to conceal its brutality," he said. "The council should demand an end to the crackdown and consider imposing targeted sanctions against high-level officials who bear responsibility for the abuses unless they reverse course, and ensure perpetrators are held accountable."

AP writer Christopher Sherman in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Sex abuse claims raise pressure to reunite migrant families

By **JULIE WATSON** and **MARCOS ALEMAN**, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Trump administration is under increasing pressure to speed up the reunification of immigrant families it separated at the Mexican border, following allegations three youngsters were sexually abused while in U.S. custody.

The government of El Salvador said the three, ages 12 to 17, were victimized at shelters in Arizona, and it asked the U.S. to make their return a priority.

"May they leave the shelters as soon as possible, because it is there that they are the most vulnerable," Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Liduvina Magarin said in San Salvador on Thursday.

The U.S. government already is facing heavy criticism over its slow pace in reuniting more than 2,600 children who were separated from their parents last spring before the Trump administration agreed to stop the practice. Most have since been reunited, but hundreds remain apart more than a month after the deadline set by a judge.

Before the Trump administration reversed course, many of the parents had been deported to their home countries while their children remained in shelters in the U.S.

Attorneys for the U.S. government and the immigrant families discussed how to accelerate the process at a hearing Friday in San Diego in front of U.S. District Judge Dana Sabraw, who set the deadline.

Magarin gave few details on the three cases other than to say they involved "sexual violations, sexual abuses." She said her government is ready with lawyers and psychologists to help the families, adding: "The psychological and emotional impact is forever."

"It's unbelievable that children who were fleeing violence here were met in the United States with the worst violence a child could encounter," said Cesar Rios, director of the Salvadoran Migrant Institute.

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More information is needed to investigate, the U.S. Department Health and Human Services said in a statement Friday, that adding that "without additional details, we are unable to confirm or deny these allegations took place" at a facility overseen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. It contracts with non-profits and other third parties to run shelters for unaccompanied minors arriving at the border.

In trying to reunite families, the Trump administration has put the onus on the American Civil Liberties Union, asking that the organization use its "considerable resources" to find parents in their home countries, mostly Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

The governments of those countries and nonprofit organizations have been trying to locate the families. Those efforts have included posting public notices and putting hotline numbers on billboards in the hope a parent missing a child might see the signs and call.

"Every day that these children are separated and left in government facilities does more damage," said Lee Gelernt, an ACLU attorney representing separated families. "Even if the facilities were palaces, the separation of young children from their parents causes potentially permanent trauma."

The government and ACLU indicated in the hearing Friday that the process should start to speed up. Gelernt told the judge as many as 200 cases could be resolved in the next week or two. Those include families who want to be reunited in their home countries and those who want to waive their right to reunification and keep their child in the United States to pursue asylum.

The judge also said the administration can expedite cases where families have expressed the desire for the child to be sent back and not worry about it violating a temporary halt on deportations of families seeking asylum.

Justice Department attorney Scott Stewart said the government wants to remove any roadblocks.

"There are a lot of folks that want to move forward with reunification," he told the judge.

More than 300 parents who have been deported are waiting for their sons and daughters to be returned to them in their homelands. Many are growing increasingly anxious.

Among them is Evelin Roxana Meyer, whose 11-year-old son, Eduardo Almendarez Meyer, was told this week that he won't be leaving the U.S. until Nov. 27. He has been held at a government-contracted shelter in Brownsville, Texas, since he was separated from his father in early June.

The boy's mother said her husband was told when he signed his deportation papers that his son would be waiting for him in Honduras.

"Now it'll be six months before we see him? Oh my God," Meyer said Friday, crying during a telephone interview from her hometown of La Union. "I don't know why it's taking so long. My son is worried. He tells me, 'More time here, Mommy? Oh, no. Why?' I don't know what to tell him."

Child psychologist Barbara Van Dahlen, founder of Give an Hour, a network of mental health professions that is offering to counsel the separated families, said the reports of abuse are likely to worsen the immigrant parents' anxieties.

"I can't imagine the stress, the anxiety, the terror, if I was separated from my child, and then the thought that possibly some of these kids are being abused," Van Dahlen said. "It would be so debilitating and destructive that it would be hard for some parents to function."

Aleman reported from San Salvador, El Salvador.

Deadly New Mexico bus crash prompts negligence claims

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A California-based trucking company and one of its drivers were accused of negligence Friday in a pair of lawsuits as investigators sorted through the wreckage from a deadly bus crash on a New Mexico highway. Eight people were killed and 25 injured, including three young children.

The Greyhound bus carrying nearly 50 people was headed west along Interstate 40 on Thursday when a semitrailer going in the opposite direction lost the tread on its left front tire and veered across a median and smashed into the bus, police said.

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The front of the bus was mangled, the cab of the semi was flipped and the trailer was on its side as debris was scattered across the highway. Passing motorists stopped to help passengers climb out of the wreckage before authorities arrived.

New Mexico State Police Chief Pete Kassetas called them heroes, saying some pulled ladders from trucks to reach the bus windows.

"For them to stop and get involved is amazing. I commend them," the chief said. "To get ladders, to get into the bus to get people. Can you imagine?"

Investigators with National Transportation Safety Board have secured the vehicles for inspection and examined the crash scene Friday. They also will be looking at factors such as driver fatigue, training, safety records and the condition of the roadway.

"Unfortunately things of this nature occur and our job is to try to do what we can do to prevent them from happening again in the future," said lead investigator Pete Kotowski.

The legal complaints filed Friday allege negligence on behalf of the unnamed truck driver and JAG Transportation Inc. They cite data from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that shows the company reported three crashes in the last 24 months.

Attorney Bryan Williams said there are concerns about proper maintenance and inspection of the truck's tires.

A woman who answered the phone at the company's office said no one was available to comment.

The plaintiffs are not named but one is from Arizona and the other is from Ohio.

The driver of the semi, a 35 year-old man licensed out of California, sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Authorities did not name him, saying he was not currently facing charges.

Officials at University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque said nine patients remain hospitalized there, including three adults who are in intensive care, one of whom is in critical condition. Two infants are also in intensive care.

Some patients were expected to undergo surgery Friday and Saturday. While doctors declined to offer specifics, they said the patients had injuries that ranged from head trauma to spinal fractures and broken bones.

"Several of them will have a long road of recovery ahead," said Sonlee West, director of the hospital's trauma unit. "We have been in contact with family members of several of the patients, and several of them have been able to talk to their families."

Other passengers were being treated at hospitals in the Gallup area, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from the crash site.

Authorities said Friday they were working on identifying those who were killed through fingerprints and other means.

Greyhound spokeswoman Crystal Booker said in a statement Friday that the company was cooperating with authorities and will also conduct an investigation of its own.

"Tragically, a number of people have lost their lives, including our driver, who had 27 years' experience with Greyhound. Our hearts are with all those affected by this incident," she said.

Authorities identified the bus driver as Luis Alvarez, 49, of Santa Teresa, New Mexico.

A pile of debris remained on the shoulder of the highway Friday, but transportation crews had yet to clear it because it contained evidence and belongings from the bus passengers.

Associated Press writer Mary Hudetz in Albuquerque contributed to this report.

President and stars join in epic farewell to Queen of Soul

By JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Former presidents and preachers joined a parade of singers Friday in a hip-swaying, piano-pounding farewell to Aretha Franklin, remembering the Queen of Soul as a powerful force for musical and political change and a steadfast friend and family member.

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"Aretha's singing challenged the dangling discords of hate and lies and racism and injustice," the pastor William J. Barber II said. "Her singing was revelation and was revolution."

In a send-off both grand and personal, a celebrity lineup of mourners filled the same Detroit church that hosted Rosa Parks' funeral and offered prayers, songs and dozens of tributes. Guests included former President Bill Clinton, former first lady Hillary Clinton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson.

Robinson, the Motown great, remembered first hearing Franklin play piano when he was just 8, and he remained close to her for the rest of her life. They talked for hours at a time.

"You're so special," he said, before crooning a few lines from his song "Really Gonna Miss You," with the line "really gonna be different without you."

Late Friday, Franklin was laid to rest in a mausoleum at Woodlawn Cemetery, the final resting place of her father and two of her sisters.

The epic funeral unfolded on the same day as services for Arizona Sen. John McCain in the nation's capital, creating a challenge for some news networks trying to show both ceremonies. The McCain memorial, with its reverential silence and ramrod-straight honor guard, contrasted sharply with the joyous remembrance in Detroit.

Bill Clinton described himself as an Aretha Franklin "groupie," saying he had loved her since college. He traced her life's journey and praised her as someone who "lived with courage, not without fear, but overcoming her fears."

He remembered attending her last public performance, at Elton John's AIDS Foundation benefit in November in New York. She looked "desperately ill" but managed to greet him by standing and saying, "How you doing, baby?"

Her career, Clinton noted, spanned from vinyl records to cellphones. He held the microphone near his iPhone and played a snippet of Franklin's classic "Think," the audience clapping along.

"It's the key to freedom!" Clinton said.

Lasting just over eight hours, the service at Greater Grace Temple encompassed many of the same elements and emotions that were hallmarks of Franklin's more than six decades on sacred and secular stages. She was remembered as the pride of Detroit and a citizen of the world.

Actress Cicely Tyson reworked the Paul Laurence Dunbar poem "When Malindy Sings" to "When Aretha Sings." Music mogul Clive Davis, who helped revive Franklin's career in the 1980s, described her as a loving friend and a dedicated and unpredictable artist, whose passions ranged from soul to ballet. He remembered her turning up at a tribute to him in a tutu.

"There was the Queen of Soul, accompanied by members of the City Center Ballet Company," he recalled, with Franklin "doing well-rehearsed pirouettes and dancing with most impressive agility and dignity. It was wonderful."

Music was in abundance, of course. Jennifer Hudson, whom Franklin said she wanted to play her in a movie about her life, brought the crowd to its feet with a rousing "Amazing Grace." Ariana Grande sang one of the Queen's biggest hits, "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and Faith Hill performed "What a Friend We Have In Jesus."

The Aretha Franklin Orchestra opened the funeral with a medley featuring "I Say a Little Prayer," "Angel" and other songs she was known for, along with such gospel numbers as "I Love the Lord" and "Walk in the Light."

Gladys Knight segued from "You'll Never Walk Alone" to "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Near the end, Stevie Wonder brought the dwindling audience to their feet, swaying to his classic tribute to love, "As." Jennifer Holliday ended the funeral with "Climbing Higher Mountains," an uptempo gospel original by Franklin herself.

A statement from former President George W. Bush that was read to the crowd said Franklin would "continue to bring joy to millions for generations to come." The Rev. Al Sharpton read a statement from former President Barack Obama, who wrote that Franklin's "work reflected the very best of the American story."

Sharpton received loud cheers when he denounced President Donald Trump for saying that the singer

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"worked for" him as he responded to her death. "She performed for you," Sharpton said of Franklin, who had sung at Trump-owned venues. "She worked for us."

"She gave us pride. She gave us a regal bar to reach. She represented the best in our community," Sharpton said.

Many noted her longtime commitment to civil rights and lasting concern for the poor. The Rev. Jesse Jackson recalled Franklin raising money for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and urged attendees to honor her memory by registering to vote. Her friend Greg Mathis, the reality show host and retired Michigan judge, recalled his last conversation with her. They talked about the tainted water supply in Flint. "You go up there and sock it to 'em," she urged Mathis, paraphrasing the "sock it to me" refrain from "Respect."

Franklin died Aug. 16 at age 76.

Her body arrived in a 1940 Cadillac LaSalle hearse. She wore a shimmering gold dress, with sequined heels — the fourth outfit Franklin was clothed in during a week of events leading up to her funeral.

The casket was carried to the church that also sent Franklin's father, the renowned minister C.L. Franklin, to his and Parks' final resting place at Woodlawn Cemetery, where the singer will join them. Pink Cadillacs filled the street outside the church, a reference to a Franklin hit from the 1980s, "Freeway of Love."

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan announced during the service that the city would rename the riverfront amphitheater Chene Park to "Aretha Franklin Park."

Family members, among them granddaughter Victorie Franklin and niece Cristal Franklin, spoke with awe and affection as they remembered a world-famous performer who also loved gossip and kept pictures of loved ones on her piano.

Grandson Jordan directed his remarks directly to Franklin, frequently stopping to fight back tears.

"I'm sad today, because I'm losing my friend. But I know the imprint she left on this world can never be removed. You showed the world God's love, and there's nothing more honorable."

Associated Press writers Josh Replogle, Nekesa Mumbi Moody and Andrew Dalton contributed to this report.

Follow Jeff Karoub on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/jeffkaroub> and find more of his work at <https://apnews.com/search/jeff%20karoub> .

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

Syrians brace as decisive battle for Idlib looms

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian opposition fighters blew up bridges Friday and dug trenches around their bases to impede an anticipated ground offensive on their last major stronghold in the country. They also called on residents to take up arms and support front-line fighters.

The looming battle for Idlib in northwestern Syria may be the last in the bloody seven years of conflict, which have backed hundreds of thousands of civilians into this deadly corner of the country with nowhere to run.

"This is our last chance to be free. The uprising is about to end," said Abdulkafi Alhamdo, a 33-year old English teacher, who is awaiting the imminent birth of his second child.

Idlib and the surrounding area is home to some 3 million people — nearly half of them, including Alhamdo, already displaced more than once by the civil war — choosing to live in opposition areas.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said 3 million Syrians "will suffer" from this aggression.

"The U.S. sees this (looming Russian-backed Syrian assault) as an escalation of an already dangerous conflict," Pompeo tweeted.

U.N. officials believe an offensive on Idlib would trigger a wave of displacement that could uproot up an estimated 800,000 people and discourage refugees from returning home as they see a new wave of

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violence unfold.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, speaking in Lebanon after a visit to Damascus, said he had appealed to both sides in the conflict "to try to find a solution, a way forward" that spares civilians.

"If you have violent military action and loss of lives, you risk of course many deaths ... a human catastrophe," he told reporters. "But you risk also sending a message to refugees that the situation is not secured. (They) will be watching very carefully what is happening in Idlib in the next few months."

Thousands of government troops and allied fighters have been amassing in areas surrounding Idlib. Russia has said a military operation there is necessary to weed out "terrorists" it blames for attacking its bases on the coast.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Syrian forces have deployed at least 2,000 armored vehicles along the front lines surrounding Idlib and Hama.

An offensive is likely to first strike southwest Idlib and al-Ghab plains, which overlook the coastal area where Russia has its military and naval bases. Another front for the offensive is from the south and southeast, which would restore government control over an essential highway that runs between Syria's major cities.

The area, controlled by rebels since 2015, has been targeted by government and Russia strikes for months, leaving its infrastructure, schools and hospitals in desperate conditions. Now a wide-scale offensive is in the offing, with Damascus and its allies intent on making it a defining moment in the seven-year conflict.

Cornered between a tightly sealed border with Turkey and government areas, residents of the rebels' last bastion also live among the most battle-hardened fighters from all over Syria and thousands of foreign fighters who make up a significant part of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (or Levant Liberation Committee), an al-Qaida-linked group that controls most of the territory. For those fighters, the battle for Idlib will likely be the last showdown with the government and they are expected to put up a hard fight.

The rebels' controlled demolitions of the bridges came after they detected movement of government troops in the area, according to Rami Abdurrahman, head of the Observatory.

Most of Idlib province and adjacent strips of Hama province remain in the hands of an assortment of armed groups, some Turkey-backed and others independent Islamist groups. But the strongest alliance of fighters is led by the LLC that controls most of the area.

The group has called on residents' support by way of fortifying the province's perimeter, taking up arms alongside their fighters or volunteering at front-line hospitals and kitchens.

On Friday, thousands protested in various Idlib and Hama towns, denouncing threats of an attack and trumpeting the area's readiness to fight. The LLC's administrators had called for the protests.

Unlike other areas that have been reclaimed by recent government offensives, Idlib is not totally besieged. Its borders with Turkey and adjacent territories administered by Turkish troops are open, allowing in fuel, produce and other products. But trade with government-controlled areas has been stunted as rebel-operated crossings have been blocked by the government since mid-August.

Some residents say they are feeling the pinch.

Bassam Abu Bashir, an anesthesiologist, said fuel is already in short supply in Maaret al-Numan where he lives after having been displaced from eastern Ghouta near Damascus earlier this year following a military campaign.

Bracing for a new onslaught, he said he is looking to relocate his 12-member extended family to Afrin, a nearby town administered by Turkish authorities and its Syrian allies. But transportation and rent are costly. "The rent is nearly a \$100 and I need to pay six months in advance. Otherwise, camps for displaced people are our only option," he said.

The road to Afrin is also not secure, as Turkish troops and allied forces battle Kurdish fighters that have been uprooted from the area and are threatening to return.

A separate, equally unnerving, battle is also unfolding across media.

Faysal al-Antar, a member of Kfar Zita local council in northern Hama, said the town on the front line with government troops has been under constant shelling for years.

Yet in recent days, Russian officials and Syrian media have accused activists of preparing to launch a

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chemical attack, with Kfar Zita as its staging ground, and blame Damascus, prompting western retaliation. France and U.S. have said a chemical attack won't be tolerated while Damascus denies it has such weapons.

Al-Antar dismisses the allegations as a ploy to scare and drive out locals, enabling troop advances on his hometown. Nearly 1,500 families remain in the town, he said, but there are no operating medical centers or schools. The town's only bakery was damaged in previous strikes.

"There is fear and anticipation among residents," he said, saying most of those who stayed in Kfar Zita don't have the means to travel or leave. "We have no equipment to face such a chemical attack if it occurs and we have nothing to fight it with."

In Idlib city, Alhamdo, the father-to-be, said all he can do is wait. He has refrained from making any purchases for his wife or the child they're expecting in order to protect his savings.

Having lived through a government assault on his hometown in Aleppo, Alhamdo said he is probably more concerned than others because he knows what lies ahead.

"We are between two sides ... the end of the world that is the border with Turkey and the enemy, or hell, which is coming to burn everything," he said in a series of voice messages sent to The Associated Press.

Turkey says it is seeking to ward off a full-scale offensive, urging Russia and Iran to allow more time to separate "radical militants" from the armed groups it has backed.

"We are working toward stopping this attack," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in Vienna Friday.

Turkey fears a humanitarian crisis on its borders. The country's defense minister and intelligence chief have visited Moscow while Iran's foreign minister has held meetings in Ankara over the past few days. A summit is expected in Iran between Iranian, Turkish and Russian leaders next week.

Associated Press writer Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

Farrow's former producer criticized NBC on Weinstein story

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ronan Farrow's former producer at NBC News says his old network breached its journalistic duty by failing to stick with the story of Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's sexual misconduct.

Farrow instead took the story to the New Yorker, where he shared a Pulitzer Prize with the New York Times for the story that launched the #MeToo movement.

"As a journalist for 16 years I do know that when you have an explosive story you never let it walk out the door," said Rich McHugh, who just left NBC as an investigative producer, and issued a statement through lawyer Ari Wilkenfeld. "You keep digging for more so you can publish at your network."

McHugh's statement and interview with The New York Times ripped open a scab at NBC News. The network has said that it released Farrow to take the story elsewhere following a disagreement over whether he had enough material to go with it. Farrow, who was a freelancer when working on the story with NBC, is writing his own book about the issue.

McHugh said that when he and Farrow were about to interview a woman with a credible allegation of rape against Weinstein, "I was told not to do the interview and ordered to stand down, thus effectively killing the story. Those orders came to me from the highest levels of NBC. That was unethical, and a massive breach of journalistic integrity."

McHugh did not say who at NBC ordered him to stand down, and Wilkenfeld did not return a message asking for clarification.

NBC said that Farrow and McHugh asked for an NBC camera crew for the interview after it had already been decided that Farrow was taking the story elsewhere.

NBC said in a statement that when Farrow believed he had a story ready to go on the air, he did not have a single victim of misconduct by Weinstein, or witness, who was willing to be identified.

"Two months later, he published a strong piece that cited the following victims by name: Asia Argento, Mira Sorvino, Rosanna Arquette, Lucia Evans, Emma de Caunes, Jessica Barth and Sophie Dix," NBC said.

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"Not one of these seven women was included in the reporting Farrow presented while at NBC News." NBC said it was an "outright lie" that it tried to kill the Weinstein story while Farrow was working on it.

Trump to sign Mexico deal in 90 days; Canada talks to resume

By **LUIS ALONSO LUGO, PAUL WISEMAN and ROB GILLIES, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Talks to keep Canada in a North American trade bloc broke up Friday and will resume next week with the two longtime allies divided over such issues as Canada's dairy market and U.S. efforts to shield drug companies from generic competition.

President Donald Trump notified Congress on Friday that he plans to sign an agreement in 90 days with Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement — and hopes Canada can be brought on board, too.

The U.S. and Mexico reached a deal on Monday that excluded Canada, the third NAFTA country. The top Canadian trade envoy, Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, then hurried to Washington for talks aimed at preserving Canada's membership in the regional trade agreement.

But Freeland couldn't break an impasse in four days of negotiations with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. The U.S.-Canada talks will resume Wednesday.

The negotiations took an odd turn for the worse Friday over news that President Donald Trump had told Bloomberg News that he wasn't willing to make any concessions to Canada. Trump wanted the remarks to remain off-the-record; otherwise, the president said, "it's going to be so insulting they're not going to be able to make a deal."

The comments were leaked to the Toronto Star, and on Friday afternoon, Trump took to Twitter to angrily confirm the Star's report:

"Wow, I made OFF THE RECORD COMMENTS to Bloomberg concerning Canada, and this powerful understanding was BLATANTLY VIOLATED. Oh well, just more dishonest reporting. I am used to it. At least Canada knows where I stand!"

Freeland tried to brush off the controversy in a news conference. "My negotiating counterparty is Ambassador Lighthizer," she said. "He has brought good faith and good will to the table."

"It is Trump's bluster at best, but obviously he is not going to force anyone into a bad deal," said Jerry Dias, president of the Canadian private-sector union Unifor. "It is clear the U.S. economy is much bigger than ours, but trying to embarrass the Canadian team, trying to insult Canadians, is not going to get him anywhere."

Freeland expressed confidence that Canada could reach a deal with the United States on a revamped trade accord that could please all sides.

"We know a win-win-win agreement is within reach," she said.

The 24-year-old NAFTA tore down most trade barriers between the United States, Mexico and Canada. Trade between the three countries surged. But many manufacturers responded to the agreement by moving factories south of the border to take advantage of low Mexican wages, then shipping goods north to the United States and Canada.

Trump has charged that the deal wiped out American factory jobs. He has vowed to negotiate a better deal — or withdraw from NAFTA altogether. Talks on a new trade deal started a year ago but bogged down over U.S. demands, including several meant to bring manufacturing back to the United States.

A few weeks ago, the United States began negotiating with Mexico, leaving Canada on the sidelines. Outgoing Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto wanted to sign a deal before he left office Dec. 1. The deal announced Monday would, among many other things, require that 40 percent to 45 percent of a car be made in a North American country where auto workers made at least \$16 an hour — that is, not in Mexico — before qualifying for duty-free status.

Canada doesn't have much of an objection to the auto provisions of the U.S.-Mexican deal, which would benefit Canadian workers too. Ottawa does have other complaints. Neither U.S. nor Canadian negotiators are talking publicly about the issues that divide them.

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But Daniel Ujcz, a trade attorney of the law firm Dickinson Wright in Columbus, Ohio, and others say the flashpoints include trade barriers that protect Canadian dairy farmers and Ottawa's insistence on NAFTA provisions for resolving disputes.

Also nettlesome is a provision in the U.S.-Mexico deal that shields U.S. makers of biologics — ultra-expensive drugs produced in living cells — from generic competition for 10 years instead of the eight Canada is willing to live with: The Canadians fear the protection will drive up drug prices and make its government health care system more costly.

The Trump administration had insisted that it wanted a deal by Friday, beginning a 90-day countdown that would let Mexico's Nieto sign the pact before leaving office.

But under U.S. trade rules, the U.S. team doesn't have to make public the text of the revamped agreement for 30 additional days, buying more time to reach a deal with the Canadians. Lighthizer's statement Friday said Trump intends to sign a new trade deal with Mexico, whether or not Canada is part of it.

When the Trump administration notified Congress last year that it intended to renegotiate NAFTA, critics note, it said it would enter talks with both Canada and Mexico. It's unclear whether the Trump team even has authority to reach a pact with just one of those countries. And Congress, which has to approve any NAFTA rewrite, might refuse to endorse a deal that excludes Canada.

Even while gripped in negotiations with Mexico and now Canada over a new North American trade pact, the administration has been fighting major trading partners on other fronts. The president has imposed wide-ranging tariffs that, he argues, will help protect American workers and force U.S. trading partners to stop exploiting trade deals that are unfair to the United States.

Since March, for example, Trump's team has applied new tariffs of up to 25 percent on nearly \$85 billion worth of steel and aluminum on the grounds that these imports pose a threat to America's national security.

The administration has also applied taxes to \$50 billion in Chinese products, mostly goods used in manufacturing. And it's considering slapping tariffs of up to 25 percent on an additional \$200 billion in Chinese imports after a public comment period ends Thursday. Unlike the previous Chinese imports subject to U.S. tariffs, this larger group of goods includes parts and materials that U.S. companies depend on, along with consumer goods.

These tariffs are the administration's response to its charges that Beijing uses predatory tactics to try to supplant U.S. technological supremacy. Beijing's tactics include cyber-theft and a requirement that American companies hand over trade secrets in exchange for access to China's market.

Gillies reported from Toronto.

McCain salute: One of nation's 'bravest souls' in war, peace

By LAURIE KELLMAN and MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders saluted John McCain Friday as a model of service in war and peace and "one of the bravest souls our nation has ever produced," in a memorial ceremony at the heart of the political battlefield where he fought for more than three decades.

Then thousands of fellow Americans, who had lined up outside the U.S. Capitol in stifling heat, began filing past in the majestic rotunda to say goodbye as he lay in state.

McCain, the Arizona senator who died Saturday at 81, was remembered as a man who inspired other leaders even as he vexed them with a rebellious streak and impish humor. Absent from the event was Donald Trump, invited to stay away by the family of the senator, who had deep disagreements with the president.

McCain's service in Vietnam, and his refusal to be released early as a prisoner of war, made the setting of Friday's service all the more fitting, some said.

"Half a world away, wearing our nation's uniform, John McCain stood up for every value that this Capitol Building represents," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told the crowd of McCain's family, friends and aides. "Then, he brought that same patriotism inside its walls -- to advocate for our service members,

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our veterans and our moral leadership in the world. So it is only right that today, near the end of his long journey, John lies here."

Friday's ceremony and public viewing was the midpoint of McCain's five-day cross-country funeral procession from Arizona, where he and wife Cindy raised their family, through the Capitol where he worked for more than 35 years, to the U.S. Naval Academy cemetery in Annapolis, Maryland — "back where it began," as he wrote in his recent memoir, "The Restless Wave." On Saturday, the procession will pause by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the way to a formal funeral service at Washington National Cathedral.

In Trump's absence, Vice President Mike Pence, Defense Secretary James Mattis, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and other officials represented the administration. Pence at one point said that Trump, who mocked McCain for being captured, "respected his service to the country."

The stop at the Capitol was designed to spotlight McCain's outsized role in an institution bursting with big, willful personalities. Just to the north of the rotunda in the semi-darkened Senate, McCain's desk remained draped in black and topped with a vase of white roses.

After the ceremony, Cindy McCain quietly sat behind her husband's desk, escorted by his seatmate and close friend, Sen. Lindsey Graham. Graham plucked two of the roses from the vase and gave them to her during that private moment, said two people close to McCain and his family.

Of those who spoke at Friday's ceremony, fellow Republican McConnell had perhaps the fullest sense of the McCain experience. The two had served in the Senate together since McCain's 1986 election.

"Depending on the issue, you knew John would either be your staunchest ally or your most stubborn opponent," McConnell recalled. "At any moment, he might be preparing an eloquent reflection on human liberty — or a devastating joke, served up with his signature cackle and that John McCain glint in his eye."

But just about anyone who worked in the Capitol over the past 35 years could attest to McCain's iron will and what House Speaker Paul Ryan called his "distinct brand of candor."

"With John, it was never feigned disagreement. The man didn't feign anything," Ryan said. "He just relished the fight."

"This," Ryan added of McCain, "is one of the bravest souls our nation has ever produced."

Pence, himself a former House member, recalled traveling through Iraq with McCain and falling asleep during a dinner with officials. McCain, nearly 23 years older, told him, "Mike, we've got a few more meetings tonight. But why don't you turn in. You look like you could use some rest." Members of McCain's family, seated nearby, smiled.

Cindy McCain was the first to pay respects at her husband's casket. She bowed over it and appeared to pray. The last of the family to file past was his mother, 106-year-old Roberta McCain. Wheeled up to her son's flag-draped casket, she crossed herself and was wheeled out.

Others from McCain's long career paused. Some wept. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger reached out with both hands to touch the flag. Former Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman and actors Warren Beatty and Annette Bening also stopped.

Sen. Jack Reed, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee that McCain chaired, crossed himself in front of the casket. Then he waited for retired Sens. Carl Levin, a Democrat, and John Warner, a Republican, both of whom chaired the powerful committee at one time. The three left the rotunda arm-in-arm.

As the service ended, thousands of people were guided into snaking lines along First Street on the border of the Capitol complex to pay respects to McCain.

Among them were more than 100 family members of Vietnamese political prisoners who traveled to Washington to honor McCain for his advocacy for Vietnamese refugees..

Khuc Minh Tho, president of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association, said that with McCain's help, almost 800,000 prisoners and their families who were in Vietnam are now in the U.S.

"We respect him and want to wish that he rests in peace," she said.

Sibyl Kalish, 59, traveled with her 89-year-old mother, Beverly, from New York and waited in the blistering heat to file past McCain's coffin. They are from a liberal, military family, Kalish said.

"I respect him for what he gave for this country. He tried his best. I'd like to see more people like him," Beverly Kalish said.

Associated Press writers Juliet Linderman and Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/APLaurieKellman>

This story has been corrected to say Pence is a former House member, not senator

Ukraine separatists say leader killed in cafe bombing

By JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A blast in a war-themed cafe in eastern Ukraine on Friday killed the most prominent leader of the Russia-backed separatists who have fought Ukrainian forces since 2014, rebel officials said.

The death of Alexander Zakharchenko, prime minister of the self-declared Donetsk People's Republic, underlined the dismal prospects for resolving the conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people.

Rebel and Russian authorities blamed the Ukrainian government, with some suggesting that the United States had a role, while a top Ukrainian security official said the blast was likely the result of the separatists' factional infighting or an operation by Russian special forces.

Deputy rebel military commander Eduard Basurin said the explosion in the region's capital of Donetsk was caused by a bomb planted in the restaurant, which was named "Separ" in honor of the separatists and decorated with camouflage netting hanging from the eaves.

Seriously injured in the blast was Alexander Timofeev, the revenues and taxes minister for the separatists, according to the rebels' DAN news agency. In September 2017, Timofeev was injured in another bombing in Donetsk, the region's capital.

The Donetsk People's Republic, along with a separatist republic in neighboring Luhansk, has fought Ukrainian forces since 2014, the same year Zakharchenko became the DPR's prime minister. More than 10,000 people have died in the conflict.

Fighting fell off significantly after the leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France in 2015 signed an accord in Minsk, Belarus, on ending the violence. But most of the agreement's provisions remain unfulfilled and clashes break out sporadically.

"The assassination of the DPR head makes the Minsk accords devoid of sense," Russian parliament speaker Alexander Volodin said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin lauded Zakharchenko, who was 42, as "a true people's leader" and promised Donetsk residents that "Russia always will be with you."

Denis Pushilin, the speaker of the separatists' parliament, blamed Ukraine's forces for the explosion, calling it "the latest aggression from the Ukrainian side," according to DAN. A statement from the rebel command said "it was conducted by special operations forces of Ukraine under control of U.S. special services."

"Instead of fulfilling the Minsk accords and finding ways to resolve the internal conflict, the Kiev war party is implementing a terrorist scenario," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said of Zakharchenko's death. "Having failed to fulfill the promise of peace, apparently they decided to turn to a bloodbath."

Igor Guskov, chief of staff of the Ukrainian Security Service, rejected allegations of any involvement, saying: "We have reason to believe that the death of Zakharchenko may be the result of an internal criminal conflict among the rebels ... but we do not exclude that it was an attempt by Russian special services to remove this odious figure."

There have been several assassinations or attempted slayings of prominent rebels in recent years. It never was established if pro-Kiev attackers were responsible or if the violence resulted from disputes within the rebel ranks or Moscow's possible desire to eliminate individuals it found inconvenient.

Among the prominent separatists who have been targeted are former Luhansk leader Igor Plotnitsky,

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who was severely injured in 2016 when a bomb exploded near his car; Arsen Pavlov, a feared squadron leader known as "Motorola," who died when the elevator of his apartment building was bombed; and fighter Mikhail Tolstykh, whose office is believed to have been hit by a shoulder-fired rocket.

Russia denies providing troops or equipment to the separatists despite widespread allegations it has done so. Russia is believed to have supplied a mobile Buk missile launcher that a team of international investigators alleges shot down a Malaysian passenger jet while flying over rebel territory in 2014, killing all 209 people aboard.

The rebellion in Donetsk and Luhansk arose soon after pro-Russia Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was driven from power amid mass protests in February 2014. Russian-speakers predominate in the two regions, and separatist sentiment skyrocketed.

Encouraged by Russia's annexation of Crimea, which also came after Yanukovich's ouster, rebel leaders initially hoped their regions would be absorbed by Russia as well.

Yuras Karmanau in Minsk, Belarus, contributed.

As elections approach, what is the risk of Russian meddling?

By **FRANK BAJAK** and **ADAM GELLER**, Associated Press

Nearly a year after Russian government hackers meddled in the 2016 U.S. election, researchers at cybersecurity firm Trend Micro zeroed in on a new sign of trouble: a group of suspect websites.

The sites mimicked a portal for U.S. senators and their staffs. Emails to Senate users urged them to reset their passwords — an apparent attempt to steal them.

The attempt to infiltrate the Senate network and others reported recently point to Russia's continued efforts to interfere in U.S. politics, which Moscow official denies. There is no clear evidence, experts said, of Kremlin efforts specifically designed to disrupt elections in November.

Still, "we fully realize that we are just one click away of the keyboard from a similar situation repeating itself," Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence, said in July.

Michael McFaul, architect of the Obama administration's Russia policy, has said he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin perceives little benefit in major disruption now, preferring to keep his powder dry for the 2020 presidential contest.

Experts said it is too late to safeguard U.S. voting systems and campaigns this election cycle. Trump's recent decision eliminating the White House cybersecurity coordinator's post confirmed his lack of interest in countering Russian meddling, critics say. Congress has not delivered any legislation to combat election interference or disinformation.

But there is time to take stock of interference that has come to light — and to assess the risks of what we don't know.

In mid-2016, hackers got into Illinois' voter registration database. Special counsel Robert Mueller's indictment of a dozen Russian intelligence agents this July said the hackers had stolen information on 500,000 voters.

It is the most notable case of foreign tampering with U.S. election systems made public. There has been no evidence of efforts to change voter information or tamper with voting machines, but experts caution hackers might have planted unseen malware in systems that could be triggered later.

"My unofficial opinion is that we're kind of fooling ourselves if we don't think that they tried to at least make a pass at all 50 states," said Christopher Krebs, the undersecretary for critical infrastructure at the Department of Homeland Security.

Before the 2016 general election, Russian agents sent spear-phishing emails to 122 state and local elections officials who were customers of election software vendor VR Systems. At least 21 state systems were probed by the same Russian unit, officials said. But federal officials have moved slowly to share intelligence. As of mid-August, 92 state election officials had been given clearances.

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Much of the machinery used to collect and tabulate votes is antiquated, built by a handful of unregulated and secretive vendors, the outdated software highly vulnerable to attacks, researchers say.

"If someone was able to compromise even a handful of voting machines I think that would be sufficient to cause people to not trust the system," said Sherri Ramsay, a former National Security Agency senior executive.

Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri, seeking re-election in a state that voted overwhelmingly for Trump, provided little detail in July when an attempt by Russian hackers to infiltrate her campaign came to light.

"While this attack was not successful, it is outrageous that they think they can get away with this," McCaskill said.

The failed hack, which included an attempt to steal the password of at least one McCaskill staffer through a fake Senate login website identified by Microsoft, is the most notable instance of attempted campaign meddling by Russia made public this year. Microsoft executives said recently that the company had detected attempts by Russia's GRU military intelligence agency to hack two senators.

Since mid-2017, the group behind that attempt has aggressively targeted political groups, universities, enforcement agencies and others, according to TrendMicro.

"Russian hackers appear to be broadening their target set, but I think tying it to the midterm elections is pure speculation at this point," said Michael Connell, an analyst at the federally funded Center for Naval Analyses in Arlington, Virginia.

Eric Rosenbach, assistant secretary of defense for global security during the Obama administration and now at Harvard, said Russian intrusion that has come to light may be only a tip to larger, hidden schemes.

"There probably have already been compromises of important campaigns in places where it could sway the outcome or undermine trust in the election," Rosenbach said. "We might not see that until the very last moment."

By the time a group called "ReSisters" began organizing a rally against white nationalism, it had spent a year sharing left-wing posts. But in late July, Facebook shut down ReSisters' account and 31 others that researchers said echoed Russian troll operations before the 2016 election.

Since 2016, we've learned much more about social media infiltration. House Democrats' May release of thousands of ads placed on Facebook by Russian agents revealed a deliberate campaign to inflame racial divisions in the U.S. Tech companies say they are working hard to combat such behavior.

But companies must be forced to act faster against such campaigns and be more accountable, said Dipayan Ghosh, who has worked at the White House and Facebook on tech policy and is now at Harvard.

It is difficult to assess the threat of Russian disinformation efforts. In 2016, the greatest damage was done by hacking and leaking emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign and Democrats' national organization, widely reported by the news media. But comparatively few saw individual pieces of misinformation on social media, making it unlikely they swayed many votes, said Brendan Nyhan, a University of Michigan political scientist.

Still, it is clear the Russian efforts have stirred others, like Iran, to try similar strategies, with long-term goals of influencing U.S. politics.

"We can't just think in the context of the next election," said Lee Foster, manager of information operations analysis at the cybersecurity firm FireEye. "It's not like this goes away after the midterms."

Associated Press writers Barbara Ortutay in New York and Christina A. Cassidy in Atlanta contributed to this story.

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AP FACT CHECK: Trump's week of fiction: trade, Google, polls

By HOPE YEN and PAUL WISEMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is playing loose with the facts in his exuberance to push through a trade agreement with Mexico.

He insists the deal reached this past week between the United States and Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement is "one of the largest trade deals" ever. It's not.

And in an effort to pressure Canada to join the reimagined trading bloc, or dismiss Canada as irrelevant if it doesn't, Trump also wrongly suggests that Mexico is a bigger and more important trading partner.

The trade comments came in a week of outright fiction in which Trump also kept asserting that Mexico will pay for his long-promised wall along the southwest border despite Mexico's statements to the contrary; falsely accused Google of shunning his State of the Union address while promoting Barack Obama's; and cited high poll ratings for himself that don't appear to exist.

A sampling of the claims and the reality behind them:

TRADE

TRUMP: "This is one of the largest trade deals ever made. Maybe the largest trade deal ever made." — phone call Monday with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.

THE FACTS: Not even close. The Trans-Pacific Partnership, negotiated by the Obama administration, included the three NAFTA partners — United States, Canada and Mexico — plus Japan and eight other Pacific Rim countries. Trump withdrew the United States from the pact in his third day in office.

Even the TPP shrinks in comparison to Uruguay Round of trade negotiations. Concluded in 1994, the round created the World Trade Organization and was signed by 123 countries. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston found the following year that the WTO's initial membership accounted for more than 90 percent of global economic output.

TRUMP: "We made the deal with Mexico. And I think it's a very — deal. We're starting negotiations with Canada, pretty much immediately ... It's going to be a — it's a smaller segment, as you know. Mexico is a very large trading partner." — phone call Monday with Peña Nieto.

THE FACTS: Trump appears to be suggesting that Mexico is a bigger U.S. trading partner than Canada. That's not the case. America's two-way trade — exports plus imports — came to \$680 billion with Canada last year. That's compared with \$622 billion with Mexico.

TRUMP: "I smile at Senators and others talking about how good free trade is for the U.S. What they don't say is that we lose Jobs and over 800 Billion Dollars a year on really dumb Trade Deals....and these same countries Tariff us to death." — tweet Tuesday.

THE FACTS: The \$800 billion is a reference to America's trade deficit last year. But Trump exaggerates the size of the gap between what the U.S. sells and what it buys from the rest of the world. The trade deficit in goods and services came to \$552 billion in 2017. The United States ran an \$807 billion deficit in goods such as cars and machinery. But Trump ignored America's \$255 billion surplus in services such as education and finance.

Mainstream economists also take issue with Trump's assertion that trade deficits amount to a loss for the United States. The money didn't just vanish. In exchange for what they spent on imports, Americans got the benefit of owning everything from made-in-China iPhones to French wine.

BORDER WALL

TRUMP: "The wall will be paid for very easily by Mexico. It will ultimately be paid for by Mexico." — remarks Tuesday.

THE FACTS: Not according to Mexico. Immediately after Trump's remarks, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray tweeted to stress, once again, that his country won't foot the bill for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

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Videgaray wrote that his country has been "absolutely clear" that Mexico "will NEVER pay for a wall."

GOOGLE

VIDEO TWEETED BY TRUMP: "For years, Google promoted President Obama's State of the Union on its homepage. When President Trump took office, Google stopped." — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: The video is incorrect as to Trump.

There's no dispute that Google promoted Obama's State of the Union speeches from 2012 to 2016, according to webpages captured by the Wayback Machine, an internet archive site.

In a statement, Google said it has not historically promoted "the first address to Congress by a new president, which is technically not a State of the Union address," so it didn't do so in either 2009, when Obama first took office, or 2017, Trump's first year as president.

For 2018, several web pages captured by Wayback Machine show the Google homepage advertising a livestream of Trump's speech with the words: "Live! Watch President Trump's State of the Union address on YouTube."

The archive site shows the webpages in Greenwich Mean Time, which is several hours ahead of the Eastern time zone in the U.S. That means the relevant images of the Google homepage promoting Trump's prime-time Washington speech on Jan. 30 are dated one day later, on Jan. 31, Mark Graham, director of the Wayback Machine archive site, told The Associated Press.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

TRUMP: "What's going on at @CNN is happening, to different degrees, at other networks - with @NBCNews being the worst ... When Lester Holt got caught fudging my tape on Russia, they were hurt badly!" — tweet Thursday.

THE FACTS: There is no evidence of the NBC interview having been "fudged" or doctored in any way, and the White House didn't respond to requests regarding what Trump was referring to. NBC declined to comment.

In the interview, Trump referred in part to "this Russia thing" as a consideration in his decision to fire Comey. Special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating possible obstruction of justice in the Russia probe.

It's possible Trump is frustrated that other comments from the same interview may have received less attention.

Minutes after he acknowledged that "this Russia thing" was on his mind when he fired Comey, Trump also acknowledged that he knew the decision to terminate him might actually prolong the investigation. In fact it did, with Mueller investigating the firing for potential obstruction of justice.

His lawyers and other supporters have contended that that sentiment is actually helpful for the president, suggesting he couldn't have been trying to obstruct the investigation by doing something that he knew would actually draw it out longer.

CLINTON EMAILS

TRUMP: "Report just out: 'China hacked Hillary Clinton's private Email Server.' — tweet Tuesday.

TRUMP: "Hillary Clinton's Emails, many of which are Classified Information, got hacked by China. Next move better be by the FBI & DOJ or, after all of their other missteps (Comey, McCabe, Strzok, Page, Ohr, FISA, Dirty Dossier etc.), their credibility will be forever gone!" — tweet Wednesday.

THE FACTS: Trump's own law enforcement agencies dispute that.

Trump appears to be citing a story by the right-leaning Daily Caller publication, which reported that a Chinese-owned company in Washington, D.C., area hacked Clinton's email server.

But FBI and Justice Department officials have said publicly that there was no evidence Clinton's server was hacked by a foreign power.

A June report from the Justice Department's inspector general on the FBI's handling of the Clinton investigation said FBI specialists did not find evidence that the server had been hacked, with one forensics agent saying he felt "fairly confident that there wasn't an intrusion."

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An FBI official said Wednesday after the Daily Caller story and Trump tweet that the "FBI has not found any evidence the servers were compromised."

POLL RATINGS

TRUMP: "Over 90% approval rating for your all time favorite (I hope) President within the Republican Party and 52% overall. This despite all of the made up stories by the Fake News Media trying endlessly to make me look as bad and evil as possible. Look at the real villains please!" — tweet Sunday.

THE FACTS: He's wrong in regard to polls citing his overall job ratings.

The Associated Press couldn't find any evidence of a recent poll that put Trump's approval at 52 percent, and the White House and his re-election campaign didn't respond to requests for specifics.

Polls are a snapshot of public opinion at the moment they are taken. Job approval can — and has in recent history — vary during a president's term.

Since his inauguration, however, Trump's job approval has been remarkably consistent, in the high 30s and low 40s, in polls from various media organizations and other pollsters.

The latest AP-NORC poll, taken this month, finds Trump's approval among American adults at 38 percent. Some other recent polls measure his approval in the low to mid-40s.

On his level of support among Republicans, Trump is correct that they broadly approve of his work as president. In the same AP-NORC poll that found 38 percent of adults approving of the president, 76 percent of Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP said they approved of Trump. Some polls have put that level of support as high as 90 percent.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Jill Colvin and Hannah Fingerhut contributed to this report.

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Stocks waver along with US-Canada trade talks

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks hardly budged Friday as the U.S. and Canada were unable to complete a trade deal, but the two sides intend to continue negotiating next week.

Energy companies slipped along with oil prices Friday and high-dividend stocks also fell. Technology companies and retailers made some modest gains. Trading was very light ahead of the Labor Day holiday in the U.S. on Monday.

Investors hoped the two countries would finish the outlines of a revamped NAFTA pact after the U.S. and Mexico announced a preliminary agreement Monday. Right before the markets closed, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said talks will resume on Wednesday.

President Donald Trump says he is willing to make a deal with just Mexico, excluding Canada, but Wall Street is confident the final deal will include all three.

Katie Nixon, chief investment officer for Northern Trust Wealth Management, said Trump will probably submit the outlines of a U.S.-Canada trade deal to Congress soon. But the trade war between the U.S. and China may drag on for months, if not longer, and Nixon said that could stop businesses from investing and affect the economy and the stock market.

"These things will have to be resolved one way or another for investors to regain the kind of confidence it's going to take to propel the markets meaningfully forward," she said.

The S&P 500 index was down for most of the day but inched up 0.39 points to close at 2,901.52. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 22.10 points, or 0.1 percent, to 25,964.82.

The Nasdaq composite rose 21.17 points, or 0.3 percent, to 8,109.54. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gained 8.40 points, or 0.5 percent, to a record high of 1,740.75.

Ford declined 2.3 percent to \$9.48 following reports the company canceled plans to import a version of the Ford Focus that is made in China, citing the tariffs proposed by the Trump administration.

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Otherwise there weren't many developments on trade, and investors responded instead to the few remaining company earnings reports in the current cycle.

Gun and hunting and camping gear maker American Outdoor Brands skyrocketed 43.6 percent to \$14.03. The company said sales picked up and it cut costs while offering fewer discounts. The stock erased big losses from earlier in the year.

Lululemon Athletica jumped 13.1 percent to \$154.93 after it raised its forecasts for the rest of the year following a strong second quarter. Shares in the yoga gear maker have nearly doubled in value this year.

Discount retailer Big Lots sank 10.1 percent to \$43.05 after its earnings and sales fell short of analysts' projections.

Ulta Beauty kept up with the Kardashians, or at least their half-sister Kylie Jenner. Ulta stock jumped 6.4 percent to \$260 after the company announced a partnership with Jenner's Kylie Cosmetics. It said the brand will be available in its stores and online later this year.

Stocks slid Thursday afternoon after Bloomberg News reported that the Trump administration could escalate the U.S.-China trade war next week by putting tariffs on \$200 billion in imports. Meanwhile the U.S. and Canada are resuming trade negotiations.

The S&P 500 rose 3 percent for the month and the Nasdaq jumped 5.7 percent.

Coca-Cola said it will pay \$5.1 billion for the biggest coffee company in Britain. Costa has 2,400 shops in the U.K. and about 1,400 in more than 30 other countries.

Coca-Cola already owns the Georgia and Gold Peak coffee brands, which make bottled and canned drinks, but the purchase of Costa might be a step toward competing with Starbucks. In the last few years Coke has also acquired a minority stake in sports drink company BodyArmor.

Coca-Cola fell 0.8 percent to \$44.57.

Argentina's stock index jumped 9.7 percent after a spokesman for the International Monetary Fund said the country has the IMF's "full support." The Merval index has climbed over the last two days after the government asked for the early release of \$50 billion in rescue funds.

The Merval is still down 2.5 percent this year, and the Argentine peso has been trading at all-time lows.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 0.6 percent to \$69.80 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dipped 0.5 percent to \$77.42 a barrel in London.

Wholesale gasoline was unchanged at \$2.14 a gallon. Heating oil lost 0.3 percent to \$2.24 a gallon. Natural gas gained 1.5 percent to \$2.92 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Bond prices rose early, but faded late in the day. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note remained at 2.86 percent.

Gold rose 0.1 percent to \$1,206.70 an ounce. Silver dipped 0.3 percent to \$14.56 an ounce. Copper skidded 1.7 percent to \$2.67 a pound.

The dollar rose to 110.97 yen from 110.05 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1603 from \$1.1663.

France's CAC 40 fell 1.3 percent and Germany's DAX lost 1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 sank 1.1 percent.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 recouped earlier losses to finish virtually unchanged. South Korea's Kospi rose 0.7 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.1 percent.

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 1, the 244th day of 2018. There are 121 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 1, 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was Sept. 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.)

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On this date:

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was found not guilty of treason. (Burr was then tried on a misdemeanor charge, but was again acquitted.)

In 1894, the Great Hinckley Fire destroyed Hinckley, Minn., and five other communities, and killed more than 400 people.

In 1923, the Japanese cities of Tokyo and Yokohama were devastated by an earthquake that claimed some 140,000 lives.

In 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

In 1942, U.S. District Court Judge Martin I. Welsh, ruling from Sacramento, Calif., on a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Fred Korematsu, upheld the wartime detention of Japanese-Americans as well as Japanese nationals.

In 1951, the United States, Australia and New Zealand signed a mutual defense pact, the ANZUS treaty.

In 1969, a coup in Libya brought Moammar Gadhafi to power.

In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik (RAY'-kyuh-vik), Iceland, as Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union resigned before the resumption of Game 21. An arson fire at the Blue Bird Cafe in Montreal, Canada, claimed 37 lives.

In 1981, Albert Speer, a close associate of Adolf Hitler who ran the Nazi war machine, died at a London hospital at age 76.

In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace.

In 1985, a U.S.-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean roughly 400 miles off Newfoundland.

In 2004, more than 1,000 people were taken hostage by heavily armed Chechen militants at a school in Beslan in southern Russia; more than 330 people, more than half of them children, were killed in the three-day ordeal.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Gustav slammed into the heart of Louisiana's fishing and oil industry with 110 mph winds, delivering only a glancing blow to New Orleans. Republicans opened their national convention in St. Paul, Minn., on a subdued note because of Hurricane Gustav; John McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, revealed that her 17-year-old daughter, Bristol, was pregnant. Jerry Lewis raised a record \$65 million for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in his annual Labor Day telethon. Country singer-actor Jerry Reed died in Nashville at age 71. Voiceover artist Don LaFontaine, whose distinctive baritone graced innumerable movie trailers, died in Los Angeles at age 68.

Five years ago: Syria derided President Barack Obama's decision to hold off on punitive military strikes, while the Obama administration countered that its case for military action against the regime of President Bashar Assad was getting stronger, saying it had evidence that the nerve agent sarin was used in a deadly August attack. Former South African President Nelson Mandela left a hospital after nearly three months of treatment. Former heavyweight boxing champion Tommy Morrison, 44, died at a Nebraska hospital.

One year ago: A line of cars stretched more than a mile at a water distribution center set up on a high school football field in Beaumont, Texas, which had been left without drinking water by flooding from Hurricane Harvey. The mayor of Houston announced that ongoing releases of water from two swollen reservoirs could keep thousands of homes flooded for up to 15 days. Two trailers of highly unstable compounds blew up at a flooded Houston-area chemical plant; it was the second fire in two days at the plant. (The area around the plant had been evacuated because of the risk.) Comedian Shelley Berman died at his California home at the age of 92.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Maharis is 90. Conductor Seiji Ozawa (SAY'-jee oh-ZAH'-wah) is 83. Attorney and law professor Alan Dershowitz is 80. Comedian-actress Lily Tomlin is 79. Actor Don Stroud is 75. Conductor Leonard Slatkin is 74. Singer Archie Bell is 74. Singer Barry Gibb is 72. Rock musician Greg Errico is 70. Talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw is 68. Singer Gloria Estefan is 61. Former White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers is 57. Jazz musician Boney James is 57. Singer-musician Grant Lee Phillips (Grant Lee Buffalo) is 55. Country singer-songwriter Charlie Robison is 54. Retired NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway is

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52. Rap DJ Spigg Nice (Lost Boyz) is 48. Actor Ricardo Antonio Chavira is 47. Actor Maury Sterling is 47. Rock singer JD Fortune is 45. Actor Scott Speedman is 43. Country singer Angaleena Presley (Pistol An-nies) is 42. Actor Boyd Holbrook is 37. Actress Zoe Lister-Jones is 36. Rock musician Joe Trohman is 34. Actress Aisling (ASH'-ling) Loftus is 28.

Thought for Today: "The most dangerous of all falsehoods is a slightly distorted truth." — Georg Chris-topf Lichtenberg, German scientist (1742-1799).