

Groton Daily Independent

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Record Low

We hit a record low this morning. The previous record was 5 in 1920. This morning it hit -2.4 at 5:08.

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- 1- Record Low this morning
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- 2- Wheatcrest Hills Help Wanted
- 3- Obit: Terrence Hubbard
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Harry Implement
"Family Owned & Operated Since 1935!"

 (605) 395-6421
Ferney

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

Bohnenkamp Receives National Nursing Award

Susie Bohnenkamp was just named the recipient of the 2018 Certified Nurse Award in the Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist category by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC). ANCC



sited her significant contributions in improving clinical outcomes through collaborative work with the OR team at Banner University Medical Center in Tucson, AZ.

Patricia Reid Ponte, ANCC President, said, "Your tireless commitment to the pursuit of excellence in clinical practice and in achieving optimum clinical outcomes within your organization truly projects a very positive image for what an ANCC certified nurse should be and truly deserves this year's recognition."

Susie is a 1982 Graduate of Groton High School, 1986 Graduate of SDSU and received her Masters in 1994 from the University of Arizona. Susie is married to Jeff Bohnenkamp (Gettysburg HS 1979 / USD 1983) and lives in Oro Valley AZ with their twin sons Zachary & Mitchell. Susie is the daughter of Les and Carol Dohman of Groton and Jeff is the son of the late John & Willa Bohnenkamp of Gettysburg.



Wheatcrest Hills

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SIGN-ON
BONUS

\$5,000
FT
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The Life of Terrence Hubbard



Terrence C. Hubbard, known to his many friends as Terry, passed away on Sunday morning, January 28, 2018, in Corpus Christi, Texas, from complications caused by Parkinson's Disease and the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. He was 80 years old. His wife, Kathy, (Katherine) was by his side. They were married for 49 years.

Terry was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle and grandpa. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Jesse Schoch, his father, Ronald A. Hubbard, his mother, Margaret Hubbard, and his sister Theone Cutler.

In addition to his wife, Kathy, he is survived by his son Jeffrey Scott (Dee), and granddaughters Casey Jo and Karley Rae all of Hayden, Idaho, his sister, Karen, (Dave) Berglund of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, his brother-in-law Kay D. Cutler of Claremont, South Dakota, his foster brother, Kenneth R. Johnson, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A native of Groton, South Dakota, Terry was born on October 4, 1937. He graduated from Groton High School where he participated in sports and excelled in academics. He attended one year at Northern State Teachers' College, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, before being appointed to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated with the Class of 1960.

Terry served on the heavy cruiser ROCHESTER for one year and then attended Submarine School and nuclear power training. He served on the nuclear submarines SWORDFISH and BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, followed by shore duty tours at the Antisubmarine Warfare Force HQ and the Submarine Tactical Training Facility at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

After leaving the Navy, Terry worked for an engineering firm, Tetra Tech Inc. There he did operations research for the Navy at Pearl Harbor. He left to co-found another engineering firm, Omni Analysis, Inc., in San Diego, CA, where he served as executive vice president.

While in Hawaii, he developed an interest in model railroading, constructing elaborate, true-to-life layouts for his collection of N-scale model trains. He also became a marathon runner completing several marathons in Hawaii and San Diego, CA.

Retiring to Austin, Texas, he and Kathy purchased a custom picture framing business and opened an art gallery next door. When they retired from that business they moved to Rockport, Texas.

In Rockport Terry discovered kayaking, wade fishing, and redfish. When he wasn't fishing, he enjoyed woodworking in his garage shop where he continued his interest in model railroading. In addition, he found time to remodel the several homes he and Kathy owned during their years in Rockport.

Missing his two granddaughters who live far away, he volunteered with the Odyssey After School Enrichment Program in Rockport. There he introduced the kids to model railroading, taught them to play chess, and helped with math homework. He served on the Odyssey Board of Directors and was presented the first Volunteer of the Year Award for his commitment to the then new program.

There will be one final journey when Terry's ashes are scattered at sea near a favorite fishing spot.

Donations to honor Terry's life may be made to the Odyssey After School Enrichment program in Rockport, Texas, to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, or to a charity of your choice.

I have fought the good fight.

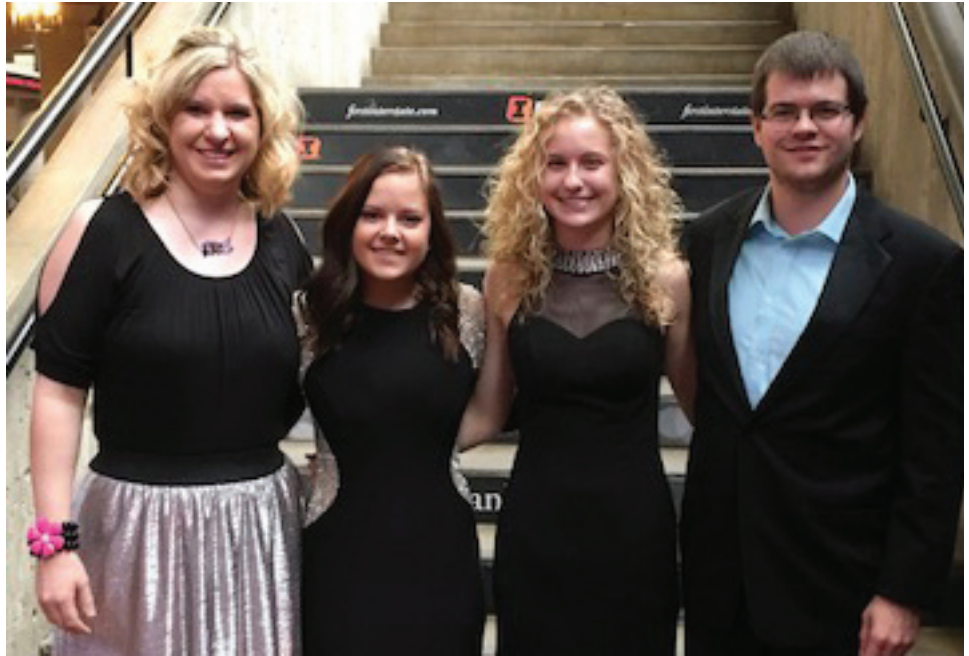
I have finished the race.

I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7

HS Students receive honor of being accepted into All State Band for the second year

On Saturday March 24th, Emily Thompson and Kylie Kassube proudly represented Groton Area in South Dakota's 67th Annual High School All State Band. The event was located in Rapid City, SD at the Rushmore Civic Area. The audition process to be accepted into All State Band is very vigorous and competitive. Students attend a judged audition that consists of scales, playing a solo, playing a learned etude, and sight reading in front of a qualified judge. A written test is also required. Emily and Kylie spent about a year preparing for the audition process. Emily



Pictured left to right are Desiree Yeigh, director; Kylie Kassube, Emily Thompson; and Austin Fordham, director. (Courtesy Photo)

auditioned for the percussion section. Only fourteen students are selected and Emily was number nine in the state. Kylie auditioned for clarinet the section. Forty-one students are selected and Kylie was number twenty in the state.

The guest conductors for this prestigious event was Dr. Jason Caslor and Dr. Christopher Chapman. Emily and Kylie were both placed in the Clark Band and were under the direction of Dr. Caslor from Arizona State University. The girls were excited to work with Dr. Caslor because this was not their first experience with him. He was the North Area Honor Band Director at Aberdeen in 2016, and the girls greatly enjoyed working with him.

Congratulations Emily and Kylie! You made Groton Area extremely proud once again!

Vander Vorst is new Groton Postmaster

Mindy Vander Vorst is the new Groton Postmaster as of Friday noon. Vander Vorst brings variety of experience to the Groton Post Office.

Mindy started as a Postmaster Relief in Andover in 2009, working just Saturday and when the postmaster was on leave. She has been married to Jacob Vander Vorst for 11 years and she wanted a part-time job while their children were young. They have three children, Cali, 12; Dawson, 9; and Lennon, 2.

Mindy has also been an Officer in Charge at the Bath, Langford and Ipswich post offices, a Postal Support Employee at Columbia and recently, she became the Non-Traditional Full-Time Clerk in Groton.

Over the years, consolidated of post offices was done and the Groton Post Office is also in charge of the Andover, Brentford, Columbia, Conde, Pierpont and Ferney offices.

During her off time, Mindy likes being with friends and family, watching their kids play sports and in the summer, they go to the Aberdeen race track where her husband races.

The Groton position provided a "Good opportunity to advance my career." She added that she had "great leadership under Melenie Sombke."

Melenie retired after being the Groton Postmaster for eight years. Prior to that, she was the Postmaster at Bristol for 10 years and she got her start by being the part-time, flexible (PTF) Clerk in Groton for 16 years.



Melenie Sombke (left) hands the keys to the Post Office to the new postmaster, Mindy Vander Vorst. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Melenie Sombke and Mindy Vander Vorst were greeted to this front yard of the Groton Post Office on Friday. Sombke has retired as the postmaster while Vander Vorst is the new postmaster. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Sun Dial Manor in Bristol is accepting applications for **full time and part time CNA's**. 12 hr. shifts- days and nights (SIGN ON BONUS OFFERED)

DIETARY OPENINGS

Full time cook, 8 hr. shifts (WITH SIGN ON BONUS)

Part time Dietary Tech

For more information, call 605-492-3615

Maintenance Supervisor Wanted:

Under the direction of the Facility Administrator, the Maintenance Supervisor oversees the daily operations of the Maintenance. Performs maintenance and repair of physical structures of buildings.

Day Shift C.N.A. Wanted

Sign-on Bonus

☆☆☆ \$1,500 for CNAs ☆☆☆

Contact Brynn Pickrel or Nellie Hatfield at 605-397-2365 or apply in person.

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94 octane, more power,

same mileage, fewer

carbon deposits, lower

maintenance costs,

slashed benzene & related

genotoxic, carcinogenic

tailpipe emissions;

*see sdfu.org's E30 tab for

info, E30 prices\locations.

***Farmers Union's**

PSA: Courtesy Merle

Anderson (Merle is 94

year old founder of Ace

and legendary ethanol

supporter... "because it is

the right thing to do")

HOUGHTON/HECLA AREA LAND FOR SALE

Houghton/Hecla area real estate located 4 miles South and 2 miles East of Hecla, owned by the Estate of Florence Evelyn Peterson, will be sold at auction, cash sale only, the following described real estate:

- Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 127 North, Range 60 West of the 5th P.M., Brown County, South Dakota. Approximately 162.46 acres of land (19.63 cropland, 142.83 pasture)

Seller makes no representation as to the actual number of acres contained in this description.

Bid opening and auction will take place at 2 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in the Hecla Community Room located at 202 Main Street, Hecla, South Dakota.

Terms of Sale: Sealed bids can be mailed to the office of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., ATTN: Ronald L. Gellhaus, PO Box 73, Aberdeen, SD 57402-0073 or brought to the auction. Please contact Teresa at 605-225-6522 to request a bid packet. Each sealed bid must include a Bid Sheet.

Earnest money of 10% upon acceptance of bid made payable to "Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C. Trust Account". Title insurance and closing fees shall be split equally between Buyer and Seller. Balance due upon closing and delivery of good title. 2017 real estate taxes due in 2018 will be paid by the Seller. 2018 real estate taxes due in 2019 will be the responsibility of the Buyer.

Seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Ronald L. Gellhaus, of Gellhaus & Gellhaus, P.C., represents the Seller. For additional information, please contact Ronald L. Gellhaus at 605-225-6522.

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Today in Weather History

April 4, 1961: High winds of 40-60mph, with 80-90mph gusts, affected Central and Western South Dakota. The most extensive property damage occurred in the Pierre area. The roof was blown off, and one wall damaged at a new motel. One trailer home was blown over, numerous windows and large signboards were destroyed, and roofs sustained damages in Pierre. Total loss estimated \$10,000.

1804: A group of tornadoes slashed a 120-mile path across seven counties in Georgia and one county in South Carolina killing 11 people near Augusta, GA. The tornado's path through heavy timber was still visible some 71 years later as noted in an Army Signal Corps survey.

1923: An estimated F4 tornado killed 15 people and injured 150 at Alexandria and Pineville, LA. 142 homes and businesses in Pineville were destroyed.

1966: One of the strongest tornadoes in Florida's history moved in from the Gulf of Mexico and ripped through Pinellas, Hillsborough, Polk, and Osceola County. Damage was very severe in the towns of Gibsonia and Galloway in Polk County. 11 people were killed, and 350 were injured. The tornado was classified as F4.

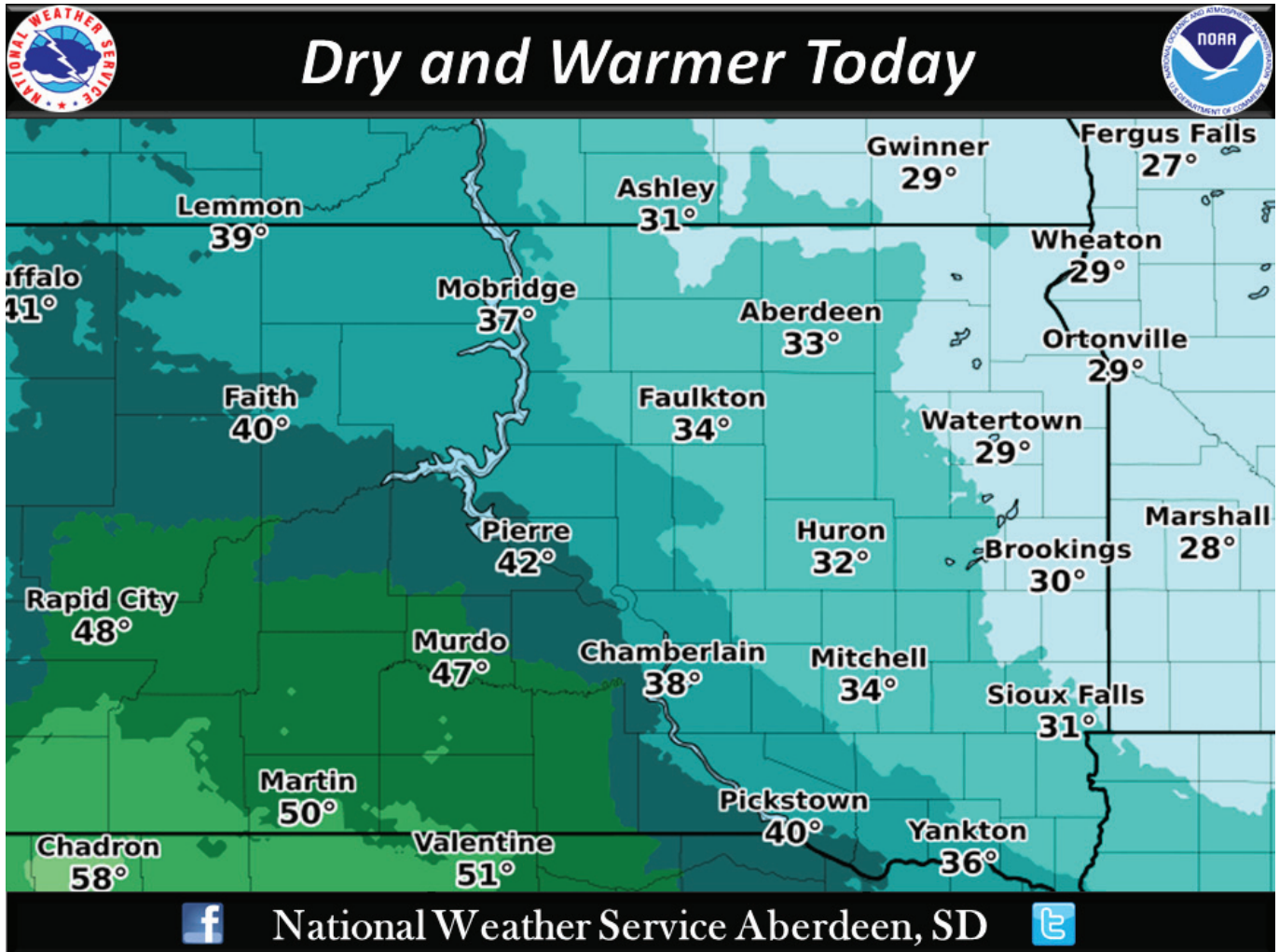
1977: A Southern Airways DC-9 jet crashed near New Hope, Georgia, after being struck by large hail. The hail and associated heavy precipitation caused the engines to flame out. Seventy-two people (including nine on the ground) died.

1977: A massive F5 tornado moved across northern Birmingham, Alabama, killing 22 people and injuring 130. The tornado cut a 15-mile path from just northwest of Birmingham to the town of Tarrant. 167 homes were destroyed, primarily in the Smithfield Estates subdivision. Daniel Payne College sustained substantial damage. At one point, the tornado was three-quarters of a mile wide. The tornado crossed busy I-65, tossing cars and trucks like they were toys. Other tornadoes killed one other person in Alabama and one person in Georgia that day.

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| Wed Apr 4 | Thu Apr 5 | Fri Apr 6 | Sat Apr 7 | Sun Apr 8 | Mon Apr 9 | Tue Apr 10 |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | |
| 32°F | 34°F | 22°F | 29°F | 29°F | 33°F | 33°F |
| 13°F | 12°F | 5°F | 17°F | 22°F | 15°F | 28°F |
| SSW 10 MPH | ESE 18 MPH Precip 20% | NNW 14 MPH | WNW 7 MPH | ESE 18 MPH Precip 60% | NNE 13 MPH | S 13 MPH |



Published on: 04/04/2018 at 4:43AM

High pressure has settled in over the region, and will remain there through the day, keeping conditions dry. Afternoon high temperatures will be warmer than yesterday, but still a good 15 to 20 degrees below normal for this time of year.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 20.0 F at 12:00 AM

Low Outside Temp: 6.9 F at 11:30 PM

Wind Chill:

High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 5:42 AM

Precip: 4" Snow

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1921

Record Low: 5° in 1920

Average High: 51°F

Average Low: 27°F

Average Precip in April: 0.18

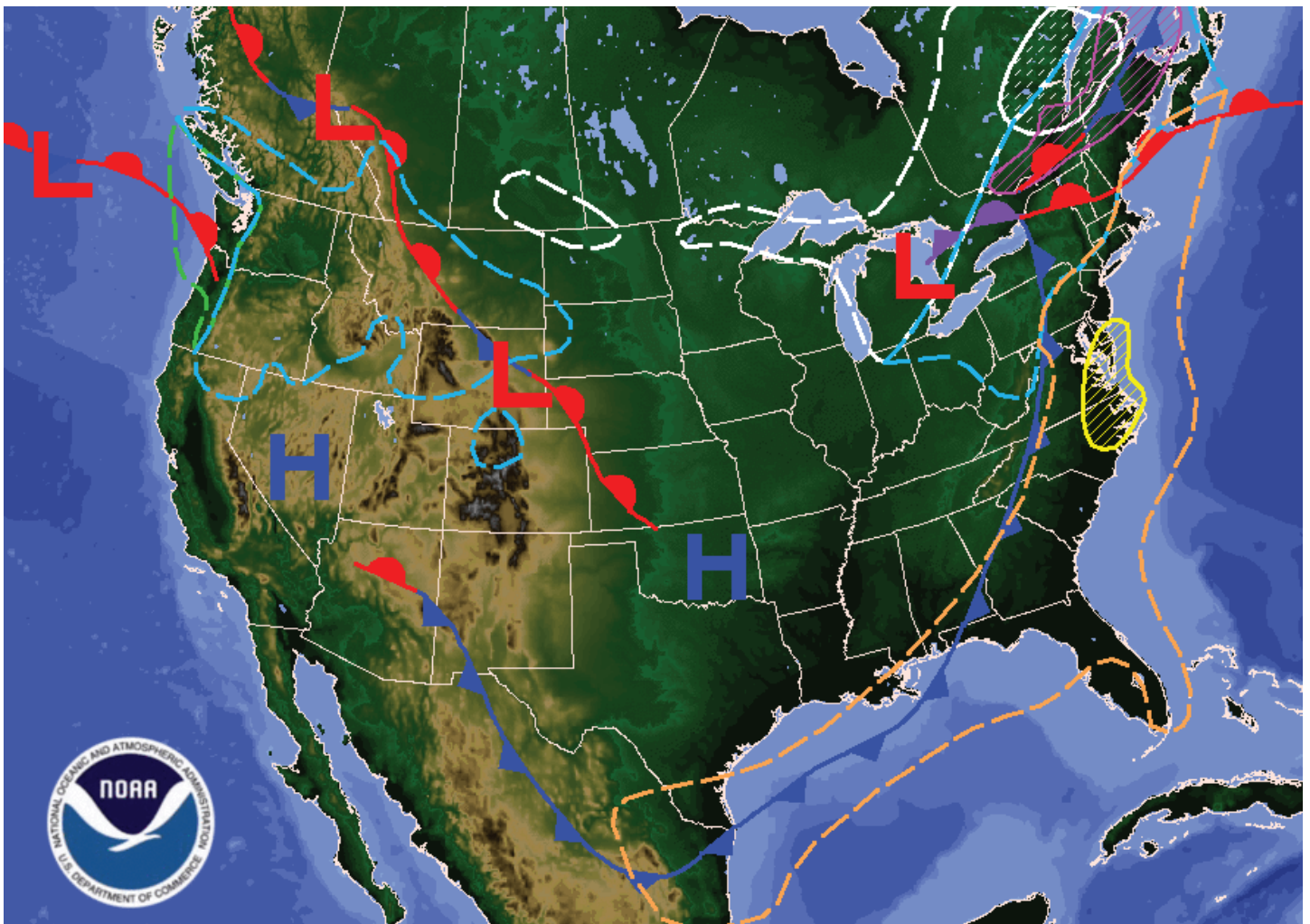
Precip to date in April: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 2.36

Precip Year to Date: 2.07

Sunset Tonight: 8:05 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:06 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Apr 04, 2018, issued 4:37 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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WHERE DID IT ALL COME FROM?

Years ago a man who had difficulty believing that God created the universe stopped by my brother's office for a visit. As he was sitting there, he noticed his new electric typewriter. After typing a few lines and watching the little ball swirl around and identify the letters of the alphabet that he wanted, he asked, "Where did this amazing machine come from?"

Remembering that he was an atheist, Michael replied, "Oh, a friend of mine just threw a bunch of bars and bolts, guides and keys, nuts and rollers, screws and springs and some toner stuff into a bucket, shook it for a minute or two, turned it upside down and out came this 'creation.'"

"O.K., Preacher, I get it," he admitted. "What you're telling me is that just as there had to be someone design and put the typewriter together, there must have been Someone to design and put the universe together."

There are many who argue for or against the existence of God. The Bible, however, does not. It simply states that "God is." In Psalm 102:25 we read, "In the beginning You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands." This obviously means that God "was" before anything existed and that the heavens and earth are the work of His hands. Creation is finite and transitory but our God is not. As Peter reminds us "in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

Prayer: We rejoice, Lord, for Your promise that one day we will live with You in the "home of righteousness." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 102:25-26 Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed.

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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
- 3/24/2018 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/13/2018 Elementary School Carnival, 5 p.m.
- 5/5/2018 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2018 Historic Trinity Church Pump Organ Concert.
- 5/28/2018 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)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

04-29-39-42-62, Mega Ball: 14, Megaplier: 2

(four, twenty-nine, thirty-nine, forty-two, sixty-two; Mega Ball: fourteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Police: Estranged husband takes child from wife's home

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a man broke into his estranged wife's home and took their 5-month-old child as another man choked her.

Officers were called to the home Monday after the woman reported three men, including her husband, entered from the rear door.

Police say as the husband walked past the woman, another man shoved her and the third pushed her down, choked her and broke her phone while she tried to call 911.

The woman said she thought the men, whom she recognized, were there to steal her car keys, until she realized her baby was missing.

Police found the three at the husband's home. The child was with them, unharmed, and was returned to the woman.

The Argus Leader reports the three men face burglary charges.

South Dakota sees spike in female legislative candidates

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is poised to see the highest number of female legislative candidates in a quarter century and possibly the state's history.

The spike comes a year after the group called Leaders Engaged and Determined, or LEAD, formed to empower more women to seek public office, citing frustration with President Donald Trump's 2016 election.

Kelly Sullivan, 31, joined the group shortly after the presidential election. She wasn't politically active throughout most of her twenties, but she is now running for a seat in the South Dakota House of Representatives.

Sullivan said LEAD "gave me a confidence I didn't know I had. It gave me a voice."

More than 65 women have submitted petitions to run for the Legislature ahead of the June primaries, 14 of whom came from LEAD. The petitions put the number of women running in that race at the highest in recent history, above 31 percent, the Argus Leader reported .

Female candidates affiliated with the group are mostly running as Democrats, with one Independent and one Republican.

The nonpartisan group has encouraged women to run in legislative and municipal elections by teaching them how to create a website, fundraise and talk to constituents.

Erin Healy, 30, is running for a District 14 House seat. Healy said she has always wanted to throw her hat in the ring, but LEAD pushed her to finally start gathering signatures.

The organization's candidates might not win, particularly against incumbents with legislative experience, said Susan Kroger, co-founder of LEAD.

"Our candidates are walking into this with the knowledge that it's an uphill battle and it's not going to be easy," Kroger said. "But I think it's a victory we see this many people running in the first place."

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

Attorney responds to judge demand in Dakota Access lawsuit

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Being listed as a plaintiff in decades-old lawsuits doesn't mean that the environmental entity Earth First can be sued as an established group for opposing the Dakota Access oil pipeline, an attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights says.

Pamela Spees in court documents filed Monday responded to a federal judge who last month demanded she explain what appear to be discrepancies in the center's argument that Earth First is an unstructured social movement or philosophy, similar to Black Lives Matter, and can't be sued.

U.S. District Judge Billy Roy Wilson pointed out that Earth First was a listed plaintiff in three federal lawsuits in the 1980s and 1990s. "If Earth First can sue, it seems to me that it is subject to being sued," he said.

Spees disagreed, saying that just because Earth First was listed as a plaintiff doesn't mean it actually had the legal right to be one.

"Earth First's capacity to sue does not appear to have been considered in any of the three cases," she said.

The lawsuits involved a water project in Arizona, a wilderness area in Oregon and a New Mexico canyon important to Native Americans.

Texas-based Dakota Access pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners in August sued Earth First, Greenpeace and BankTrack for up to \$1 billion, alleging they worked to undermine the \$3.8 billion pipeline that's now moving oil from North Dakota to Illinois. The larger question of whether the lawsuit seeks to vindicate damage from criminal activity or is an attack on free speech is unresolved.

ETP lawyers maintain Earth First has been served with the lawsuit via Earth First Journal, a Florida-based environmental publication.

Spees, who represents the journal, says the publication and the movement aren't the same, and that neither can be sued.

"Earth First Journal's involvement in this case began only when plaintiffs decided to dump a copy of their complaint, addressed to Earth First, in the post office box of the Journal," she said.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Authorities ID Hill City woman killed in weekend crash

HILL CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Hill City woman who died in a weekend rollover crash in Pennington County.

The Highway Patrol says 48-year-old Gina Deleo lost control of her pickup truck early Saturday on U.S. Highway 385. The pickup went down an embankment and rolled about 20 miles north of Hill City.

Deleo died of injuries she suffered in the crash. She was traveling alone.

3 Mission men sentenced for burglarizing homes, trading guns

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Federal prosecutors say three Mission men have been sentenced for breaking into homes and trading stolen guns for methamphetamine.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in South Dakota says 36-year-old Jeremiah Waln has been sentenced to seven years in prison, supervised release and nearly \$37,000 in restitution.

Authorities say 32-year-old Jesse Waln has been sentenced to nearly 6 years in prison, supervised release and about \$14,000 in restitution.

Prosecutors say 39-year-old Dominic Stoneman has been sentenced to four months of custody, super-

vised release and nearly \$20,000 in restitution.

Officials say they broke into Mission residences in 2016 and stole household items and 14 guns. Authorities say they also stole copper wire from an electric cooperative.

They sold most of the stolen goods and traded guns for meth in Rapid City and the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

Speeches, marches mark Martin Luther King anniversary

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Fifty years after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, the civil rights leader's family and admirers will mark the anniversary of his death with marches, speeches and quiet reflection on Wednesday.

The commemorations stretch from his hometown of Atlanta to Memphis, where he died, and points beyond. Among the first events is a march led by the same sanitation workers union whose low pay King had come to protest when he was shot. Another event will kick off about the same time in Atlanta, where King's daughter the Rev. Bernice A. King is moderating an awards ceremony in his honor.

The Memphis events are scheduled to feature King's contemporaries, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rev. Al Sharpton and U.S. Rep. John Lewis, along with celebrities such as the rapper Common. In the evening, the Atlanta events culminate with a bell-ringing and wreath-laying at his crypt to mark the moment when he was gunned down on the balcony of the old Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968. He was 39.

Wednesday's events followed a rousing celebration the night before of King's "I've Been To the Mountaintop" speech at Memphis' Mason Temple Church of God in Christ. He delivered this speech the night before he was assassinated.

Inside the church, Bernice King called her older brother, Martin Luther King III, to join her in the pulpit, and she discussed the difficulty of publicly mourning their father — a man hated during his lifetime, now beloved around the world.

"It's important to see two of the children who lost their daddy 50 years ago to an assassin's bullet," said Bernice King, now 55. "But we kept going. Keep all of us in prayer as we continue the grieving process for a parent that we've had yet to bury."

The anniversary coincides with a resurgence of white supremacy, the continued shootings of unarmed black men and a parade of discouraging statistics on the lack of progress among black Americans on issues from housing to education to wealth. But rather than despair, the resounding message repeated at the church was one of resilience, resolve, and a renewed commitment to King's legacy and unfinished work.

A gospel singer led a rousing rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and the gathering took on the air of a mass meeting.

Lee Saunders, a national labor leader, recounted how on that night in 1968, King made an unplanned appearance to deliver the famous speech without notes after his aides saw how passionate the crowd was: "There was one man they wanted to hear from."

But Saunders stressed that the purpose of the week's commemorations was not just to look to the past. "Dr. King's work — our work — isn't done. We must still struggle; we must still sacrifice. We must still educate and organize and mobilize. That's why we're here in Memphis. Not just to honor our history, but to seize our future," he said.

Former President Barack Obama spoke in a video, saying "as long as we're still trying, Dr. King's soul is still rejoicing."

Some of the sanitation workers who participated with King in a 1968 strike sat in the front row and were treated like celebrities, with audience members stopping to take photos with them before the event started.

The commemoration of the "Mountaintop" speech followed an announcement earlier in the day by civil rights leaders who are reviving an economic justice campaign first planned by King. The organizers of a new Poor People's Campaign are planning 40 days of marches, sit-ins and other peaceful protests.

"This first 40 days is not the end; it's the launch," said the Rev. William Barber of North Carolina, one of

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the co-chairs of the revived campaign. "You will see simultaneous moral direct action. You will see simultaneous training of people to prepare for a season of massive voter mobilization."

Starting May 14, clergy, union members and other activists will take part in the events in about 30 states, targeting Congress and state legislatures. Then, on June 23, organizers plan a large rally in Washington — similar to what King had envisioned. The original Poor People's Campaign was carried out in 1968 after King's death by other civil rights leaders.

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

For AP's complete coverage on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, go to <https://apnews.com/tag/MartinLutherKingJr>

Trump wants US military to secure border until wall is built

By JILL COLVIN and LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, annoyed by the lack of progress on fulfilling the signature promise of his campaign, said he wants to use the military to secure the U.S.-Mexico border until his "big, beautiful wall" is erected.

Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he's been discussing the idea with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis. "We're going to be doing things militarily. Until we can have a wall and proper security, we're going to be guarding our border with the military," Trump said, calling the move a "big step."

It wasn't immediately clear exactly how the proposal would work or what kind of troops Trump wanted to deploy, but the White House later said Trump wanted to mobilize the National Guard.

Federal law prohibits the use of active-duty service members for law enforcement inside the U.S., unless specifically authorized by Congress. But over the past 12 years, presidents have twice sent National Guard troops to the border to bolster security and assist with surveillance and other support. The White House counsel's office has been working on the idea for several weeks, according to a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal plans.

Trump has been frustrated by slow action on building a wall along the Mexican border. He's previously suggested using the Pentagon's budget to pay for the wall, arguing it is a national security priority, despite strict rules that prohibit spending that's not authorized by Congress.

At the Pentagon, officials struggled throughout the day Tuesday to answer questions about the plan, including rudimentary details on whether it would involve National Guard members.

But the administration appeared to be considering a model similar to a 2006 operation in which President George W. Bush deployed National Guard troops to the southern border.

Under Operation Jump Start, 6,000 National Guard troops were sent to assist the border patrol with non-law enforcement duties while additional border agents were hired and trained. Over two years, about 29,000 National Guard forces participated as forces rotated in and out. The Guard members were used for surveillance, communications, administrative support, intelligence, analysis and the installation of border security infrastructure.

In addition, President Barack Obama sent about 1,200 National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border in 2010 to beef up efforts against drug smuggling and illegal immigration.

Texas also deployed military forces to its 800-mile (1,290-kilometer) border with Mexico. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, now Trump's energy secretary, sent 1,000 Texas National Guardsmen to the Rio Grande Valley in 2014 in response to a sharp increase in Central American children crossing the border alone.

Trump met Tuesday with top administration officials, including Mattis, Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Attorney General Jeff Sessions, to discuss the administration's strategy to address what White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders described as "the growing influx of illegal immigration, drugs and violent gang members from Central America."

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In addition to mobilizing the National Guard, Trump and senior officials “agreed on the need to pressure Congress to urgently pass legislation to close legal loopholes exploited by criminal trafficking, narco-terrorist and smuggling organizations,” Sanders said.

Trump has been fixated on the issue since he grudgingly signed a spending bill last month that includes far less money for the wall than he’d hoped for.

The \$1.3 trillion package included \$1.6 billion for border wall spending — a fraction of the \$25 billion Trump made a last-minute push to secure. And much of that money can be used only to repair existing segments, not to build new sections.

Also setting Trump off: a briefing from senior administration officials last week that included an update on an uptick in illegal border crossings, and images played on his favorite network, Fox News, of a “caravan” of migrants making their way through Mexico.

Trump spent the first months of his presidency bragging about a dramatic drop in illegal border crossings. Indeed, the 2017 fiscal year marked a 45-year low for Border Patrol arrests. But the numbers have been slowly ticking up since last April and are now on par with many months of the Obama administration. Statistics show 36,695 arrests of people trying to cross the southwest border in February 2018, up from 23,555 in the same month of the previous year.

At last week’s meeting, Trump “directed a vigorous administrative strategy to confront this threat and protect America’s national security,” said Sanders. Tuesday’s briefing was a follow-up to discuss the plans.

Trump has also been under pressure from conservative backers, including commentator Ann Coulter, who has accused Trump of betraying his base for not delivering on the wall.

Trump appeared to claim credit Tuesday for halting a caravan of about 1,100 migrants, many from Honduras, who had been marching along roadsides and train tracks in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca.

“I said (to Mexican officials), ‘I hope you’re going to tell that caravan not to get up to the border.’ And I think they’re doing that because, as of 12 minutes ago, it was all being broken up,” he said.

But the caravan of largely Central American migrants had never intended to reach the U.S. border, according to organizer Irineo Mujica. It was meant to end at a migrants’ rights symposium in central Mexico later this week.

The caravan stopped to camp at a sports field in Oaxaca over the weekend. Mexican immigration officers have been signing them up for temporary transit visas, which would allow them to travel to the U.S. border, possibly to seek asylum, or to seek asylum status in Mexico.

Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat in San Diego; Mark Sherman, Catherine Lucey, Darlene Superville and Kevin Freking in Washington; Nomaan Merchant in Houston; and Mark Stevenson in Mexico City contributed.

YouTube shooter told family members she ‘hated’ the company

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and RYAN NAKASHIMA, Associated Press

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP) — A woman who believed she was being suppressed by YouTube and told her family members she “hated” the company opened fire at YouTube’s headquarters in California, wounding three people before taking her own life, police said.

Investigators do not believe Nasim Aghdam specifically targeted the three victims when she pulled out a handgun and fired off several rounds in a courtyard at the company’s headquarters south of San Francisco on Tuesday, police said.

But a law enforcement official with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press that Aghdam had a longstanding dispute with the company. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case, said Aghdam used the name “Nasime Sabz” online.

A website in that name decried YouTube’s policies and said the company was trying to “suppress” content creators.

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"Youtube filtered my channels to keep them from getting views!" one of the messages on the site said. "There is no equal growth opportunity on YOUTUBE or any other video sharing site, your channel will grow if they want to!!!!!"

Aghdam "hated" YouTube and was angry that the company stopped paying her for videos she posted on the platform, her father, Ismail Aghdam, told the Bay Area News Group.

On Monday, he called police to report his daughter missing after she didn't answer the phone for two days and warned officers that she might go to YouTube, he said.

Officers in Mountain View — about 30 miles (48 kilometers) from YouTube's headquarters — found her sleeping in her car in a parking lot around 2 a.m. Tuesday but let her go after she refused to answer their questions. Aghdam didn't appear to be a threat to herself or others, police spokeswoman Katie Nelson said.

Nelson would not say whether officers had been warned that Aghdam might have been headed to YouTube headquarters.

Earlier Tuesday, law enforcement said the shooting was being investigated as a domestic dispute but did not elaborate. It was not immediately clear why police later said the people shot were not specifically targeted.

One of the victims — a 36-year-old man — was in critical condition, a spokesman for San Francisco General Hospital said. A 32-year-old woman was in serious condition and a 27-year-old woman in fair condition, the spokesman said.

YouTube employee Dianna Arnsperger said she was on the building's second floor when she heard gunshots, ran to a window and saw the shooter on a patio outside.

"It was a woman and she was firing her gun. And I just said, 'Shooter,' and everybody started running," Arnsperger said.

She and others hid in a conference room for an hour while another employee repeatedly called 911 for updates.

The world's biggest online video website is owned by Silicon Valley giant Google, but company officials said it's a tight-knit community. The headquarters has more than a thousand engineers and other employees in several buildings. Originally built in the late 1990s for the clothing retailer Gap, the campus south of San Francisco is known for its sloped green roof of native grasses.

Inside, Google several years ago famously outfitted the office with a 3-lane red slide for workers to zoom from one story to another.

"Today it feels like the entire community of YouTube, all of the employees, were victims of this crime," said Chris Dale, a spokesman for YouTube.

YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki said in a tweet the company would "come together to heal as a family."

Officers and federal agents responding to multiple 911 calls swarmed the company's campus sandwiched between two interstates in the San Francisco Bay Area city of San Bruno.

Zach Vorhies, 37, a senior software engineer at YouTube, said he was at his desk working on the second floor of one of the buildings on the campus when the fire alarm went off.

He got on his skateboard and approached a courtyard, where he saw the shooter yelling, "Come get me." He said the public can access the courtyard where he saw the shooter without any security check during working hours.

There was somebody lying nearby on his back with a red stain on his stomach that appeared to be from a bullet wound.

He said he realized it was an active shooter incident when a police officer with an assault rifle came through a security door. He jumped on his skateboard and took off.

Officers discovered one victim with a gunshot wound when they arrived and then found the shooter with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound several minutes later, San Bruno Police Chief Ed Barberini said. He said two additional gunshot victims were later located at an adjacent business.

Balsamo reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers Sudhin Thanawala, Janie Har and Juliet

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Williams in San Francisco and Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.

France puts 78,000 security threats on vast police database

By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France has flagged more than 78,000 people as security threats in a database intended to let European police share information on the continent's most dangerous residents — more than all other European countries put together — according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

A German parliamentarian, Andrej Hunko, was the first to raise the alarm about potential misuse of the Schengen Information System database in a question to his country's Interior Ministry about "discreet checks" — secret international checks on people considered a threat to national security or public safety. He questioned whether and why different countries seemed to apply very different criteria.

"The increase in alerts cannot be explained by the threat of Islamist terrorism alone. Europol reports a four-digit number of confirmed foreign fighters, yet the increase of SIS alerts in 2017 is several times that," Hunko said in a statement late last month when he released the Interior Ministry response to his query.

That response included a spreadsheet detailing for the first time how many discreet checks each European country had flagged up last year — more than 134,000 in all.

"This could mean that families and contacts of these individuals are also being secretly monitored. It is also possible that the measure is being used on a large scale for combatting other criminal activity," Hunko said.

The number of French police entries "indicates a misuse" of the system intended to monitor dangerous criminals, he added.

The Schengen database — which is separate to the Europol database and far more widely used — forms the backbone of European security, allowing police, judicial authorities and other law enforcement to immediately check whether a person is wanted or missing, or a car is stolen, or a firearm is legal, for example. The database was checked 5 billion times in 2017 alone, according to the director of the EU-LISA agency, Krum Garkov.

But a relatively unknown provision in European law allows countries to flag people for the "discreet checks" — allowing law enforcement in one country to notify counterparts elsewhere of a person's location and activities. Use of the system — intended for individuals who pose a threat to national security or public safety — has expanded enormously since Islamic State extremists attacked Paris and Brussels in 2015 and 2016, from 69,475 in 2015 to 134,662 last year, according to data from EU-LISA and Germany.

If someone is flagged for a discreet check, their name will come up for any law enforcement official who has stopped them anywhere in Europe — whether trying to cross an external border or running a red light. In the entry, the requesting country can ask for a subsequent action, ranging from simply reporting back their location, vehicle, and traveling companions to detaining them immediately for arrest.

Discreet checks, unlike arrest warrants, expire after a year, although Garkov said countries are notified of pending expirations and can renew them at will.

But vast disparities in its use by individual countries raise questions about both the effectiveness of the tools and the criteria countries are using to enter people into the system. With 78,619 entries by 2017, France makes up 60 percent of the discreet check database. Britain, with nearly the same population and 16,991 people flagged, comes in a distant second. Germany, Europe's most populous country, had 4,285 people flagged last year, according to the Interior Ministry data.

To put the French number in perspective, the country's intelligence chief, Laurent Nunez, said late last year that France had recorded 18,000 people as suspected extremists, and considered 4,000 of those to be highly dangerous. The Interior Ministry did not respond to requests to comment about the criteria for discreet checks. CNIL, the government data protection agency, said the 78,000 entries covered every person that France wanted flagged for any reason.

Like the U.S. "no fly list," people can only learn by inference whether they are flagged for a discreet check.

"People are not informed about the existence of this alert, which makes sense. But at the same there

needs to be a proportionality assessment," said Niovi Vavoula, a legal scholar at Queen Mary University of London who studies the use of the database. "If certain member states are introducing alerts en masse to the system, this needs to be flagged as a problem."

China vows 'same strength' measures against US tariffs

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China on Wednesday vowed to impose measures of the "same strength" in response to a proposed U.S. tariff hike on \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods in a spiraling technology dispute that has fueled fears it might set back the global economic recovery.

The Commerce Ministry said it would immediately challenge the U.S. move in the World Trade Organization. "At the same time, we are preparing to take measures of the same strength and same scope against U.S. goods," said a ministry statement. "These measures will be announced shortly."

The clash reflects growing tension between President Donald Trump's promises to narrow the multibillion-dollar U.S. trade deficit with China and the ruling Communist Party's development plans. Those include using access to China's vast market as leverage to induce foreign automakers and other companies to help create or improve industry and technology.

Beijing was reacting to a U.S. announcement Tuesday of a list of Chinese goods targeted for a tariff hike previously approved by Trump. They include medical, aerospace and information technology.

The U.S. Trade Representative's Office said those products benefit from Chinese policies that including requiring foreign companies to hand over technology in violation of Beijing's free-trade commitments.

Chinese officials have given no indication what U.S. goods might be targeted in response but businesspeople and economists have cited Boeing jetliners and soybeans as possible targets.

The dispute has fueled fears it might set back the global recovery if other governments are prompted to raise their own import barriers.

Asian governments will closely watch Beijing's reaction in a dispute that "may compel countries to pick sides," said Weiliang Chang of Mizuho Bank in a report.

On Wednesday, Asian stock markets were mixed. Market benchmarks in Hong Kong and Tokyo were off 0.2 percent at midday but the Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.8 percent.

American companies have long chafed under Chinese regulations that require them to operate through local partners and share technology with potential competitors in exchange for market access. Business groups say companies feel increasingly unwelcome in China's state-dominated economy and are being squeezed out of promising industries.

Chinese policies "coerce American companies into transferring their technology and intellectual property to domestic Chinese enterprises," said a USTR statement.

A USTR report released Tuesday also cited complaints Beijing uses cyber spying to steal foreign business secrets, but it was unclear whether the latest tariff hike was in response to that.

In a separate dispute, Beijing raised tariffs Monday on a \$3 billion list of U.S. goods including pork, apples and steel pipe in response a higher American import duties on steel and aluminum.

The technology-related tariffs are more sensitive for President Xi Jinping's government because they strike at industries seen by communist leaders as vital for China's future development.

Companies have warned Trump's action might hurt U.S. companies and consumers.

"The administration is rightly focused on restoring equity and fairness in our trade relationship with China," said the executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Myron Brilliant, in a statement. "However, imposing taxes on products used daily by American consumers and job creators is not the way to achieve those ends."

The USTR also launched a WTO case last month challenging Chinese policies it said unfairly limit foreign companies' ability to control their technology.

U.S. authorities say Beijing denies foreign companies the right to block use of technology by a Chinese entity once a licensing period ends and imposes contract terms that are less favorable than for local

technology.

Foreign companies are increasingly alarmed by initiatives such as Beijing's long-range industry development plan, dubbed "Made in China 2025," which calls for creating Chinese global leaders in electric cars, robots and other fields. Foreign companies complain that strategy appears to limit or outright block access to those industries.

Beijing reported a trade surplus of \$275.8 billion with the United States last year, or two-thirds of Beijing's global total. Washington reports different figures that put the gap at a record \$375.2 billion.

China has accused Trump of damaging the global system of trade regulation by taking action under U.S. law instead of through the WTO. The Commerce Ministry's statement Wednesday criticized the latest moves as "a typical unilateralist and protectionist practice."

Chinese Ministry of Commerce (in Chinese): www.mofcom.gov.cn

Liberal cruises in Wisconsin court race, and Dems see hope

By SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Liberal judge Rebecca Dallet's runaway victory in a Wisconsin Supreme Court race cheered Democrats eager for more evidence their party is ready for a winning fall in midterm elections.

And Dallet's hammering of conservative judge Michael Sorenock on Tuesday prodded Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who had endorsed Sorenock, to warn his fellow Republicans that more losses could be coming.

"Tonight's results show we are at risk of a #BlueWave in WI," Walker, who is up for re-election in November, tweeted. "Big government special interests flooded Wisconsin with distorted facts & misinformation. Next, they'll target me and work to undo our bold reforms."

Although the race was viewed by some as a bellwether, results of past Supreme Court elections have not consistently proven to be predictive of what will happen in November. President Donald Trump won the state by less than 1 percentage point in 2016, while Dallet thumped Sorenock by double digits.

Dallet won by nearly 12 points with unofficial results nearly complete.

Wisconsin Democratic Party Chairwoman Martha Lanning said the win was a warning shot to Walker, calling it a "huge loss" for him because his "endorsement, philosophy and politics were on the ballot."

One of the Democratic challengers to Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, immediately tried to raise money off the Dallet win. Randy Bryce called the Dallet win "a rallying cry for working folks." Walker also used the results to raise money.

Dallet's victory follows a surprising Democratic win in January in a special election for a state Senate seat held by Republicans for 17 years — an outcome that Walker said then was a "wake-up call" for his party.

Two other special legislative elections are coming this June, giving Democrats more chances to build momentum heading into the fall.

The race for a 10-year seat was nonpartisan in name only, with millions in ad spending and public endorsements from the likes of Joe Biden, Eric Holder and the National Rifle Association.

Dallet said her victory, which Democrats quickly seized on as another sign of momentum, was a rejection of special interest influence on Wisconsin's Supreme Court.

"The candidate with the most experience in our courts and standing up for the fairness of our courts won," she said. "I think people are tired of what's been going on in our state in terms of the money coming in to buy these elections and people spoke out tonight."

Sorenock said he was proud of his campaign, in the face of "tremendous outside influence from liberal special interest groups that were willing to say and spend anything to elect their preferred candidate to the bench."

Sorenock, a Sauk County circuit judge, was endorsed by Walker and backed by about \$400,000 from the state GOP.

Dallet's victory narrows conservative control of the court from 5-2 to 4-3. She also will become the sixth

woman on the court. And it's the first time a liberal candidate has won a race for an open seat on the court since 1995. The court has been a reliable ally of Walker and Republicans who have controlled the governor's office and Legislature since 2011.

Voters who supported Dallet said they hoped her win would send a message.

"People are pretty motivated on the left, from what I can see," said Doug Clawson, 58, a communications professional who cast his ballot at a Madison public library as cold rain fell outside.

He said a Dallet win "would send a message that we're not kidding around here and maybe to borrow an axiom from the right: We're going to take our country back."

Dallet, 48, has been a Milwaukee County circuit judge since 2008 and previously worked 11 years as a prosecutor. She will join the court in August.

Screnock, 48, was appointed judge by Walker in 2015. Before that he was part of a team that defended Walker's Act 10 law that effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers.

Both candidates argued the other couldn't be trusted to serve as an independent voice on the state's highest court because of the partisans supporting their campaigns.

Follow Scott Bauer on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/sbauerAP>

Cosby gets pair of key rulings, but not 'bandwagon' juror

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby's lawyers scored a pair of rulings crucial to their strategy of painting his accuser as a money-grubbing liar, but they could not get the one prospective juror who seemed most willing to consider that idea.

The defense wanted a man who said he thought many of the women coming forward in the #MeToo movement were "jumping on the bandwagon," but prosecutors used a challenge to send him home.

They agreed on six other jurors, bringing the two-day total to seven. They already have eliminated more than 200 potential jurors.

Jury selection continues on Wednesday, with a dozen people invited back for individual questioning as the prosecution and defense look to fill 11 remaining spots. A third batch of 120 potential jurors also is being brought to the courthouse in suburban Philadelphia.

No major rulings are expected after Judge Steven O'Neill opened Tuesday's session by issuing back-to-back decisions favorable to the defense team that tried to force him off the case last month over his wife's work with sexual assault victims.

O'Neill granted the Cosby' team's request to call a woman who says accuser Andrea Constand talked about framing a celebrity before she lodged allegations against him in 2005. The judge also ruled that jurors can hear how much Cosby paid Constand in a 2006 civil settlement.

Jury selection moved briskly on Tuesday until late in the day, when a second pool of potential jurors proved more opinionated and less willing to serve than the panel that produced the first seven.

Two-thirds of the group said they already had formed an opinion about Cosby's guilt or innocence, and all but about 20 people begged off the case, saying it would be a hardship to serve.

Two of the people who made the cut said they had no knowledge of the Cosby case.

Five of the jurors picked so far are white and two are black, with four men and three women.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he drugged and molested Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He says the encounter with the former Temple University women's basketball administrator was consensual.

O'Neill's ruling allowing Marguerite Jackson to testify was at odds with his decision to block her from the first trial, which ended in a hung jury. O'Neill did not explain his change of heart but issued one caveat, saying he could revisit her testimony after Constand takes the stand.

During the first trial, O'Neill ruled that Jackson's testimony would be hearsay after Constand testified she did not know the woman.

Jackson, a longtime Temple University official, has said that she and Constand worked closely together, had been friends and had shared hotel rooms several times.

Since then, prosecutors have told Cosby's lawyers that Constand had modified her statement to acknowledge she "recalls a Margo."

Jackson has said Constand once commented to her about setting up a "high-profile person" and filing a lawsuit.

Constand's lawyer has said Jackson is not telling the truth.

Jackson's availability as a witness for Cosby could be crucial to a defense plan to attack Constand's credibility.

O'Neill hinted at a pretrial hearing last week that he might keep jurors from hearing Cosby's testimony from a deposition in Constand's lawsuit about giving quaaludes to women before sex — another potential boon to the defense. He said he would not rule on that until it is brought up at the retrial.

O'Neill previously gave a boost to the prosecution, ruling they can call five additional accusers in a bid to portray Cosby — the former TV star once revered as "America's Dad" for his family sitcom "The Cosby Show" — as a serial predator.

As jury selection proceeded, The Associated Press and other news organizations challenged an arrangement that forces reporters to watch the proceedings on a closed-circuit feed from another courtroom.

Montgomery County President Judge Thomas DelRicci scheduled a Wednesday morning hearing on the news media's legal challenge.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

Follow Sisak at twitter.com/mikesisak

For more on the Cosby trial, go to apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial

Caravan migrants confused by President Trump's angry tweets

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MATIAS ROMERO, Mexico (AP) — President Donald Trump's angry comments about a caravan of migrants ricochet around like a soccer ball in the dusty athletic complex in southern Mexico where the 1,000 or so Central Americans have camped since the weekend.

Trump's words have confused and befuddled families here, some of whom never intended on going all the way to the United States after the end of the "Stations of the Cross" caravan. It is a symbolic event held around Easter each year to raise awareness about the plight of migrants and has never left southern Mexico, though some participants then continue north on their own.

Even coordinators of the caravan seemed to misunderstand the debate in the U.S. when Trump's endorsed a "nuclear option" for pushing funding for his border wall through Congress. They told worried families Tuesday that the U.S. president had floated the idea of using a nuclear weapon against the caravan of mostly women and children who have fled violence in Central America.

Sitting on a thin foam pad and trying to corral her sons, 2-year old Jonathan and 6-year-old Omar, Gabriela Hernandez wondered aloud at what Trump must think of them.

"I see it as something really sad, because I don't understand how a child this age can make things difficult for him," said Hernandez, a 27-year-old who is two months pregnant.

She would like to get into the U.S., where she has a cousin in Houston. Crime in Honduras was so bad that she decided to embark on the difficult a journey across several international borders with two young asthmatic sons, the younger of whom is now sick and on antibiotics.

In the minds of Hernandez and many of her fellow travelers, the risks they have taken should be an indication of how unsustainable their circumstances are back home. Hondurans predominate in this year's caravan, but it includes families from Guatemala and El Salvador as well.

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"The big Caravan of People from Honduras, now coming across Mexico and heading to our 'Weak Laws' Border, had better be stopped before it gets there," Trump tweeted.

After hearing that Trump raised the possibility of sending troops to defend the U.S. border, Irineo Mujica, coordinator of the caravan, gathered the camp's women and children around him and asked which of them Trump was afraid of.

"All of the women, children come fleeing violence," Mujica said. "These children are not soldiers."

Late Tuesday, the first migrants began receiving documents from Mexican immigration authorities. Some give them 20 days to transit the country on their way to the U.S. border with the stated goal of applying for asylum. Others got papers in a first step toward a humanitarian Mexican residency visa for especially vulnerable people or a start to the application process for asylum in Mexico.

Mayra Zepeda, 38, of Honduras, said that once she gets documents to cross Mexico, she and her husband will continue their journey toward the border city of Tijuana. She said they hope to find better paying jobs there and aren't planning to try to cross into the U.S.

The couple left Honduras in December after incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez was declared the winner of a contested election. The factory where she made T-shirts for export closed due to the weeks of instability that followed the election, she said.

She and her family stopped in the Mexican town of Tapachula at the Guatemala border for three months and she worked in a restaurant. When the caravan came together there they saw it as a good opportunity to make a move with safety in numbers.

On Tuesday afternoon, she cooked a cauldron full of sliced squash and eggs over an open fire for the caravan's security team, volunteers who keep an eye on things.

"Honestly, I want to be Mexican," Zepeda said. "We're not going to cross. We're just going to stay here."

Others were not so fortunate on the first try.

Jose Carlos Lanza, traveling with his pregnant wife from Honduras, rushed forward when his name was called Tuesday only to find that they had got one letter wrong in his name, making his permit to travel across Mexico worthless and potentially delaying him for another day. The problem was that someone was already en route to pick him up and take him to the U.S. border.

"I can't wait any longer," he said.

Earlier Tuesday, Lanza said the U.S. government was ignorant about the migrants' situation.

"They don't see that the majority of the people here are children and women," he said. "I think it's stupid because the only thing we are looking for is safety for our family and it's not fair that they treat us like terrorists."

Teacher rebellion puts red-state Republicans on defensive

By SEAN MURPHY, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A teacher rebellion in red states from West Virginia to Arizona has put Republicans on the defensive, forcing them to walk a fine line in the months before midterm elections between placating constituents who are angry over education cuts and conservative supporters who want a smaller government and low taxes.

In Oklahoma, most Republicans last week broke with the party orthodoxy and endorsed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax increases to fund public schools and give teachers a raise of 15 to 18 percent.

They acted after Oklahoma teachers demanded action, inspired by a nine-day strike in West Virginia, where they won a 5 percent raise. The rebellion also has spread to Kentucky where teachers thronged the state Capitol Monday to protest cuts in pensions. And in Arizona, restive teachers also are demanding a 20 percent pay raise.

But the epicenter of the revolt now is Oklahoma, where lawmakers got little praise for approving major tax increases and instead caught flak from both sides of the political divide. Thousands of teachers converged on the state Capitol for a second day Tuesday demanding even more money, while anti-tax conservatives vowed to challenge incumbents who supported the plan.

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"I've had some political blowback, people saying this will be my last term in office," said Rep. Kyle Hilbert, a Republican from rural northeast Oklahoma, who has gotten an earful from conservatives. "I'd rather serve one term and know I did what was best for my district."

The Oklahoma strike showed no signs of ending, with many of the largest school districts in the state planning to close for a third consecutive day on Wednesday to honor the walkout.

Some Republicans are trying to express their sympathy for the teachers. Three weeks before a closely watched special election for an open congressional seat in Arizona, Republican hopeful Debbie Lesko is running a TV ad that shows her reading a book to children as she vows to "fix our schools and give our teachers the raise they deserve."

As he runs for a second term, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey in Arizona epitomizes the dilemma for GOP candidates in 2018. He refuses to raise taxes and finds himself on the defensive amid growing frustration with education funding in a state where the budget was decimated during the recession and where he and other leaders have dramatically expanded voucher programs. Teachers have been filling the Capitol to protest a Ducey plan to provide a 2 percent raise for teachers, and they have been joined by the two Democrats trying to unseat him.

The protests also have emboldened teachers across the country to run for office. In Kentucky, teachers bruised by their fight over education pensions are preparing to mobilize to support legislative candidates they see as passing a key test: support for education. About two dozen educators or former educators are running for office this year, most of them as Democrats.

For the Democratic Party, which has been losing legislative seats in many of these red states for years, the intensity of the education movement is an opportunity. The Oklahoma Democratic Party set up a tent outside the Capitol during the teacher protests and urged demonstrators to register to vote.

"I think the people who will be held responsible at the end of the day are the people in power," said Party Chairwoman Anna Langthorn. "I think we have a lot of momentum."

Xavier Turner, 17, the student body president at Del City High School in suburban Oklahoma City, held a sign at the protest Tuesday saying: "I'd take KD back before Mary Fallin," showing his preference for NBA superstar Kevin Durant, who left the Oklahoma City Thunder for the Golden State Warriors, over the Oklahoma governor who is term-limited and not running in 2018. He's not quite old enough to vote, but Turner said that as young people register, they will remember who stood with their teachers.

"We just need to do better as far as the Legislature and who we vote in," Turner said Tuesday after joining the protest outside the Oklahoma Capitol. "The national spotlight is on Oklahoma. Hopefully it goes well."

Democrats already have made some gains in Oklahoma, winning four seats from Republicans in special elections in the past year, including two teachers elected to office after campaigning on improving school funding. But they are still deep in the minority in the Legislature.

Recent U.S. history is mixed on whether such grassroots movements can translate into victories at the ballot box. Teachers were at the heart of massive protests at the Wisconsin state Capitol in 2011, fighting a proposal from then-newly elected Republican Gov. Scott Walker. Despite the closure of schools for four days as part of a coordinated sick-out among teachers, a bill that placed severe restrictions on unions passed anyway. An attempted recall of Walker in 2012 led to an even wider margin of victory than he enjoyed in the regular election in 2010.

Kansas is a more encouraging example for teachers. After Republicans there approved massive personal income tax cuts beginning in 2012, budget shortfalls put a lid on education funding increases. A backlash against the tax cuts led to the defeat of about two dozen conservative state lawmakers, and the Legislature last year reversed many of the cuts.

Pat McFerron, a Republican strategist and pollster in Oklahoma, said for many GOP incumbents who voted for the tax-hike plan to fund teacher pay raises, their greatest concern is a right-wing primary challenge. Former U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn, a hero of the anti-tax movement, urged citizens to challenge their Republican legislators who voted for the plan.

But Carri Hicks, a fourth-grade math and science teacher in the Oklahoma City suburb of Deer Creek,

said she decided to run as a Democrat for a state Senate seat this year in part because of the declines in funding for public schools.

"I want to be a voice for the teachers at the state Capitol," Hicks said, saying the raise for teachers and more money for education was a good first step. "My campaign continues to finish the job."

This version of the story corrects the day Xavier Turner was holding the sign to Tuesday instead of Wednesday.

Associated Press writers Melissa Daniels in Phoenix, Bruce Schreiner in Frankfort, Kentucky, Tim Talley and Adam Kealoha Causey in Oklahoma City, John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas, and Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

US proposes tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports

By PAUL WISEMAN, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Tuesday escalated its aggressive actions on trade by proposing 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese imports to protest Beijing's policies that require foreign companies to hand over their technology.

China immediately said it would retaliate against the new tariffs, which target high-tech industries that Beijing has been nurturing, from advanced manufacturing and aerospace to information technology and robotics.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative issued a list targeting 1,300 Chinese products, including industrial robots and telecommunications equipment. The suggested tariffs wouldn't take effect right away: A public comment period will last until May 11, and a hearing on the tariffs is set for May 15. Companies and consumers will have the opportunity to lobby to have some products taken off the list or have others added.

The latest U.S. move risks heightening trade tensions with China, which on Monday had slapped taxes on \$3 billion in U.S. products in response to earlier U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

"China's going to be compelled to lash back," warned Philip Levy, a senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and an economic adviser to President George W. Bush.

Early Wednesday in Beijing, China's Commerce Ministry said it "strongly condemns and firmly opposes" the proposed U.S. tariffs and warned of retaliatory action.

"We will prepare equal measures for U.S. products with the same scale" according to regulations in Chinese trade law, a ministry spokesman said in comments carried by the official Xinhua News Agency.

The U.S. sanctions are intended to punish China for deploying strong-arm tactics in its drive to become a global technology power. These include pressuring American companies to share technology to gain access to the Chinese market, forcing U.S. firms to license their technology in China on unfavorable terms and even hacking into U.S. companies' computers to steal trade secrets.

The administration sought to draw up the list of targeted Chinese goods in a way that might limit the impact of the tariffs — a tax on imports — on American consumers while hitting Chinese imports that benefit from Beijing's sharp-elbowed tech policies. But some critics warned that Americans will end up being hurt.

"If you're hitting \$50 billion in trade, you're inevitably going to hurt somebody, and somebody is going to complain," said Rod Hunter, a former economic official at the National Security Council and now a partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP.

Kathy Bostjancic of Oxford Economics predicted that the tariffs "would have just a marginal impact on the U.S. economy" — unless they spark "a tit-for-tat retaliation that results in a broad-based global trade war."

Representatives of American business, which have complained for years that China has pilfered U.S. technology and discriminated against U.S. companies, were nevertheless critical of the administration's latest action.

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"Unilateral tariffs may do more harm than good and do little to address the problems in China's (intellectual property) and tech transfer policies," said John Frisbie, president of the U.S.-China Business Council.

Even some technology groups that are contending directly with Chinese competition expressed misgivings. "The Trump administration is right to push back against China's abuse of economic and trade policy," said Robert Atkinson, president of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation think tank.

However, he said the proposed U.S. tariffs "would hurt companies in the U.S. by raising the prices and reducing consumption of the capital equipment they rely on to produce their goods and services."

"The focus should be on things that will create the most leverage over China without raising prices and dampening investment in the kinds of machinery, equipment, and other technology that drives innovation and productivity across the economy," Atkinson added.

The United States has become increasingly frustrated with China's aggressive efforts to overtake American technological supremacy. And many have argued that Washington needed to respond aggressively.

"The Chinese are bad trading partners because they steal intellectual property," said Derek Scissors, a China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

In January, a federal court in Wisconsin convicted a Chinese manufacturer of wind turbines, Sinovel Wind Group, of stealing trade secrets from the American company AMSC and nearly putting it out of business.

And in 2014, a Pennsylvania grand jury indicted five officers in the Chinese People's Liberation Army on charges of hacking into the computers of Westinghouse, US Steel and other major American companies to steal information that would benefit their Chinese competitors.

To target China, Trump dusted off a Cold War weapon for trade disputes: Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which lets the president unilaterally impose tariffs. It was meant for a world in which much of global commerce wasn't covered by trade agreements. With the arrival in 1995 of the Geneva-based World Trade Organization, Section 301 largely faded from use.

Dean Pinkert of the law firm Hughes Hubbard & Reed, found it reassuring that the administration didn't completely bypass the WTO: As part of its complaint, the U.S. is bringing a WTO case against Chinese licensing policies that put U.S. companies at a disadvantage.

China has been urging the United States to seek a negotiated solution and warning that it would retaliate against any trade sanctions. Beijing could counterpunch by targeting American businesses that depend on the Chinese market: Aircraft manufacturer Boeing, for instance, or American soybean farmers, who send nearly 60 percent of their exports to China.

Rural America has been especially worried about the risk of a trade war. Farmers are especially vulnerable targets in trade spats because they rely so much on foreign sales.

"Beijing right now is trying to motivate US stakeholders to press the Trump Administration to enter into direct negotiations with China and reach a settlement before tariffs are imposed," the Eurasia Group consultancy said in a research note.

"The next couple of weeks will be very interesting," says Kristin Duncanson, a soybean, corn and hog farmer in Mapleton, Minnesota.

AP writer Gillian Wong in Beijing contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Wiseman at <https://twitter.com/paulwisemanAP>

APNewsBreak: Woman says she reported abuse in 2013

By LISA BAUMANN, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A woman said Tuesday that she told Oregon child welfare officials in 2013 that Jennifer and Sarah Hart — who plunged off a California cliff with their children last month in an SUV — had been depriving the kids of food as punishment.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Alexandra Argyropoulos, a former friend of the Harts, said she "witnessed what I felt to be controlling emotional abuse and cruel punishment" toward the six

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children.

Argyropoulos said she was told after she made the report that Oregon officials had interviewed the children but it was apparent that each child had been coached by their mothers on what to say. She said she was told there was nothing more the Oregon Department of Human Services could do because there was not enough evidence to make a case.

"My heart is completely broken. The current system failed to protect these children from their abusers," Argyropoulos said.

Authorities have said social services officials in Oregon contacted the West Linn Police Department about the family in 2013 while they were living in the area. Police referred media questions to the Oregon Department of Human Services, which cited privacy laws in refusing to say whether the agency was involved.

Authorities don't know exactly when the wreck took place. A passing motorist discovered the vehicle on March 26, three days after social service authorities in Washington state opened an investigation apparently prompted by a neighbor's complaint that the children were being deprived of food.

The Hart family's two moms and three of the six adopted children were found dead; the three others are missing and presumed dead, possibly washed out to sea.

Authorities are investigating whether a surveillance video from Fort Bragg, California, shows one of the women a day before the SUV was found. California Highway Patrol investigators are working with the FBI to try to enhance the video.

Later Tuesday, the highway patrol said investigators believe the Hart family was in or around Newport, Oregon, at about 8:15 a.m. March 24 and that they continued traveling south until reaching the area of Fort Bragg, California that evening. The family stayed in that area until the next evening, the state patrol said, officials said.

The SUV carrying the family plummeted 100 feet (31 meters) from a highway near Mendocino, California.

On Sunday, authorities disclosed that data from the vehicle's software suggested the crash was deliberate. They said the SUV had stopped at a pull-off area before speeding straight off the cliff.

Sarah Hart pleaded guilty in 2011 to a domestic assault charge in Minnesota over what she said was a spanking given to one of her children.

Argyropoulos said she was unaware of a 2011 domestic assault conviction against Sarah Hart. She said she had met the couple on Facebook, knew them for about eight months and that the family visited her in the Bay Area twice. The couple broke off contact with her after she voiced concerns to them about their treatment of the children, she said.

Two weeks ago, Bruce and Dana DeKalb, next-door neighbors of the Harts in Woodland, Washington, called state Child Protective Services because the couple's 15-year-old son Devonte had been coming over to their house almost every day for a week, asking for food.

Dana DeKalb said Devonte told her his parents were "punishing them by withholding food." The boy asked her to leave food in a box by the fence for him, she said.

Devonte, a black boy who is still missing, drew national attention after he was photographed in tears while hugging a white police officer during a 2014 protest.

California proposal would limit when officers can open fire

By DON THOMPSON, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Several lawmakers and the family of a 22-year-old unarmed black man who was fatally shot by police proposed Tuesday that California become the first state to significantly restrict when officers can open fire.

The legislation would change the standard from using "reasonable force" to "necessary force."

That means officers would be allowed to shoot only if "there were no other reasonable alternatives to the use of deadly force" to prevent imminent serious injury or death, said Lizzie Buchen, legislative advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union, which is among the groups behind the measure.

"We need to ensure that our state policy governing the use of deadly force stresses the sanctity of hu-

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man life and is only used when necessary," said Assemblywoman Shirley Weber, a San Diego Democrat who introduced the bill. "Deadly force can be used, but only when it is completely necessary."

The goal is to encourage officers to try to defuse confrontations or use less deadly weapons, said Democratic Assemblyman Kevin McCarty of Sacramento, who is co-authoring the legislation.

"We should no longer be the target practice or victims of a shoot first, ask questions later police force," said Assemblyman Chris Holden, chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus.

California's current standard makes it rare for officers to be charged after a shooting and rarer still for them to be convicted. Frequently it's because of the doctrine of "reasonable fear." If prosecutors or jurors believe that officers have a reason to fear for their safety, they can use deadly force.

The tougher proposed standard could require officers to delay confronting a suspect they fear may be armed until backup arrives or force police to give explicit verbal warnings that suspects will be killed unless they drop the weapon," said Buchen of the ACLU.

The proposal would open officers who don't follow the stricter rules to discipline or firing, sometimes even criminal charges.

But some in law enforcement called the proposal irresponsible and unworkable.

Officers already use deadly force only when necessary and are taught to try to defuse dangerous situations first when possible, said Ed Obayashi, a Plumas County sheriff's deputy and special prosecutor who trains officers and testifies in court on police use of force.

Tinkering with legal protections for police could make it more difficult to hire officers and be dangerous because they may hesitate when confronting an armed suspect, threatening themselves and bystanders, Obayashi said.

The Peace Officers Research Association of California, which is the largest law enforcement organization in California, released a statement Tuesday calling the proposed changes a "dangerous rush to judgment."

"We are concerned that this reactionary legislation will handcuff peace officers and their abilities to keep communities safe," according to the statement. "Uses of force incidents occur quickly, and while we have always supported greater training and body cameras, this legislation takes a dangerous new step."

Spokesmen for the California Police Chiefs Association and California State Sheriffs' Association said they had not seen the proposal and could not comment.

Weber, who heads a public safety oversight committee, said she hopes the recent heavily publicized string of police shootings of minority suspects and mass protests over last month's death of Stephon Clark will be enough to overcome any law enforcement resistance.

Two Sacramento officers chased Clark, who was suspected of breaking into cars, into his grandparents' darkened backyard and opened fire within seconds and without identifying themselves as police because they said they thought he had a gun. Investigators found only a cellphone.

Changing the legal standard might mean that more people confronted by police "could go home. They may be able to wake up" the next day, said Clark's uncle, family spokesman Curtis Gordon.

"A life may be saved in that blink" of time before officers open fire, he said. "If you feel some sort of repercussion, you may act a little more cautiously."

Several black community leaders at the news conference called the proposal "a good first step."

Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn told The Associated Press last week that he is open to examining the department's policies on pursuing suspects and other practices but warned that changes could carry consequences.

The ACLU says California would be the first state to adopt such a standard, though some other law enforcement agencies, including San Francisco, have similar or more restrictive rules.

Cities' strict standards are generally for situations where there is time to de-escalate volatile situations, such as with people who are mentally unstable, Obayashi said.

The lawmakers and ACLU point to a 2016 study by policy analyst and racial justice advocate Samuel Sinyangwe that analyzed use-of-force policies by major U.S. police departments. He found that officers working under more restrictive policies are less likely to kill and less likely to be killed or assaulted.

Officers fatally shot 162 people in California last year, only half of whom had guns, the lawmakers said.

They cited studies showing that black people are far more likely than white people to die in police shootings and that California has five of the nation's 15 police departments with the highest per capita rates of killings by officers: Bakersfield, Stockton, Long Beach, Santa Ana and San Bernardino.

Ex-Bolivian president loses civil suit involving 2003 unrest

By CURT ANDERSON, AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — A U.S. jury on Tuesday found a former president of Bolivia and his defense minister responsible for killings by security forces during 2003 unrest in the South American nation, awarding \$10 million in damages in a lawsuit filed by Bolivians whose relatives were among the slain.

The jury verdict came Tuesday after a nearly three-week trial of the civil suit in federal court in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The jury found against former Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, and his former defense minister, Jose Carlos Sanchez Berzain. Both have been living in the U.S. after fleeing Bolivia in 2003.

Lawyers for the two former officials vowed to seek to have the verdict overturned.

In the lawsuit originally filed in 2007, relatives of eight Bolivians who died claimed the two officials planned to kill thousands of civilians to crush political opposition during a time of civil unrest known as the "Gas War." The lawsuit was filed under the Torture Victim Protection Act, which authorizes suits in the U.S. for extrajudicial killings.

The unrest erupted in the fall of 2003 as street protests in Bolivia over use of the country's vast natural gas reserves boiled over. Demonstrators threw up street blockades of flaming debris and rubble in several places including on the outskirts of the capital of La Paz, and violent clashes between police and security forces with the civilian protesters turned deadly at times.

At times, government forces intent on clearing street barricades fired on demonstrators, mainly in the El Alto municipality adjacent to La Paz, leading to deaths. Other fatalities were reported in confrontations between security forces and Bolivian miners marching to the capital in support of the protesters. Many of the civilian victims were indigenous Aymara Bolivians.

The unrest marked the decline of traditional political parties in that nation and the rise of new leaders including Evo Morales, a populist leader of coca growers who later became Bolivia's first indigenous president. Now in his third term, Morales tweeted praise late Tuesday for the "perseverance" of those who pressed suit, saying they've obtained a court decision that "draws us ever closer to justice" in the case.

Plaintiffs also lauded the decision.

"After many years of fighting for justice for our family members and the people of Bolivia, we celebrate this historic victory," said plaintiff Tefilo Baltazar Cerro, whose pregnant wife was killed by a bullet fired through the wall of a house. He added in an emailed statement: "Fifteen years after they fled justice, we have finally held Sanchez de Lozada and Sanchez Berzain to account for the massacre they unleashed against our people."

The jury found the former officials responsible because they had ordered the military to use deadly force in the confrontations.

"The plaintiffs demonstrated immense courage in relentlessly pursuing justice for over a decade," said Judith Chomsky, a Center for Constitutional Rights attorney for the plaintiffs. "They have set an example for anyone fighting for accountability for human rights abuses worldwide."

Attorneys for the two ex-officials said they have asked the judge for a ruling that would essentially overturn the jury verdict for legal reasons, which will continue the case for the time being. An appeal is also possible.

"We disagree with the jury's verdict and believe that the proof was so lacking that the case never should have gotten to a jury," said attorney Steve Raber in an email statement. "We trust the process and believe that the verdict will be overturned when the law is correctly applied."

The defense had contended that the civilian deaths were more a product of crossfire than intentional killings and that the government was simply responding to a crisis. Authorities say at least 64 people died

and more than 400 others were injured in the violence that year.

Sanchez de Lozada was president of Bolivia twice, serving the first term from August 1993 until August 1997 and again from August 2002 until October 2003. Sanchez Berzain was defense minister in the second term.

Follow Curt Anderson on Twitter: twitter.com/Miamicurt

This story has been corrected to show that at least 64 people were killed in the 2003 unrest in Bolivia.

Villanova goes from dominant to dynasty with NCAA title romp

By DAN GELSTON, AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Villanova players flash their fingers in a “V” symbol to celebrate big wins.

For coach Jay Wright, that’s a finger for every national championship ring.

Already cemented as a dominant program in college basketball, the Wildcats are flirting with putting their names on a more opulent D-list: dynasty.

The Wildcats’ romp through the NCAA Tournament that ended Monday with a second national title in three seasons has them up for debate as one of the top programs since the tourney field was expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

You know, the year the Wildcats won their first national title.

There’s plenty of time to talk about Villanova’s place in history after the partying is done this week. The Wildcats were to return home to a raucous celebration at their suburban campus on Tuesday and a parade was planned for Thursday in downtown Philadelphia just hours before the Phillies’ home opener.

Parades have suddenly become a thing in Philly.

See: the Eagles.

Jalen Brunson, Mikal Bridges and breakout star Donte DiVincenzo helped the Wildcats win all six tournament games by double digits, joining Michigan State in 2000, Duke in 2001 and North Carolina in 2009. Villanova also joined the 1968 UCLA team as the only ones to win both their Final Four games by 16 or more points.

“I knew we were good, but you don’t think we can win this,” Wright said.

He should know they can: The Wildcats set a program best in wins (36-4) and won an NCAA-record 136 games over a four-year span.

And if anyone is still stumped about how Villanova could be considered on the short list of college basketball’s blue bloods following a decade of dominance, consider:

— In the post-John Wooden/UCLA era, only three other teams have won two titles in three seasons: Duke in 1991 and 1992, Florida in 2006 and 2007 and Kentucky in 1996 and 1998. Villanova became just the ninth program to win three championships (1985 and ‘16) and has made three Final Fours since 2009.

— In the last five seasons, the Wildcats have four regular-season Big East titles, three Big East tournament titles and two national championships. The list of accolades under Wright stretches longer than the combined distance of the Final Four-record 18 3-pointers hit against Kansas in Saturday’s national semifinals.

Wright leads a loaded roster fully positioned to go back-to-back and show college basketball that Duke and Kentucky and Kansas and North Carolina can all be rolled into one program nestled in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Here’s what’s ahead for the Wildcats:

WHO’S GOING

The Wildcats had no seniors in their rotation and should return a nice chunk of their roster. But Brunson, the AP player of the year, and Bridges are both likely to declare for the NBA draft.

Brunson already has two championship rings and more hardware from his various player-of-the-year awards than he can carry, and he is set to follow his dad, Rick Brunson, into the NBA.

Bridges has played his way into becoming a likely NBA draft lottery pick and should make a serviceable

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pro. Brunson and Bridges would leave a considerable void in the lineup and be on the small list of 'Nova players under Wright who left early for the NBA.

Hey, it worked out fine for Kyle Lowry.

WHO'S COMING

DiVincenzo, Eric Paschall, Omari Spellman and Phil Booth are all expected to be in the starting lineup and joined by five-star point guard Jahvon Quinerly. Quinerly is one of Wright's more anticipated and prized recruits in his 17 years at Villanova. Quinerly was set to attend Arizona until he reopened his recruitment in the wake of a federal probe.

Cole Swider and Brandon Slater are also prized incoming freshmen expected to help.

Throw in Collin Gillespie, Dhamir Cosby-Roundtree and Jermaine Samuels, and the Wildcats should keep rolling as national championship favorites.

WRIGHT STUFF

Wright's success has again made his future a hot topic at Villanova. He's said many times he wouldn't leave 'Nova for another college job, and with good reason. He's turned the Wildcats into a dynasty even Blake Carrington would envy, and the program is set to move into its \$60 million state-of-the-art renovated on-campus arena next season following a year of playing at the Wells Fargo Center, home of the Philadelphia 76ers. Wright, who made \$2.6 million this season, is King of the Cats and he's pretty much guaranteed a job for life at Villanova.

But the NBA is a different story.

He's resisted overtures from NBA teams in the past but if the situation — and the cash — was right, the coach dubbed "GQ Jay" could be swayed to leave his cushy gig in the tony Philly 'burbs.

The magic eight ball says he'll stay — but what's left to accomplish?

RSVP

The Wildcats will have to decide if they'll visit the White House for a championship celebration should they be extended an invitation from President Donald Trump.

Wright once worked in the marketing department for the Philadelphia Stars of the United States Football League and Trump owned the New Jersey Generals in the ill-fated league.

"When they signed Herschel Walker, they had a press conference and the Stars sent me up to represent them," Wright said. "I met Trump there. In the USFL championship game, the Stars owner asked me to work and be a runner for Trump in his box. He was very cool, very nice guy. He was relaxed. But when they signed Herschel Walker, he was very businesslike, very professional. That was a big day for him and the league."

FAMILIAR FOE

The Wildcats thumped Kansas in the Final Four and the two powerhouse programs will get an immediate rematch in 2018. Villanova will play Dec. 15 at Kansas.

More AP college basketball: <https://collegebasketball.ap.org> ; https://twitter.com/AP_Top25 and <https://www.podcastone.com/ap-sports-special-events>

APNewsBreak: US suspects cellphone spying devices in DC

By FRANK BAJAK, AP Technology Writer

For the first time, the U.S. government has publicly acknowledged the existence in Washington of what appear to be rogue devices that foreign spies and criminals could be using to track individual cellphones and intercept calls and messages.

The use of what are known as cellphone-site simulators by foreign powers has long been a concern, but American intelligence and law enforcement agencies — which use such eavesdropping equipment themselves — have been silent on the issue until now.

In a March 26 letter to Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the Department of Homeland Security acknowledged

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that last year it identified suspected unauthorized cell-site simulators in the nation's capital. The agency said it had not determined the type of devices in use or who might have been operating them. Nor did it say how many it detected or where.

The agency's response, obtained by The Associated Press from Wyden's office, suggests little has been done about such equipment, known popularly as Stingrays after a brand common among U.S. police departments. The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the nation's airwaves, formed a task force on the subject four years ago, but it never produced a report and no longer meets regularly.

The devices work by tricking mobile devices into locking onto them instead of legitimate cell towers, revealing the exact location of a particular cellphone. More sophisticated versions can eavesdrop on calls by forcing phones to step down to older, unencrypted 2G wireless technology. Some attempt to plant malware.

They can cost anywhere from \$1,000 to about \$200,000. They are commonly the size of a briefcase; some are as small as a cellphone. They can be placed in a car next to a government building. The most powerful can be deployed in low-flying aircraft.

Thousands of members of the military, the NSA, the CIA, the FBI and the rest of the national-security apparatus live and work in the Washington area. The surveillance-savvy among them encrypt their phone and data communications and employ electronic countermeasures. But unsuspecting citizens could fall prey.

Wyden, a Democrat, wrote DHS in November requesting information about unauthorized use of the cell-site simulators.

The reply from DHS official Christopher Krebs noted that DHS had observed "anomalous activity" consistent with Stingrays in the Washington area. A DHS official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the letter has not been publicly released added that the devices were detected in a 90-day trial that began in January 2017 with equipment from a Las Vegas-based DHS contractor, ESD America .

Krebs, the top official in the department's National Protection and Programs Directorate, noted in the letter that DHS lacks the equipment and funding to detect Stingrays even though their use by foreign governments "may threaten U.S. national and economic security." The department did report its findings to "federal partners" Krebs did not name. That presumably includes the FBI.

The CEO of ESD America, Les Goldsmith, said his company has a relationship with DHS but would not comment further.

Legislators have been raising alarms about the use of Stingrays in the capital since at least 2014, when Goldsmith and other security-company researchers conducted public sweeps that located suspected unauthorized devices near the White House, the Supreme Court, the Commerce Department and the Pentagon, among other locations.

The executive branch, however, has shied away from even discussing the subject.

Aaron Turner, president of the mobile security consultancy Integricell, was among the experts who conducted the 2014 sweeps, in part to try to drum up business. Little has changed since, he said.

Like other major world capitals, he said, Washington is awash in unauthorized interception devices. Foreign embassies have free rein because they are on sovereign soil.

Every embassy "worth their salt" has a cell tower simulator installed, Turner said. They use them "to track interesting people that come toward their embassies." The Russians' equipment is so powerful it can track targets a mile away, he said.

Shutting down rogue Stingrays is an expensive proposition that would require wireless network upgrades the industry has been loath to pay for, security experts say. It could also lead to conflict with U.S. intelligence and law enforcement.

In addition to federal agencies, police departments use them in at least 25 states and the District of Columbia, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Wyden said in a statement Tuesday that "leaving security to the phone companies has proven to be disastrous." He added that the FCC has refused to hold the industry accountable "despite repeated warnings and clear evidence that our phone networks are being exploited by foreign governments and hackers."

After the 2014 news reports about Stingrays in Washington, Rep. Alan Grayson, D-Fla, wrote the FCC in alarm. In a reply, then-FCC chairman Tom Wheeler said the agency had created a task force to combat

illicit and unauthorized use of the devices. In that letter, the FCC did not say it had identified such use itself, but cited media reports of the security sweeps.

That task force appears to have accomplished little. A former adviser to Wheeler, Gigi Sohn, said there was no political will to tackle the issue against opposition from the intelligence community and local police forces that were using the devices "willy-nilly."

"To the extent that there is a major problem here, it's largely due to the FCC not doing its job," said Laura Moy of the Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown University. The agency, she said, should be requiring wireless carriers to protect their networks from such security threats and "ensuring that anyone transmitting over licensed spectrum actually has a license to do it."

FCC spokesman Neil Grace, however, said the agency's only role is "certifying" such devices to ensure they don't interfere with other wireless communications, much the way it does with phones and Wi-Fi routers.

Links:

DHS letter to Sen. Ron Wyden: <http://apne.ws/eJ7JipM>

DHS enclosure in letter to Sen. Ron Wyden: <http://apne.ws/dBMPqWw>

Migrant caravan, raising concerns in US, halts in Mexico

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, Associated Press

MATIAS ROMERO, Mexico (AP) — The caravan of Central American migrants that angered U.S. President Donald Trump was sidelined at a sports field in southern Mexico with no means of reaching the border even as Trump tweeted another threat to Mexico Tuesday.

"The big Caravan of People from Honduras, now coming across Mexico and heading to our "Weak Laws" Border, had better be stopped before it gets there," Trump wrote. "Cash cow NAFTA is in play, as is foreign aid to Honduras and the countries that allow this to happen."

The caravan that once numbered 1,150 or more people actually halted days ago in the town of Matias Romero in the southern state of Oaxaca, where participants slept out in the open. After days of walking along roadsides and train tracks, the organizers now plan to try to get buses to take participants to the final event, an immigrants' rights conference in the central state of Puebla later this week.

Bogged down by logistical problems, large numbers of children and fears about people getting sick, the caravan was always meant to draw attention to the plight of migrants and was never equipped to march all the way to the U.S. border.

"The idea was never for this group of people to reach the border. It was more to achieve a sensible and clear solution" to migrants' need to leave their countries, said Irineo Mujica, director of Pueblo Sin Fronteras, the activist group behind the annual symbolic event.

With conditions bad in Honduras following that country's hotly disputed November presidential elections, unexpectedly large numbers of people showed for this year's march.

"We have never seen a march of this size. It is unmanageable," Mujica said.

On Tuesday, the group — mostly Hondurans — spread out on blankets in walkways between buildings, on playing fields and on grassy spots between swing sets. Young children kicked soccer balls through the dust and climbed on resting parents, killing time. Adults gathered around the few power outlets to charge cellphones. A single municipal police officer kept watch.

Women and children picked through piles of donated clothing, as volunteers ladled water boiled over a fire into cups with instant coffee and instant noodles.

Aida Raquel Perez Rivera, 31, from San Pedro Sula — one of Honduras' most violent cities — was sitting on a rolled blanket in the shade. She said she hopes for asylum in the United States because the father of her daughters is trying to kill her.

"I have been threatened with death and I had to leave my daughters back there," said Perez Rivera. "I left without money, without anything, just the clothes on my back."

Perez Rivera said she joined the caravan because there was safety in numbers. She said she is also

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considering seeking asylum in Mexico, but worries she couldn't support her daughters from Mexico.

On Monday, Mexican immigration officials began taking the names of people interested in filing for asylum, or temporary transit or humanitarian visas in Mexico.

But Mujica said he didn't know "if that was just to calm down Donald Trump's tweets, or calm down Donald Trump." He said the group was waiting for the migration officers to return.

About 150 men already did break off from the march Sunday, hopping a freight train north, probably with hopes of trying to enter the U.S.

But the rest of the migrants at the camp seemed unlikely to move again until Wednesday or Thursday. Mujica said about 300 to 400 say they have relatives living in Mexico and so may consider staying here at least temporarily.

The "Stations of the Cross" caravans have been held annually in southern Mexico for about 10 years. They began as short processions of migrants, some dressed in biblical garb and carrying crosses, as an Easter-season protest against the kidnappings, extortion, beatings and killings suffered by many Central American migrants as they cross Mexico.

The organized portions of the caravans usually have not gone much farther north than the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

This year's event seems to have gotten more notice in the U.S., and Trump has sent some angry tweets that raised hackles in Mexico, which in recent years has detained and deported hundreds of thousands of Central American migrants before they could reach the U.S. border.

"Mexico is doing very little, if not NOTHING, at stopping people from flowing into Mexico through their Southern Border, and then into the U.S. They laugh at our dumb immigration laws. They must stop the big drug and people flows, or I will stop their cash cow, NAFTA. NEED WALL!" Trump wrote in one. "With all of the money they make from the U.S., hopefully they will stop people from coming through their country and into ours."

In a statement late Monday, Mexico's government said about 400 participants in the caravan had already been sent back to their home countries. "Under no circumstances does the Mexican government promote irregular migration," the Interior Ministry statement said.

The department also said that unlike in previous yearly caravans, "this time Mexican immigration authorities have offered refugee status" to participants who qualify. But it suggested it is not up to Mexico to keep people from going to the U.S. to apply for asylum.

"It is not this government's responsibility to make immigration decisions for the United States or any other country, so it will be up to the appropriate authorities of the United States to decide whether to authorize the entry of the caravan participants to U.S. territory," the statement said.

Navarrete Prida had said earlier that he talked with U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Monday about handling migration, "in accordance with each country's laws."

Nielsen later tweeted that their talk focused specifically on the annual migrant caravan. "Working with Mexican officials to address the yearly illegal alien caravan. Exploring all options," she wrote.

Mexico routinely stops and deports Central Americans, sometimes in numbers that rival those of the United States. Deportations of foreigners dropped from 176,726 in 2015 to 76,433 in 2017, in part because fewer were believed to have come to Mexico, and more were requesting asylum in Mexico.

Mexico granted 3,223 asylum requests made in 2016, and 9,626 requests filed last year are either under review or have been accepted.

Deportations continued at about the same pace in the first two months of 2018, with 15,835 people returned to central American countries.

Dutch attorney sentenced in Russia probe draws 30 days, fine

By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Dutch attorney who lied to federal agents investigating former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort was sentenced Tuesday to 30 days in prison in the first punishment handed down in the special counsel's Russia investigation. He was also ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine.

Alex van der Zwaan's sentence could set a guidepost for what other defendants charged with lying in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation may receive when their cases are resolved. Among them are a former White House national security adviser and a Trump campaign foreign policy aide.

Van der Zwaan, 33, had faced up to six months in prison under federal sentencing guidelines, and his attorneys had pushed for him to pay a fine and leave the country.

But U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson, citing the need to deter others from lying in an investigation of international importance, said incarceration was necessary.

"These were not mistakes. These were lies," Jackson told van der Zwaan as he stood before her. Being able to "write a check and walk away," she added later, would not fit the seriousness of the crime or send the right message.

The criminal case against van der Zwaan is not directly related to Russian election interference, the main focus of Mueller's probe. But it has revealed new details about the government's case against Manafort and opened a window into the intersecting universes of international law, foreign consulting work and politics.

The case has also exposed connections between senior Trump campaign aides, including Rick Gates, and Russia. Just last week, the government disclosed that van der Zwaan and Gates spoke during the 2016 presidential campaign with a man Gates had previously described as having ties to the GRU, Russia's military intelligence agency. Gates is now cooperating with Mueller.

During the hearing Tuesday, van der Zwaan made only a brief statement, telling Jackson, "Your Honor, what I did was wrong. I apologize to the court. I apologize to my wife."

Van der Zwaan, who was fired last year by the high-powered international law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, admitted in February to lying to federal agents about his contacts with Gates and the person with ties to Russian intelligence.

Van der Zwaan had previously grown close to Manafort, Gates and the person, Konstantin Kilimnik, during his work on a 2012 report commissioned by the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice. The report, written by the law firm, was about the corruption trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Kilimnik, who was born in Ukraine while it was a Soviet republic, has previously denied having any relation to Russian intelligence services.

Though prosecutors did not take a position on whether van der Zwaan should be locked up, they stressed that he had lied "repeatedly" to investigators. "This is not an isolated instance of bad judgment or criminal conduct," prosecutor Andrew Weissmann said.

Van der Zwaan's attorneys argued that he had suffered enough already. His life has been destroyed by his "terrible decision" to lie to federal authorities, they said. The attorneys pushed Jackson to allow van der Zwaan to return to London, where he lives with his wife, who is going through a difficult pregnancy.

"He has been here well over four months without a home, without his wife and without his family," his attorney, William Schwartz, said. "He is literally in limbo."

Schwartz stressed that his client had made the effort to return to the U.S. to "correct the record" after he lied to the special counsel's office, though prosecutors took issue with the characterization, noting that van der Zwaan was under a grand jury subpoena at the time.

Jackson said she recognized that van der Zwaan has been away from his family for months, but the defense's attempts to paint him as a tragic figure didn't ring true.

"This is not something that happened to him. He did not suffer unavoidable circumstances of tragedy. This is something he did," she said.

Jackson also said his signs of remorse were relatively "muted." He didn't write a letter to the judge, as his family and friends did, and hasn't used his time in the U.S. to perform community service or other

good deeds to make up for his actions, she said.

In addition to the prison time and fine, Jackson imposed two months of supervised released. She allowed him to voluntarily surrender to prison authorities.

The sentencing came just hours after another development in the special counsel's investigation.

In a court filing late Monday, prosecutors revealed that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein had in August explicitly authorized the special counsel to investigate allegations that Manafort colluded with the Russian government.

Manafort has challenged Mueller's authority and asked a judge to dismiss charges against him that include acting as an unregistered foreign agent and conspiring to launder tens of millions of dollars he received from his Ukrainian political consulting. He said Mueller overstepped his bounds by charging him for conduct that occurred years before the 2016 presidential election.

But in their new filing , prosecutors revealed that Rosenstein — who appointed Mueller — specifically authorized the investigation of any crimes related to payments Manafort received from the Ukrainian government during the tenure of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. The description largely captures the charges against him.

Rosenstein also empowered Mueller to investigate allegations Manafort "committed a crime or crimes by colluding with Russian government officials" to interfere with the presidential election.

None of the charges Manafort faces alleges coordination with the Kremlin. He has pleaded not guilty and denied any wrongdoing related to Russian election interference.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

Follow Chad Day on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Spotify's stock market debut strikes a chord with investors

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Spotify's opening act on Wall Street struck a chord with investors betting the unprofitable company's trend-setting music streaming service will maintain its early lead over Apple and other powerful challengers.

After several hours of anticipation Tuesday morning, Spotify's shares traded as high as \$169 in their stock market debut before falling back slightly. The stock closed at \$149.01 — well above its previous high of \$132.50 in deals worked out during Spotify's 12-year history as a privately held company.

The stock market's warm welcome left Spotify with a market value of about \$27 billion, according to FactSet. By comparison, internet radio station Pandora Media's market value stands at \$1.2 billion nearly seven years after that company went public.

The performance left Spotify's market value among the 10 highest ever recorded by a technology company following their first day of U.S. trading, according to Dealogic. Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba Group holds the top spot at \$234 billion after its market debut in 2014.

Spotify CEO Daniel Ek who founded the company, emerged as the day's biggest winner. His 27 percent stake in the Swedish company is now worth \$7.4 billion.

The good vibes surrounding Spotify stem from its early lead in music streaming — a still-evolving field trying to hook people on the idea that it's better to subscribe for online access to millions of tunes than to buy individual albums and singles.

Spotify has attracted 71 million worldwide subscribers so far and is aiming to increase that number to as many as 96 million subscribers by the end of the year. It has 159 million total users, including people who are willing to listen to ads for access to free music.

By comparison, Apple's nearly 3-year-old music streaming service has 38 million subscribers. A list of other formidable competitors that includes Google and Amazon also offer similar music streaming services, raising the specter of Spotify being wiped out by far richer rivals. Apple, Amazon and Google corporate

rival have amassed a combined \$402 billion in cash compared to Spotify's 1.5 billion euro (\$1.8 billion).

Spotify's success in music streaming has drawn comparisons to Netflix, which built upon its pioneering role in DVD-by-mail rentals and then video streaming to create a hugely successful, subscription-driven franchise that has produced spectacular investment returns and has minted the company with a market value of \$122 billion.

A \$10,000 investment in Netflix's 2002 initial public stock offering would now be worth more than \$2.6 million, leaving some investors wondering if Spotify might be on a similar trajectory in music streaming.

"The similarities here, we believe, are much greater than the differences," RBC Capital Markets analyst Mark Mahaney wrote in a recent research note assessing the parallels between Spotify and Netflix.

Besides blending technology with a subscription model to reshape a popular form of entertainment, Spotify and Netflix have a common executive in their lineage. Spotify's current chief financial officer, Barry McCarthy, held the same job when Netflix went public and remained in that position until leaving the video service in 2010.

Unlike Netflix, Spotify still isn't profitable, having lost more than 2.4 billion euros (\$3 billion) since it started more than a decade ago. After losing 1.2 billion euro, Spotify has also made it clear that it intends to remain focused on adding more subscribers instead of making money for now.

Netflix has also set itself apart from its rivals in video streaming by spending billions on original programming such as "Stranger Things," and "The Crown." Analysts are worried that will be more difficult for Spotify to do because it is primarily negotiating for the same music streaming rights as Apple, Google and Amazon — companies that can afford to pay even more, if they want.

"One of the big questions about Spotify is whether they can take it to the next level like Netflix has," said Daniel Morgan, senior portfolio manager for Synovus Trust.

Spotify Technology SA made its Wall Street debut in an unconventional way. It used a "direct listing" on the New York Stock Exchange that allows the company's early investors and employees to sell as many shares as they want whenever they want. That's a departure from a traditional initial public offering in which a company and a few select investors first sell a limited amount of stock at a starting price determined by investment bankers who spend weeks gauging investor demand.

The direct listing could result in wild swings in Spotify's stock pricing during the first few days of trading, especially since Spotify's shares sold in a range of \$48.93 to \$132.50 in privately negotiated transactions during the first 11 weeks of this year.

"Normally, companies don't pursue a direct listing. While I appreciate that this path makes sense for most, Spotify has never been a normal kind of company," Ek wrote in a blog post.

"Our focus isn't on the initial splash," he added. "Instead, we will be working on trying to build, plan, and imagine for the long term."

EPA chief's job not assured after Trump's praise _ and ire

By ZEKE MILLER and MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump offered a measured gesture of support for the embattled head of the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday, but those words of encouragement for Scott Pruitt also came with a White House warning about the ethical questions surrounding his travel spending and ties to Washington lobbyists.

"I hope he's going to be great," Trump told reporters, declining to reiterate publicly his private praise for Pruitt's work.

In a phone call Monday, Trump told the EPA chief that "we've got your back" and urged him to "keep his head up" and "keep fighting," according to two administration officials. Trump's call was quickly followed by one from chief of staff John Kelly, who laid out the White House's displeasure over being caught blindsided by some of the ethical problems raised, according to two other officials.

Those officials said the praise referred to Pruitt's work in loosening environmental regulations and his success at getting under the skin of environmental groups. But they added that the tone of Trump's call

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was not entirely positive.

All of the officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations publicly.

Trump has repeatedly praised endangered members of his administration while privately plotting their ouster and interviewing replacements. That tendency, and Trump's tepid words Tuesday, suggested that Pruitt's future at EPA is not assured despite the president's apparently high regard for him over the past year.

Meanwhile, two Republicans representing left-leaning South Florida districts, Reps. Carlos Curbelo and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, joined Democrats and environmental groups on Tuesday in calling on Pruitt to resign or be fired.

In a tweet, Curbelo said Pruitt's "corruption scandals are an embarrassment to the Administration, and his conduct is grossly disrespectful to American taxpayers."

The White House has grown weary in recent weeks of the scrutiny of administration staffing after a wave of departures — some voluntary and others forced — weakened morale.

Pruitt was one of several Cabinet officials summoned a month ago to meet with White House lawyers and Cabinet affairs staff over ethical questions, and they were warned that further negative headlines could imperil their jobs.

Pruitt has come under intense scrutiny for his use of a Capitol Hill condominium owned by the wife of prominent Washington lobbyist Steven Hart, whose firm represents fossil fuel companies. An agency ethics official at the EPA has insisted that Pruitt's lease didn't violate federal ethics rules.

A memo signed by Kevin Minoli contends that Pruitt's \$50-a-night rental payments constitute a fair market rate. Pruitt's lease, however, required him to pay just for nights he occupied in the unit. Pruitt actually paid a total of \$6,100 over the six-month period he leased the condo, an average of about \$1,000 a month.

But current rental listings for two-bedroom apartments in the neighborhood show they typically go for far more than what Pruitt paid. A two-bedroom townhome on the same block as the one leased by Pruitt was advertised for rent on Monday at \$3,750 a month. Under the lease, Pruitt technically rented only one of the condo's two bedrooms, but his daughter stayed in the second room from May to August.

Records show that while Pruitt was living in the condo, he met in his EPA office with a lobbyist from Hart's firm and two executives from an energy company seeking to scuttle tighter pollution standards for coal-fired power plants. EPA also granted a favorable ruling to a pipeline company also represented by Hart's firm.

Walter Shaub, who ran the U.S. Office of Government Ethics until resigning last year, tweeted that EPA's legal justification of Pruitt's living arrangements was "Total Baloney."

Democrats from both the House and Senate issued letters Tuesday urging the EPA's inspector general to investigate Pruitt's living arrangements. Spokeswoman Jennifer Kaplan said the watchdog office is evaluating the requests. It is already probing Pruitt's outsized 2017 travel spending, which included extensive use of bodyguards and frequent use of first-class airline tickets. Though federal regulations typically require federal officials to fly in coach, the EPA chief has said he needed to sit in premium seats because of security concerns.

A Republican who previously served as the state attorney general of Oklahoma, Pruitt has long been a champion of the oil and gas industry. In the year he has served as the Trump administration's top environmental official, Pruitt has moved to scrap, gut or replace numerous environmental regulations opposed by the industry while boosting the continued burning of fossil fuels, which is the primary cause of climate change.

On Tuesday, The Atlantic reported that Pruitt had also bypassed the White House to give big raises to two young aides he had brought with him to EPA from Oklahoma. After failing to win approval from the West Wing, Pruitt used a little-known legal maneuver to push the pay increases through. A 30-year-old lawyer serving as Pruitt's senior legal counsel got a 53 percent raise, boosting her salary to more than \$164,000. Pruitt's 26-year-old scheduling director got a 33 percent raise, increasing her salary to nearly \$115,000.

Trump is said to be fond of Pruitt and has cheered his moves to roll back regulations and fight environ-

mental groups.

The president's call to Pruitt came just days after another Cabinet official, Veterans Affairs head David Shulkin, was dismissed after stirring ethics concerns. An inspector general's report concluded that Shulkin had inappropriately accepted Wimbledon tickets and his staff had doctored an email to improperly justify free travel for his wife. Shulkin denied any wrongdoing.

Other Trump Cabinet members, including Housing Secretary Ben Carson and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, have also faced questions about their expenditures. Last year, Trump's first Health and Human Services secretary, Tom Price, was forced to resign over concerns about private air travel on the government's dime.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey and Jonathan Lemire contributed to this report.

Mueller OK'd to probe Manafort-Russia collusion allegations

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein explicitly authorized the Justice Department's special counsel to investigate allegations that President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman colluded with the Russian government, according to a court filing.

Special counsel Robert Mueller's team of prosecutors included that detail in a memo defending the scope of their investigation, which so far has resulted in criminal charges against 19 people and three Russian companies.

Paul Manafort, who led Trump's Republican campaign for several months in 2016, has challenged Mueller's authority and asked a judge to dismiss an indictment charging him with crimes including money laundering conspiracy and false statements. He said Mueller, who was assigned to investigate potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign, overstepped his bounds by charging him for conduct that occurred years before the 2016 presidential election.

But in their new filing late Monday, prosecutors revealed that Rosenstein — who appointed Mueller — wrote a memo last August that outlined the scope of Mueller's appointment.

The memo, which had not previously been released publicly and remains redacted in parts, said Mueller was empowered to investigate allegations that Manafort "committed a crime or crimes by colluding with Russian government officials" to interfere with the presidential election.

None of the charges Manafort faces alleges coordination with the Kremlin, and Manafort's attorneys had used that point to argue that Mueller had exceeded his authority by bringing charges against him accusing him of various financial crimes and acting as an unregistered foreign agent on behalf of Ukrainian interests.

But Monday's filing appears to undercut that argument. In addition to authorizing the Russia collusion investigation of Manafort, Rosenstein also specifically authorized Mueller to investigate any crimes related to payments Manafort received from the Ukrainian government during the tenure of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

The description largely outlines the charges against Manafort, which mostly relate to allegations that he conspired to launder tens of millions of dollars he received from his Ukrainian political consulting including his work on Yanukovich's behalf. Manafort has pleaded not guilty and denied any wrongdoing related to Russian election interference.

Prosecutors say in their court filing that given their mandate to investigate links between Trump associates and Russia, it was logical and appropriate to investigate Manafort for ties to Russia-backed politicians and oligarchs.

"It would also naturally look into any interactions they may have had before and during the campaign to plumb motives and opportunities to coordinate and to expose possible channels for surreptitious communications. And prosecutors would naturally follow the money trail from Manafort's Ukrainian consulting activities," they wrote.

Day reported from Alexandria, Virginia.

Follow Eric Tucker and Chad Day on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/etuckerAP> and <https://twitter.com/ChadSDay>

Midlife 'wealth shock' may lead to death, study suggests

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

A big financial loss may shorten your life, a new study suggests.

Middle-aged Americans who experienced a sudden, large economic blow were more likely to die during the following years than those who didn't. The heightened danger of death after a devastating loss, which researchers called a "wealth shock," crossed socio-economic lines, affecting people no matter how much money they had to start.

The analysis of nearly 9,000 people's experiences underscores well-known connections between money and well-being, with prior studies linking lower incomes and rising income inequality with more chronic disease and shorter life expectancy.

"This is really a story about everybody," said lead researcher Lindsay Pool of Northwestern University's medical school. Stress, delays in health care, substance abuse and suicides may contribute, she said. "Policymakers should pay attention."

Overall, wealth shock was tied with a 50 percent greater risk of dying, although the study couldn't prove a cause-and-effect connection. The study was published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Researchers analyzed two decades of data from the Health and Retirement Study, which checks in every other year with a group of people in their 50s and 60s and keeps track of who dies.

About 1 in 4 people in the study had a wealth shock, which researchers defined as a loss of 75 percent or more in net worth over two years. The average loss was about \$100,000.

That could include a drop in the value of investments or realized losses like a home foreclosure. Some shocks happened during the Great Recession of 2007-2009. Others happened before or after. No matter what was going on in the greater U.S. economy, a wealth shock still increased the chance of dying.

Women were more likely than men to have a wealth shock. Once they did, their increased chance of dying was about the same as the increase for men. Researchers adjusted for marital changes, unemployment and health status. They still saw the connection between financial crisis and death.

The effect was more marked if the person lost a home as part of the wealth shock, and it was more pronounced for people with fewer assets.

The findings suggest a wealth shock is as dangerous as a new diagnosis of heart disease, wrote Dr. Alan Garber of Harvard University in an accompanying editorial, noting that doctors need to recognize how money hardships may affect their patients.

The findings come at a time when U.S. life expectancy has dropped for two straight years.

"We should be doing everything we can to prevent people from experiencing wealth shocks," said Dr. Steven Woolf, director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Center on Society and Health, who was not involved in the study.

What exactly to do, however, may take more research, said Katherine Baicker, dean of the Harris School of Public Policy at University of Chicago, who also was not involved in the study.

"We don't yet know whether policies that aim to protect people's savings will have a direct effect on mortality or not," Baicker said. "But that's not the only reason to try to protect people's savings."

Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson on Twitter: @CarlaKJohnson

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

Israeli leader nixes UN deal to resettle African migrants

By ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In an abrupt and startling reversal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nixed his own deal Tuesday with the United Nations to resettle tens of thousands of African migrants in Israel and other Western nations, caving in to nationalist critics who have demonized the migrants for taking over poor neighborhoods in Tel Aviv.

The move leaves unresolved one of Israel's most charged and divisive issues — what to do with the Africans who say they fled for their lives in search of sanctuary in the Jewish state.

The about-face also opened Netanyahu to scathing assaults on his leadership, raising doubts about his ability to make controversial decisions on bigger issues in the future, including how he would respond to a peace plan promised by President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu proudly announced the deal Monday in a nationally televised news conference, saying Israel had agreed to cancel a planned expulsion of tens of thousands of Africans that had been widely condemned both at home and among Jews around the world.

Under the deal, roughly half of the 35,000 migrants living in Israel would be resettled in the West with the rest absorbed in Israel. Netanyahu praised it as a "good agreement" that marked "an important day" for Israel.

But hours later, after heavy criticism among nationalists within his own ruling coalition, he said he was putting the plan on hold. After meeting angry residents of working-class neighborhoods in south Tel Aviv on Tuesday, Netanyahu said he was canceling it outright.

"From time to time there are decisions that have to be reconsidered," he said. "We will continue to act determinedly to exhaust all our options of removing the infiltrators."

A coalition of human rights organizations in Israel said the flip-flop proved the government could not be trusted to fulfil any "moral, legal or international commitments."

Domestic critics said it raised broader questions about whether Netanyahu could carry out any proper decision-making process.

"How will you, as prime minister, handle the Iranian threat? How will you deal with the cost of living?" asked Avi Gabbay, leader of the opposition Labor Party. "Lack of leadership, cowardice, escape from responsibility, incitement, empty slogans, inability to make decisions and zero ability to implement them — this is what we have seen over the past few hours from he who pretends to deal with the real threats and problems of Israel."

The aborted U.N. deal had looked to avoid the specter of forced deportations to undisclosed African destinations, widely believed to be Rwanda and Uganda, with which Israel said it had reached a secret agreement. Israel had planned to begin the mass deportations on Sunday.

The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants advocacy group said Netanyahu's initial announcement revealed there was no such agreement. Rather than resolving the migrants' status, it said they were once again in limbo while the state had no legitimate recourse to deport any of them.

"Of course we will continue our struggle and consider all our legal options until every last asylum-seeker gets the status they deserve," said Dror Sadot, a spokeswoman for the group.

Rwanda's minister of state for foreign affairs, Olivier Nduhugirehe, and Ugandan Foreign Affairs Minister Okello Oryem also said no deal had ever been signed with Israel.

While nationalist activists celebrated Netanyahu's reversal, dozens of migrants and their Israeli supporters protested in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Some stripped to the waist, draped themselves with chains and taped their mouths shut at a protest in Tel Aviv. Others waved signs reading, "Human lives are not to play with. Yes to the deal."

Teklit Michael, a 29-year-old asylum-seeker from Eritrea, said that while he had unanswered questions about the U.N. draft he was at least encouraged about the efforts to address his needs. Now, he said, he was confused and dispirited.

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"Not only do we have no security, we also have no one to believe," he said. "People have no hope and no trust in the state of Israel."

In Geneva, the U.N. Refugee Agency expressed "disappointment" with Netanyahu's decision and urged him to reconsider. It noted that the deal had been reached after lengthy negotiations, and reflected a "shared effort" to find a solution that would benefit all parties.

"UNHCR continues to believe that a win-win agreement that would both benefit Israel and people needing asylum is in everyone's best interest," it said in a statement.

Nearly all the migrants hail from war-torn Sudan and dictatorial Eritrea. The migrants say they are asylum-seekers fleeing danger and persecution, while Israeli leaders have dismissed them as mere job seekers.

The Africans started arriving in 2005, after neighboring Egypt violently quashed a refugee demonstration and word spread of safety and job opportunities in Israel.

Tens of thousands crossed the porous desert border before Israel completed a barrier in 2012 that stopped the influx. But Israel has struggled with what to do with those already in the country, alternating between plans to jail and deport them and allowing them to work in menial jobs.

Thousands have concentrated in poor neighborhoods in south Tel Aviv, an area that has become known as "Little Africa." Their presence has sparked tensions with working-class Jewish residents, who have complained of rising crime and pressed the government to take action.

On the other hand, a wide coalition of critics at home and in the Jewish American community had called the government's deportation plans unethical and a stain on Israel's image as a refuge for Jewish migrants.

Groups of Israeli doctors, academics, Holocaust survivors, rabbis, poets and pilots had all appealed to halt the plan. Several mass protests against it have taken place in recent months.

As in other recent moves, Netanyahu appears to have been taking his cues from his education minister, Naftali Bennett, leader of the nationalist Jewish Home party.

Bennett and other nationalist allies who dominate Netanyahu's coalition had harshly criticized the deal because it would allow thousands of Africans to remain in Israel, even though it also called for them to be dispersed throughout the country and for investments to be made in rehabilitating Tel Aviv's impoverished southern neighborhoods.

Ironically, their victory raised the possibility of leaving the migrants in Israel for even longer while their status is resolved.

Nduhungerehe, Rwanda's foreign affairs minister, said that while no deal was ever signed with Israel, his country has a "general open policy" toward the migrants, as long as they come "without any form of constraint."

But Oryem, Uganda's foreign affairs minister, said his country was not an option.

If any migrants deported from Israel arrive in Uganda, "we will insist that the airlines return them to the country where they came from."

"We do not have a contract, any understanding, formal or informal, with Israel for them to dump their refugees here," he said.

Associated Press writers Ignatius Ssuuna in Kigali, Rwanda, and Rodney Muhumuza in Kampala, Uganda, contributed to this report.

Follow Heller at www.twitter.com/aronhellerap

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 4, the 94th day of 2018. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot and killed while standing on a

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balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee; his slaying was followed by a wave of rioting (Washington, D.C., Baltimore and Chicago were among cities particularly hard hit). Suspected gunman James Earl Ray later pleaded guilty to assassinating King, then spent the rest of his life claiming he'd been the victim of a setup.

On this date:

In 1818, Congress decided the flag of the United States would consist of 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, with a new star to be added for every new state of the Union.

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1859, "Dixie" was performed publicly for the first time by Bryant's Minstrels at Mechanics' Hall in New York.

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln, in a letter to Kentucky newspaper editor Albert G. Hodges, wrote: "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me."

In 1917, the U.S. Senate voted 82-6 in favor of declaring war against Germany (the House followed suit two days later by a vote of 373-50).

In 1933, the Navy airship USS Akron crashed in severe weather off the New Jersey coast with the loss of 73 lives.

In 1949, 12 nations, including the United States, signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C.

In 1958, Johnny Stompanato, an enforcer for crime boss Mickey Cohen and the boyfriend of actress Lana Turner, was stabbed to death by Turner's teenage daughter, Cheryl Crane, who said Stompanato had attacked her mother.

In 1975, more than 130 people, most of them children, were killed when a U.S. Air Force transport plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crash-landed shortly after takeoff from Saigon. Microsoft was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit on its maiden voyage. (It was destroyed in the disaster of January 1986.)

In 1988, the Arizona Senate convicted Gov. Evan Mecham (MEE'-kuhm) of two charges of official misconduct, and removed him from office; Mecham was the first U.S. governor to be impeached and removed from office in nearly six decades.

In 1991, Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and six other people, including two children, were killed when a helicopter collided with Heinz's plane over a schoolyard in Merion, Pennsylvania.

Ten years ago: Texas authorities started removing the first of more than 400 girls from a compound built by a polygamist sect. Lisa Montgomery was sentenced to death in Kansas City, Missouri, for killing Bobbie Jo Stinnett (STIN'-net), a mother-to-be, and cutting the surviving baby from her womb. (Montgomery remains on death row.) Pirates seized the French luxury yacht Le Ponant and its 30 crew members off the coast of Somalia. (The crew was released a week later; six alleged pirates ended up being captured.) Beyonce and Jay-Z were married during a private ceremony in New York.

Five years ago: Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed into law sweeping new restrictions on weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines similar to the ones used by the young man who gunned down 20 children and six educators in the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre. At least 72 people were killed in the collapse of an eight-story residential building being constructed illegally near Mumbai, India's financial capital. Pulitzer Prize-winning film reviewer Roger Ebert, 70, died in Chicago.

One year ago: A chemical attack on an opposition-held town in northern Syria left about 100 people dead; a joint investigation team made up of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and U.N. experts concluded that the Syrian government was responsible. A federal appeals court ruled for the first time that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protected LGBT employees from workplace discrimination; the 8-3 decision by the full 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago concerned the case of an Indiana teacher who charged that she wasn't hired full-time because she was a lesbian.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., is 86. Recording executive Clive Davis is 86. Au-

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thor Kitty Kelley is 76. Actor Craig T. Nelson is 74. Actor Walter Charles is 73. Actress Christine Lahti is 68. Country singer Steve Gatlin (The Gatlin Brothers) is 67. Actress Mary-Margaret Humes is 64. Writer-producer David E. Kelley is 62. Actress Constance Shulman is 60. Actor Phil Morris is 59. Actress Lorraine Toussaint is 58. Actor Hugo Weaving is 58. Rock musician Craig Adams (The Cult) is 56. Talk show host/comic Graham Norton is 55. Actor David Cross is 54. Actor Robert Downey Jr. is 53. Actress Nancy McKeon is 52. Actor Barry Pepper is 48. Country singer Clay Davidson is 47. Rock singer Josh Todd (Buckcherry) is 47. Singer Jill Scott is 46. Rock musician Magnus Sveningsson (The Cardigans) is 46. Magician David Blaine is 45. Singer Kelly Price is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andre Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 44. Country musician Josh McSwain (Parmalee) is 43. Actor James Roday is 42. Actress Natasha Lyonne is 39. Actor Eric Andre is 35. Actress Amanda Righetti is 35. Actress-singer Jamie Lynn Spears is 27. Actress Daniela Bobadilla is 25. Pop singer Austin Mahone (muh-HOHN') is 22.

Thought for Today: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige and even his life for the welfare of others." — Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968).