

Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul

**“No human
masterpiece
has been
created
without
great labor.”**

-Andre Gide



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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.

**Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling**

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

The advertisement features two images: a yellow excavator with a long reach trackhoe on the left, and a yellow wheel loader on the right. The background is a light blue sky with a white cloud.

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August Weather in review

August 2018 was near normal in terms of temperatures on a whole. Record cold was recorded however, at both Aberdeen and Sisseton on the 2nd: 40 degrees and 42 degrees respectively. There were a number of days where thick smoke from Western U.S. and Southwestern Canadian wildfires blocked out enough sunlight to reduce daytime high temperatures by a few degrees. Smoke was thick enough even at the surface to reduce visibility, and the air smelled of it as well. Haze filled our skies on and off again throughout much of the month thanks to a favorable upper-level wind pattern and an active fire season.

Precipitation departures range from up to 2" below average and up to 3" above average. Those who entered the month dry generally remained as such, and thus the U.S. Drought Monitor changed little throughout the month. D2/Severe Drought continues to impact portions of Brown, Spink, Edmunds and Faulk counties as of the 28th. Further west, severe weather was a reoccurring theme especially towards the end of the month. Typically, after the jet stream jogs north into Canada in July, it tracks back into the Northern Plains in August and so a "secondary severe weather season" can emerge. This season's began on the 23rd when Hyde county observed two tornadoes and a 3" diameter hailstone fell just northwest of Hoven (<https://www.weather.gov/abr/SevereWeatherSummary8-23-18>). 4" diameter hail fell in Blunt on the 26th, and 3.5" diameter hail fell near Presho on the 27th. Hailstones this large are fairly uncommon, as these events accounted for 3 of the 41 days that our forecast area (<http://tinyurl.com/jzlnq8>) has had reports of 3" or larger diameter hail since 1950 and one of the 25 days with 4" or larger diameter hail (last occurrence on June 21st, 2013 in Spink County). Therefore, on average, a 3" hailstone is recorded about once every other year and a 4" hailstone about once every three years.

Robert B. Johnson Estate Auction

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 10AM

Location: 204 Hickory St., Langford, SD

Selling an amazing assortment of Guns, 1972 Harley Davidson, Cushman, Vehicles, Fish House & Sporting, Collectibles, Collectible Coins, Metal Signs. Something here to fit all your needs!

Pictures & Full Sale Bill at voldrealty.com

Owner: Robert B. Johnson Estate

www.voldrealty.com

VOLD AUCTIONEERS & REALTY

BRITTON, SD • 605-448-0048

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings are officially done with preseason after defeating the Tennessee Titans 13-3 on Thursday. The Vikings elected to sit the starters since it was the fourth preseason game and it gave the other players one last opportunity to impress the coaches and earn a spot on the team's final 53-man roster.

Now that preseason is over, one of the most important events of the year occurs – cutting the roster from 90 players to the final 53. This cutdown process used to happen in two stages – from 90 to 75, then down to 53 – but last May the owners passed a rule change that allows teams to carry all 90 players on the roster through the entire preseason. Trimming the roster is a difficult time for the front office, but it is even more nerve wracking for the players because many will have their dreams of playing professional football crushed.

Here is a breakdown of who was cut, who made it to the practice squad, and who was brought in from other teams.

Offensive players who were cut: Josh Andrews (OL), Jeff Badet (WR), Chad Beebe (WR), Blake Bell (TE), Mack Brown (RB), Cornelius Edison (C), Colby Gossett (OL), Tyler Hoppes (TE), Tavarres King (WR), Storm Norton (OT), Kendall Wright (WR).

Defensive players who were cut: Reshard Cliett (LB), Curtis Cothran (DT), Garret Dooley (LB), Craig James (CB), Tray Matthews (DB), Terence Newman (CB, retiring), Ifeadi Odenigbo (DL), Horace Richardson (CB), Brian Robison (DE), Brett Taylor (LB), Jack Tocho (S), Jonathan Wynn (DE).

The biggest names that didn't make the final roster were defensive end Brian Robison and cornerback Terence Newman. Robison, 35 years old, was drafted by the Vikings in the fourth round in 2007. He played his entire career in Minnesota and started 103 games over 11 seasons, and his 60 sacks put him eighth in Vikings' history. Newman, 40, only played three of his 15 seasons in Minnesota but has played under Mike Zimmer for nine (in both Dallas and Cincinnati). Newman chose to retire and will immediately join the Vikings' front office as a defensive backs coach.

NFL teams can sign 10 players to the practice squad. While this list will change throughout the season, as of Sunday the Vikings have signed the following nine players: Jeff Badet, Chad Beebe, Reshard Cliett, Curtis Cothran, Garret Dooley, Cornelius Edison, Colby Gossett, Storm Norton and Jack Tocho. The team undoubtedly wanted to sign Ifeadi Odenigbo to the PS, but he was signed by the Cleveland Browns.

Other news and notes

The Vikings cut punter Ryan Quigley and will replace him with Matt Wile, who was cut by the Pittsburgh Steelers. Quigley struggled in the preseason, and the Vikings are hoping Wile will be an upgrade.

Safety George Iloka wore number 28 when he first joined the Vikings (because that was the only defensive back number available), but he has switched to number 23 after it became available. Other players who will switch numbers are: Chad Beebe from 84 to 12, Holton Hill from 37 to 24, and David Perry from 60 to 95.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will open the regular season at home against the San Francisco 49ers. This was supposed to be the return of running back Jerick McKinnon, but unfortunately he tore the ACL in his right knee this past weekend and is out for the season. ESPN gives the Vikings a 69.4% chance to win this game and start the season 1-0. Skol!

If you have any questions or comments, reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

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He's at it again!

Dick Kolker was caught in the action Sunday afternoon as he was pulling weeds near the railroad tracks on SD37. Kolker has said that everyone should take pride in their community by removing unsightly weeds.

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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Today in Weather History

September 3, 1974: An early freeze occurred across Minnesota on September 3rd as temperatures fell into the upper 20s to the lower 30s. The cold was the earliest freeze on record in some parts of the state ending the growing season. The greatest damage was to the soybean and corn crop. Honey production was also ended. Damage estimates were more than 100 million dollars.

September 3, 1999: Very heavy rains from thunderstorms were repeatedly going over the same area resulted in extensive flash flooding in a 30 to 40-mile wide band from Fort Pierre in southeast Stanley County to Hecla in northeast Brown County. Rainfall amounts in this corridor ranged from 3 to 7 inches. As a result, the communities of Blunt in Hughes County and Onida in Sully County were severely flooded. Most of the homes and businesses were flooded throughout Blunt and Onida causing severe damage. Only a few homes in these communities were spared from receiving water in their basements. Most homes also experienced sewer backup. The sewer systems in both Onida and Blunt were flooded and shut down. Many people had to go to temporary shelters as a result of the flooding. Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had a lot of street flooding resulting in road closures and detours. Also, several basements in Aberdeen and Fort Pierre had the sewer backup. The torrential rains flooded many township and county roads along with several state and U.S. highways. Sections of Highways 14, 20, 83, and 1806 along with many other roads in central and northeast South Dakota had to be closed due to the flooding. Many of the township and county roads had massive amounts of gravel washed away. Some bridges received minor damage with some culverts also lost. A few pets and livestock were also lost as a result of the flooding. Many acres of crops were flooded throughout the area. Some rainfall amounts included 3 inches at Fort Pierre, 4 inches at Hecla and in the Aberdeen Area, 5 inches at the Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge and Blunt, 6 inches at Seneca, 7 inches 10 miles southeast of Gettysburg and at Onida.

September 2, 1985: Intense thunderstorms moved from south central South Dakota to northeast South Dakota during the evening. Winds gusted to 60 to 70 mph over the area. Southwest of Presho, three small buildings were destroyed, and barns were damaged. Power lines and other property were damaged near Vayland, Miller, Wessington, Wolsey, Kimball, White Lake, Armour, and Castlewood. Large hail caused considerable damage to crops.

1930: A Category 4 hurricane devastates the Dominican Republic on this day. This storm killed more than 8,000 individuals, which is it the fifth deadliest Atlantic hurricane on record.

1821 - A hurricane made landfall at Long Island, near Kennedy Airport, then moved through western Connecticut. The hurricane produced a record tide at New York City. (David Ludlum)

1953 - The temperature at Erie PA reached 99 degrees, and Stroudsburg PA established a state record for September with a reading of 106 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Denver, CO, received 4.2 inches of snow, their earliest snow of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1970 - During the early evening hours, in the midst of a severe hailstorm at Coffeyville KS, a stone 17.5 inches in circumference and nearly two pounds in weight was recovered. It was the largest measured hailstone in U.S. weather records. Average stone size from the storm was five inches in diameter, with another stone reportedly eight inches in diameter. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Temperatures dipped into the 40s and 50s for morning lows across much of the eastern half of the country, with eleven cities reporting record lows for the date. Pellston MI tied Gunnison CO for honors as the cold spot in the nation with a low of 30 degrees. Smoke from forest fires darkened skies in southern Oregon and northern California. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Sixteen cities in the northwestern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 89 degrees at Stampede Pass WA and 116 degrees at Redding CA established records for the month of September. Readings of 98 degrees at Spokane WA and 100 degrees at Yakima WA equalled records for September. (The National Weather Summary)

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Labor Day



Partly Sunny

High: 83 °F

Tonight



Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms

Low: 65 °F

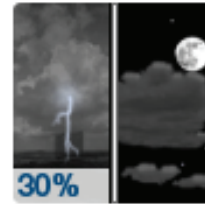
Tuesday



Chance T-storms

High: 73 °F

Tuesday Night



Chance T-storms then Partly Cloudy



Low: 50 °F

Wednesday



Mostly Sunny


High: 70 °F

 **An Isolated Shower or Thunderstorm Possible Today** 



Otherwise, partly cloudy with highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 9/3/2018 5:16 AM Central

Published on: 09/03/2018 at 5:22AM

Isolated showers early this morning will give way to mostly pleasant conditions for much of the day. Additional showers and thunderstorms will develop late this afternoon through Tuesday as low pressure moves across the region.

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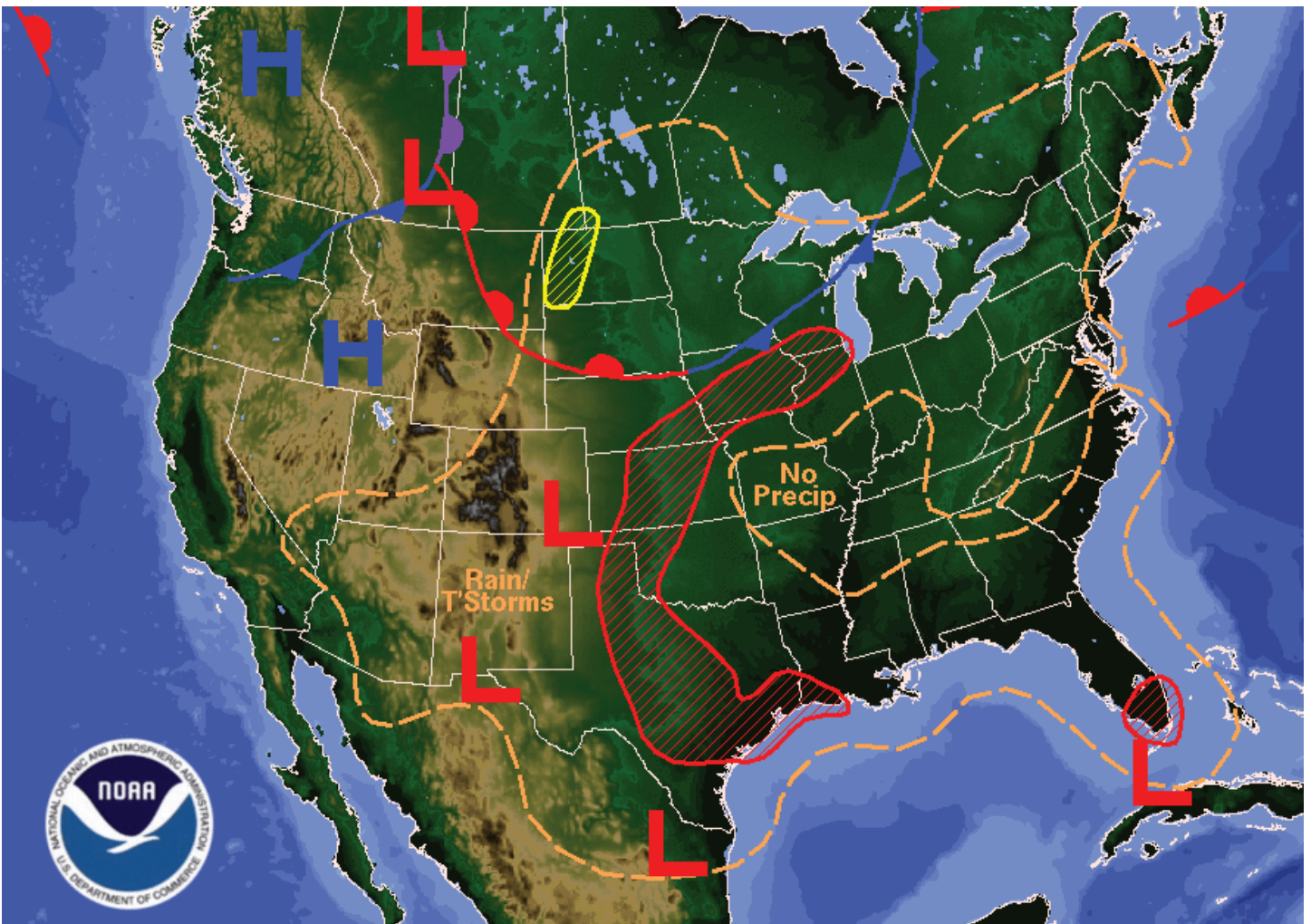
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 75.4 F at 4:48 PM
Low Outside Temp: 57.7 F at 7:26 AM
High Gust: 30.0 Mph at 3:14 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1897
Record Low: 31° in 1974
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 51°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.16
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10
Average Precip to date: 16.45
Precip Year to Date: 11.36
Sunset Tonight: 8:08 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:59 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Sep 03, 2018, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds 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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HELP WANTED NOW!

It is not easy for us to imagine someone who was a king, especially King David, who had everything he wanted, and every problem solved every day of his life. But that image is incorrect according to Psalm 141. David appears to be in trouble.

Hear his cry: O, Lord, I call to You, come quickly to me; hear my voice when I call to You. May my prayer be set before You like incense.

David was not hesitant to request and receive an immediate audience with God. I call to You...so...hear my voice. There was no doubt about Gods availability or that someone would be ahead of him for one reason or another waiting for an audience with God. God is always available to hear our voice and attend to our needs whenever we call on Him at any time from anyplace.

David also knew that there was nothing or no one that could stop God from helping him. Come quickly to me. No doubt he had gone to others for help, and they were either unable or unwilling to help him. His situation was critical, and he needed Gods assistance immediately. He had turned to others with no results. Now it was time for him to turn to God.

David was also aware of Gods acceptance of him and his needs. May my prayer be set before You. He did not doubt that God was there for him. He was not afraid that his concerns would embarrass God or surprise God or be of no interest to God or be beyond Gods power. He knew that whatever he needed would get Gods attention!

Prayer: How blest we are, Father, to know that we all have equal standing before You and every need is acceptable. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 141:1, 2 O, Lord, I call to You, come quickly to me; hear my voice when I call to You. May my prayer be set before You like incense.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

Sioux Falls developers often pick street names

By JEREMY FUGLEBERG, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — There's a Panda Drive. Homerun Avenue. Man Cave Place. There's a corner on the west side of Sioux Falls that is the intersection of Grinn and Barret.

And then there's your street. Maybe you live on Pam Street or Donegal Avenue or Silverbell Street. Have you ever wondered how your street got its name?

Odds are your street wasn't named by anyone in city government. Odds are, unless you live in the city's core, it was named by the developer who built your neighborhood.

While the city of Sioux Falls reviews street names selections, only very rarely would they reject a name proposed by developers, who have broad powers to pick the names that define neighborhoods.

Street and development naming is something developers take seriously.

"It's actually not easy," said Steve Van Buskirk, president of land development for developer Van Buskirk Companies. "We actually spend a lot of time on it."

The first step? The current landowners may have a request. It doesn't happen all the time, but as part of the land purchase, some sellers want their family name, or, say, kids' names, enshrined forever in the name of a development or its streets, Van Buskirk said. It can be a personal business.

"They grew up on that land, they worked that land, they have a lot of connection to it," he told the Argus Leader.

But if they don't have any special requests, that's when the fun starts.

At developer Lloyd Companies, leaders will weigh options and pick a winner. They're looking for something that's a good fit. Maybe a name with a bit of an attractive edge to it.

"We tend to gravitate toward those that have some sort of community significance," said Luke Jessen, development project manager at Lloyd Cos.

If they're really stuck they'll send out a survey to employees and give a gift card if they choose a great submitted name.

Van Buskirk said those in the companies' office will bat around ideas and make a list of names, that play off the area. Maybe the way it looks, or the history of the place or notable people.

The basic goal is to name a development and its streets in a way that will attract people who want to live there.

"You try to bring it together and brainstorm names," Van Buskirk said. "Usually we put together a pretty long list of names and we'll look at it and say, 'Would I want to live on Jailbird Street? Nah, probably not.'"

(To clarify, that is just an example. Nobody would ever build a Jailbird Street. Or a Hell Street. Because who wants to live there?)

"You've got to come up with something new and inventive that gives you an idea that it's a nice place to live," Van Buskirk said.

There are other things to think about. Is it short? Meaningful? Easy to spell?

"You have to think about those things," Van Buskirk said. "If you have to spell 'Van Buskirk' your entire life, our family is somewhat sensitive about making it easy to spell."

If you're driving around looking at Sioux Falls developments, you're going to see a lot of Irish names. Lloyd Cos. frequently uses Irish names, respecting the ancestry of its founders, Craig and Pat Lloyd.

"If there's no other inspiration, it's Irish themed," said Christie Ernst, senior vice president of property management at Lloyd Cos.

Van Buskirk isn't exactly an Irish name, but even Van Buskirk Cos. got into the Irish moniker business.

The Heather Ridge development southeast of the corner of 69th Street and Western Avenue includes Heatheridge Avenue, Limerick Circle and Killarney Street. Van Buskirk said his mom and dad came back from a trip to Ireland and were talking about the heather they saw, inspiring the name.

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"That's where the name Heather Ridge came from," he said. "I don't have a sister named Heather; I've been asked that more than once."

Once developers pick street names, they run them past city officials for review. They make sure the name doesn't duplicate an existing street name, increasingly a concern in a fast-growing city, isn't derogatory, doesn't sound too similar to an existing street name (i.e., there will never be a "Marian Road" in Sioux Falls since it would conflict with the current Marion Road) and has no more than 13 characters, to fit on street signs in a font large enough for traffic to see.

"It's really pretty simple," said Chuck Serbus, Subdivision/Site Plan Checker with the city of Sioux Falls Engineering Office.

Few proposed names are derogatory, Serbus said. City staff did once ponder whether a private road named "Man Cave Place" was problematic.

"We allowed it, but we did discuss it internally, to think, 'is there something derogatory with this?' And we said, 'no, it's allowed,'" he said, "I've been doing this for 25 years and that's the only example I can think of, off the top of my head."

How do you know when you've picked the perfect name? Buyers will tell you. It's only happened about half a dozen times over 26 years in the business, Van Buskirk said.

"You know you've hit it out of the park when they say, 'I need to live on that street,'" he said.

Have you seen those first name streets? Jim and Patrick, Pam and Judy? Yeah. Those aren't cool anymore.

"We really try to get away from that, the first-name streets," Van Buskirk said. "We've kind of drifted away from that over the years. You used to see a lot of it out there."

Picking a development name and street names can be a lot of fun, Van Buskirk said.

"It's kind of a fun thing to do as a developer and a development company. It's fun that you can drive down and say, 'Hey, I voted for that one and it's there,'" he said. "It's a lot of fun to go back and look at your work and see how it all came together when it's all done."

But development and its street names is something developers also take seriously. These are places where people will grow up, where parents will raise their kids. Where people will grow old.

"That's the great part about what we do. We're building neighborhoods. We're building places to build their memories up," he said. "It's all part of making a nice place."

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

New nonprofit aims to support Badlands National Park

By SETH TUPPER, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Despite drawing approximately 1 million visitors annually, Badlands National Park has lacked the support that some other popular national parks receive from nonprofit organizations known as "friends groups."

A newly formed nonprofit, the Badlands National Park Conservancy, aims to change that.

The conservancy filed its South Dakota incorporation papers in May and is awaiting approval of its application for federal tax-exempt status.

Mike Pflaum, superintendent of Badlands National Park, said nonprofit friends groups have benefited other parks around the nation in myriad ways.

"I just think it's the right way to do business," he told the Rapid City Journal. "It brings communities into the parks and brings the parks out to the community through citizen involvement at the grassroots level."

There was at least one previous effort, which was ultimately aborted, to operate a friends group for Badlands National Park. Some of the people who supported the previous effort are active in the new group.

The conservancy's incorporation papers list the first board members as Randy Seiler, of Fort Pierre; Susan Ricci, Kenny Putnam, Cheryl Chapman and Johnny Brockelsby, of Rapid City; Bill Schreier, of Custer; and Jackie Kusser, of Wall.

Besides supporting Badlands National Park, the conservancy also plans to support the park's neighbor,

the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site.

At Badlands National Park, Pflaum said he hopes to work with the conservancy to develop a list of collaborative projects and programs. He said possibilities could include the creation of a youth employment program in the park, support of the park's ongoing bison-range expansion, and perhaps someday a new visitor center.

The park also has an estimated \$34 million backlog of deferred maintenance to buildings, roads, trails, picnic areas and other infrastructure. While the park hopes to receive congressional funding to reduce the backlog, Pflaum said the backlog is indicative of the many opportunities for collaborative projects with the conservancy.

Pflaum's experience with similar nonprofit groups includes his time at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, which receives support from the Mount Rushmore Society.

Elsewhere in South Dakota, nonprofit groups supporting national park sites include the Friends of Wind Cave National Park, the Black Hills Parks & Forests Association, and the Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River.

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

2 teens killed, 1 seriously injured in crash near Viborg

VIBORG, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say two teen-age males died and a third was seriously injured in a two-vehicle crash near Viborg in southeastern South Dakota.

The Department of Public Safety says a pickup truck and a car collided at an uncontrolled intersection late Friday when neither vehicle stopped. Both vehicles came to rest in the ditch.

The 19-year-old driver of the car and a 17-year-old passenger in the pickup both died at the scene.

The 17-year-old pickup driver suffered life-threatening injuries and was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital. The department says charges are pending against him.

Names have not been released. The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating.

Rapid City landfill may be at capacity by 2037

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City officials say the city's landfill could be full by 2037 — 16 years earlier than anticipated.

Wenck Associates, Inc., a Minnesota-based engineering firm, estimated in a 2016 report that the landfill would reach capacity in 2053, the Rapid City Journal reported. The landfill must renew its permit every five years and the report was conducted ahead of the landfill's application for renewal. It assumed the landfill would see an annual growth in collections of 1.7 percent.

The lost time equates to a loss of tens of millions of dollars, said former landfill superintendent Jerry Wright.

Public Works Director Dale Tech said that while the 2006 study was accurate when it was published, it was conducted before some cells in the landfill were designed and built, so the estimate has changed.

"It's all just based on estimates and was a snapshot in time," Tech said. "It was accurate the day it was published and every day beyond that things change."

Landfills are dynamic systems and a 12-year-old report isn't a good predictor, said Assistant Public Works Director Dan Coon.

"To say a report that's 12 years old was going to follow exactly in line, I don't know of any plans that we do that happen exactly like we think they're going to happen," Coon said. "The landfill life operation is a very dynamic system."

Coon said the landfill will likely try to adjust practices to extend capacity.

"If you come back at the end of 2019 and ask these same questions, we may say, 'Now we think we can go to 2040 because we've modified some of our practices,'" Coon said.

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

Foes of South Dakota tobacco tax hike initiative mobilize

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Opponents of a ballot question that would increase South Dakota tobacco taxes to make state technical schools more affordable are mobilizing against the November voter initiative, arguing the measure lacks accountability and would harm small businesses and kill jobs.

Foes recently launched a "significant" television advertising campaign and volunteers are speaking to organizations to sign up new opposition coalition members, said Jason Glodt, grassroots director for South Dakotans Against Higher Taxes. Voters in the Nov. 6 general election will decide Initiated Measure 25, which would increase taxes on different tobacco products including a \$1 hike per 20-cigarette pack.

"It hurts small businesses," Glodt said. "It's a \$35 million tax increase on small businesses in our state."

The state Legislative Research Council in an August fiscal document estimated the measure would raise revenues by a lower amount: about \$25 million. House Speaker Mark Mickelson, the ballot question's sponsor, said critics' claims are inaccurate and unsubstantiated, arguing the measure would address tech school tuition that's among the most expensive in the nation.

A report last year to a legislative panel found that South Dakota's tech institutes charge the highest average resident fees and tuition regionally. The new ballot measure would create a fund to lower the tuition and fees, offer scholarships and provide financial support for the state's four technical institutes.

"We can't attract and grow the workforce that we need if kids can go to Nebraska for half the price," Mickelson said. "You look around, there's a lot of 'help wanted' signs."

Mickelson said the measure enjoys support from industry and health care organizations, but said backers lack the money and experience of "Big Tobacco."

"We've got our work cut out for us, but this is a good public policy measure because it's good for South Dakotans," he said.

Glodt said the opposition coalition includes the South Dakota Retailers Association, Americans for Prosperity and dozens of businesses across the state. South Dakotans Against Higher Taxes hasn't yet revealed any donors in state campaign finance records.

Glodt said measure supporters claim the funding hike is for tech schools, but a large portion would go directly into the state general fund and there's no protection against all of it getting diverted. The Legislative Research Council document estimates about \$5 million of the increased revenues would go to the general fund, while \$20 million would go to the technical institutes.

"There's very little accountability or transparency or oversight within the measure, and it ignores other pressing educational needs," Glodt said.

South Dakota's cigarette tax is \$1.53 per pack, according to the Tax Foundation, an independent tax policy nonprofit. State voters last approved a tobacco tax hike in 2006 with nearly 61 percent support.

Voters in neighboring North Dakota in 2016 rejected a ballot question that would have raised the state's 44-cent cigarette tax to \$2.20.

Firefighters try to save relics as fire engulfs Rio museum

By PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A huge fire engulfed Brazil's 200-year-old National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, lighting up the night sky with towering flames as firefighters and museum workers raced to save historical relics from the blaze.

The esteemed museum, which houses artifacts from Egypt, Greco-Roman art and some of the first fossils found in Brazil, was closed to the public at the time of the fire, which broke out at 7:30 p.m. Sunday local time, it said in a statement.

There were no reports of injuries, the museum said, and it wasn't immediately clear how the fire began.

Roberto Robadey, a spokesman for the fire department, said 80 firefighters were battling the blaze and

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that by midnight local time it was "just about under control" and should be out within a few hours.

President Michel Temer called it "a sad day for all Brazilians."

"Two hundred years of work, investigation and knowledge have been lost," Temer said in a statement.

According to its website, the museum has a vast collection related to the history of Brazil and other countries, and that many of its collections came from members of Brazil's royal family.

Robadey said firefighters got off to a slow start fighting the blaze because the two fire hydrants closest to the museum were not functioning. Instead, trucks had to be sent to get water from a nearby lake.

But he added that some of the museum's pieces had been spared.

"We were able to remove a lot of things from inside with the help of workers of the museum," Robadey told Globo News.

Connected to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the museum has expositions that include anthropology, archaeology and paleontology, among others.

The vice director of the museum, Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte, told Globo news the museum suffered chronic underfunding.

"Everybody wants to be supportive now. We never had adequate support," he said.

Latin America's largest nation has struggled to emerge from its worst recession in decades. The state of Rio de Janeiro has been particularly hard hit in recent years thanks to a combination of falling world prices of oil, one of its major revenue sources, mismanagement and massive corruption.

Just over a month before national elections, even before the flames were put out, the fire was leading to recriminations about dilapidated infrastructure and budget deficits in the city that hosted the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"Unfortunately, given the financial straits of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and all the other public universities the last three years, this was a tragedy that could be seen coming," Marina Silva, one of the leading presidential candidates, tweeted.

On Instagram, Rio Mayor Marcelo Crivella called on the country to rebuild.

"It's a national obligation to reconstruct it from the ashes, recompose every eternal detail of the paintings and photos. Even if they are not original, they continue to be a reminder of the royal family that gave us independence, the (Portuguese) empire and the first constitution and national unity," he said.

Associated Press video journalist Yesica Fisch contributed to this report from Rio. AP reporter Mauricio Savarese contributed from Recife, Brazil.

National Museum website: <http://www.museunacional.ufrj.br/>

Family, friends say final goodbye to McCain

By **SUSAN WALSH**, Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Sen. John McCain's final journey ended on a grassy hill at the U.S. Naval Academy within view of the Severn River and earshot of midshipmen present and future, and alongside a lifelong friend.

A horse-drawn caisson carrying the senator's casket led a procession of mourners from the academy's chapel to its cemetery Sunday following a private service. The senator's widow, Cindy, and his children were among those who walked behind the caisson. Joining them were family and friends as well as members of McCain's Class of 1958 and military leaders.

The U.S. Navy band played marches along the way and several hundred Naval Academy midshipmen lined the path. A flyover of military aircraft in "missing man" formation honored the Navy pilot who was shot down over Vietnam and held more than five years as a prisoner of war.

After the American flag was removed from the casket, a grieving Cindy McCain pressed her cheek to its surface and McCain sons Jimmy and Jack shared a hug. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis presented flags to Cindy McCain and Roberta McCain, the senator's 106-year-old mother.

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The burial was private as per the wishes of McCain, the Arizona Republican and 2008 presidential nominee died Aug. 25 from brain cancer at age 81.

Those offering tributes or readings during the funeral service included Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.; McCain sons Jack and Douglas; retired Gen. David Petraeus, former CIA director; and Mark Salter, McCain's longtime co-author.

Petraeus said McCain was a man of "great courage, unshakable determination, and unwavering devotion to our country and those who defend it," according to remarks released by the family.

Jack McCain said of his father, "He fought hard, obstinately, exuberantly because he liked to fight, but more importantly, because he believed in what he was fighting for." He later added, "My father fought and suffered, endured defeats, rose from the ground and fought again to keep faith with his heroes, to safeguard the country he loved and her causes, to be a better man, and to make a better world."

Earlier, as the hearse carrying McCain passed through a gate and into the academy, there was loud applause from the several hundred people lining the street outside on the hot and muggy summer day. Many held their hands over their hearts and waved American flags. Some shouted, "God bless you."

People in the crowd held signs that read "Senator John McCain Thanks For Serving! Godspeed" and "Rest In Peace Maverick."

For his final resting place, McCain picked the historic site overlooking the Severn River, not Arlington National Cemetery, where his father and grandfather, both admirals, were buried.

Years ago Chuck Larson, an admiral himself and an ally throughout McCain's life, reserved four plots at the cemetery — two for McCain and himself, and two for their wives, now widows. Larson died in 2014, and McCain wrote in a recent memoir that he wanted to be buried next to his friend, "near where it began."

Among the pallbearers on a list provided by McCain's office were Frank Gamboa, his academy roommate; Mattis; and two men who were POWs with McCain in Vietnam, John Fer and Everett Alvarez Jr.

Tributes to McCain began Wednesday in Arizona and continued for the remainder of the week. On Saturday, speeches by his daughter Meghan and two former presidents — Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Barack Obama — remembered McCain as a patriot who could bridge painful rivalries.

While their remarks made clear their admiration for him, they also represented a repudiation of President Donald Trump's brand of tough-talking, divisive politics. Trump and McCain were at odds during the 2016 campaign and for much of Trump's presidency.

UN agency: Trips across Mediterranean fall, but risks rise

By JAMEY KEATEN, Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. refugee agency says people smugglers are taking greater risks to ferry their human cargo toward Europe as Libya's coast guard intercepts more and more boats carrying migrants, increasing the likelihood that those on board may die during the Mediterranean journeys.

That's one of the key findings from the latest UNHCR report about efforts to reach Europe. The report, released early Monday and titled "Desperate Journeys," says that even though the number of crossings and deaths has plunged compared to recent years, the voyage is more deadly in percentage terms for those who venture across.

The report says 2,276 people died last year while trying to cross, or one death for every 42 arrivals.

This year, it's 1,095 deaths, or one out of every 18 arrivals. In June alone, the proportion hit one death for every seven arrivals.

On the Central Mediterranean route so far this year, there have been 10 separate incidents in which 50 or more people died — most after departing from Libya. Seven of those incidents have been since June alone, UNHCR said.

"The reason the traffic has become more deadly is that the traffickers are taking more risk, because there is more surveillance exercised by the Libyan coast guards," said Vincent Cochetel, UNHCR's special envoy for the central Mediterranean. "They are trying to cut the costs: It costs them more to keep those people here longer in their warehouses, under captivity."

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Libyan authorities intercepted or rescued 18,400 people between August last year and July this year — a 38-percent increase from the same period of 2016 and 2017. Arrivals by sea from Libya to Europe plummeted 82 percent in those comparable periods, to 30,800 in the more recent one.

UNHCR says a growing worry these days is deaths on land by people trying to get to Libya in the first place, or getting stuck in squalid, overcrowded detention centers: Many get returned there after failing to cross by sea to Europe.

"The problems after disembarkation (is that) those people are sent back to detention centers, and many disappear," Cochetel said. "Many are sold to militias, and to traffickers, and people employing them without paying them."

He said the drop in departures means that traffickers attempt to "monetize their investment, which means they have to exploit more people. That results in more cases of slavery, forced labor, prostitution of those people — because they (smugglers) want to make money on those people."

Would-be workers and migrants are still pouring into Libya: Some are fleeing injustice, abuse or autocrats in their home countries further south in Africa. Others are looking for work in the oil industry or agriculture.

"I think you have more deaths on land," Cochetel said, referring to treks across the desert in Sudan, Algeria, Chad and Niger. "Many people in Libya are reporting having seeing people dead in the desert on the way to Libya."

In Libya, instability continues even seven years after the fall of Moammar Gadhafi. French medical aid group Doctors Without Borders said Friday that fighting between rival militias in Tripoli, the capital, has endangered the lives of people trapped there and worsened humanitarian needs — especially at migrant detention centers.

Cochetel said Europe — where some countries have shown "appalling" squabbles about who would take in rescue ships carrying migrants — should look at the root causes of such journeys. European populations need to shun anti-migrant rhetoric and realize that figures are down sharply, and migrant flows are clearly manageable at current levels, he said.

"Europe has to show the lead, has to be exemplary in its response, but it's quite clear that it's already too late when the people are in Libya," he said. "We need to work downstream in country of first asylum, in country of origin, and that takes time."

Myanmar court sentences Reuters reporters to 7 years in jail

By VICTORIA MILKO and AUNG NAING SOE, Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — A Myanmar court sentenced two Reuters journalists to seven years in prison Monday for illegal possession of official documents, a ruling met with international condemnation that will add to outrage over the military's human rights abuses against Rohingya Muslims.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had been reporting on the brutal crackdown on the Rohingya when they were arrested and charged with violating the colonial-era Official Secrets Act, punishable by up to 14 years in prison. They had pleaded not guilty, contending that they were framed by police.

"Today is a sad day for Myanmar, Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and the press everywhere," Stephen J. Adler, Reuters editor-in-chief, said in a statement. He said the charges were "designed to silence their reporting and intimidate the press."

The case has drawn worldwide attention as an example of how democratic reforms in long-isolated Myanmar have stalled under the civilian government of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, which took power in 2016. Though the military, which ruled the country for a half-century, maintains control of several key ministries, Suu Kyi's rise to government had raised hopes for an accelerated transition to full democracy and her stance on the Rohingya crisis has disappointed many former admirers.

As the verdict was announced in the hot Yangon courtroom, Kyaw Soe Oo's wife started crying, leaning into the lap of the person next to her. Outside the court, police and journalists shouted as the two Reuters reporters were led to a truck to be taken away.

"This is unfair," Wa Lone told the crowd. "I want to say they are obviously threatening our democracy

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and destroying freedom of the press in our country.”

Kevin Krolicki, Reuters regional editor for Asia, said outside the court that it was “heartbreaking for friends and colleagues and family of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who in addition to the outrage many will feel, are deprived of their friends and colleagues, husband and father.”

Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, both testified they suffered from harsh treatment during their initial interrogations after their arrests last December. Their several appeals for release on bail were rejected. Wa Lone’s wife, Pan Ei Mon, gave birth to the couple’s first child in Yangon on Aug. 10, but Wa Lone has not yet seen his daughter.

The two journalists had been reporting last year on the brutal crackdown by security forces on the Rohingya in Myanmar’s Rakhine state. Some 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape the violence targeting them after attacks by Rohingya militants killed a dozen members of the security forces.

Investigators working for the U.N.’s top human rights body said last week that genocide charges should be brought against senior Myanmar military officers over the crackdown.

The accusation of genocide was rejected by Myanmar’s government, but is the most serious official recommendation for prosecution so far. Also last week, Facebook banned Myanmar’s powerful military chief and 19 other individuals and organizations from its site to prevent the spread of hate and misinformation in connection with the Rohingya crisis.

“Today’s verdict cannot conceal the truth of what happened in Rakhine State,” Tirana Hassan, Amnesty International’s director of crisis response, said in a statement Monday. “It’s thanks to the bravery of journalists like Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, that the military’s atrocities have been exposed. Instead of targeting these two journalists, the Myanmar authorities should have been going after those responsible for killings, rape, torture and the torching of hundreds of Rohingya villages.”

Dozens of journalists and pro-democracy activists marched Saturday in Yangon, Myanmar’s biggest city, in support of the reporters. But in the country at large, with an overwhelming Buddhist majority, there is widespread prejudice against the Rohingya, and in the government and military, there is near-xenophobic sensitivity to foreign criticism.

Myanmar’s courts are one of the country’s most conservative and nationalistic institutions, and the darkened political atmosphere had seemed unlikely to help the reporters’ cause.

The court earlier this year declined to stop the trial after an initial phase of presentation of evidence, even though a policeman called as a prosecution witness testified that his commander had ordered that documents be planted on the journalists. After his testimony, the officer was jailed for a year for violating police regulations and his family was kicked out of police housing.

Other testimony by prosecution witnesses was contradictory, and the documents presented as evidence against the reporters appeared to be neither secret nor sensitive. The journalists testified they did not solicit or knowingly possess any secret documents.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar Knut Ostby said the UN was “disappointed by today’s court decision.”

“The United Nations has consistently called for the release of the Reuters journalists and urged the authorities to respect their right to pursue freedom of expression and information,” he said. “Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo should be allowed to return to their families and continue their work as journalists.”

Trump sees mixing trade, foreign policy as good politics

By KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Donald Trump pulled the plug on an upcoming trip to North Korea by his secretary of state, he pointed a finger of blame at China and the global superpower’s trade practices.

In his recent trade breakthrough with Mexico, Trump praised the country’s outgoing president for his help on border security and agriculture.

Both developments offered fresh evidence of how Trump has made trade policy the connective tissue that ties together different elements of his “America First” foreign policy and syncs up them with his politi-

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cal strategy for the 2020 presidential election.

Trump's 2016 triumph was paved in part by his support among blue-collar voters in Midwestern manufacturing states that narrowly supported him over Democrat Hillary Clinton, including Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

His aggressive trade tactics, epitomized by tariffs and standoffs with longtime economic partners and allies, are aimed at reversing what he has long viewed as unfair trade deals while maintaining support among largely white, working-class voters who have been hurt by the loss of manufacturing jobs.

"Trump understands that economic policy is foreign policy and vice versa," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser and visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation. "The most important element of foreign policy is to not just keep the world safe but to also promote America's economic interest. That's what Trump does — this is America First."

It's also good politics, in Trump's view.

"It's a populist position. But it's also a popular position with a lot of Americans," Moore said.

As he puts a high premium on trade gains, Trump is intertwining the issue with a host of top foreign policy concerns.

Trump, asked by reporters last week about North Korea living up to its commitments to denuclearize, said "part of the North Korean problem is caused by our trade disputes with China," pointing to the U.S. trade imbalance with China.

"We have to straighten out our trade relationship because too much money is being lost by us," Trump said. "And as you know, China is the route to North Korea."

Trade has been a common refrain at the president's rallies, where he has vowed to pursue "fair and reciprocal trade."

"We don't want stupid trade like we had for so long," Trump said during a rally in Duluth, Minnesota, in June.

Trump's second year as president has been marked by a number of trade disputes with traditional U.S. allies and global rivals alike, an approach cemented by his tweet that "trade wars are good."

He imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in March, prompting retaliation from the European Union and other American allies. Later in the month, Trump announced tariffs on China to combat what he called the theft of U.S. technology from a wide range of goods and services.

China struck back with its own sanctions on a variety of U.S. products, including Midwest farm-produced soybeans in a way to hit hard against the president's base of voters. The two sides have clashed during the spring and summer, raising the stakes in their trade fight.

In late July, Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker reached a temporary deal at the White House to avert tariffs on automobile imports and a ramping up of their trade dispute — although the threat still remains.

After a breakthrough with Mexico, Trump's team has been engaged in talks with Canada aimed at creating a new version of the 24-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement.

While previous administrations have often used a carrot-and-stick approach to trade as a way to forge agreements, before Trump's arrival trade agendas had emphasized multi-lateral and bilateral deals aimed at maintaining U.S. leadership around the world, promoting American values and improving human rights.

This administration, by contrast, "is leveraging foreign policy tools to achieve its trade goals," said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

Critics say Trump's insistence on trade concessions could hamper his ability to move forward in other areas.

On North Korea, for example, Trump has sought to turn his meeting with Kim Jong Un into a vivid example of how his unconventional style can bring longstanding U.S. adversaries to the bargaining table.

But by raising China's trade practices as essential to any progress to ensuring North Korea gets rid of its nuclear weapons, Trump runs the risk of getting bogged down in both areas — and having little to show for it.

Mixing foreign policy and trade policy introduces so many variables it's "virtually impossible to close on a precise policy decision," said Daniel Ujcz, a trade attorney with Dickinson Wright PLLC in Columbus, Ohio. "You're constantly chasing after the next issue as opposed to having a very targeted approach to the objective."

On Twitter, follow Ken Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

The most volatile candidate for the midterms: Trump

By ZEKE MILLER and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Heading into the midterm elections, the most volatile candidate this year isn't on the ballot.

But President Donald Trump still loves to take his freewheeling political stylings on the road on behalf of his fellow Republicans and he's raring to go for the sprint to Nov. 6.

His eagerness to campaign for candidates — and protect his political flank — has led Republican officials and Trump's political team to devise a strategy for managing the president's time. It's designed to keep him in places where he can be helpful.

They're also determined to try to manage his unpredictability so the party's strongest asset in turning out core GOP voters doesn't end up doing damage instead.

There's a constant effort to keep him on best behavior.

This past week, Trump heeded pleas from advisers and Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner, head of the GOP Senate campaign committee, to refrain from picking a favorite in the fractious Arizona primary, waiting until after the results were in to back the winner. Later, at a rally in Indiana for Senate candidate Mike Braun, the president largely stuck to his script, promoting his agenda and criticizing Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind.

"Senate Republicans will not get to where they need to go without the president this fall. That means doing exactly what he's been doing," said Josh Holmes, a longtime adviser to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "The great danger in a midterm is an enthusiasm gap and there is nobody who can close the enthusiasm gap quite like the president."

Aides believe Trump's drawing power is critical to a strong turnout among the most loyal GOP voters, which is helpful in many statewide contests. But his presence could be counterproductive in many House districts where incumbents are struggling to hold onto voters in the center.

But this is a celebrity-turned-president who hardly is a selfless leader of his adoptive party. He launched his own re-election campaign weeks after his swearing-in last year, rather than waiting until after the midterm elections, as did his predecessors. With Democrats increasingly optimistic about retaking the House, Trump is motivated by self-protection. He's keenly aware of the threats and investigations that could come his way if Democrats hold a majority in either the House or Senate.

It hasn't all been smooth sailing, and Trump created an unnecessary political firestorm with his delayed and muted response to the death of Sen. John McCain. Still, aides think he generally has grown more focused and disciplined entering the final push to the fall elections.

At his Indiana rally Thursday night, Trump stuck to familiar themes, talking about tax cuts and trade tariffs, slamming high-tech companies, railing against the Justice Department and calling MS-13 gang members animals. But he did not mention McCain, avoiding recounting the well-worn tale about the senator's pivotal vote against the president's health care bill.

After a week in which aides pushed Trump to rise above his personal grudges against McCain, the mere fact that Trump kept the senator out of his remarks was notable.

While Trump's White House remains marked by turbulence, insiders said the political shop has managed to impose some discipline. On potential endorsements, for example, political director Bill Stepien and adviser John DeStefano bring Trump detailed binders on candidates' voting records, including their past comments on Trump, where they have broken with the president and other details.

While Stepien and DeStefano have gained influence, they must compete with other power centers. Vice

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President Mike Pence and the White House office of legislative affairs weigh in at times, and Donald Trump Jr. has proved a powerful influence.

Some races have proved complicated, as in the Arizona Senate race, where Kelly Ward and former Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio both promoted their ties to Trump, as did establishment favorite Rep. Martha McSally. Trump stayed out of the race and McSally handily defeated the two more controversial candidates, averting what GOP operatives believed could have been a disaster for the party this fall.

In the Tennessee governor's race, Rep. Diane Black also pushed for an endorsement. Trump stayed out of that race, which she lost, on the advice of staff.

But the president could not be persuaded to stay silent in other cases.

He supported Foster Friess in the GOP gubernatorial primary in Wyoming. Friess, who lost, was strongly backed by Trump Jr. Aides also had pushed Trump not to endorse Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach in his bid to be governor, but Trump did at the last minute, helping put Kobach over the top in the primary but making the race in November more competitive for Democrats.

Aides said they pick their battles with the president, prioritizing races that could swing the balance of congressional control.

For political travel, White House staffers, who are coordinating with party aides, have divided the electoral map into places Trump can be helpful and places where it's better to send in others such as Pence, Cabinet secretaries or members of the first family.

"He's prioritizing places where he's performed well and where there's a strong network of grassroots support," said North Carolina Rep. Mark Meadows, chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus.

When Trump makes a political trip, aides try to make sure the candidate meets the president at the airport, has time with him in the car and gets the right sound bites on stage. That script was followed Thursday with Braun; Trump called him a "special guy" and promised that Braun would "be a truly great senator."

On Friday, as he praised a pair of North Carolina Republican candidates at both an official and political event, Trump was effusive in his praise before turning the spotlight on his own accomplishments.

Trump's rallies also have served as a boost to the GOP's massive email and voter contact database. Attendees are entered into the party's system within 48 hours.

Republican National Committee staffers gather signatures on petitions from people waiting in line and register voters at the event. Within five days, those that have expressed an interest in volunteering are contacted to schedule their first session.

O'Rourke bets national attention lifts him in Texas race

By WILL WEISSERT, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — If elections were decided by viral videos and fawning media profiles, Democrat Beto O'Rourke would win Texas' Senate race in a landslide.

Video of the candidate defending NFL players' right to protest during the national anthem had been viewed by millions even before NBA star LeBron James called it a "must-watch." Another of O'Rourke, a three-term congressman, thrashing through a Whataburger parking lot on a skateboard is almost as popular, increasing the onetime punk rocker's already considerable street cred.

National magazines are suggesting he could be a Democratic vice-presidential pick in 2020 — or even a White House contender, ala a young Barack Obama. Sure, O'Rourke may lose to incumbent Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, the argument goes, but just staying competitive in Texas, which hasn't elected a Democrat to statewide office in nearly a quarter century, would still further boost his political star.

The White House is taking notice. President Donald Trump tweeted that he plans to stage "a major rally" for Cruz in October. Help from the president was long unthinkable in a race that for months looked like a Cruz cakewalk.

The hype machine powering O'Rourke has brought in piles of campaign cash and generated excitement nationally. But it also risks eventual backlash. Voters have often punished candidates for getting too big for their political britches — especially if they haven't won anything yet. O'Rourke need only look to his

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opponent for an example of a politician whose ambitions irked voters he needed.

Still, the Democrat seems eager to test a Trump-era theory that, with such an outsized personality in the White House, voters may no longer want their politicians to stay humble.

O'Rourke has largely welcomed the spotlight. His stance on anthem protests landed him an appearance on Ellen DeGeneres' TV show this week. O'Rourke also hasn't disavowed descriptions of himself as "Kennedy-esque," given his boyish good looks. He livestreams constantly and, in March, when he appeared on HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher," the crowd in Los Angeles cheered so much that the host crowed, "It's like when the Beatles came to America."

"You can't control it," O'Rourke spokesman Chris Evans said of the attention. He disputed the idea that national praise could hurt back home, saying it's "hard to say we're not focused on Texas" since O'Rourke just spent 34 days of the congressional summer recess campaigning without leaving the state.

O'Rourke himself has shrugged off questions about whether too much attention could create unrealistic expectations. "The whole thing is not something he's talked about, really," Evans said.

Some Texans think the campaign might want to, though.

"Most voters in Texas still don't know who Beto O'Rourke is. If the first thing they know about him is he's like Obama, then that's going to turn off more voters than it attracts," said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston.

Ironically, O'Rourke could ask Cruz about this problem. He arrived in the Senate and immediately laid the groundwork for a presidential campaign that saw him finish second to Trump in the 2016 primary. Cruz then alienated much of his base by refusing to endorse Trump at that year's Republican National Convention, and though he's since embraced the president, some Texas conservatives say they're still wary, seeing what happened at the convention as putting personal ambition over party.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio has also run into issues with political ambition clashing with his day job, and just ask former North Carolina Democratic Sen. John Edwards, who was already fading before word of his affair and a child with his mistress broke, about how well being dubbed the second coming of Bill Clinton went.

Texas Democrats, meanwhile, have been down this road before. Wendy Davis staged a marathon state Legislature filibuster in the name of abortion rights, rocketed to national stardom and launched a 2014 gubernatorial bid. Like O'Rourke, Davis was a strong fundraiser and the toast of liberals from Hollywood to Brooklyn. Largely unable to define herself beyond abortion, which resonated nationally but not at home, Davis eventually lost by 20-plus points to Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

Bob Radnich, a retiree who lives near the Texas-Mexico border and donned an Uncle Sam costume to hold up a "Stand with Wendy Davis" sign on a street corner in 2014, is now backing O'Rourke — but trying to keep realistic expectations.

"He's a real star," Radnich said. "But we have to get the people to vote."

Cruz's internal polling is starting to show a much tighter race, those close to his campaign say. But during Texas' primary in March, when Democrats angered by Trump notched their highest mid-term primary turnout since 2002, Cruz still netted 1.3-plus million votes. O'Rourke got less than 650,000, and only about 1 million total Democratic Senate ballots were cast between him and two-little known primary opponents.

Even if O'Rourke wins over those Democratic primary voters who didn't support him, he's looking at a 300,000-plus vote deficit. And, the more stories written about O'Rourke, the more energized Republicans may be to turn out to vote. That's what Cruz is counting on.

"In Texas, there are a lot more conservatives than liberals," Cruz said following a recent campaign stop. "So, my task politically between now and Election Day is very simple, turn out conservatives."

Cruz has tried to paint O'Rourke as the preferred candidate of non-Texans. But 68 percent of O'Rourke's contributions during the Senate race have come from in-state donors compared to just 39 percent for Cruz, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

That feeds into O'Rourke's promises to concentrate on representing Texas full-time and championing having visited all of its 254 counties during his campaign — in contrast to Cruz, who hit all 99 Iowa counties on his way to winning that state's 2016 caucus.

Too much national hype, however, could make such promises sound hollow.

"If people perceive him as being an ambitious climber then they might think twice," Rottinghaus said. "He looks like a politician instead of a grassroots-inspired movement, and that's problematic for voters who want to invest in something different."

This story has been updated to correct Rottinghaus' university affiliation to the University of Houston, not Rice University.

Nebraska Catholic diocese rocked by old abuse allegations

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — For more than a decade, a conservative Catholic diocese in Nebraska was the only church in the U.S. that refused to participate in annual reviews of sexual misconduct that were a key reform enacted in the wake of the 2002 Boston clergy abuse scandal.

As a new wave of abuse scandals rock the Roman Catholic church, critics say the Diocese of Lincoln is now paying the price for its unwillingness to change and lack of transparency.

Accusers have been coming forward in recent weeks with allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct by clergy in Nebraska, and the diocese is facing a potential criminal investigation and criticism that it mishandled abusive priests even as it should have been subjected to increased scrutiny after the Boston scandal.

From 2002 to 2015, leaders of the Lincoln diocese refused to participate in annual audits designed to uncover sex abuse allegations and gauge how well church officials were complying with child-protection policies. Church leaders called the audits a pointless endeavor that assumed wrongdoing by the diocese and its priests, but one of the bishops during that period knew of at least two allegations against priests, according to interviews and a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

"I think the closed nature of the diocese made this worse," said Rachel Pokora, a member of the Catholic reformist group Call to Action. "Even if the audits never revealed anything — and I think they probably would have — it still shows an unwillingness to be open."

The Nebraska attorney general's office has spoken with at least two accusers and urged others to come forward about abuse in the diocese. Lincoln police are also investigating a priest accused of having an "emotionally inappropriate, non-sexual relationship" with a 19-year-old male altar server that involved alcohol in 2017, church officials said.

A Lincoln police spokesman confirmed the investigation but declined to comment further. On Wednesday, the diocese unveiled a new, anonymous hotline and website to take complaints.

The scandals come amid accusations that Pope Francis was complicit in the face of sex-abuse allegations against a former high-ranking cardinal in Washington, D.C., and a grand jury investigation that identified more than 1,000 child victims in Pennsylvania.

Many of the new allegations in Lincoln focus on the actions of the Rev. James Benton, a 71-year-old priest who retired last year despite church leaders knowing about abuse allegations against him for at least 15 years.

Dr. Stan Schulte, a 37-year-old chiropractor in Lincoln, said Benton, his uncle, molested him at a rectory sleepover in the early 1990s when he was a boy. Another Lincoln man, Jeffrey Hoover, reported a similar experience with Benton during a camping trip in the early 1980s while he and the priest slept in the same bed.

Church officials said they didn't have enough evidence to pursue charges. Benton has not been charged with a crime, although the two men have spoken with an investigator from the Nebraska attorney general's office.

A diocese spokesman, the Rev. Nick Kipper, said church officials would not comment beyond statements from the current bishop, the Rev. James Conley.

Hoover said he reported his experience to a priest in 1997 and directly to then-Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz

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in 2002. Schulte notified the diocese in 2017 and said he probably would not have been molested if the diocese had properly responded to Hoover's allegations.

Bruskewitz led the Lincoln diocese until 2010 and was the bishop who refused to participate in the audits, saying the diocese was already following all civil and Catholic laws. He argued that some members of the board that oversaw the audits were "advocates of partial-birth abortion, other abortion, human cloning and other moral errors."

"It is understandable then how such persons could dislike the Diocese of Lincoln, which upholds the moral teaching of the Catholic Church," Bruskewitz said in a 2006 statement.

Under the audits, participating dioceses must disclose cases of sexual abuse and misconduct to a national review board that compiles all cases for an annual public report that shows the number of allegations and makes recommendations for how churches can improve.

The Lincoln Diocese is one of the nation's most conservative, a reputation highlighted by its refusal to allow female altar servers. Virtually all Catholic churches eliminated their bans shortly after the Vatican lifted the restriction in 1994.

Conley, who succeeded Bruskewitz, reversed the diocese's policy on the audits and began participating in them in 2015 after declaring that the process had improved from its previous methodology.

Benton has denied the allegations and an investigation didn't turn up enough evidence to prosecute, according to a May 7 letter the diocese sent to Schulte. But the church offered to reimburse Schulte up to \$3,000 for counseling if he submitted receipts showing where he had sought treatment. Schulte said he felt it was intrusive for church officials to know where he went.

The church also promised to keep Benton at a home for retired priests and said it would not let him help with Lincoln church services.

Benton retired in fall 2017 after new allegations surfaced, and the church imposed new restrictions to prevent the priest from engaging in public ministry in the diocese and banned him from being alone with minors.

Hoover said Benton touched his hip and groin area twice on a camping trip with other boys, when Hoover was around 10 years old.

Hoover said he was disgusted by the diocese response but didn't pursue it because he doubted the church would do anything more, he felt embarrassed, and he assumed Benton wouldn't interact with young boys in the future.

"I probably would have just lived with it," he said. "But as soon as I started having kids of my own, I realized it's not just about me."

The cases came to light after a defrocked priest leveled allegations this month against the late Monsignor Leonard Kalin, the former pastor of the University of Nebraska's Newman Center. Kalin served at the Newman Center from 1970 to 1998, and died in 2008.

Those accusations prompted another former seminarian, Wei Hsien Wan, to allege that Kalin made unwanted sexual advances toward him and another man when he was a young seminarian in 1998.

Wan said he reported Kalin's actions to a priest twice, after which time Bruskewitz imposed restrictions on Kalin.

Wan said he doesn't believe the diocese has been transparent. He pointed to an Aug. 4 public statement from Conley, which acknowledged "one report of a physical boundary violation" by Kalin. Wan said the church was aware of allegations from him and another seminarian in 1998.

"The Diocese has proven itself incapable of handling allegations in a responsible manner," Wan said by email from his home in Malaysia.

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

The author of this story is not related to Dr. Stan Schulte.

4 missing after boats collide, sink on Colorado River

MOABI REGIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — Four people are missing after two boats crashed and sunk on the Colorado River, ejecting more than a dozen people who were on board, authorities said Sunday.

A recreational boat carrying 10 people and another vessel with six people on board collided head-on Saturday night on a well-traveled stretch of the river that marks the border between California and Arizona, the Mohave County Sheriff's Office said.

Both boats sank, and passing boaters pulled crash victims from the water. Nine people were injured, with two in critical condition, authorities said.

The crash occurred between two popular marinas and near Moabi Regional Park, a well-traveled recreation area crowded with people enjoying the Labor Day weekend.

Three women and one man remained missing on Sunday, Mohave County Sheriff Doug Schuster said. Helicopters have been deployed, and authorities have scoured the shoreline to try to find them. Divers have been sent out into the river's waters, which can range from shallow to 30 feet (9 meters) deep.

"These efforts will continue until all of those who are missing and unaccounted for have been located," Shuster told reporters on Sunday.

The cause of the crash is being investigated. None of the boaters were wearing life jackets, which aren't required but are recommended by authorities, Shuster said.

On Saturday night, authorities had to temporarily halt the search because it was too dangerous to put divers into the dark waters. Efforts resumed after daybreak Sunday, and authorities closed off a stretch of the river where the search was taking place.

"We have four parties unaccounted for and presumed submerged," said Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire District in California, which is assisting in the search.

Rights group: Strike on bus in Yemen is 'apparent war crime'

By SAMY MAGDY, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen that killed dozens of people last month is an "apparent war crime," an international rights group said Sunday.

The report came days after U.N. human rights experts said all sides in the fighting may have been responsible for committing war crimes in the 3½-year conflict.

The coalition backing Yemen's internationally recognized government expressed regret Saturday and pledged to hold accountable those found to be responsible for the airstrike, which hit a bus carrying children in a busy market in the northern province of Saada. At least 51 people, including 40 children, were killed, and 79 others, including 56 children, were wounded.

Human Rights Watch said the attack adds to the coalition's "already gruesome track record of killing civilians at weddings, funerals, hospitals and schools in Yemen."

The New York-based group said it spoke by phone to 14 witnesses, including nine children, who said that shortly before 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 9, a bomb fell on the market in Dhahyan, a town north of Saada in Houthi-controlled northwestern Yemen, 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the Saudi border.

The bomb landed a few meters from a bus packed with boys on an excursion organized by a mosque to visit the graves of men who had been killed in fighting, the group said. The bus was parked outside a grocery store where the driver had gone to buy water for the children, HRW said.

"I saw bodies torn into pieces, pieces of my friends. ... Many of my friends died," the group quoted Ahmad Hanash, 14, as saying. He and his brothers Hassan, 13, and Yahia, 11, were wounded in the attack.

Bill Van Esveld, senior children's rights researcher for HRW, urged the U.S. and other countries to "immediately stop weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and support strengthening the independent U.N. inquiry into violations in Yemen, or risk being complicit in future atrocities."

The coalition said it has accepted the conclusions of its investigative body, known as the Joint Incidents Assessments Team, which found that the airstrike involved "mistakes," including failing to take measures

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to minimize collateral damage.

The coalition said in its statement Saturday that "it will take all the legal measures to hold accountable those who were proven to have committed mistakes" once it officially receives the findings. It also pledged to coordinate with Yemen's government to compensate civilians.

The U.S. State Department on Sunday welcomed the coalition's statement as "an important first step toward full transparency and accountability." It urged all sides of the conflict to "abide by the Law of Armed Conflict, to mitigate harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure, and thoroughly investigate and ensure accountability for any violations."

HRW's statement came after U.N. human rights experts said last week that the governments of Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia may have been responsible for committing war crimes, including rape, torture, arbitrary detention and use of child soldiers. The U.N. panel also pointed to possible war crimes committed by the Houthi rebels fighting the coalition.

It also urged the international community to "refrain from providing arms that could be used in the conflict" — an apparent reference to Western countries that have sold sophisticated weapons systems to the Gulf states. It also was an apparent reference to Saudi Arabia's regional foe Iran, which the coalition has accused of arming the Houthis.

The Associated Press reported last year that the UAE and its allied militias were running a network of secret detention facilities, beyond the control of the Yemeni government. In June, the AP reported that hundreds of detainees had been subjected to sexual abuse and torture.

The coalition has faced criticism for its campaign of airstrikes, while the Houthis have been accused of using land mines, killing and wounding civilians. They have also targeted religious minorities and imprisoned opponents.

The rebels also often attempt cross-border attacks on Saudi Arabia and have targeted the kingdom's vessels in the Red Sea.

Yemen's civil war pitting the coalition against the Houthis has been raging since March 2015. The coalition backs Yemen's internationally recognized government of Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and aims to restore it to power.

The U.N. says the conflict has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with more than 22 million people in desperate need in what is already the Arab world's poorest country.

Associated Press writer Susannah George in Washington contributed.

Hope, caution as Kim Jong Un shifts to North Korea's economy

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

MOUNT CHILBO, North Korea (AP) — Tanned and wearing a swimsuit, So Myong Il walks to the barbecue pit and throws on some clams.

He obviously loves the beach he's on as well as the rugged, emerald Chilbo mountains that rise abruptly behind it. He loves them enough to forget, for a moment at least, that he is a senior official sent to deliver an ideology-soaked pitch singing their praises and instead lets the natural beauty surrounding him speak for itself.

Comrade So sees great things for North Korean attractions like this.

Hotels, big and small. Tourists from all over the country, maybe the world. "As long as we have the leadership of our respected Marshal," he says, referring to leader Kim Jong Un, "our future will be bright indeed."

So wouldn't think of questioning the leader, but there is a hint of apprehension in his voice. And he isn't alone.

North Korea is pushing ahead with a new strategy of economic development and the intensified diplomacy with China, South Korea and the United States that such a move requires. But hopes for a better future are mixed with concern over potential downsides of political or social volatility, and something that's harder to articulate: a fear of the unknown — even if it appears far more promising than the arduous path

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the country has been on for decades.

Even before announcing in January that he had sufficiently perfected his nuclear arsenal and could start to focus on other things, Kim has held economic development to be his primary long-term concern.

He has allowed markets and entrepreneurialism to flourish and, since succeeding his father as leader seven years ago, has dramatically transformed the skyline of the capital, Pyongyang, with several high-rise districts. The transformation in the east coast city of Wonsan, where Kim has a summer villa, has been almost as spectacular.

As Kim prepares for the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding on Sept. 9, his ambitious development plan is being implemented, from the small-time renovation of town halls to the almost biblical-scale mobilization of "soldier-builders," who are working around the clock to turn the remote northern city of Samjiyon into yet another showcase of Pyongyang-style socialism.

Economic development — and how U.S. capital and know-how could speed it along — was President Donald Trump's big carrot when he met with Kim in Singapore three months ago to try to negotiate a denuclearization deal.

But Kim's diplomatic overtures aren't intended to open the door to American capitalists, a scenario that would make any good party cadre shudder. They are aimed at breaking down support for sanctions and getting the U.S. to step out of the way. Kim's game is to play China and the U.S. off each other, grab whatever concessions he can along the way and adjust his position as the situation evolves.

In the meantime, lest anyone get the wrong idea, the ruling Workers' Party of Korea has begun churning out paeans to socialism in its daily newspaper along with anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism screeds that underscore North Korea's official opposition to essentially anything that might be considered the American way of life. Or, as it's known in the jargon of North Korea's propaganda machine, "the imperialists' bourgeois ideological and cultural poisoning."

The past few months have been tense in Pyongyang.

Restrictions on some of the movements of foreign diplomats have been tightened, for example, and even requests by The Associated Press to interview government officials or to speak with regular citizens have mostly been denied.

Uncertain of where it might all end up, state-run media have provided only limited coverage of Kim's meetings with Trump in June and his multiple summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Reports have portrayed Kim as the consummate statesman, firmly in charge of a carefully considered strategy to make his country safer and more prosperous.

Kim is ardently wooing South Korean investment to help him build the very things Trump was offering: infrastructure, particularly roads and railways, and the development of selected tourism zones. After a high-profile chill last year, he is also actively courting Beijing, which continues to be an essential source of fuel, a key market for North Korea's coal and other natural resources and a fairly reliable check on U.S. power in the region.

Pyongyang's explanation for the shift in its foreign policy has been consistent: Having successfully built a credible nuclear deterrent to U.S. aggression, Kim is reaching out to Seoul to join hands in a "for Koreans, by Koreans" effort to secure a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, unhindered by the meddling of foreign powers.

Undoubtedly, images of the leader smiling and shaking hands with Trump, whose face had never been on the front pages of their newspapers before, signaled a major and bewildering change to many North Koreans.

But officials have made sure they don't have much time to ruminate on it.

Normal routines of work and study have been put on hold for large segments of the populace who have been mobilized for the development projects. Tens of thousands of people in Pyongyang, meanwhile, have spent the past several months feverishly preparing for mass rallies and mass games to mark the anniversary.

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Mount Chilbo, a collection of rocky peaks and a stretch of largely untouched seashore on the country's northeastern fringe, is one of North Korea's most cherished natural wonders.

The first hotel for non-Korean visitors opened in the 1980s, followed in 2004 by homestay-style lodgings near the beach, said So, a North Hamgyong Province People's Committee official. Together they have a capacity of fewer than 100 guests and only operate from April until early November.

Many North Koreans bring tents and sleep on the beach.

But even in this rustic corner of the country, the pressure to contribute to Kim's grand development scheme is keenly felt.

So said he would soon travel to China to discuss possible areas of cooperation.

As an indicator of Kim's success with Beijing, tourism from China is already on the rise. Pyongyang's longer-term goal, however, is to tap the South Korean market. The idea is that, if handled properly, South Korean tourism would present a chance to promote the North in a positive light and boost its image within South Korea.

That's a gamble too.

Back in the late 1990s and early 2000s, South Koreans were allowed to visit in a highly regulated and controlled manner, and massive investment from South Korean businesses helped the North fund infrastructure projects in the same Wonsan-Mount Kumgang area that Kim is focusing on now. But it ended badly in 2008 when a South Korean woman who entered a restricted area was shot to death by a North Korean soldier.

So said he believes Chilbo, like Kim's pet projects in Wonsan, could be a big draw for tourists. But he worries about where the money will come from and what might be lost.

"Whatever we do, we need to protect the natural beauty of this place," he said. "I think there will be many changes in the coming years. Plans are being discussed. But nothing is decided."

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief and has traveled to North Korea regularly since 2013. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter: @EricTalmadge

'Crazy Rich Asians' banks another crazy rich weekend

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Crazy Rich Asians" isn't slowing down at the box office even in its third weekend in theaters, and is helping to send a strong summer moviegoing season off on a high note.

Studios on Sunday say the romantic comedy has topped the domestic charts again. Warner Bros. estimates that the film added an additional \$22.2 million through Sunday, down only 10 percent from last weekend. To date, the film has grossed nearly \$111 million from North American theaters, passing the lifetime domestic total of 2015's "Trainwreck," one of the last big studio rom-com success stories.

Should the pace hold through Monday, "Crazy Rich Asians" could also have one of the biggest Labor Day weekends ever by the time final numbers are reported on Tuesday. The current four-day Labor Day record sits with 2007's "Halloween" which opened with \$30.6 million and some are projecting that "Crazy Rich Asians" could hit \$30 million.

It easily won out over the holdovers and a few newcomers, like the Nazi war crime film "Operation Finale" and the sci-fi thriller "Kin."

Warner Bros.' shark pic "The Meg" took second place with an additional \$10.5 million, bringing its global total to \$462.8 million. "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," in its fifth weekend, added \$7 million for a third place finish.

"Operation Finale" landed in fourth place with \$6 million. The film starring Oscar Isaac and Ben Kingsley tells the story of how Mossad agent Peter Malkin captured Adolf Eichmann.

And the John Cho-led computer screen mystery "Searching" performed better than expected in its expansion to 1,200 screens, bringing in an estimated \$5.7 million through Sunday and rounding out the top five.

The sci-fi thriller "Kin," with Zoe Kravitz and Dennis Quaid, did not fare as well, and opened outside of

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the top 10 to only \$3 million from over 2,100 theaters.

In limited release, Lionsgate and Pantelion's Spanish-language "Ya Veremos" opened to \$1.8 million from 369 locations. And Focus Features' gothic thriller "The Little Stranger" launched on 474 screens to \$420,000.

"Pretty much every summer ends with a whimper...that's very typical," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "But this is going to be a very strong Labor Day weekend."

The weekend closes out the fruitful 2018 summer movie season. Box office tracker comScore is projecting that the 2018 summer box office will net out with around \$4.39 billion, up over 14 percent from last year when the summer didn't even hit \$4 billion. Year to date, the box office is up 9.9 percent.

The success of "Crazy Rich Asians" also propelled an especially lucrative August, up almost 30 percent from last year. But, Dergarabedian warns, September is likely to take a bit of a hit.

"We're going to see a downturn in the year-to-date advantage. Last year 'It' propelled a record-breaking September," he said. "I don't think there's anything of that magnitude this September."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

1. "Crazy Rich Asians," \$22.2 million (\$10.4 million international).
2. "The Meg," \$10.5 million (\$17.7 million international).
3. "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," \$7 million (\$89.1 million international).
4. "Operation Finale," \$6 million.
5. "Searching," \$5.7 million (\$5.9 million international).
6. "Christopher Robin," \$5 million (\$4.7 million international).
7. "Alpha," \$4.5 million (\$6.6 million international).
8. "The Happytime Murders," \$4.4 million (\$1.5 million international).
9. "BlacKkKlansman," \$4.1 million (\$4.8 million international).
10. "Mile 22," \$3.6 million (\$6 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," \$89.1 million.
2. "The Meg," \$17.7 million.
3. "Ant-Man and the Wasp," \$15.8 million.
4. "Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation," \$11.8 million.
5. "Crazy Rich Asians," \$10.4 million.
6. "The Equalizer 2," \$10 million.
7. "Incredibles 2," \$9.6 million.
8. "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," \$7.6 million.
9. "Alpha," \$6.6 million.
10. "Mile 22," 6 million.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/lbahr>

Insider Q&A: Small Colorado manufacturer caught in trade war

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Troy Roberts has been at ground zero for the trade war being waged by President Donald Trump. And he worries that American companies like his will get hurt.

Roberts is CEO of Quatek Manufacturing, which employs 74 people at a plant in Colorado Springs, Colorado, producing specialty metal parts for medical equipment. The cost of the steel and aluminum he uses jumped after Trump announced his intention in March to impose a 25 percent tariff on steel imports and a 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports.

The Associated Press spoke recently with Roberts about the impact of the administration's trade policies.

How has your company been affected by the president's decision to levy tariffs on steel and aluminum imports?

Our primary raw materials are stainless steel and aluminum. Prices have increased over 30 percent. Our supply comes from U.S. mills. It is not foreign purchases. But the higher tariffs imposed on foreign steel and aluminum have allowed U.S. producers to significantly increase their prices.

Have these higher prices hurt your business?

We are contract manufacturers, so we already had a lot of pre-tariff material to fulfill our existing contracts. But as these contracts come up for renewal, it will be very problematic because we do not believe our customers will accept these kinds of price increases. Our customers can go elsewhere.

What kind of impact are we talking about?

If we had to pay the higher materials prices for our existing contracts, it would have added \$300,000 to the cost of our products. That hasn't hit us yet because we are still filling existing contracts, but those higher prices will start to hit in the next six months.

Can your competitors avoid higher prices by moving production abroad?

Yes. They can move their operations to countries like Mexico or Canada. They don't have to move far.

What have members of Congress told you?

The biggest misconception is that they thought this would just increase the price of foreign steel and aluminum. But these tariffs allow U.S. producers to raise their prices.

How do you think this trade dispute will end?

The longer this trade war goes on, I believe it will lead to a permanent loss of markets for U.S. companies and the jobs that go with them. A lot of my competitors who have operations in Mexico or other countries are already getting pressure from their customers to move their production.

Larger companies have room to maneuver. But a small company like ours — we are getting squeezed between our customers and foreign competition. We will disappear.

Interviewed by Martin Crutsinger.

Answers edited for clarity and length.

William Hill, FanDuel begin mobile sports bets in New Jersey

By WAYNE PARRY, Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey's mobile sports betting market is getting bigger as football season gets closer.

The American affiliate of a major British bookmaker and a fantasy sports titan began offering mobile

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sports betting in New Jersey on Saturday night, joining that state's rapidly expanding market.

William Hill US, which runs sports books at Atlantic City's Ocean Resort Casino and the Monmouth Park Racetrack in Oceanport, and FanDuel, which operates the sports book at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, began a trial period of their mobile sports betting operations after receiving authorization to run a five-day testing period by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement.

Their entry into the mobile sports betting market brings the number of companies offering such gambling in New Jersey to five.

Previously approved companies include the Borgata casino; fantasy sports company Draft Kings, which partners with Resorts casino; and PlaySugarHouse.com.

Companies are pushing to get approved for mobile and online sports betting in time for the start of the NFL season, which kicks off Thursday night with a game between the defending champion Philadelphia Eagles and the Atlanta Falcons.

Including in-person sports betting, six of Atlantic City's nine casinos offer sports wagering, along with the two horse racing tracks.

The Borgata was the first New Jersey casino to offer sports betting beginning in June. It has since been joined by the Ocean Resort; Harrah's; Bally's; Resorts; and the Golden Nugget.

A court battle is underway regarding whether the former Garden State Park racetrack in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, can be used for sports betting as well.

New Jersey gambling outlets took in \$40.6 million in sports wagers in July, the first full month it was legal.

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

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 3, the 246th day of 2018. There are 119 days left in the year. This is Labor Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 3, 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

On this date:

In 1609, English explorer Henry Hudson and his crew aboard the Half Moon entered present-day New York Harbor and began sailing up the river that now bears his name. (They reached present-day Albany before turning back.)

In 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1943, Allied forces invaded Italy during World War II, the same day Italian officials signed a secret armistice with the Allies.

In 1951, the television soap opera "Search for Tomorrow" made its debut on CBS.

In 1967, Nguyen Van Thieu (nwen van too) was elected president of South Vietnam under a new constitution.

In 1970, legendary football coach Vince Lombardi, 57, died in Washington, D.C.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the red planet's surface.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was installed as the 264th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1989, a Cubana de Aviacion jetliner crashed after takeoff in Havana, killing all 126 aboard and 45 people on the ground.

In 1995, the online auction site eBay was founded in San Jose, California, by Pierre Omidyar under the

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name "AuctionWeb."

In 1999, a French judge closed a two-year inquiry into the car crash that killed Princess Diana, dismissing all charges against nine photographers and a press motorcyclist, and concluding the accident was caused by an inebriated driver.

In 2003, Paul Hill, a former minister who said he murdered an abortion doctor and his bodyguard to save the lives of unborn babies, was executed in Florida by injection, becoming the first person put to death in the United States for anti-abortion violence.

Ten years ago: Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, John McCain's choice of running mate, roused delegates at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., as she belittled Democrat Barack Obama and praised the GOP nominee. Thousands of New Orleans residents who had fled Hurricane Gustav forced the city to reluctantly open its doors, while President George W. Bush returned to the scene to show that the government had turned a corner since its bungled response to Katrina. Baseball's first use of instant replay backed an onfield call of a home run for Alex Rodriguez during the ninth inning of a New York Yankees game against the Tampa Bay Rays. (The Yankees won the game, 8-4.)

Five years ago: Ariel Castro, who'd held three women captive in his Cleveland home for nearly a decade before one escaped and alerted authorities, was found hanged in his prison cell, a suicide. Former NBA star Dennis Rodman arrived in Pyongyang for his second visit to North Korea.

One year ago: North Korea carried out its sixth and strongest nuclear test, detonating what it said was a hydrogen bomb. Walter Becker, co-founder of the 1970s rock group Steely Dan, died at the age of 67.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pauline Collins is 78. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 76. Actress Valerie Perrine is 75. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 70. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 63. Actor Steve Schirripa is 61. Actor Holt McCallany is 54. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 53. Actor Costas Mandylor is 53. Actor Charlie Sheen is 53. Singer Jennifer Paige is 45. Dance-rock musician Redfoo is 43. Actress Ashley Jones is 42. Actress Nichole Hiltz is 40. Actor Joel Johnstone is 40. Actor Nick Wechsler is 40. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 39. Bluegrass musician Darren Nicholson (Balsam Range) is 35. Actress Christine Woods is 35. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 34. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 32. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 26.

Thought for Today: "It is awfully important to know what is and what is not your business." — Gertrude Stein, American author (1874-1946).