

Groton Daily Independent

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

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

NOW OPEN

Harris

Auto Body ABDN

225 Brown County Hwy 19 South
Aberdeen: 605/725-4900

- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harr's Auto Body Ad
- 1- Abeln's 90th Birthday
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- School Board Story
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 2- Groton Care & Rehab Rootbeer Float Ad
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Virginia Abeln will be celebrating her 90th birthday on June 16, 2018. Help her celebrate by sending birthday wishes to: 407 North Garfield, Apt.11, Groton, SD, 57445

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2019 prom date changed

The original date for the prom in 2019 was April 13, which happened to correspond on the same date as the ACT testing in Groton. The Groton Area administration has been grappling with trying to separate the two. The first thing that got changed on the 2018-19 school calendar was spring break. The State A girls and boys basketball tournaments are now on the same weekend so spring break to changed to correspond with the state tournament on March 21 and 22. Prom got changed to April 27, 2019. The FCCLA Style show has been tentatively set for March 28. The FFA Banquet date is yet to be determined.

The 2018-19 MS/HS handbook was reviewed with a few changes presented by middle/high school principal, Kiersten Sombke. Some of the proposed changes given first reading includes eliminating the 1 percent reduction in grades due to absences. Vaping will be added to the smoking policy. There were changes to the personal technology consequences of misuse which now includes four violations instead of two. Items that need to be kept in the lockers are coats, jackets, hats, caps, lunch bags and backpacks.

The upcoming meeting for high school student athletes for fall athletics will be held July 30.

Lindsey Tietz gave a curriculum review for the FACs program. One thing she mentioned is that she will be requesting four new sewing machines at a cost of \$449 each so she will have 14 machines available in her classes.

The resignation of Mary Johnson as MS/SS Language Arts Teacher was accepted and Kristi Anderson was re-assigned to fill that position. Lindsey DeHoet was hired as a kindergarten teacher, Emily Fischer was hired as a second grade teacher, and Mellissa Smith was hired as a third grade teacher. An ESY agreement for about \$500 was approved for Todd Peterson. Melissa Ulmer was hired to man the elementary library.

Lane changes for the following were approved: Brooke Lingbeck from BS+15 to BS+30, Jan Seibel from BS+30 to BS+45, and Shaun Wanner from BS to BS+15.

Jeremy Weber and Drake Patterson were approved as volunteer boys' basketball coaches for the 2018-19 school year.

The Groton Community
is Invited to

Rootbeer Float

FREE



LIVE MUSIC

Wednesday, June 13th

6:30 p.m.



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

Groton Job Opportunities
C.N.A.s ~ Nurses
Part-Time Cook

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

EOE/AA/M/F/V/D-Drug Free Workplace



GROTON

CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER

1106 N. 2nd Street, Groton

S.D. Farmers Union President Sends Letter to Pruitt Calling On EPA to Stop Efforts to Block Ethanol Blends

HURON, S.D. - Doug Sombke, President of the South Dakota Farmers Union was joined by National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson today (June 11, 2018) in calling for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to abandon plans to finalize an Obama era rule that would cap ethanol blends at 15%.

In a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt, Sombke and Johnson criticized the Renewable Enhancement and Growth Support (REGS) rule that would deny higher ethanol blends in conventional vehicles. Originally proposed in 2016, the National Farmers Union and a number of its state chapters (Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) submitted comments in opposition to the REGS Rule, arguing that EPA has misinterpreted the substantially similar provision of the Clean Air Act and that ethanol is now the nation's base certification fuel and is not limited as to volumes.

EPA has not put a specific timetable on the rule but has indicated it proposes to submit it for final approval to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which reviews all rules before being finalized.

The letter states that, "If EPA chooses to regulate ethanol content-i.e., such as prohibiting the use of E30 in legacy (non-FFV) vehicles-it must do so under Section 211(c), which puts the burden of proof on EPA, not the fuel ethanol industry. A vast amount of Department of Energy and national lab studies, as well as real world experience, conclusively proves that the use of high octane mid-level ethanol blends (E25 - E40) in legacy vehicles does NOT impair the performance of emission control systems, nor does it exacerbate harmful emissions. In fact, because mid-level ethanol blends like E30 reduce the level of carcinogenic aromatic compounds (BTEX) in gasoline, and promote more efficient combustion, the opposite is true."

"This has a direct impact on South Dakota Agriculture and could be worth \$1.5 billion to our economy," said Sombke. "Here we are demonstrating that E30 blends are high performance, high value fuels and EPA is considering denying this option."

Sombke noted that EPA has not only failed to help increase the domestic ethanol market but is taking it backwards with the recent refinery waivers and ignoring the vapor pressure waiver requests for higher blends. FlexFuel Vehicle credits have all but been eliminated by EPA and there is simply no pathway for expanding the ethanol market, he added.

EPA is also proposing new fuel economy rules that Administrator Pruitt has acknowledged would be well served by higher octane fuels, octane that ethanol blends like the E30 being used throughout South Dakota can easily and economically provide.

"For an administration that professes to support removal of rules and regulations that impede domestic energy production - not to mention supporting American agriculture - this is the opposite of that promise. Our message to EPA is to open the market and remove these barriers to higher blends and help us create new markets for our corn.

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Locals attend SD District LWML Convention

The 60th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's League South Dakota District (LWML) was held June 1 and June 2, 2018 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls, S.D. Here we celebrated 75 years of history of being Lutheran Women in Mission. Over 280 attendees from across the state met under the theme: Celebrating God's Love from Generation to Generation based on the Bible verse The Lord is good, His steadfast love endures forever; His faithfulness to all generations. Psalms 105:5. Linda Reiser, 2003-2007 President of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, was the Keynote speaker. She shared how we are here celebrating generation of God's love to people where we get the opportunity to make a difference, an eternal difference, in people's lives. Greetings from the national LWML were given by Leslie Jaseph, LWML meeting manager. Those attending the convention participated in the following Servant Events: making cards for the military and making fleece blankets for the orphan grain train. Gifts from the heart were collected in the form of a baby shower for the Alpha Center and food shower for the Children's Inn, both of Sioux Falls. Delegates selected 11 mission grants totaling \$50,000, to be funded during the 2018-2020 biennium. Officers elected to four-year terms were: Susan Swanson, from Chamberlain- Vice President of Communication; Nyla Jurens, from White, SD Vice -President of Special Focus Ministries; Heather Miller, from Sioux Falls, SD-Secretary; Donna Carr, from Sioux Falls, SD- Financial Secretary; Bobbie Nierman, from Manfield, SD-Nominating Committee; Elaine Hankel, from Spearfish, Sd-Nominating Committee; Arlene Naasz, from Rapid City, SD-Nominating committee; Rev. Daniel Grimmer, from Mitchell, SD-Pastoral Counselor. Myrna Stange from St. Paul's and Beverly Sombke from Ferney were among those attending.

Morgan horses featured in De Smet pageant

Throughout the books written by Laura Ingalls Wilder are stories of people and places that touched Laura's life as she and her family homesteaded on the great prairie.

Woven into these memories are the memories of the horses that captured her heart and most importantly the beautiful Morgans that were so loved by Almanzo Wilder. From the first colt that his father gave him to train in New York, the breed followed Almanzo out to the wide-open prairies.

The Morgans are strongly featured in this year's pageant, with performances July 6-8, July 13-15 and July 20-22 at the pageant grounds one mile east of De Smet. Reservations are not needed.

Gates open at 6 p.m. There are free wagon rides and other entertainment prior to the 8 p.m. performance of "These Happy Golden Years."

While bench seating is available, pageant officials suggest you may want to bring lawn chairs for your comfort. Blankets or jackets are a good idea because it can get cool on the prairie after the sun goes down.

If you forget to bring insect repellent, the people at the concession stand will be happy to give you a free spray.

Laura was not only attracted to Almanzo, but to his beautiful Morgan horses. And those horses played a significant role in Laura and Almanzo's courtship, with numerous buggy and sleigh rides.

A skilled trainer and horseman, Almanzo's horses were always a part of Laura's stories. They were introduced in "The Long Winter" it is Almanzo's horses that travel through a blizzard to bring back wheat to the townspeople.

"I have long thought that a Morgan would be a great addition to the homestead experience that tourists look for as they come to the town of Laura Ingalls. And as director of the pageant, I had the opportunity to introduce a Morgan horse to the pageant production," Laurie Husmann of Houston, Texas, said.

Lanyard's Sir Lancelot, otherwise known as Hiccup, performs in the pageant with our cast members as Almanzo's horse.

The Morgan Horse Association awarded a Harry Sebring memorial grant to Husmann's daughter, Aletta, a granddaughter of longtime pageant contributor, Marian Cramer, to train Hiccup in harness driving, making it possible to bring him to De Smet to show in the pageant.

For more information about the pageant, go to www.desmetpageant.org or call 800-880-3383 or 800-776-3594.

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Pump Prices Continue to Decline as U.S. Demand Dips

June 11, 2018 - At \$2.92, the national gas price average has dropped four cents since the beginning of June. Today's average is three cents less than a week ago, six cents more than a month ago and 58 cents more expensive than a year ago. On the week, only eight states saw prices increase while all others dropped by as much as 13 cents or remained stable.

"Gas prices continue to dip across the country, but remain nearly 50-cents more expensive than last summer in every state," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA South Dakota spokesperson. "The higher prices seem to be influencing driving habits. While consumer gasoline demand remains strong, it is slowing and not growing."

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.888
Yesterday Avg. \$2.899
Week Ago Avg. \$2.875
Month Ago Avg. \$2.735
Year Ago Avg. \$2.372

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 least expensive markets are: South Carolina (\$2.58), Mississippi (\$2.61), Alabama (\$2.61), Oklahoma (\$2.62), Louisiana (\$2.62), Arkansas (\$2.65), Tennessee (\$2.67), Missouri (\$2.68), Virginia (\$2.70) and Kansas (\$2.73).

The nation's top 10 largest weekly decreases are: Indiana (-13 cents), Illinois (-7 cents), Delaware (-7 cents), District of Columbia (-7 cents), Florida (-6 cents), Maryland (-5 cents), Virginia (-4 cents), New Jersey (-4 cents), Wisconsin (-4 cents) and Maine (-4 cents).

Central and Great Plains Region

The majority of states in the Great Lakes and Central region are seeing cheaper gas prices on the week. Indiana (-13 cents) saw the only double-digit drop in the country, which brings the state's gas price average (\$2.87) well under the \$3 mark it was at last Monday. Other notable week-over-week pump price decreases in the region: Illinois (-7 cents), Wisconsin (-4 cents) and Iowa (-4 cents). However, not every state is seeing this trend. Four states saw prices jump including Kansas (+2 cents), Ohio (+2 cents), Michigan (+2 cents) and South Dakota (+1 cent).

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI decreased 21 cents to settle at \$65.74. Oil prices trended marginally lower last week following EIA's report that crude production hit 10.8 million b/d last week.

Oil prices will continue to be volatile this week. Contributing factors include reports that OPEC may not announce an increase in crude production at the next OPEC meeting scheduled for June 22 in Vienna, Austria. In addition, economic turmoil in Venezuela has reduced the major global crude supplier's production rates at a time when global supply is already shrinking.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile

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Brian Schuring was the umpire behind the plate. Luke Thorson had an RBI single in the game.



Peyton Johnson pitched 6 innings. Darien Shabazz pitched the last inning to get the save.

Groton Legion beats Redfield

Groton American Legion Post #39 defeated Redfield Monday evening, 8-5, in a seven-inning game. The next Legion home game is June 20th against Claremont at 7pm



Wyatt Locke caught the entire game.



Bennett Shabazz lead Groton with 2 hits, both doubles.

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Today in Weather History

June 12, 1924: A tornado moved southeast from the southwestern edge of Lake Kampeska, passing southwest of Watertown. Two barns were destroyed, and 20 smaller farm buildings were heavily damaged. This tornado was estimated to have F2 strength.

June 12, 1983: Lightning struck and killed two cows near Miller in Hand County. Lightning also hit a home six miles north of Aberdeen, breaking a ceramic statue, and blow out light bulbs. Another home in Aberdeen was struck by lightning, rupturing a gas line and starting the house on fire. Also, heavy rains up to seven inches fall around the area. Some storm total rainfall amounts include; 2.00 inches at 2NW of Stephan; 2.40 inches in Miller; 3.03 at 4 miles west of Mellette; and 6.30 inches in Orient.

June 12, 1994: In Hand County, a thunderstorm caused an estimated 3 million dollars in crop damage. Hail, the largest being baseball size, was reported in drifts of three to four feet high. About 70 thousand acres of cropland and pastures were destroyed. Pheasants, ducks were killed by the hail and many cattle injured. Many windows were broken in homes, holes were punched in mobile homes, damaged occurred to contents of dwellings from hail which entered through windows, and many vehicles were extensively damaged.

June 12, 2013: A line of thunderstorms moving northeast across the region brought damaging wind gusts from 60 to 80 mph to parts of central and northeastern South Dakota. Many branches along with several trees were downed. Some buildings were also damaged with a couple of buildings destroyed. An estimated eighty mph wind destroyed a cabin on the east shore of the Missouri River and north-northwest of Pierre. A hundred foot by seventy-five-foot storage building was flattened south of Doland in Spink County. Tractors and planters and other equipment in the building were damaged.

1881 - Severe thunderstorms spawned more than half a dozen tornadoes in the Lower Missouri Valley. Five of the tornadoes touched down near Saint Joseph MO. In south central Kansas a tornado nearly wiped out the town of Floral. Hail and high winds struck Iowa and southern Minnesota. In Minnesota, Blue Earth City reported five inches of rain in one hour. (David Ludlum)

1947 - A heavy wet snow blanketed much of southern and central Wyoming, and gave many places their heaviest and latest snow of record. Totals included 18.4 inches at Lander, 8.7 inches at Cheyenne, and 4.5 inches at Casper. (11th-12th) (The Weather Channel)

1948: The Columbia River Basin flood peaked on this date in the Northwest. The flood produced the highest water level in the basin since the flood there in 1894. The damage estimate for the 1948 flood was \$101 million, and 75 lives were lost.

1969 - Record late season snows covered parts of Montana. Five inches was reported at Great Falls and east of Broadus. Billings, MT, tied their June record with lows of 32 degrees on the 12th and the 13th. (The Weather Channel)

1983 - The state of Utah was beseiged by floods and mudslides. Streets in downtown Salt Lake City were sandbagged and turned into rivers of relief. The town of Thistle was completely inundated as a mudslide made a natural dam. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced softball size hail around Fremont and Ames, and 3.5 inches of rain in less than one hour. Four and a half inches in less than an hour caused flooding around Ithica, NE. A tornado destroyed a mobile home near Broken Bow, NE, injuring both occupants. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Fifteen cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville with a reading of 40 degrees. Drought conditions continued to intensify across the eastern half of the nation. Rainfall at Nashville, TN, was running 12.5 inches below normal. (The National Weather Summary)

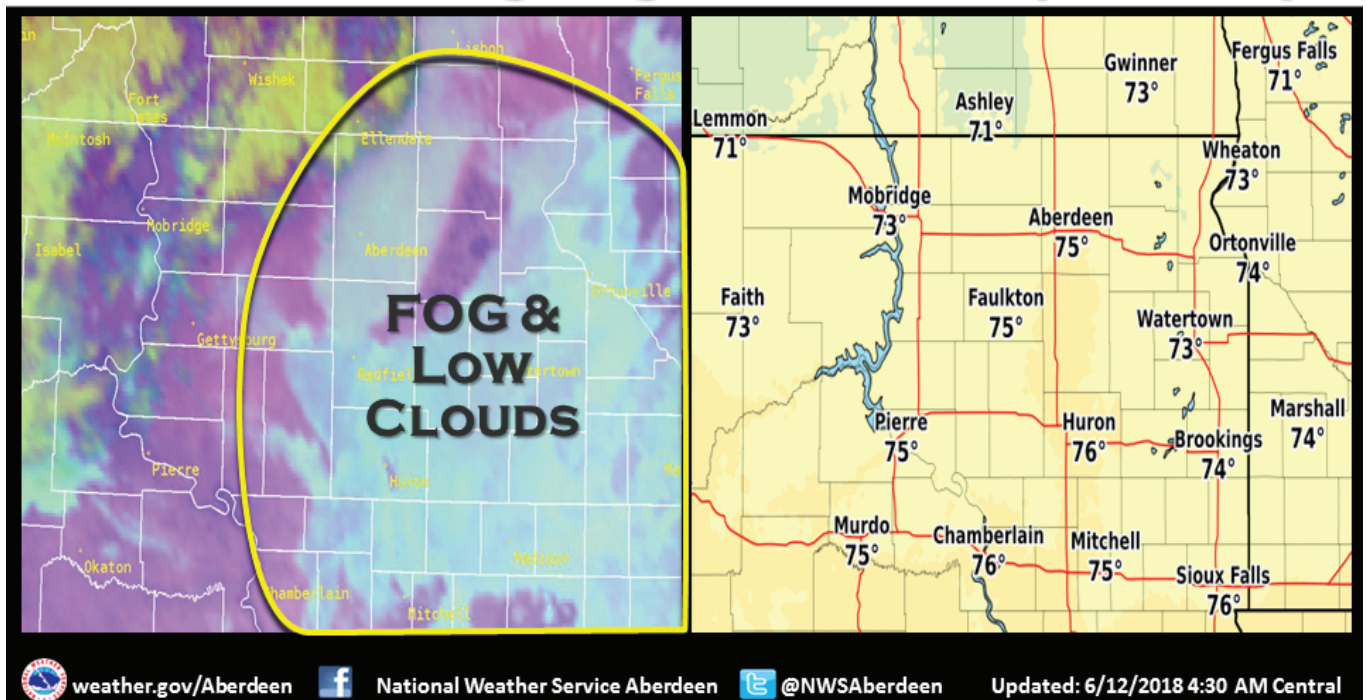
1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Tennessee Valley to the Central Appalachians in the afternoon and evening, and produced severe weather in Oklahoma and Texas during the evening and night. Thunderstorms spawned ten tornadoes, and there were 164 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 100 mph at Amarillo, TX, and wind gusts to 110 mph at Denton TX. Hail three inches in diameter was reported at Tucumcari NM. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
Areas Dense Fog then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Cloudy	Hot
High: 75 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 90 °F	Low: 69 °F	High: 91 °F

Dense Morning Fog – Mild Temps Today



Published on: 06/12/2018 at 4:36AM

Once we burn off these low clouds and fog, temperatures will be rather pleasant today. A steady warm up and mostly dry conditions are expected for the rest of the week before we see a better set up for more widespread moisture.

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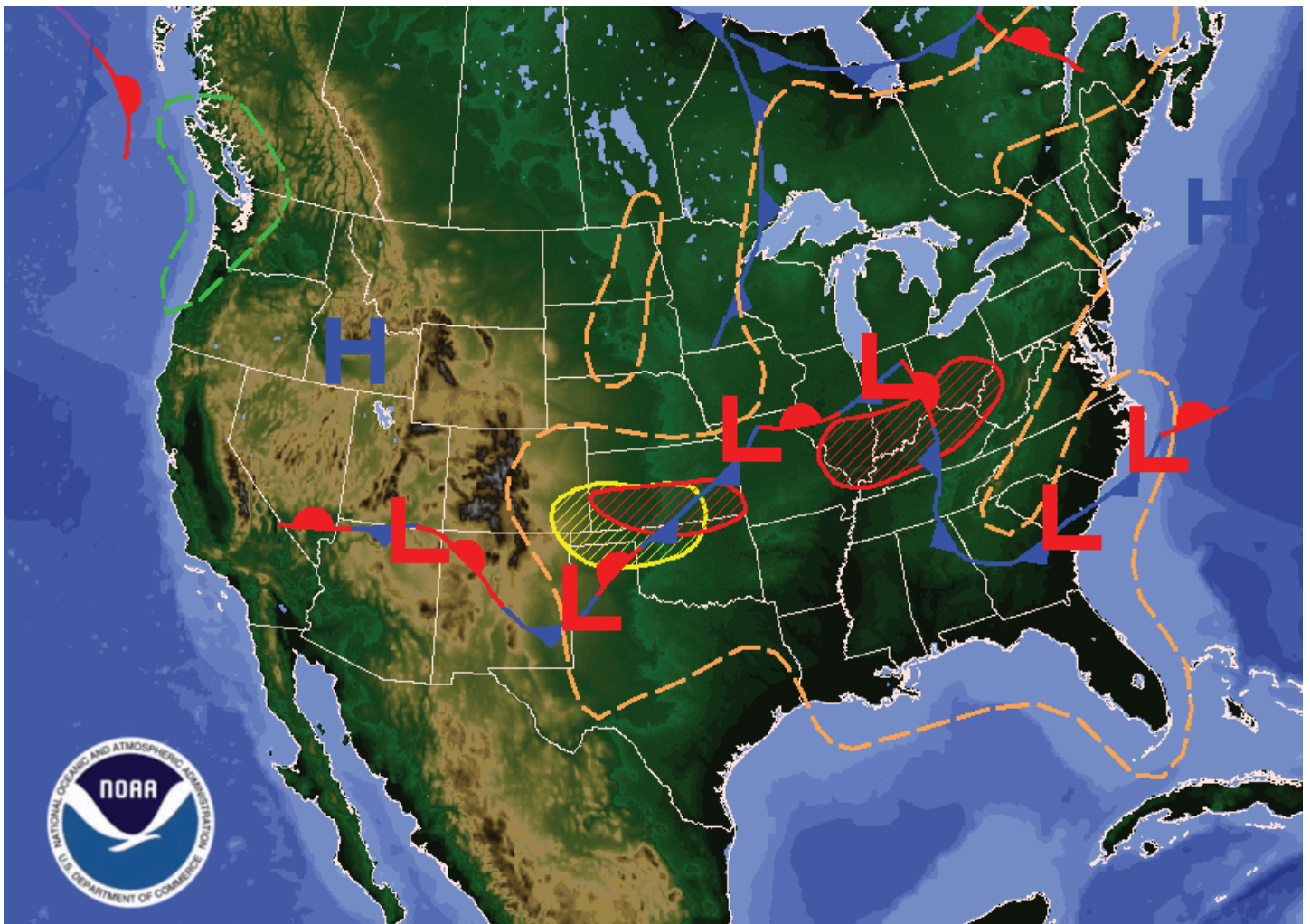
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 70.8 F at 1:44 AM
Low Outside Temp: 57.5 F at 11:28 PM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 36.0 Mph at 2:22 AM
Precip: 0.60

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1956
Record Low: 37° in 2012
Average High: 76°F
Average Low: 53°F
Average Precip in June: 1.43
Precip to date in June: 0.89
Average Precip to date: 8.57
Precip Year to Date: 5.19
Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jun 12, 2018, issued 4:32 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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LIVING THE WORD

"Papa, what do you want more than anything else in the whole world?" asked my Grandson Keller.

We had been watching a commercial on popular hand-held football games and he hadn't blinked once during the entire advertisement. My first thought was that he wanted me to state the name of the computer game. But suddenly, the words of Jesus came to my mind: "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."

"Well, Keller," I said, "most of all I want to be like Jesus and then I'd also like to be the best Papa I can be. That's really important to me and other than being like Jesus that's number one. I want to be a good example for you."

Not long ago I read a story of a man in a foreign country who wanted to "Be like Jesus." So, he decided to memorize the New Testament and made it through the Beatitudes. One day he ran into the missionary who had led him to the Lord and baptized him. Immediately, he told him about his goal. After he heard them recited, he said, "Good. Now go and put them in to practice."

A few weeks later he met the missionary again and said, "You know I tried doing what you said and it didn't work out. I got confused. So, I started over with just the first one and it worked better. Now I'm trying number two. I want to live what I know."

Knowing the Bible is one thing. Living it is very different. The Psalmist said, "Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying Your decrees."

Prayer: Lord, help us to keep it simple but steady as we grow into the likeness of Your Son, our Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 119:5 Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes!

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 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

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News from the Associated Press

Fire that destroyed South Dakota ammo plant ruled accidental

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Investigators say the cause of last month's fire that destroyed a South Dakota ammunition plant appears accidental.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives says the May 8 fire at the Ultramax Ammunition company in Box Elder started as a result of work being done on the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

South Dakota Department of Public Safety spokesman Tony Mangan told the Rapid City Journal the state fire marshal, which is still looking into the incident, found the fire appeared to be "accidental in nature."

Firefighters had to pull back from the building after bullets stored inside began exploding. Authorities said the plant had been filled with millions of rounds of ammunition and gun powder.

Several businesses were evacuated but no injuries were reported.

Ultramax was founded in 1986.

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

Activist alleges discrimination in Rapid City library job

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Native American activist alleges Rapid City officials and library leaders discriminated against him by blocking him from being considered for a security officer post at the library.

James Swan of the United Urban Warrior Society works for a security firm that entered into a contract with a Rapid City library in April, the Rapid City Journal reported. Swan's employer, Securitas Security Services USA, Inc., sent the city a list of officers they intended to assign to a new security post that included Swan.

Swan's supervisor told him his name was asked to be removed from consideration.

Mayor Steve Allender said library leaders made the final decision to not consider Swan for the role.

Swan, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, alleged he's been discriminated against because of his political activism.

"I've always questioned city government," Swan said. "I've been critical on some issues with the Rapid City Police Department. I've been critical on some issues with Allender. I've called the city out on things but that's what the people are supposed to do. The people have a right to step up and question them."

Rapid City released a statement saying library and city officials believed hiring Swan would create an "unacceptable liability for the city" because of his past behavior.

"While we have no legal authority to influence who is hired by a contractor, the city has no obligation to employ someone with a history of obstructive behavior," the city stated.

Swan has clashed with the city on homelessness and the treatment of Native Americans by local law enforcement.

Swan hasn't announced any plans to sue the city.

Heather Smith, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota, said it would be difficult to prove Swan's political affiliation discrimination enough to have a court side with him.

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

Corps to wrap up Dakota Access pipeline work in 2 months

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers within the next two months expects to wrap up an environmental study of the Dakota Access oil pipeline after recently meeting with four American Indian tribes battling the pipeline in court.

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The tribe leading the lawsuit still feels it hasn't had a meaningful role in the study, and Standing Rock Sioux attorney Jan Hasselman said Monday that "the tribe is not giving up this fight" two years after the suit was filed and a year after oil began flowing.

Last year, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in Washington, D.C., allowed the \$3.8 billion pipeline to begin pumping oil from western North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois. However, he also ordered the Corps to further review the pipeline's impact on tribal interests, including how a spill under the Missouri River in the Dakotas would impact water rights for the Standing Rock, Cheyenne, Yankton and Oglala Sioux tribes.

Texas-based developer Energy Transfer Partners has said the pipeline is safe.

The work has gone beyond the Corps' initial completion estimate of April 2 because of what the agency maintained was difficulties in obtaining needed information from the tribes. Justice Department attorney Matthew Marinelli said in a status report to Boasberg filed Friday that the Corps between May 22 and June 1 met with representatives of each tribe and "has made substantial progress in its evaluation of the (study) issues."

Marinelli said that by Aug. 10 the Corps will "finish its consideration and analysis of the information submitted by the tribes and consider issues identified at the meetings with the tribes."

The Standing Rock and Cheyenne River tribes have sought more involvement in the study, and Hasselman said Standing Rock still isn't satisfied.

"We were never given access to any of the technical materials such as oil spill risk models that the government is relying on," he said. "We've done an excellent job preparing technical materials of our own explaining why the risk of this pipeline is much higher than the government has ever acknowledged, but we've had to do that with one hand tied behind our back."

Marinelli didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

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

Sioux Falls man accused of driving drunk with girls in car

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is facing child endangerment charges after police say he was driving drunk with his two young daughters in the vehicle.

Police say the 31-year-old father was arrested after an off-duty law enforcement officer saw him driving recklessly and swerving into oncoming traffic Saturday night. Spokesman Sam Clemens says his daughters, ages 8 and 11, were in the back seat.

Clemens says the man had a blood alcohol level of 0.23, nearly three times over the limit for driving. The girls were not injured.

Vandals damage former Black Hills Passion Play site

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Vandals caused an estimated \$10,000 worth of damage at the former Black Hills Passion Play site in western South Dakota.

The Spearfish amphitheater site is where the crucifixion of Jesus Christ was re-enacted for about seven decades beginning in the late 1930s.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that the vandalism occurred last week. Authorities arrested a 21-year-old man and a male juvenile on trespassing and drug-related charges, with other charges pending. Police are looking for a second man.

Lt. Boyd Dean says it appears that the trio had been staying at the site, as luggage, blankets, pillows and other items were found.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

Rapid City-based Guard unit deploying to Middle East

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota National Guard unit is deploying to the Middle East. A send-off ceremony was held Friday for 26 members of Detachment 1, Company B of the 935th Aviation Support Battalion. They'll be providing aviation maintenance and support for the Army. The soldiers will go through several weeks of final training at Fort Hood, Texas, before heading overseas. The unit also served in the Middle East once before, during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2012 and 2013.

Tyndall woman facing kidnapping charge

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A Tyndall woman is facing a first-degree kidnapping charge after she was accused of taking the 1-year-old child of a family member.

Angela Heier is due in court later this month for an initial appearance at the Bon Homme County Courthouse. Authorities say a baby sitter called the sheriff's department May 10 to report a woman had taken the child from a residence in Scotland and drove away at a high speed.

The Daily Republic says deputies used the woman's cell phone to find her hours later in Volin. The child was found and returned to the parents. The woman was found hiding in a vehicle in Volin and arrested. A conviction for first-degree kidnapping carries a maximum life in prison.

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

Aberdeen Cue Club offers pool players neat space

By VICTORIA LUSK, Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — The rules of the Aberdeen Cue Club are relatively simple.

Pay your dues. Have fun. And mostly, "Just be a gentleman," said club President Charlie Gould.

"As far as keeping things legal, we're in South Dakota," he said.

That means there's no smoking or drugs allowed in the building. But a person could take in a six-pack of beer, and that's not a problem, Gould told the Aberdeen American News.

"We all engage in that once in a while. And then to just keep it civil and have good sportsmanship. That's the main thing we encourage here," he said.

That, and practice makes perfect.

Most of the club's 25 or so members have a goal of their own, he said. That's to improve his or her game.

"People can have fun while they are doing that," he said. "But here, more players actually want to get better."

Members pay a \$25 initiation fee, then \$25 a month to use the club whenever they want.

"We're a nonprofit, so we can keep our costs minimal and still encourage people to come in," Gould said.

"At any rate, it's inexpensive when compared to going to a bar and putting money in their tables. And we feel it's a much better atmosphere, but that depends on what a person likes," he said.

That doesn't mean that Aberdeen Cue Club members don't frequent local businesses. Most play some type of league, which rotates locations, he said.

The club also hosts city league matches Thursday nights.

"It's a win-win," Gould said.

The club got its start about six years ago. Last year, it moved to 1603 Sixth Ave. S.W., where a sign has garnered some attention.

The sign has made the club easier to find for out-of-town friends or guests, Gould said, and the newer space has allowed it to more than double the size of its original space. Guests have to pay \$5 per hour.

The original club space on First Avenue Northeast had three tables. Now, there are five.

"And that's what we'll have. We don't have room for any more," he said. "I won't say they are all in use (all the time), but it is a lot nicer place than we used to have.

"I had a place in (the current Geffdog building on Sixth Avenue) where we had some pool tables. That

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building got sold and we had to move. At that time, we created a members club and rented a place to put the tables we had," Gould said.

The club has a simple structure, he said.

"We try to encourage people to play pool and we take all kinds. We've got older people and younger people," he said. "It's mostly retired people like me."

The club currently has two female members and a few young adults, too.

"We just want a nice facility where we can play pool. We don't have anything else that we do in here. There are no other games. But we have snacks," he said. "I'm thinking we're successful. But I'd like to have more people in here all the time playing."

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

Trump-Kim shake hands, commit to 'complete denuclearization'

By ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY, JOSH LEDERMAN and FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Clapping hands and forecasting future peace, President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un committed Tuesday to "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula during the first meeting in history between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader. Yet as Trump toasted the summit's results, he faced mounting questions about whether he got too little and gave away too much — including an agreement to halt U.S. military exercises with treaty ally South Korea.

Meeting with staged ceremony on a Singapore island, Trump and Kim came together for a summit that seemed unthinkable months ago when the two nations traded nuclear threats. The gathering of the two unpredictable leaders marked a striking gamble by the American president to grant Kim long-sought recognition on the world stage in hopes of ending the North's nuclear program.

Both leaders expressed optimism throughout roughly five hours of talks, with Trump thanking Kim afterward "for taking the first bold step toward a bright new future for his people." Kim, for his part, said the leaders had "decided to leave the past behind" and promised: "The world will see a major change."

Light on specifics, the document signed by the two leaders largely amounted to an agreement to continue discussions, as it echoed previous public statements and past commitments. It did not include an agreement to take steps toward ending the technical state of warfare between the U.S. and North Korea.

Trump, holding forth at a free-flowing news conference after Kim departed, said the North Korean leader had before him "an opportunity like no other" to bring his country back into the community of nations if he follows through on pledges to give up his nuclear program.

Trump announced that he would be freezing U.S. military "war games" with its ally South Korea while negotiations between the two countries continue. He cast the decision as a cost-saving measure, but North Korea has long objected to the drills as a security threat.

Trump acknowledged that the timetable for denuclearization is long, but said, "once you start the process it means it's pretty much over."

The president acknowledged that U.S. intelligence on the North Korean nuclear stockpile is limited, "probably less there than any other country," he said. "But we have enough intelligence to know that what they have is very substantial."

Trump brushed off questions about his public praise for an autocrat whose people have been oppressed for decades. He added that Otto Warmbier, an American once detained in North Korea, "did not die in vain" because his death brought about the nuclear talks.

And he said Kim has accepted an invitation to visit the White House — at the "appropriate" time.

The two leaders promised in their joint document to "build a lasting and stable peace regime" on the Korean Peninsula and to repatriate remains of prisoners of war and those missing in action from the Korean War.

Language on North Korea's bombs was similar to what the leaders of North and South Korea came

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up with at their own summit in April. At the time, the Koreans faced criticism for essentially kicking the issue of North Korea's nuclear arsenal down the road to Tuesday's Trump-Kim summit. Trump and Kim even directly referenced the so-called Panmunjom Declaration, which contained a weak commitment to denuclearization and no specifics on how to achieve it.

The formal document-signing followed a series of meetings at a luxury Singapore resort.

After the signing, Trump said he expected to "meet many times" in the future with Kim and, in response to questions, said he "absolutely" would invite Kim to the White House. For his part, Kim hailed the "historic meeting" and said they "decided to leave the past behind."

In a moment that would never happen in North Korea, reporters began yelling questions to Trump and Kim after they signed the document, including whether they had discussed the case of Warmbier, the American college student who suffered brain damage while in North Korean custody and died in June 2017, days after he was returned home to Ohio.

In the run-up to the meeting, Trump had predicted the two men might strike a nuclear deal or forge a formal end to the Korean War in the course of a single meeting or over several days. But in the hours before the summit, the White House unexpectedly announced Trump would depart Singapore earlier than expected — Tuesday evening — raising questions about whether his aspirations for an ambitious outcome had been scaled back.

Aware that the eyes of the world were on a moment many people never expected to see, Kim said many of those watching would think it was a scene from a "science fiction movie."

After meeting privately and then with aides, Trump and Kim moved into a luncheon at a long flower-bedecked table. As they entered, Trump injected some levity to the day's extraordinary events, saying: "Getting a good picture everybody? So we look nice and handsome and thin? Perfect."

Then they dined on beef short rib confit along with sweet and sour crispy pork.

And as they emerged from the meal for a brief stroll together, Trump appeared to delight in showing his North Korean counterpart the interior of "The Beast," the famed U.S. presidential limousine known for its high-tech fortifications.

Critics of the summit leapt at the leaders' handshake and the moonlight stroll Kim took Monday night along the glittering Singapore waterfront, saying it was further evidence that Trump was helping legitimize Kim on the world stage. Kim has been accused of horrific rights abuses against his people.

"It's a huge win for Kim Jong Un, who now — if nothing else — has the prestige and propaganda coup of meeting one on one with the president, while armed with a nuclear deterrent," said Michael Kovrig, a northeast Asia specialist at the International Crisis Group in Washington.

Trump responded to such commentary on Twitter, saying: "The fact that I am having a meeting is a major loss for the U.S., say the haters & losers." But he added "our hostages" are back home and testing, research and launches have stopped.

Giving voice to the anticipation felt around the world as the meeting opened, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday he "hardly slept" before the summit. Moon and other officials watched the live broadcast of the summit before a South Korean Cabinet meeting in his presidential office.

The summit capped a dizzying few days of foreign policy activity for Trump, who shocked U.S. allies over the weekend by using a meeting in Canada of the Group of Seven industrialized economies to alienate America's closest friends in the West. Lashing out over trade practices, Trump lobbed insults at his G-7 host, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Trump left that summit early and, as he flew to Singapore, tweeted that he was yanking the U.S. out of the group's traditional closing statement.

The optimistic summit was a remarkable change in dynamics from less than a year ago, when Trump was threatening "fire and fury" against Kim, who in turn scorned the American president as a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard." Beyond the impact on both leaders' political fortunes, the summit could shape the fate of countless people — the citizens of impoverished North Korea, the tens of millions living in the shadow of the North's nuclear threat, and millions more worldwide.

Alluding to the North's concerns that giving up its nuclear weapons could surrender its primary deterrent

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to forced regime change, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters that the U.S. was prepared to take action to provide North Korea with "sufficient certainty" that denuclearization "is not something that ends badly for them."

He would not say whether that included the possibility of withdrawing U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula, but said the U.S. was "prepared to take what will be security assurances that are different, unique, than America's been willing to provide previously."

The North has faced crippling diplomatic and economic sanctions as it has advanced development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Pompeo held firm to Trump's position that sanctions will remain in place until North Korea denuclearizes — and said they would even increase if diplomatic discussions did not progress positively.

Follow AP's summit coverage here: <http://apne.ws/MPbJ5Tv>

Israel: Social media monitoring nabs would-be attackers

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli authorities have foiled over 200 Palestinian attacks by monitoring social media and sifting through vast amounts of data to identify prospective assailants ahead of time, according to Israel's public security minister.

These pre-emptive actions put Israel at the forefront of an increasingly popular — and controversial — trend used by intelligence and law enforcement agencies around the world that use big data technology to track would-be criminals. While the technology appears to be effective, its tactics drew angry Palestinian condemnation and have raised questions about civil liberties.

Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, who oversees the national police force, said Israel's use of algorithms and other technology has been an important factor in lowering the number of knife and shooting attacks in Israel in recent years. He plans on sharing Israel's knowledge with counterparts at an international security conference he is hosting this week.

"The experience we now have, we can help other countries deal with this kind of terrorism," he said. He said working with allies "can lead us to a much better result in fighting lone wolf terrorists."

But Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official in the West Bank, called the Israeli profiling techniques "horrific" and an "added dimension" to Israeli control over Palestinian lives.

"They are trying to justify the various ways in which they violate the Palestinian people's rights, including the right to due process and the right to privacy, using Facebook and using social media as a means of gleaning information to prove people's guilt ahead of time," she said.

In September 2015, Israel found itself facing a wave of stabbings, shootings and car rammings carried out by "lone wolf" attackers, or individuals unaffiliated with militant groups acting on their own. It was a significant departure from past waves of organized violence led by armed groups like Hamas.

Since then, Palestinians have killed over 50 Israelis, while Israeli forces have killed over 260 Palestinians, most of whom Israel says were attackers. However, the number of attacks has dropped significantly — from 170 "serious attacks" in 2016 to 90 last year to 25 this year, according to Erdan's ministry.

Israel has blamed the attacks on anti-Israel incitement in Palestinian social media, while Palestinians say despondent attackers were driven by a lack of hope after decades of Israeli occupation and repeated failure in peace talks.

Research compiled by Erdan's office points in both directions. Erdan said that interviews with jailed attackers have found that many suffered from personal problems, such as depression or family pressure to enter an arranged marriage, but were also inspired to act, often with little notice, by violent material online.

Erdan said Israel has turned to various technologies to counter the attacks. That includes facial recognition devices and smart cameras that detect suspicious behavior in real time.

In addition, his ministry, working with the Justice Ministry and Shin Bet internal security agency, has created a team to scour an "ocean of data" on social media for objectionable content and to identify at-

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tackers before they act.

Members include psychologists, legal advisers and experts who have developed algorithms that analyze online activity. Violent posts, the suspect's profile, such as age or hometown, and other supporting evidence are factored into the analysis.

"Every event can lead to a discussion. You have to look for the special words that might lead you to the conclusion that something is dangerous," Erdan said. "The algorithm leads you to suspect someone."

The system has nabbed over 200 people who Erdan said confessed that they were planning attacks. Suspects have included both Palestinians and Arab citizens of Israel, including cells allegedly inspired by the Islamic State group.

"When you increase the number of people who are involved in monitoring the social networks, you more and more learn how to define the profiles you are looking for," he said.

Erdan said there is always a "dilemma" about whether a potential suspect is a serious threat or not, and that police often have just a few hours to decide whether to make the arrest.

"It's complicated," he said.

There were no figures on how many innocent people were misidentified as potential suspects. But Erdan's office said in such cases, the people are quickly released.

Both the Justice Ministry and Shin Bet did not respond to requests for comment.

Ashrawi, the Palestinian official, questioned the claims that suspects had confessed, saying anyone can be pressured into confessing to anything. She also noted that Palestinians are subject to Israel's military court system, which has a near 100 percent conviction rate. "What is incredible to me, the rest of the world is not horrified by what is happening here," she said.

Andrew Ferguson, a professor at the David A. Clark School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia, said Israel appears to be one of the world leaders in using big data for policing activity. He said some U.S. police departments have begun using similar techniques, albeit on a much smaller scale due to civil liberties concerns.

"You may be seeing the future in Israel," said Ferguson, author of "The Rise of Big Data Policing: Surveillance, Race, and the Future of Law Enforcement."

"Israel is at the cutting edge of using this technology in ways that we haven't seen in other countries, partly because other countries have been concerned about pushback from civil liberties groups," he said.

Erdan said he is well aware of the need to strike a balance between freedom of expression and public safety. Judges must sign off on all arrests and be convinced that the suspects truly pose a threat to public safety.

Despite such concerns, he believes the know-how Israel has gathered can help allies deal with similar attacks. He said expertise will be shared with other participants at this week's conference, which kicks off Tuesday. Participants include U.S. Homeland Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and to officials from Belgium, Germany, Kenya, Singapore, Spain and other countries.

The agenda will include terrorism, radicalization and cyberattacks. High on the agenda will be government relationships with social media companies. Even with all the technology at his disposal, Erdan said he believes the social media giants should do far more to stop the spread of online hate.

Israel has long urged Facebook and Twitter to remove what it sees as inciting material posted online. Erdan said Facebook has "improved" responses to Israeli complaints, while Twitter is still "very bad."

A goal of the conference is to rally support for concerted pressure on the social media companies to do a better job of policing content, or to consider common legislation to define "red lines."

"To create a new world without any kind of rules, that is something that first it's not fair, and second, it's endangering the safety of people around the world," he said.

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For world, Trump-Kim summit raises cautious hope for peace

TOKYO (AP) — South Koreans cheered, Iran warned that President Donald Trump should not be trusted and China said it may be time to discuss lifting sanctions on North Korea as Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held an unprecedented summit Tuesday in Singapore.

Around Asia and the world, many have welcomed the flurry of diplomacy in recent months between the two adversaries, after a year of mounting tension, threats and name-calling. Hopes for peace on the long-divided Korean Peninsula, however, remain tempered by the many failed attempts in the past.

"The United States and North Korea have been in a state of antagonism for more than half a century," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. "Today, that the two countries' highest leaders can sit together and have equal talks, has important and positive meaning, and is creating a new history."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang later said that U.N. sanctions against North Korea could be suspended or lifted in accordance with the North's actions. "We believe the Security Council should make efforts to support the diplomatic efforts at the present time," he said.

Trump said at a post-summit news conference that he has held off from imposing additional sanctions, but that the U.S. would remove sanctions that are in place when the North's nuclear weapons "are no longer a factor."

Iran, meanwhile, reminded Kim that Trump should not be trusted because he could nullify any nuclear deal with North Korea, just as he pulled out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran.

The semi-official Fars news agency quoted government spokesman Mohammad Bagher Nobakht as saying: "We are facing a man who revokes his signature while abroad."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he "could hardly sleep last night" in anticipation of the meeting and expressed hope for "complete denuclearization and peace."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed Kim's written commitment to complete denuclearization in an agreement signed with Trump at the end of their meeting in Singapore.

New Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, on a visit to Tokyo, said that "both sides must be prepared to give in certain issues if they expect to reach a good conclusion."

India's foreign ministry said in a statement that it hoped for complete implementation of the agreement signed in Singapore, "thus paving the way for lasting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula."

At a train station in Seoul, the South Korean capital, people cheered and applauded as televisions screens broadcast the Trump-Kim handshake live.

"I really, really hope for a good outcome," said Yoon Ji, a professor at Sungshin University in Seoul. "I am hoping for denuclearization and a peace agreement and also for North Korea's economy to open up."

Some questioned whether Kim would fully relinquish the weapons he may see as his only guarantee of survival.

"I am still not sure whether the North is willing to denuclearize or not," said Jo Han-won. "We never knew much about the North Korean regime and it's hard to distinguish what's true and what's false."

China, which provided a Boeing 747 that flew Kim from Pyongyang to Singapore, wants to ensure its interests are preserved in any negotiations, namely that they don't result in a unified Korea that is pro-American.

Hu Xijin, the editor of influential Communist Party newspaper Global Times, said that he was "truly happy for this moment." He dismissed as cynical those Chinese internet users who asked if Beijing had been marginalized in these talks.

"I think these people really grew up in negative energy," he wrote on his Sina Weibo microblog.

Japan's largest newspaper, the Yomiuri, printed a one-page "extra" edition in both Japanese and English that was distributed for free in major cities 90 minutes after the meeting began.

Passers-by outside a Tokyo train station snapped up 500 copies in a flash, excited to have a souvenir of the historic event. They generally welcomed the meeting as a good first step but wondered if any progress would be made on the fate of Japanese abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s.

"My biggest concern is the abduction issue, then the nuclear and missile," said 70-year-old retiree To-moaki Kenmotsu. "I have no idea how much the abduction issue is being taken up at the summit, but I

hope it will be a good start for that issue too.”

Abe thanked Trump for raising the issue with Kim and said that “Japan will deal firmly with North Korea face-to-face” to resolve it.

The hard work remains to come, said Momoko Shimada, a 20-year-old student: “After the handshake and political show will be the real action. I believe that won’t be easy.”

Associated Press journalists Jung-yoon Kim in Seoul, South Korea; Mari Yamaguchi and Kaori Hitomi in Tokyo; Chris Bodeen and researcher Shanshan Wang in Beijing; Jon Gambrell in Dubai contributed to this report.

Amazon flexes muscles, Seattle backs down on business tax

By PHUONG LE, Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Amazon balked and Seattle is backing down.

City leaders said they plan to repeal a tax on large companies such as Amazon and Starbucks as they face mounting pressure from businesses, an about-face just a month after unanimously approving the measure to help pay for efforts to combat a growing homelessness crisis.

The quick surrender showed the power of Amazon to help rally opposition and aggressively push back on taxes at all levels of government, even in its affluent home city where the income gap is ever widening and lower-income workers are being priced out of housing. It has resulted in one of the highest homelessness rates in the U.S.

Amazon and other businesses had sharply criticized the tax, and the online retailer even temporarily halted construction planning on a new high-rise building near its Seattle headquarters in protest.

Mayor Jenny Durkan and seven of nine City Council members said Monday they worked with a range of groups to pass a measure last month that would strike a balance between protecting jobs and supporting affordable housing.

But a coalition of businesses is working to get a referendum on the November ballot to overturn the tax.

In a statement Durkan and the council members said “it is clear that the ordinance will lead to a prolonged, expensive political fight over the next five months that will do nothing to tackle our urgent housing and homelessness crisis.”

They said they would move forward to repeal the so-called head tax. A special council meeting is scheduled Tuesday, where a vote is expected. They didn’t provide a backup funding plan.

It marks the latest Amazon move against city, state and national taxes.

The company recently said it would block Australians from purchases on its international websites after the nation planned to impose a 10 percent consumption tax on online retailers for goods shipped to Australia.

The tax debate comes as 20 cities vie to lure the company’s second headquarters and as it expands its workforce in Boston and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Cities have offered lavish tax breaks and incentives to lure the company and its promise of adding tens of thousands of high-paying jobs. Critics have said it is wrong for profitable company to push for public money, especially considering the added costs to infrastructure and services the new headquarters would bring.

Seattle’s tax would charge companies about \$275 per full-time worker each year and raise roughly \$48 million a year for affordable housing and homeless services. It would target businesses making at least \$20 million in gross revenue and take effect in January.

The liberal city spent \$68 million on homelessness in 2017 and plans to spend \$78 million this year.

Just days after Durkan signed the ordinance into law, the No Tax On Jobs campaign, a coalition of businesses, announced it would gather signatures to put a repeal referendum on the November ballot.

The campaign has raised about \$285,000 in cash contributions, with more employers, including Amazon and Starbucks, pledging nearly \$200,000 in additional support.

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The coalition is glad the "Seattle City Council has heard the voices of the people loud and clear and are now reconsidering this ill-conceived tax," said John Murray, a spokesman with the No Tax on Jobs campaign.

Councilwoman Teresa Mosqueda, one of four sponsors of the tax, said she could not support repealing the tax without "a replacement strategy to house and shelter our neighbors experiencing homelessness."

"We cannot wait months or until next year for another proposal or process while people are sleeping in our parks and on our streets," she said in a statement.

Councilwoman Kshama Sawant said on Twitter that the repeal "is a capitulation to bullying by Amazon" and other big business" and called it a "backroom betrayal" that didn't involve her office.

The clash over who should pay to solve a housing crisis exacerbated by Seattle's rapid economic growth was marked by weeks of raucous meetings and tense exchanges that didn't abate after the tax was approved.

Opponents called the Seattle measure a tax on jobs and questioned whether city officials are spending current resources effectively. Others praised the tax as a step toward building badly needed affordable housing.

The Seattle region had the third-highest number of homeless people in the U.S. and saw 169 homeless deaths in 2017.

Associated Press journalist Lisa Baumann contributed to this report.

Extreme fire danger forces another national forest to close

By COLLEEN SLEVIN, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Extreme fire danger prompted officials to shut down a sprawling forest that includes some of Colorado's most stunning mountains in a region that attracts tourists from around the world, a rare tactic also being used in neighboring states as the U.S. Southwest struggles with severe drought.

National forests and parks in Arizona and New Mexico have already been shut down as precautions.

San Juan National Forest officials in southwestern Colorado planned to close hundreds of miles of trails and thousands of miles of back roads to hikers, bikers, horseback riders and campers as soon as Tuesday to prevent the possibility of an abandoned campfire or any other spark from starting a wildfire. It's the first full closure of a national forest in Colorado since 2002, which was another very dry year.

The closure will remain until sufficient precipitation eases the fire danger.

The move comes as the residents of more than 2,000 homes have been forced to evacuate because of a fire that started June 1 in the forest and spread to about 35 square miles (91 square kilometers) as of Monday. Authorities are still investigating how the fire started.

No homes have been lost although the fire came close to buildings Sunday night, authorities said. Fire managers credited advance fire mitigation work by homeowners for helping firefighters save the structures.

Much of the U.S. West is experiencing some level of drought and the Four Corners region — where Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado meet — is at the center of a large patch of exceptional drought.

In New Mexico, the Santa Fe National Forest, along with portions of three national park sites, closed June 1 because of the fire danger. The Santa Fe forest is among New Mexico's most popular getaways.

The U.S. Forest Service also is planning to bar recreation in a handful of ranger districts in the Cibola National Forest outside of Albuquerque beginning Friday.

Portions of national forests in Arizona were also closed in late May because of severe fire conditions.

Full forest closures are not common and the Forest Service stresses they're only done as a last resort.

The Coconino National Forest in Arizona shut down completely because of fire danger in 2006 for nine days. A 2002 shutdown lasted nine weeks, including both Memorial Day and July 4 holidays, and other national forests had closures that year.

Colorado's latest closure will also bar non-recreational uses, although ranchers, for example, who use some of the forest's over 2,800 square miles (7,252 square kilometers) for grazing will be able to seek exemptions, San Juan National Forest spokeswoman Cam Hooley said.

If any exemptions are granted, those users would be required to take precautions, such as carrying water, shovels and fire extinguishers and possibly only allowed in during certain times of the day, she said.

"We recognize that this is difficult for the local businesses and the local economy and just ask that people just be understanding and patient," Hooley said.

The region, which is also home to Mesa Verde National Park, relies heavily on visitors to support its economy and fire managers have tried to help encourage them to keep coming by including links to tourism information in their regular fire updates.

One of the main tourist attractions, a historic scenic railroad that takes riders through the majestic San Juan Mountains in the forest, has suspended its service and furloughed its seasonal workers. It may reopen later this month with diesel engines to replace its traditional coal-fired locomotives that can throw sparks.

Sweetie Marbury, the mayor of nearby Durango — about 10 miles from the fire — said there are plenty of things people can do in the area, including river rafting, cycling and fishing and learning about history at places like Mesa Verde and Chimney Rock National Monument.

"We are resilient in Durango. We bounce back," she said.

Associated Press writer Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, New Mexico, contributed to this report.

Effects of Supreme Court voter roll decision appear limited

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A U.S. Supreme Court ruling has cleared the way for states to take a tougher approach to maintaining their voter rolls, but will they?

Ohio plans to resume its process for removing inactive voters after it was affirmed in Monday's 5-4 ruling. It takes a particularly aggressive approach that appears to be an outlier among states.

Few appear eager to follow.

"Our law has been on the books. It hasn't changed, and it isn't changing," said Oklahoma Election Board spokesman Bryan Dean.

At issue is when a state begins the process to notify and ultimately remove people from the rolls after a period of non-voting. In most states with similar laws, that process begins after voters miss two or more federal elections.

In Ohio, under the current Republican secretary of state, it starts if voters sit out just one election. They are removed from the rolls if they miss three federal elections over six years and fail to return an address-confirmation card.

Oklahoma is among the states that send confirmation notices to voters who have failed to cast ballots in two elections. As in most other states, voters who fail to respond are made inactive or taken off the rolls altogether if they don't cast a ballot in subsequent elections.

Opponents of the laws say their intent is to purge people from the rolls, particularly minorities and the poor who tend to vote Democratic. Supporters say voters are given plenty of chances to keep their active status and that the rules adhere to federal law requiring states to maintain accurate voter rolls.

Democrats and voting rights groups have expressed concern that other states will be emboldened by the ruling and adopt more aggressive tactics to kick voters off the rolls. In addition to Oklahoma, Georgia, Montana, Oregon, Pennsylvania and West Virginia have laws similar to Ohio's.

But even Republican-led states where officials are concerned about voter fraud may be wary when it comes to following the Ohio model.

One hurdle is likely to come from local governments, where election administrators would have to deal with disgruntled voters and manage an increase in the number of people placed on inactive voter lists, said Myrna Perez, who has studied voter list practices in her role as deputy director of the Brennan Center's Democracy Program.

"Using one election as an indicator is going to lead to a whole lot of false positives," she said. "There are plenty of states that clean their voter rolls successfully without being as aggressive as Ohio."

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West Virginia is more lenient in targeting inactive voters than Ohio. Among other things, it requires counties in the year following a presidential election to mail an address confirmation to people who have not voted in any election during the previous four years.

Julie Archer of the watchdog West Virginia Citizen Action Group said the process appears to be working as it should.

"There is not a need to do something more aggressive," she said.

The controversy over Ohio's law arose from apparently conflicting mandates in the National Voter Registration Act, which became law in 1993. It requires states to maintain accurate voter registration lists but also says they should protect against inadvertently removing properly registered voters.

Ohio has used voters' inactivity to trigger the removal process since 1994. Yet groups representing voters did not sue over the policy until 2016, after Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted tightened the approach of his predecessor, Democrat Jennifer Brunner.

Brunner's policy was to wait for two missed federal elections — not just one — before sending the address notification to voters.

In Pennsylvania, the process isn't triggered unless people have failed to vote for five years. The state has no plans to change that, Department of State spokeswoman Wanda Murren said.

The existing system hasn't been drawing complaints, said Ray Murphy, a spokesman for Keystone Votes, a liberal coalition that advocates for changes to Pennsylvania election law. But he said the group will watch the Legislature closely for any signs that lawmakers will want to follow Ohio's more stringent method.

Ballot access is a frequent battleground for Democrats and Republicans, but it's not always a neatly partisan issue.

In Oregon, for example, Republican Secretary of State Dennis Richardson last year expanded the period for removing people from the rolls from five years of non-voting to 10 years.

"A registered voter should not lose their voting rights solely because they haven't participated recently," he said in a written statement following Monday's Supreme Court ruling.

Associated Press writers Tom James in Salem, Oregon; Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City; John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia; Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus, Ohio; and Mark Scolforo in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, contributed to this report.

Follow Christina Almeida Cassidy on Twitter at http://twitter.com/AP_Christina

U2 dedicates song to Anthony Bourdain at Apollo show

By JOHN CARUCCI, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U2 frontman Bono honored the late Anthony Bourdain toward the end of the band's special performance Monday at the Apollo Theater in Harlem.

Bono spoke of losing a "lot of inspiring, useful people" over the past few years "who gave up on their own life" alluding to the apparent suicides of musicians Chris Cornell and Chester Bennington, as well as fashion designer Kate Spade.

"And now this great storyteller, who I'm sure has stories he couldn't tell us. So for Anthony Bourdain, and his friends and family this is a song inspired by a great, great, great friend of ours. His name is Michael Hutchence," Bono said before launching into an impassioned version of "Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of."

The Grammy-winning song about suicide was written by the band after INXS singer Hutchence was found dead in 1997 of an apparent suicide.

The 61-year old Bourdain was found dead of an apparent suicide last week in France.

As for the performance, the band took a break from their Experience and Innocence arena tour to play a special one-night show at the legendary theater for Sirius XM, subscribers. The invite-only show had a star-studded guest list, including tennis legend John McEnroe, rocker Jon Bon Jovi, E-Street band guitarist

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"Little Steven" Van Zandt, and New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft.

The band ripped through its 90 minute set, covering 18 songs, and maintaining enough energy to keep many of the nearly 1,500 on their feet for most of the night. On the floor, fans waved their arms and sang along from the first chorus of opener, "I Will Follow" to the last encore of "Love Is Bigger Than Anything in Its Way."

Never afraid to play songs from a new album, four came from "Experience." But they also included standards like "Pride (In the Name of Love)," "Vertigo," and "Desire."

They also dusted off a few gems that have not been heard yet on the tour, including "Angel of Harlem," the band's homage to Billie Holliday. For that one, and a few others, the Sun Ra Arkestra backed them up.

Other songs marking their first tour appearance included, "When Love Comes to Down," "Every Breaking Wave," and "Out of Control" from "Boy," the band's 1980 debut album.

Trump, North Korea's Kim Jong Un sign unspecified document **By ZEKE MILLER, CATHERINE LUCEY, JOSH LEDERMAN and FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press**

SINGAPORE (AP) — President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un concluded an extraordinary nuclear summit Tuesday by signing a document in which Trump pledged "security guarantees" to the North and Kim reiterated his commitment to "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." The leaders also offered lofty promises, with the American president pledged to handle a "very dangerous problem" and Kim forecasting "major change for the world."

The broad agreement was light on specifics, largely reiterating previous public statements and past commitments. It did not include an agreement to take steps toward ending the technical state of warfare between the U.S. and North Korea.

The pair promised in the document to "build a lasting and stable peace regime" on the Korean Peninsula and to repatriate remains of prisoners of war and those missing in action during the Korean War.

News photographers captured photos of the broad, two-page agreement, which was not immediately released by the White House.

The formal document signing followed a series of meetings at a luxury Singapore resort.

Meeting with staged ceremony on a Singapore island, Trump and Kim came together for a summit that seemed just unthinkable months ago, clasping hands in front of a row of alternating U.S. and North Korean flags, holding a one-on-one meeting, additional talks with advisers and a working lunch.

Throughout the summit that could chart the course for historic peace or raise the specter of a growing nuclear threat, both leaders expressed optimism. Kim called the sit-down a "good prelude for peace" and Trump pledged that "working together we will get it taken care of."

At the signing ceremony, Trump said he expected to "meet many times" in the future with Kim. Responding to questions, he said "absolutely" he would invite Kim to the White House.

For his part, Kim hailed the "historic meeting" and said they "decided to leave the past behind."

In a moment that would have never happened in North Korea, reporters began yelling questions to Trump and Kim, including whether they had discussed the case of Otto Warmbier, the American college student who suffered brain damage while in North Korean custody and died in June 2017, days after he was returned home to Ohio.

In the run-up to the meeting, Trump had predicted the two men might strike a nuclear deal or forge a formal end to the Korean War in the course of a single meeting or over several days. But in the hours before the summit, the White House unexpectedly announced Trump would depart Singapore earlier than expected — Tuesday evening — raising questions about whether his aspirations for an ambitious outcome had been scaled back.

The meeting was the first between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader.

Aware that the eyes of the world were on a moment many people never expected to see, Kim said many of those watching would think it was a scene from a "science fiction movie."

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After meeting privately and with aides, Trump and Kim moved into the luncheon at a long flower-bedecked table. As they entered, Trump injected some levity to the day's extraordinary events, saying: "Getting a good picture everybody? So we look nice and handsome and thin? Perfect."

Then they dined on beef short rib confit along with sweet and sour crispy pork.

And as they emerged from the meal for a brief stroll together, Trump appeared to delight in showing his North Korean counterpart the interior of "The Beast," the famed U.S. presidential limousine known for its high-tech fortifications.

Critics of the summit leapt at the leaders' handshake and the moonlight stroll Kim took Monday night along the glittering Singapore waterfront, saying it was further evidence that Trump was helping legitimize Kim on the world stage as an equal of the U.S. president. Kim has been accused of horrific rights abuses against his people.

"It's a huge win for Kim Jong Un, who now — if nothing else — has the prestige and propaganda coup of meeting one on one with the president, while armed with a nuclear deterrent," said Michael Kovrig, a northeast Asia specialist at the International Crisis Group in Washington.

Trump responded to such commentary on Twitter, saying: "The fact that I am having a meeting is a major loss for the U.S., say the haters & losers." But he added "our hostages" are back home and testing, research and launches have stopped.

Giving voice to the anticipation felt around the world as the meeting opened, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday he "hardly slept" before the summit. Moon and other officials watched the live broadcast of the summit before a South Korean Cabinet meeting in his presidential office

The summit capped a dizzying few days of foreign policy activity for Trump, who shocked U.S. allies over the weekend by using a meeting in Canada of the Group of Seven industrialized economies to alienate America's closest friends in the West. Lashing out over trade practices, Trump lobbed insults at his G-7 host, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Trump left that summit early and, as he flew to Singapore, tweeted that he was yanking the U.S. out of the group's traditional closing statement.

The optimistic summit was a remarkable change in dynamics from less than a year ago, when Trump was threatening "fire and fury" against Kim, who in turn scorned the American president as a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard." Beyond the impact on both leaders' political fortunes, the summit could shape the fate of countless people — the citizens of impoverished North Korea, the tens of millions living in the shadow of the North's nuclear threat, and millions more worldwide.

Alluding to the North's concerns that giving up its nuclear weapons could surrender its primary deterrent to forced regime change, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters that the U.S. was prepared to take action to provide North Korea with "sufficient certainty" that denuclearization "is not something that ends badly for them."

He would not say whether that included the possibility of withdrawing U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula, but said the U.S. was "prepared to take what will be security assurances that are different, unique, than America's been willing to provide previously."

The North has faced crippling diplomatic and economic sanctions as it has advanced development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Pompeo held firm to Trump's position that sanctions will remain in place until North Korea denuclearizes — and said they would even increase if diplomatic discussions did not progress positively.

Experts believe the North is close to being able to target the entire U.S. mainland with its nuclear-armed missiles, and while there's deep skepticism that Kim will quickly give up those hard-won nukes, there's also some hope that diplomacy can replace the animosity between the U.S. and the North.

Follow AP's summit coverage here: <http://apne.ws/MPbJ5Tv>

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Trump a factor in SC races as 5 states hold primaries

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and BILL BARROW, Associated Press

Though on the other side of the globe, President Donald Trump figures to be a factor in Republican elections in South Carolina, one of five states holding primaries.

Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, an early Trump supporter in 2016 when he was lieutenant governor, has the president's backing but faces challenges from four other candidates. McMaster endorsed the New York businessman in the state's early presidential primary, which gave Trump a much-needed victory in the race for the nomination.

Elections are also scheduled Tuesday in Maine, Nevada, North Dakota and Virginia. They raise to 21 the number of states having held their 2018 primary elections so far.

SOUTH CAROLINA, THE GOP TRUMP SPECTRUM

Trump reiterated his support for McMaster on Twitter over the weekend, saying he "is doing a fantastic job as your Governor, and has my full endorsement, a special guy. Vote on Tuesday!"

Although Trump remains very popular in South Carolina, McMaster has been shadowed by a corruption probe involving a longtime political consultant. McMaster assumed the governorship last year after Nikki Haley resigned to become U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

McMaster has led the GOP field but in recent surveys has struggled to receive support from the 50 percent of voters he'd need to avoid a runoff.

Meanwhile, Republican Rep. Mark Sanford, a frequent Trump critic, faces a challenge from GOP state Rep. Katie Arrington in the state's southeastern coastal 1st District around Charleston.

Sanford has described Trump as untrustworthy and culturally intolerant. He repeatedly has called for the president to release his tax returns.

Sanford, who resigned as governor in 2011 after admitting to an extramarital affair, staged a political comeback in 2013, winning the House seat he had earlier represented for six years.

Arrington is accusing Sanford of seeking the spotlight and impeding Trump's agenda. Her campaign is airing a television advertisement which refers to Sanford as a "Never Trumper" and features video clips of Sanford's Trump criticisms.

A HOUSE BELLWETHER IN VIRGINIA

The northern Virginia suburbs offer a potential bellwether for both parties Tuesday in a GOP-leaning House district that opted for Democrat Hillary Clinton over Trump in 2016.

Freshman Republican Rep. Barbara Comstock is one of Democrats' top targets in November. But she first must clear a primary challenge from retired Air Force veteran Shak Hill, who has criticized her for voting last year against a measure to repeal the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

Comstock is favored in the contest, but the challenge by Hill could push the more moderate Comstock to the right in this politically mixed district.

The six-person Democratic field is creating a free-for-all, given Virginia's system that rewards the highest vote-getter without a runoff.

It will be another test of whether Democratic primary voters in swing districts prefer liberal candidates, as they've shown in several races so far this year. The party needs to gain 23 seats to win the majority in the House.

State Sen. Jennifer Wexton began the 2018 cycle as the establishment favorite in the race. But three other competitors have roughly kept pace or even exceeded her fundraising and spending, while two others have mounted credible campaigns.

TURNING THE LePAGE

Maine voters will decide how they'd prefer to veer in their search for the successor to term-limited conservative Republican Gov. Paul LePage.

In a state represented by moderate Republican Sen. Susan Collins and independent Sen. Angus King, voters will choose from GOP candidates who echo King's conservative policies but shy away from his controversial tone.

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The field includes top Republicans in the legislature, Senate Majority Leader Garrett Mason and House Minority Leader Kenneth Fredette; LePage's former state health agency chief, Mary Mayhew; and businessman Shawn Moody, who's trying to claim the outsider mantle.

Democrats, with just 16 of the nation's governorships, view the seat as one of their top pick-up opportunities

First they must settle a seven-way primary field led by Attorney General Janet Mills and former state House Speaker Mark Eves.

NEVADA, NORTH DAKOTA: SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER

Nevada and North Dakota are home to two of the most pivotal Senate races this year. What they don't have is competitive Senate primaries.

Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, the only Republican seeking re-election in a state that Hillary Clinton carried in 2016, is expected to sail through his primary against lesser-known challengers. So is Democratic Rep. Jacky Rosen, who expects to face Heller in November.

One of the most interesting GOP primaries in Nevada involves legal brothel owner Dennis Hof challenging GOP state Rep. James Oscarson for his seat in the statehouse.

There's also the return of Sharron Angle, the conservative who once ominously threatened to "take out" then-Sen. Harry Reid. Angle, who lost to Reid in her 2010 bid for Senate, is challenging Rep. Mark Amodei, who is favored in his campaign for renomination in Nevada's 2nd District.

The most competitive choice for Democrats appears to be the battle between Clark County commissioners vying to be Nevada's first Democratic governor in two decades.

Steve Sisolak is running as a centrist and fellow board member Chris Giunchigliani is running as a progressive, knocking Sisolak for his positive rating from the National Rifle Association in light of the mass shooting in Las Vegas in October. Four lesser-known candidates are also running.

Republican Attorney Gen. Adam Laxalt is expected to easily clear the GOP field.

In North Dakota, GOP Rep. Kevin Cramer is a shoo-in to face moderate Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, who is seeking re-election in a state Trump carried by 36 percentage points in 2016.

Trump economic adviser Larry Kudlow suffers heart attack

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Larry Kudlow, the prominent economic commentator who joined the Trump administration this year as the president's top economic adviser, has suffered a "very mild" heart attack, the White House said Monday night.

Kudlow was being treated at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters in Singapore. She said Kudlow was in good condition and "doing well."

Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council, had joined President Donald Trump last week in Canada for the meeting of the Group of Seven world leaders. Minutes before Trump met with North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Singapore, the president tweeted, "Our Great Larry Kudlow, who has been working so hard on trade and the economy, has just suffered a heart attack."

Kudlow appeared Sunday on CNN to back up Trump's complaint that he had been blindsided by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's criticism of his tariff threats at a news conference that followed the G-7 meeting in Canada. The meeting, which had been shadowed by the Trump administration's escalation of rhetoric on trade and tariffs, splintered shortly after the president left Quebec and tweeted he was pulling back his approval of a joint G-7 statement.

Trump's choice of Kudlow to be his top economic aide elevated the influence of a longtime fixture on the business news network CNBC. He previously served in the Reagan administration and emerged as a leading evangelist for tax cuts and smaller government.

The famously pinstripe-suited Kudlow succeeded Gary Cohn, a former Goldman Sachs executive who left the post in a dispute over Trump's decision to impose tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

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With Trump's tax cuts already being implemented, Kudlow has been advising a president who pushed to tax foreign imports — a policy Kudlow personally opposes. Kudlow said he is "in accord" with Trump's agenda and his team at the White House would help implement the policies set by the president.

After working in President Ronald Reagan's administration, Kudlow moved to Wall Street and, though he never completed a master's program in economics and policy at Princeton University, served as chief economist at Bear Stearns. He left that position in the early 1990s to treat an addiction to alcohol and drugs.

Kudlow soon settled comfortably into the world of political and economic commentary, working at the conservative magazine National Review and becoming a host of CNBC shows beginning in 2001. He was a CNBC contributor before returning to the White House this year.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller in Singapore and Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Colvin at <http://twitter.com/@colvinj>

Singapore Postcard: Summit adds value to North Korea's coins

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Stamped with images of "Eternal President" Kim Il Sung, national monuments or even ballistic missiles, coins minted in North Korea are renowned among collectors for their scarcity, partly due to international sanctions that outlaw them from being auctioned.

Now collectors in Singapore who have spent tens of thousands of dollars acquiring the coins are happy that Tuesday's summit is driving up prices and ushering first-time buyers into the market.

Joseph Poh, who has been buying and selling North Korean coins for two years, made his largest sale after the confirmation of a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump.

He sold two, five-ounce gold coins to a first-time buyer at \$22,500 each. There are only three in circulation and Poh had purchased them for just under \$14,000 each.

"Every day we are making money, because now more people know about North Korea. The collectors are coming every day," Poh told The Associated Press.

The coins aren't always pricey. One can expect to pay \$15 for uncommon copper currency, said Poh, who owns the United Numismatic Centre, which has been dealing with coins, bank notes and stamps for decades.

Another popular range of coins was released just before North Korea tested its first intercontinental ballistic missile last year. The five coins feature depictions of missile launches and the exploration of outer space. Only 500 sets were minted.

It's that low mintage that gives North Korean coins their value among collectors.

Still, the market is narrow. U.N Security Council sanctions have put restrictions on the country's exports, which prevents its coins from being sold at auctions.

But there appears to be a grey area. Poh said a Chinese businessman who was involved in setting up a mint in Pyongyang before sanctions were imposed is still allowed to sell them at coin shows in Singapore and around the region. The coins are authenticated in China by the Professional Coin Grading Service.

Because they are technically Chinese products, dealers around the world can display these coins prominently in glass cabinets and say they are for sale.

Poh said that he attends three to four shows every year to purchase North Korean coins, among other currencies. He estimates that there are fewer than 10 collectors of North Korean coins in Singapore.

Retiree Harry Ng has spent more than \$22,500 on 120 North Korean coins.

His favorite? An aluminum-nickel piece with the profile of Kim Il Sung that he bought from a South Korean dealer.

"I won't sell it unless it's a very high price. They told me there were six, but I haven't seen a second piece," Ng said.

He keeps his fascination with North Korea a secret.

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"My family doesn't know. When they come to know about it, they will ask why I am collecting all this rubbish," he said.

With the Trump-Kim summit, the hobby has started to reap some rewards. Ng has managed to sell two Arirang Festival coins on an online marketplace, at double the cost.

The summit has also spurred demand for commemorative medallions of the event as well.

In May, the White House Communications Agency released a red-white-and-blue medallion showing the profiles of Trump and Kim set against their countries' flags.

The Singapore Mint has launched gold, silver and nickel-plated zinc medallions that feature a handshake between the leaders. The response has been overwhelming and the medallions will be sold only to those who enter and win a lottery.

At Trump-Kim summit, human rights is a back-burner issue

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said it himself to Congress and the American people: "No regime has oppressed its own citizens more totally or brutally than the cruel dictatorship in North Korea."

But when it comes to human rights, don't expect Trump to hold Kim Jong Un's feet to the fire at the Singapore summit. The focus is on nuclear weapons, and the young autocrat's international standing is likely to be boosted regardless of the outcome.

In the run-up to Tuesday's historic face-to-face with Kim, Trump has appeared unconcerned about the implications of feting an authoritarian leader suspected of ordering the public assassination of his half brother with a nerve agent, executing his uncle by firing squad and presiding over a notorious gulag estimated to hold 80,000 to 120,000 political prisoners.

While Trump highlighted Pyongyang's problematic human rights record in January during his State of the Union address — where he also said the "depraved character of the North Korean regime" demonstrated the nature of the nuclear threat it could pose — the president has skirted those concerns since agreeing in March to Kim's suggestion of a summit.

When Trump met former North Korean military intelligence chief Kim Yong Chol at the White House two weeks ago, the president said they didn't discuss human rights, underscoring that it was not a primary concern. At a pre-summit briefing by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday, the issue didn't get a mention.

Robert King, who served as U.S. envoy on North Korean human-rights issues under the Obama administration, said Trump has used human rights as an instrument to get Kim Jong Un to negotiate on nuclear weapons, but not as a policy priority in its own right.

"The other problem is that he's anxious to see some progress at the summit, and human rights is not an easy issue to raise with Kim Jong Un," King said.

U.S. presidents have always faced a predicament in balancing national security and geopolitical priorities with democratic values. But Trump has notably avoided calling out authoritarian leaders on human rights when he wants closer ties with them, whether it's adversaries like China and Russia or allies like Saudi Arabia and the Philippines.

At the same time, he's taken a confrontational path toward Western allies on issues like trade, climate and the Iran nuclear deal. He bounced to the Singapore summit after a tempestuous G-7 summit where the U.S. was isolated from its key European partners as never before and Trump even derided his Canadian host, a paragon of liberal democracy, as "dishonest" and "weak."

Kim, meanwhile, will be granted a measure of validation from Washington that eluded his father and grandfather. They only ever met with former U.S. presidents, a symptom of six decades of hostility between the U.S. and North Korea, which remains a pariah in the eyes of the West not just for its nuclear and missile threats but for flouting international norms of diplomatic behavior.

Human-rights advocates who lauded Trump when he hosted eight North Korean defectors at the White House days after his State of the Union speech are now uneasy about his engagement with Kim, whom

the president recently praised as “very honorable.”

Greg Scarlatoiu, executive director of the U.S.-based Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, and Rabbi Abraham Cooper at the Simon Wiesenthal Center urged Trump to seek “the complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement” of North Korean political prison camps — mimicking the formulation used by the U.S. in its demand for that nation’s denuclearization.

“Kim Jong Un wants security guarantees,” they wrote Monday, “but history has taught time and again liberal democracies shouldn’t try to guarantee the survival of a regime that runs political prison camps and commits crimes against humanity.”

During a quarter-century of on-off negotiations, human rights have played second fiddle for U.S. administrations seeking to ameliorate the threat posed by the North’s nukes, and there’s a reason. Raising human rights risks playing into North Korean suspicions that the U.S is intent on toppling its hereditary, totalitarian regime by seeking to open its political system, which only reinforces Pyongyang’s notion that it needs a nuclear deterrent to ensure its survival.

Joseph Yun, former U.S. envoy for North Korea policy, alluded to that when he told a Senate hearing last week that there’s a risk of “overloading the agenda” for the summit. He said if the U.S. is going to offer North Korea the security guarantees it seeks in return for denuclearization, it “also means you’re not going to interfere in domestic happenings, domestic politics” — like human rights.

But John Sifton, Asia advocacy director for Human Rights Watch in Washington, contends that rights issues can’t be separated from the goal of reaching a nuclear deal with North Korea. International inspections and verification of such a deal would require more openness from the North, typically allergic to outside scrutiny. And under a 2016 U.S. law, relief from U.S. sanctions that target the North Korean government would require progress on human rights, he said.

While human rights will get a low billing in Singapore, Trump hasn’t totally ignored the issue.

After he met Kim’s close aide Kim Yong Chol on June 1, Trump said human rights “probably” would be discussed at the summit, and he has committed several times to raise the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s — a longstanding request of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that he reiterated to the president in person last week.

Judge spars with Justice Dept. lawyer on foreign favors suit

By TAMI ABDOLLAH and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — Lawyers for Maryland and the District of Columbia accused President Donald Trump in federal court Monday of “profiting on an unprecedented scale” from foreign government interests using his Washington, D.C., hotel, but a Justice Department lawyer insisted Trump isn’t breaking the law because he provided no favors in return.

At issue is the Constitution’s “emoluments” clause, which bans federal officials from accepting benefits from foreign or state governments without congressional approval. The plaintiffs argue Trump’s D.C. hotel, which has become a magnet for foreign governments, harms area businesses because of the president’s financial ties to its operations. No previous case on the subject has made it this far.

“This is the first oral arguments focused on the meaning of the emoluments clause in American judicial history,” said Norman Eisen, chairman of the left-leaning Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, which is co-counsel with the two jurisdictions.

U.S. District Judge Peter Messitte peppered lawyers for both sides over their arguments Monday, and had a particularly pointed exchange over Justice Department lawyer Brett Shumate’s view that emoluments required a clear, provable “quid pro quo” — an exchange for an official action.

“Wouldn’t that be bribery?” Messitte countered. “Another clause in the Constitution makes bribery a basis for impeachment. Are you saying that Congress could consent to bribery?”

Shumate stood his ground, saying “ultimately it’s a question for Congress to decide, whether to consent or not,” adding that there needs to be corrupt intent for bribery.

But the judge pressed on, questioning whether “as long as the president takes the money without a

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corrupt intent, then it's OK?"

Trump administration lawyers have argued that earnings from such business activity, including hotel room stays, don't qualify as emoluments. They have argued that under Maryland and D.C.'s interpretation of an emolument, no federal official would even be able to own stock from a foreign company that provides profits or collects royalties.

Lawyers for Maryland and D.C. have maintained that no actual influence is necessary to establish an emoluments clause violation. Steven M. Sullivan, the solicitor general for Maryland, said that Trump's quid-pro-quo interpretation "requires circumstances that amount to bribery or an employment contract." Sullivan added: "That definition serves to protect the financial interests of Donald Trump."

So far in Trump's presidency, his hotel, which is in a former post office just steps from the White House, has become a popular meeting place for groups tied to foreign governments, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. The Philippines, which is negotiating a new trade deal with the U.S., is holding its Independence Day celebration there Tuesday.

"The president's interpretation is that the Trump post office hotel is a giant straw that he can use to suck payments from foreign governments from all over the world and use them for his benefit," Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh said outside court.

Messitte ruled earlier this year that Maryland and the District could proceed with their lawsuit against Trump's Washington hotel but he rejected their effort to target Trump Organization properties outside of the immediate area.

The judge said he planned to rule by the end of July on whether to allow the case to go forward. If he does, plaintiffs say they plan to advance quickly to a "broad" discovery, aiming to collect a trove of tax and financial records, emails and possibly depositions with Trump company executives and even the president's relatives.

The case in Messitte's court is one of three emoluments lawsuits against Trump. Last week, a federal judge in the District heard arguments in a lawsuit pressed by nearly 200 congressional Democrats. A third case was rejected by a federal judge in New York and is now on appeal.

D.C. Attorney General Karl Racine said last week that a handful of other states have consulted with the plaintiffs about possibly pursuing emoluments cases against other Trump properties and businesses. "We've had conversations. They are carefully observing and following our case," Racine said.

Follow Tami Abdollah on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/latams>

APNewsBreak: US launches bid to find citizenship cheaters

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The U.S. government agency that oversees immigration applications is launching an office that will focus on identifying Americans who are suspected of cheating to get their citizenship and seek to strip them of it.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna told The Associated Press in an interview that his agency is hiring several dozen lawyers and immigration officers to review cases of immigrants who were ordered deported and are suspected of using fake identities to later get green cards and citizenship through naturalization.

Cissna said the cases would be referred to the Department of Justice, whose attorneys could then seek to remove the immigrants' citizenship in civil court proceedings. In some cases, government attorneys could bring criminal charges related to fraud.

Until now, the agency has pursued cases as they arose but not through a coordinated effort, Cissna said. He said he hopes the agency's new office in Los Angeles will be running by next year but added that investigating and referring cases for prosecution will likely take longer.

"We finally have a process in place to get to the bottom of all these bad cases and start denaturalizing

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people who should not have been naturalized in the first place," Cissna said. "What we're looking at, when you boil it all down, is potentially a few thousand cases."

He declined to say how much the effort would cost but said it would be covered by the agency's existing budget, which is funded by immigration application fees.

The push comes as the Trump administration has been cracking down on illegal immigration and taking steps to reduce legal immigration to the U.S.

Immigrants who become U.S. citizens can vote, serve on juries and obtain security clearance. Denaturalization — the process of removing that citizenship — is very rare.

The U.S. government began looking at potentially fraudulent naturalization cases a decade ago when a border officer detected about 200 people had used different identities to get green cards and citizenship after they were previously issued deportation orders.

In September 2016, an internal watchdog reported that 315,000 old fingerprint records for immigrants who had been deported or had criminal convictions had not been uploaded to a Department of Homeland Security database that is used to check immigrants' identities. The same report found more than 800 immigrants had been ordered deported under one identity but became U.S. citizens under another.

Since then, the government has been uploading these older fingerprint records dating back to the 1990s and investigators have been evaluating cases for denaturalization.

Earlier this year, a judge revoked the citizenship of an Indian-born New Jersey man named Baljinder Singh after federal authorities accused him of using an alias to avoid deportation.

Authorities said Singh used a different name when he arrived in the United States in 1991. He was ordered deported the next year and a month later applied for asylum using the name Baljinder Singh before marrying an American, getting a green card and naturalizing.

Authorities said Singh did not mention his earlier deportation order when he applied for citizenship.

For many years, most U.S. efforts to strip immigrants of their citizenship focused largely on suspected war criminals who lied on their immigration paperwork, most notably former Nazis.

Toward the end of the Obama administration, officials began reviewing cases stemming from the fingerprints probe but prioritized those of naturalized citizens who had obtained security clearances, for example, to work at the Transportation Security Administration, said Muzaffar Chishti, director of the Migration Policy Institute's office at New York University law school.

The Trump administration has made these investigations a bigger priority, he said. He said he expects cases will focus on deliberate fraud but some naturalized Americans may feel uneasy with the change.

"It is clearly true that we have entered a new chapter when a much larger number of people could feel vulnerable that their naturalization could be reopened," Chishti said.

Since 1990, the Department of Justice has filed 305 civil denaturalization cases, according to statistics obtained by an immigration attorney in Kansas who has defended immigrants in these cases.

The attorney, Matthew Hoppock, agrees that deportees who lied to get citizenship should face consequences but worries other immigrants who might have made mistakes on their paperwork could get targeted and might not have the money to fight back in court.

Cissna said there are valid reasons why immigrants might be listed under multiple names, noting many Latin American immigrants have more than one surname. He said the U.S. government is not interested in that kind of minor discrepancy but wants to target people who deliberately changed their identities to dupe officials into granting immigration benefits.

"The people who are going to be targeted by this — they know full well who they are because they were ordered removed under a different identity and they intentionally lied about it when they applied for citizenship later on," Cissna said. "It may be some time before we get to their case, but we'll get to them."

Supreme Court allows Ohio, other state voter purges

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — States can target people who haven't cast ballots in a while in efforts to purge their voting rolls, the Supreme Court ruled Monday in a case that has drawn wide attention amid stark partisan divisions and the approach of the 2018 elections.

By a 5-4 vote that split the conservative and liberal justices, the court rejected arguments in a case from Ohio that the practice violates a federal law intended to increase the ranks of registered voters. A handful of other states also use voters' inactivity to trigger processes that could lead to their removal from the voting rolls.

Justice Samuel Alito said for the court that Ohio is complying with the 1993 National Voter Registration Act. He was joined by his four conservative colleagues in an opinion that drew praise from Republican officials and conservative scholars.

President Donald Trump hailed the ruling from Singapore on Tuesday, tweeting: "Just won big Supreme Court decision on Voting! Great News!"

The four liberal justices dissented, and civil rights groups and some Democrats warned that more Republican-led states could enact voter purges similar to Ohio's.

Ohio is of particular interest nationally because it is one of the larger swing states in the country with the potential to determine the outcome of presidential elections. But partisan fights over ballot access are playing out across the country. Democrats have accused Republicans of trying to suppress votes from minorities and poorer people who tend to vote for Democrats. Republicans have argued that they are trying to promote ballot integrity and prevent voter fraud.

Ohio's contested voter purge stems from an inoffensive requirement in federal law that states have to make an effort to keep their voter rolls in good shape by removing people who have moved or died.

But Ohio pursues its goal more aggressively than most, relying on two things: voter inactivity over six years encompassing three federal elections and the failure to return a card, sent after the first missed election, asking people to confirm that they have not moved and continue to be eligible to vote.

Voters who return the card or show up to vote over the next four years after they receive it remain registered. If they do nothing, their names eventually fall off the list of registered voters.

The case hinged on a provision of the voter registration law that prohibits removing someone from the voting rolls "by reason of the person's failure to vote."

Alito said that the two factors show that Ohio "does not strike any registrant solely by reason of the failure to vote."

Justice Stephen Breyer, countered in his dissent: "In my view, Ohio's program does just that." Breyer said many people received mailings that they discard without looking at them. Failure to return the notice "shows nothing at all that is statutorily significant," he wrote.

In a separate dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said Congress enacted the voter registration law "against the backdrop of substantial efforts by states to disenfranchise low-income and minority voters." The court's decision essentially endorses "the very purging that Congress expressly sought to protect against," Sotomayor wrote.

Richard Hasen, an election law expert at the University of California at Irvine, called the case "a close question of statutory interpretation." Hasen said the lawsuit the court resolved Monday did not involve allegations of discrimination against minority voters, and he suggested the laws in Ohio and other states could be vulnerable to a legal challenge on those grounds.

Civil rights groups said the court should be focused on making it easier for people to vote, not allowing states to put up roadblocks to casting ballots.

"With the midterm election season now underway, the court's ruling demands heightened levels of vigilance as we anticipate that officials will read this ruling as a green light for loosely purging the registration rolls in their community," said Kristen Clarke, president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Ohio has used voters' inactivity to trigger the removal process since 1994, although groups representing voters did not sue the Republican secretary of state, Jon Husted, until 2016. As part of the lawsuit, a judge last year ordered the state to count 7,515 ballots cast by people whose names had been removed from the voter rolls.

Husted called the decision "a victory for electoral integrity." He is running for lieutenant governor this November on the Republican ticket headed by Mike DeWine, the current attorney general.

Adding to the tension in the case, the Trump administration reversed the position taken by the Obama administration and backed Ohio's method for purging voters.

Last week, Trump said he would nominate Eric Murphy, the Ohio lawyer who argued the case on the state's behalf, to a seat on the Cincinnati-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel on that court had ruled 2-1 that Ohio's practice was illegal.

Associated Press writers Dan Sewell in Cincinnati and Julie Carr Smyth in Columbus contributed to this report.

Legal pimp for Nevada lawmaker? He faces anti-brothel effort

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, Associated Press

PAHRUMP, Nev. (AP) — A state marketed as a place where people can indulge in all manner of sins is confronting its status as the only place in America where you can legally pay someone for sex.

A coalition of religious groups and anti-sex trafficking activists has launched referendums to ban brothels in two of the seven Nevada counties where they're legally operating. The effort dovetails with a campaign by the state's most famous pimp for a seat in the state Legislature.

Dennis Hof, who has half a dozen brothels operating in the two counties and starred in the HBO adult reality series "Cathouse," is challenging incumbent Assembly member James Oscarson of Pahrump in a Republican primary Tuesday.

Hof said Nevada "is the last of the live-and-let-live states" and was built on "gaming, liquor, girls and mining."

"It's awful that people would come in and try to change that culture, that they want to inflict their moral values on the rest of us," he said.

Karen Cohen, who lives in a county with four legal brothels, called it "an embarrassment that we are one of the very few spots in the very United States that tolerates legal prostitution."

The Pahrump resident is involved in a push to get two anti-brothel measures on the November ballot.

Brothels, which are illegal in the counties that contain Las Vegas and Reno, harken back to Nevada's days as a mining territory about 150 years ago. Brothels were illegal but tolerated in some areas until 1971, when the Mustang Ranch near Reno became the first legal brothel.

It led to a movement that allowed counties with populations of 700,000 people or fewer to decide whether to legalize prostitution in licensed facilities. Outside of bordellos, prostitution remains illegal. Some brothels offer free limo rides from Las Vegas, offering to pick up guests from their Strip hotels.

Today, about 20 brothels operate in the state, mostly in rural areas. The state doesn't publicize how many are open, and most owners keep a much lower profile than Hof, who wrote a book titled "The Art of the Pimp" and has dubbed himself the "Trump of Pahrump."

Hof was also in the limelight in 2015, when former NBA player Lamar Odom was found unconscious at Hof's Love Ranch brothel in Crystal, Nevada, after a four-day, \$75,000 stay.

The Love Ranch, about an hour's drive northwest of Las Vegas through the desert, looks like a large single-story home with some statues and pink bicycles out front, along with a sign for "Dennis Hof's Love Ranch Cathouse," advertising a gift shop, full bar and "no sex required."

Guests ring the front bell and are escorted into wingback chairs in the parlor, while the women in the house slip into their heels and assemble in a lineup to be chosen.

The brothel, like others, offers role-play-themed rooms and spa-like services.

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Sonja Bandolik, the brothel's 58-year-old madam who also works as a prostitute, said women there sign a contract for at least two weeks — enough time to get a background check and prostitution license from the local sheriff.

Women also are required to get regular tests for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and condoms are mandatory.

Bandolik, who has a short pixie haircut and a deep tan, said she decided to work in a brothel at age 51 after watching a Western movie depicting an old saloon. She remarked to her husband that it would be "cool if we still had those."

She says her husband "loved the idea." He lives with her at the brothel and works as its general manager.

Bandolik, who estimated she made close to \$18,000 in May, calls her profession "soul expanding."

Another woman living at the brothel, a 23-year-old with pale skin and long blond hair who goes by the name Azalea Love, said she previously worked as a prostitute in Las Vegas but feels safer since she moved to the brothel three months ago.

"You have people around you if something goes wrong," she said.

Though Hof said he's never had problems at the brothels until he started running for office, allegations of misconduct have been leveled at the pimp and his clients before.

In 2003, a prostitute at the Moonlite Bunny Ranch in Lyon County accused Motley Crue frontman Vince Neil of grabbing her by the neck and throwing her against a wall.

Neil later pleaded no contest to a battery charge, but Hof has said he thinks the woman made up the story.

In April, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that two former prostitutes accused Hof of sexual assault several years ago, but prosecutors declined to prosecute him because the statute of limitations had expired.

Hof denies the allegations. He told The Associated Press that the women's claims are "totally absurd" and that they became embittered against him because they weren't as successful in the sex industry.

Hof said the referendums are driven by moral crusaders tied to his political opponent.

Jason Guinasso is pushing to get the anti-brothel measures on the November ballot and is a partner at the law firm of Oscarson's political ally, Nevada Lt. Gov. Mark Hutchison. Guinasso and Oscarson have denied any connection between their campaigns.

Oscarson said he was surprised to hear about the anti-brothel efforts and is not involved. He thinks it's time for the brothels to go but said he has not signed an anti-brothel petition.

"This is a man who simply wants to blame everybody else for his mistakes," Oscarson said of Hof.

Oscarson and Hof faced each other in 2016, but Hof ran as a Libertarian to challenge the incumbent that year. Oscarson won with 61 percent of the vote.

Guinasso and others involved with the anti-brothel campaign say that many women aren't there by choice — they may have grown up in poverty, been a victim of sexual abuse or were sent to work there by an illegal pimp.

Bandolik, the madam, said it's possible some of the prostitutes have illegal pimps but that they aren't allowed in the brothel.

In November, voters in Lyon County, southeast of Reno, will weigh in after county commissioners put the issue on the ballot. And northwest of Las Vegas in Nye County, organizers are working to gather enough signatures to get the measure on the ballot this fall.

Guinasso said that even if the measures don't pass, he'll consider it a victory that Nevada residents will be rethinking whether the industry belongs in the Silver State, particularly in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

Hof predicts the measures will fail but said if brothels were banned, illegal prostitution will flourish.

"The business is not going away," Hof said. "It's the oldest business in the world."

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

Kim Jong Un could give up ICBMs but keep some nuclear forces

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — After years of effort to develop nuclear missiles that can target the U.S. mainland, is North Korean leader Kim Jong Un really ready to pack them away in a deal with President Donald Trump?

Perhaps, but that wouldn't necessarily mean Pyongyang is abandoning its nuclear ambitions entirely.

Tuesday's meeting in Singapore between Kim and Trump comes after a sharp turn in North Korea's diplomacy, from rebuffing proposals for dialogue last year to embracing and even initiating them this year. The change may reflect a new thinking about its nuclear deterrence strategy — and how best to secure the ultimate goal of protecting Kim's rule.

A look at how Kim's appetite for talks swung amid the North's ups and downs in weapons development and what that says about how he might approach his negotiations with Trump:

TESTS AND TALKS

North Korea's attitude toward dialogue in the past two years has seemed to shift with setbacks or progress in its weapons tests.

Even after starting a rapid process of weapons development following a nuclear test in January 2016, Pyongyang constantly invited rivals to talks that year.

It proposed military meetings with Seoul to reduce tensions and indicated it could suspend its nuclear and missile tests if the U.S.-South Korean military drills were dialed back. Washington and Seoul demurred, saying Pyongyang first must show genuine intent to denuclearize.

At the time, North Korea's quest for a credible nuclear deterrent against the U.S. was troubled. The military conducted eight tests of its "Musudan" intermediate-range missile in 2016, but only one of those launches was seen as successful. The country's path toward an intercontinental-range ballistic missile appeared cut off.

North Korea's stance on dialogue changed dramatically, though, following the successful test of a new rocket engine in March 2017, which the country hailed as a significant breakthrough.

The engine, believed to be a variant of the Russian-designed RD-250, powered a successful May flight of a new intermediate-range missile, the Hwasong-12, reopening the path to an ICBM. That was followed in July by two successful tests of an ICBM, the Hwasong-14.

Pyongyang's demands for talks disappeared. Proposals to meet from a new liberal government in Seoul were ignored. Determined to test its weapons in operational conditions, the North flew two Hwasong-12s over Japan and threatened to fire them toward Guam, a U.S. military hub.

The North's state media brought up President Richard Nixon's outreach to Beijing in the 1970s following a Chinese test of a thermonuclear bomb, saying it was likewise inevitable that Washington will accept North Korea as a nuclear power and take steps to normalize ties.

Kim talked of reaching a military "equilibrium" with the U.S. By all signs, he was fully committed to completing an ICBM program he intended to keep.

THE DETERRENCE GAME

Kim's turn toward diplomacy this year suggests he may have concluded the nuclear deterrence strategy was failing, some analysts say.

After a November test of a larger ICBM, the Hwasong-15, Kim proclaimed his nuclear force as complete, but his announcement may have been more politically motivated than an assessment of capability.

Although the Hwasong-15 displayed a greater range than the Hwasong-14, there was no clear sign the North had made meaningful progress in the technology needed to ensure that a warhead would survive the harsh conditions of atmospheric re-entry.

New U.S. National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy reports released in December and January respectively also seemed to reduce the credibility of Kim's deterrence plans, said Hwang Ildo, a professor at Seoul's Korea National Diplomatic Academy.

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In the documents, the U.S. assesses it could sufficiently defend against the small number of North Korean ICBMs — believed to be about 10 or fewer — with its 44 ground-based interceptors deployed in Alaska. Missiles fired from North Korea would have to pass Alaska to reach the U.S. mainland.

Experts are divided on whether the interceptors, which Washington plans to deploy in larger numbers soon, can be counted on to destroy incoming warheads. However, Hwang said, real capability doesn't matter as much as Trump believing that the system works, which reduces the bargaining power of the ICBMs.

Kim can't be the Mao Zedong to Trump's Nixon if the U.S. sees his weapons as containable. With North Korea's limited resources, as well as the threat of a pre-emptive U.S. attack, it's difficult for the North to mass produce enough ICBMs to overwhelm the interceptors in Alaska.

Rather than prolonging his nation's economic suffering, Kim may have concluded it would be better to deal away his ICBMs at the cusp of operational capability, especially when it was no longer clear the missiles would guarantee his survival.

"North Korea always tries to maintain flexibility and increase its options from step to step," Hwang said.

A PAKISTANI MODEL?

What never changes for North Korea is that the survival of the Kim regime comes first.

Nam Sung-wook, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Korea University, said Kim is probably modeling a nuclear future after Pakistan, which began building a nuclear arsenal in the 1990s to deter India. Pakistan is now estimated to have more than 100 warheads that are deliverable by short- and medium-range weapons and aircraft.

Kim may be seeking a deal where he gives up his ICBMs but keeps his shorter-range arsenal, which may satisfy Trump but drive a wedge between Washington and its Asian allies, Seoul and Tokyo. In drills with shorter-range weapons in 2016, the North demonstrated the potential to carry out nuclear attacks on South Korean ports and U.S. military facilities in Japan.

In negotiations, Kim may try to exclude submarine technologies from a freeze or verification process to leave open a path toward sub-launched ballistic missile systems, Hwang said.

Then, if diplomacy fails and Kim goes back to building nuclear weapons, the systems would expand their reach and provide a second-strike capability to retaliate if North Korea's land-based launch sites are destroyed.

North Korea successfully tested a submarine-launched missile that flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) in August 2016. Analysts believe the solid-fuel missile can hit targets as far as 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) away.

That said, it would take years for the North to develop a fleet of submarines that can quietly travel deep into the Pacific.

The immediate outcome of the summit in Singapore is likely to be a vague aspirational statement on the North's denuclearization, Nam said. When it comes to details, Washington and Pyongyang are destined to "muddle through" a lengthy process, wrestling over the terms of monitoring and inspections, he said.

Still, such a process would halt the growth of the North's nuclear program and prevent it from using its weapons to flex its diplomatic muscle, Nam said. It could take a decade or so for Kim to find his next move in nuclear deterrence if he's eyeing a submarine-launched system. That could be enough time for Washington, Seoul and others to convince Kim he just can't win the nuclear game.

Follow Kim Tong-hyung on Twitter at @KimTongHyung.

Italy's new leaders get tough on migrants; Spain steps up

By FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's new "Italians first" government claimed victory Monday when the Spanish prime minister offered safe harbor to a private rescue ship after Italy and Malta refused to allow it permission to disembark its 629 migrant passengers in their ports.

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The Aquarius, a rescue vessel operated by aid group SOS Mediterranee, has been stuck in the Mediterranean Sea since Saturday, when Italy refused its crew permission to dock and demanded that Malta do so. Malta refused on Sunday.

Spain's new Socialist prime minister, Pedro Sanchez stepped in Monday, ordering authorities in Valencia to prepare for the ship's arrival.

"It's our duty to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe and offer a secure port for these people," Sanchez said.

Both the ship and its passengers were caught up in a political dispute that might not have happened weeks ago.

One of the coalition partners in the populist government that took over in Italy on June 1, the right-wing League, promised voters other European Union countries would be made to share the burden of caring for asylum-seekers who set out for Europe on unseaworthy smugglers' boats.

"Evidently it pays to raise one's voice, something Italy hasn't done as long as one can remember," Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, the League's leader, said Monday at party headquarters.

For those aboard the Aquarius, Spain's offer of docking rights at the port of Valencia was welcome news, although it did not provide a quick or easy solution. By Monday evening, the ship was more than 1,400 kilometers (over 750 nautical miles) from Valencia and still awaiting formal instructions to head to Spain as weather forecasts predicted worsening conditions.

It was unclear if the days of sailing west it would take to get to Spain were feasible, SOS Mediterranee Maritime Operations Manager Antoine Laurent said. The traumatized, exhausted passengers include 120 minors, many of them traveling alone, and seven pregnant women. Several migrants had water in their lungs, suffered hypothermia or burns from a mix of boat fuel and seawater while in their traffickers' boats.

Malta had food and water ferried Monday to the Aquarius, which was running out of supplies.

"The situation is stable but it cannot run" on forever, Laurent said.

A doctor aboard the ship, David Beversluis, said one passenger had to be revived after he was rescued.

"All the survivors are exhausted and dehydrated because they spent many hours adrift in these boats," he said.

Even as the Aquarius' crew grappled with the logistics, Italy vowed to block other rescue boats, including the Dutch-flagged Sea-Watch 3, another aid group's boat. Like the Aquarius, the Sea-Watch 3 rescued migrants in the waters off Libya, where human smugglers are based and asylum-hopefuls have reported torture, beatings, rape and scarce rations in migrant detention centers.

"Little changes if the boat is called Aquarius or Sea-Watch 3," Salvini, the interior minister, said. "We want to put an end to this traffic in human beings. And, so, as we have raised the problem for the Aquarius, we'll do it for all the other boats."

Even as he drew his line, an Italian coast guard vessel with 936 migrants and two migrants' bodies on board was headed toward Catania, Sicily, where it was expected to dock on Tuesday evening, Italian news agency ANSA said. The passengers were rescued in seven separate operations.

The exulting by Salvini, who is also deputy premier, nearly eclipsed the satisfaction expressed by his fellow deputy, Luigi Di Maio, who leads the governing coalition's senior partner, the euroskeptic 5-Star Movement.

Spain's offer is "important news, since it signals a turning point," Di Maio said.

The vast majority of the people traveling on the Aquarius — 400 — were rescued by Italian coast guard and navy vessels as well as cargo ships in the waters off Libya. They were transferred to the Aquarius on Saturday before the standoff developed.

Given that the aid ship had no emergency, Italy decided to appeal to other European countries "so they don't leave Italy alone yet again in managing the migratory flows, which is a phenomenon that is all of Europe's business," Di Maio said in a Facebook post.

Under a European Union agreement, the country where asylum-seekers arrive and are identified must care for them until their asylum requests are decided, a process that can take a couple of years.

The refusals by Italy and Malta, leaving the Aquarius unable to quickly bring the migrants to a safe port, dismayed others.

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"The duty of a democratic government is not to look away" in a humanitarian crisis, said Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau, who also offered her port as a potential solution to the standoff.

Italy had argued that Malta, a tiny island nation that also is an EU member, was the safest, closest port to the ship. Malta, which in the last few years has only accepted a few hundred migrants, refused, retorting that it bore no responsibility because Italy had coordinated the rescues in Libya's search-and-rescue zone.

Maltese Premier Joseph Muscat accused Italy of violating international norms governing sea rescues and said the government's stance risked "creating a dangerous situation for all those involved." He thanked Spain for stepping in.

Italy's premier, Giuseppe Conte, a political novice who backs the 5-Star Movement, on Monday was touring towns in struck by a 2016 quake. He hailed Spain's decision as a "gesture of solidarity" on behalf of the European Union.

The decision by Sanchez "to exceptionally allow a rescue ship, Aquarius, to dock in his country is courageous and welcome," the head of the United Nations refugee agency, Filippo Grandi, said.

Doctors Without Borders tweeted a video of some of the women aboard the ship praying Monday morning. "Thank you, Lord," the women sang.

The passengers, with many migrants from Sudan among them, were apparently unaware of they had become pawns of sorts in Europe's new political equilibrium.

"Italy has stopped bowing our heads and obeying," Salvini said in a Facebook post. "This time we say no."

Aritz Parra in Madrid, Nicole Winfield in Rome, Keffrey Schaffer in Paris and Stephen Calleja in Valletta, Malta contributed.

Paris bistros seek UN status as 'intangible cultural' gems

By SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Owners of the bistros and terrace cafes that are integral to the Paris way of life want the "je ne sais quoi" of their establishments to be recognized as both of global value and endangered.

They have launched a campaign to be named by the United Nations' cultural agency as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding." UNESCO has given that status to traditions as varied as a Mongolian camel-coaxing ritual, Iranian sailboat building and the sung prayers of indigenous Peruvians.

Members of a bistro owners association gathered Monday at Le Mesturet in central Paris. With its zinc counter, wooden tables and wine bottles for decoration, it is typical of the kind of establishment people were relaxing outside of when extremists shot at them on Nov. 13, 2015.

The chefs and business owners said the bistros of Paris play a key role in bringing people of all origins, religions, social classes and age together in a cheap and welcoming place to drink coffee or share a meal.

But the traditional bistro also is threatened by increasing rents and competition, and their number has dropped by half in the past 20 years, the owners argued.

"Our most beautiful love and friendship stories were often born in bistros and on terraces," Le Mesturet owner Alain Fontaine, the association's president, said.

A visiting tourist "will find a lively place, a place to share with the people of Paris - the people of Paris of today, not the people of the past," Fontaine added. "A multi-ethnic, inter-faith, socially varied people. All of this disappears inside a bistro."

The association hopes to see its candidacy examined by UNESCO next year. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo supports the initiative.

Stephanie Mathey, 39, the owner of three bistros in Paris, said she enjoyed taking a coffee in such places even before they became her life work. Her husband grew up in the bar his parents owned.

"Later, he went to the United States for a long time and when he came back, he said, 'It's really something that I missed - the bistros,'" Mathey said. The couple eventually decided to open their own.

Alain Fontaine stressed that the "real Parisian bistro" offers homemade food and accessible prices —like a coffee for 1 euro (\$1.1) and the days' special with a glass of wine for 12 euros (\$14.)

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Fontaine gets emotional when discussing the November 2015 extremist attacks that targeted a concert hall and a soccer stadium as well as cafes, leaving 130 people dead. His ancestors moved from Brussels to Paris in 1784 and he represents the ninth generation living in the same neighborhood.

"I can't talk about the attacks," he said, looking at a wooden table his great-grandfather built. "I was hurt because it targeted Parisian 'art de vivre,'" the way of life.

"We built this over centuries — these terraces and bistros ... and I thought about these colorful Parisian youths, from different ethnic and religious backgrounds on these terraces and bistros," Fontaine said. "These people were targeted. People who were Parisians."

After the attacks, Parisians rallied to cafes and terraces in a show of defiance.

AP reporter Alexander Turnbull contributed to this story

Your internet use could change as 'net neutrality' ends

By MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Your ability to watch and use your favorite apps and services could start to change — though not right away — following the official demise Monday of Obama-era internet protections.

Any changes are likely to happen slowly, as companies assess how much consumers will tolerate.

The repeal of "net neutrality" took effect six months after the Federal Communications Commission voted to undo the rules, which had barred broadband and cellphone companies from favoring their own services and discriminating against rivals such as Netflix.

Internet providers such as AT&T, Verizon and Comcast had to treat all traffic equally. They couldn't slow down or block websites and apps of their choosing. Nor could they charge Netflix and other video services extra to reach viewers more smoothly. The rules also barred a broadband provider from, say, slowing down Amazon's shopping site to extract business concessions.

Now, all that is legal as long as companies post their policies online.

The change comes as broadband and cellphone providers expand their efforts to deliver video and other content to consumers.

With net neutrality rules gone, AT&T and Verizon can give priority to their own movies and TV shows, while hurting rivals such as Amazon, YouTube and startups yet to be born.

The battle isn't entirely over, though. Some states are moving to restore net neutrality, and lawsuits are pending. Also, the Senate voted to save net neutrality, though that effort isn't likely to become law.

For now, broadband providers insist they won't do anything that would harm the "internet experience" for consumers. Most currently have service terms that specify they won't give preferential treatment to certain websites and services, including their own.

However, companies are likely to drop these self-imposed restrictions; they will just wait until people aren't paying a lot of attention, said Marc Martin, a former FCC staffer who is now chairman of communications practice at the law firm Perkins Coie. Any changes now, while the spotlight is on net neutrality, could lead to a public relations backlash.

Companies are likely to start testing the boundaries over the next six months to a year. Expect to see more offers like AT&T's exemption of its DirecTV Now streaming TV service from customers' mobile data limits. Rival services like Sling TV and Netflix count video against data caps, essentially making them more expensive to watch.

Although the FCC issued a report in January 2017 saying such arrangements, known as "zero rating," are probably anti-consumer, the agency did not require companies to change their practices right away. After President Donald Trump appointed a new chairman to the FCC, the agency reversed its stance on zero rating and proceeded to kill net neutrality.

Critics of net neutrality, including the Trump administration, say such rules impeded companies' ability to adapt to a quickly evolving internet.

But consumer advocates say that the repeal is just pandering to big business and that cable and phone

giants will now be free to block access to services they don't like. They can also set up "fast lanes" for preferred services — in turn, relegating everyone else to "slow lanes." Tech companies such as Netflix, Spotify and Snap echoed similar concerns in regulatory filings.

Martin said broadband providers probably won't mess with existing services like Netflix, as that could alienate consumers.

But they could start charging extra for services not yet offered. For instance, they might charge more to view high-resolution "4K" video, while offering lower-quality video for free. The fees would be paid by the video services, such as Hulu, and could be passed along to consumers in higher subscription rates.

More than 20 states sued the government to stop the repeal, as did the public-interest group Free Press and the think tank Open Technology Institute and Firefox browser maker Mozilla.

Washington and Oregon now have their own net neutrality laws, and a bill is pending in California's legislature.

That's another reason companies are likely to move slowly, at least at first.

"They don't want to add fuel to the fire," Martin said.

Poll: Americans want more of what journalists want to report

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There's substantial agreement on what Americans want from the news media and what journalists want to report, according to a pair of studies that also reveal a troubling caveat: a nagging feeling among both the ideal isn't being met.

Public suspicion about journalism is also fueled by some basic misunderstandings on how the process works, particularly in an era of rapid change, according to the twin surveys of the American public and journalists released Monday by the Media Insight Project. The effort is a collaboration between The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the American Press Institute.

The close look at attitudes comes in the midst of President Donald Trump's relentless attacks on the news media and the continued downsizing of the economically beleaguered newspaper industry. It has left journalists beaten down: The surveys found about 3 in 4 journalists believe the public's level of trust in the news media has decreased in the past year. Yet only 44 percent of American adults actually say their level of trust has decreased.

The public actually wants what most journalists say they want to give them — news stories that are factual and offer context and analysis, said Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute. But the public doesn't feel like they're seeing enough of that work, with 42 percent of Americans saying journalists stray too far into commentary, according to the new research.

That's one reason that Anna Retana, a mother of five from Enumclaw, Washington, said that she's cut back on her news consumption.

"Most people who watch the news or read a newspaper, they're wanting to find out the truth," Retana said. "They don't want to have tons of propaganda to sift through, and that's what we see a lot of."

Journalists can't take for granted that the public knows what it's getting, Rosenstiel said. Much of journalism's shared language and structure is rooted in newspapers, yet many Americans get their news through social media streams, where it isn't always clear from where stories come, Rosenstiel said. Newspapers have "op-ed" sections, yet half of the public doesn't know what the term means.

That may contribute to the finding that most American adults aged 18 to 29 think the news is fairly inaccurate, while most above 30 felt it was fairly accurate.

There's broad agreement that journalists need to do a better job of explaining their work. Sixty-eight percent of the public said the media should offer more information about its sources — and 66 percent of the journalists agree. Nearly half of the public said journalists should explain how their story was reported and 42 percent of the journalists said the same thing.

"You need to explain the mystery of how the meal was cooked," Rosenstiel said. "We ought to take a cue from the way people go to the grocery store. Before they buy something, they need to learn what

the ingredients are.”

The public and journalists answered similarly on what each thought the media should be doing, with one major exception. Only a little more than half of the people said the press should act as a watchdog to powerful people and institutions, while 93 percent of journalists view this as their role.

There’s some good news about journalism. When Americans are asked about their favorite news organization, a third of them say they trust it more than they did a year ago, while only about 1 in 10 say their level of trust has declined.

Lamar Walker, of Huntsville, Alabama, said he follows the news on his smartphone and smart TV and feels smarter for it. He thinks the news media is doing an “excellent” job.

“As long as they’re telling the truth, a lot of people are going to like the news,” Walker said.

The poll of 2,019 adults was conducted March 21 through April 17. It used a sample drawn from NORC’s probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all adults is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

The poll of 1,127 journalists was conducted March 1 through April 12 using a sample selected from a database of media contacts maintained by Cision Media Research. The margin of sampling error for all journalists is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

The surveys were conducted with funding from the American Press Institute.

Online:

Media Insight Project: <http://mediainsight.org/>

US hits Russian firms with sanctions, citing cyberattacks

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Monday slapped sanctions on several Russian companies and businessmen for engaging in cyberattacks and assisting Russia’s military and intelligence services with other malicious activities.

The Treasury Department said it was imposing sanctions on five Russian firms and three executives from one of them under legislation passed last year and an executive order aimed at punishing efforts to hack into U.S. computer systems. The sanctions freeze any assets that they may have in U.S. jurisdictions and bar Americans from doing business with them.

“The United States is engaged in an ongoing effort to counter malicious actors working at the behest of the Russian Federation and its military and intelligence units to increase Russia’s offensive cyber capabilities,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement. He said the sanctions targeted entities that have “directly contributed to improving Russia’s cyber and underwater capabilities” that jeopardize “the safety and security of the United States and our allies.”

The department said the sanctions were a response to a number of cyberattacks, including last year’s NotPetya attack, as well as intrusions into the U.S. energy grid and global network infrastructure. It also said that Russia had been tracking undersea cables that carry the bulk of the world’s telecommunications data.

The companies affected are: Digital Security with offices in Moscow and St. Petersburg, and its subsidiaries ERPScan and Embedi, which have offices in Russia, Europe and Israel; St. Petersburg- and Moscow-based Kvant Scientific Research Institute; and Divetechnoservices of St. Petersburg. The three sanctioned men are Aleksandr Lvovich Tribun, Oleg Sergeevich Chirikov, and Vladimir Yakovlevich Kaganskiy. They all work for Divetechnoservices.

The Treasury Department said Digital Security had provided material and technological support to Russia’s Federal Security Services, or FSB. It said Divetechnoservices had procured a variety of underwater

equipment and diving systems, including a submarine, for Russian government agencies.

Pope begins purge in Chilean church over sex abuse scandal

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis began purging Chile's Catholic hierarchy on Monday over an avalanche of sex abuse and cover-up cases, starting with accepting the resignations of the bishop at the center of the scandal and two others.

More heads were expected to roll, given that the scandal has only grown in the weeks since all of Chile's 30-plus active bishops offered to quit over their collective guilt in failing to protect Chile's children from priests who raped, groped and molested them.

A Vatican statement said Francis had accepted the resignations of Bishop Juan Barros of Osorno, Bishop Gonzalo Duarte of Valparaiso and Bishop Cristian Caro of Puerto Montt. He named a temporary leader for each diocese.

Barros, 61, has been at the center of Chile's growing scandal ever since Francis appointed him bishop of Osorno in 2015 over the objections of the local faithful, his own sex abuse prevention advisers and some of Chile's other bishops.

They questioned Barros' suitability to lead given he had been a top lieutenant of Chile's most notorious predator priest and had been accused by victims of witnessing and ignoring their abuse by that priest.

Barros denied the charge, but he twice offered to resign in the ensuing years. Last month, he joined the rest of Chile's bishops in offering to step down during an extraordinary Vatican summit. Francis had summoned Chile's church leaders to Rome after realizing he had made "grave errors in judgment" about Barros, whom he had defended strongly during a visit to Chile in January.

In a statement Monday, Barros asked forgiveness "for my limitations and what I couldn't handle." He thanked the pope for his concern for the common good and said he prayed "that one day all the truth will shine."

Barros' removal, which had been expected, was praised by abuse survivors and Catholics in Osorno. Some said more housecleaning now is needed to heal the devastation wrought by the scandal.

"A new day has begun in Chile's Catholic Church!" tweeted Juan Carlos Cruz, the abuse survivor who had denounced Barros for years and pressed the Vatican to take action.

"I'm thrilled for all those who have fought to see this day," he said. "The band of criminal bishops ... begins to disintegrate today."

The other two bishops whose resignations were accepted had submitted them prior to the pope's summit after having reached the mandatory retirement age of 75. But victims had accused both of having botched cases in the past.

Francis realized he had misjudged the Chilean situation after meeting with Cruz and reading a 2,300-page report compiled by two leading Vatican investigators about the depth of Chile's scandal.

The investigators, Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Spanish Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu, are heading back to Chile on Tuesday to begin what the Vatican has said is a "healing" mission to Osorno.

By accepting Barros' resignation, Francis essentially gave Scicluna and Bertomeu a hand in helping to heal the divisions in a diocese where Barros never was fully accepted as bishop.

But with the other two resignations, Francis is making clear that the troubles in Chile's church do not rest on Barros' shoulders alone, or on those of the more than 40 other priests and three other bishops trained by the Rev. Fernando Karadima.

The Vatican in 2011 sentenced Karadima, a powerful preacher close to Chile's elite, to a lifetime of penance and prayer for his sex crimes. But the Scicluna-Bertomeu report exposed a far bigger scandal that has implicated several religious orders, including priests and brothers in the Franciscans, the Legion of Christ, the Marist Brothers and the Salesian orders.

It also exposed evidence that the Chilean hierarchy systematically covered up and minimized abuse cases, destroying evidence of sex crimes, pressuring church investigators to discredit abuse accusations

and showing “grave negligence” in protecting children from pedophile priests.

Those findings, which leaked to the media while the Chilean bishops were at the Vatican, have opened a Pandora’s Box of new accusations that led Francis to become the first pope to refer to a “culture of abuse and cover-up” in the Catholic Church.

The biggest new scandal involved revelations of a gay priest sex ring in the Rancagua diocese of the bishop who headed the Chilean church’s sex abuse prevention commission. To date, 14 priests in Rancagua have been suspended and the bishop resigned as head of the commission after admitting he was slow to act on accusations that a minor had been abused.

Juan Carlos Claret, spokesman for a group of Osorno lay Catholics who fiercely opposed Barros, said Francis’ acceptance of the bishop’s resignation signaled “the end of the damage” that the pope himself had inflicted on the diocese by appointing Barros in the first place.

Claret said Barros’ exit was the “minimum condition” to begin a dialogue with the Vatican to try to rebuild peace in the diocese. He called for a process to find “truth, justice and reparation” for the damage caused.

“Bishop Barros has ceased being bishop but he hasn’t stopped being a brother in the faith, and for this — if he too wants to seek forgiveness — he is called to take part and assume his responsibilities,” Claret said.

AP writer Eva Vergara contributed from Santiago, Chile.

Kim takes night tour of Singapore ahead of summit with Trump

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un left his luxurious hotel for a late-night city tour of Singapore on Monday, just hours ahead of his historic summit with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Kim spent much of the day out of public view, sparking media speculation he was planning his strategy for the Tuesday summit with Trump. But in the evening, he left the St. Regis hotel and visited the Flower Dome at Gardens by the Bay with Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.

The foreign minister posted a selfie of him and a smiling Kim wearing his trademark dark Mao suit on Facebook.

Flanked by bodyguards, Kim also visited the Marina Bay Sands resort.

South Korean media reported that Kim was accompanied by his sister, Kim Yo Jong, and other top deputies.

Some experts said Kim’s city tour suggests that North Korea and the U.S. had narrowed their differences ahead of the summit. Earlier Monday, senior diplomats from the two countries met at a hotel to make final preparations for the summit.

Kim is to meet Trump on Tuesday morning to discuss the future of his nuclear program. It would be the first meeting between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Kim has offered to deal away his nuclear arsenal but doubts remain over whether he is truly willing to give up his nukes or is using the summit to weaken U.S.-led sanctions against his country.

The White House announced Monday that Trump will leave Singapore earlier than originally planned, saying negotiations with North Korea have moved “more quickly than expected.”

Trump had been scheduled to fly back to Washington on Wednesday morning after spending Tuesday with Kim. But the White House said he will instead leave at about 8 p.m. on Tuesday —almost 15 hours earlier.

Asian shares mostly higher with all eyes on Trump-Kim summit

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher Tuesday but little changed as market players tried to digest the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 was up 0.3 percent in early trading at 22,867.41. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 was also up nearly 0.3 percent at 6,061.30. South Korea’s Kospi was virtually unchanged

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at 2,468.37 after fluctuating earlier in the day. Hong Kong's Hang Seng's rose 0.2 percent to 31,120.23, while the Shanghai Composite index recouped earlier losses to be up less than 0.1 percent at 3,054.22.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average rose 5.78 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 25,322.31. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.97 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,782.00 and the Nasdaq composite rose 14.41 points, or 0.2 percent, to 7,659.93.

SUMMIT WATCH: Investors have been waiting for the meeting between Trump and Kim, aimed at settling a standoff over the North's nuclear arsenal. Trump and Kim shook hands warmly in Singapore and then moved into a roughly 40-minute one-on-one meeting, joined only by their interpreters, before including their advisers. North Korea has reportedly said it is willing to deal away its entire nuclear arsenal if the United States provides it with reliable security assurances and other benefits.

CENTRAL BANKS: The Federal Reserve will start a two-day meeting on interest rates on Tuesday, wrapping up on Wednesday. Investors expect the nation's central bank to raise interest rates from their current level of 1.75 percent to 2 percent, but most attention will be on how many rate hikes Fed officials are considering doing later this year. On Friday, the Bank of Japan is due to give its latest policy update.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Deal or no deal? Just don't ask what comprises a 'deal' and we are fine. At the risk of sounding a tad frivolous, that appears to be the truth of the matter," said Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank in Singapore of the Trump-Kim summit.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 3 cents to \$66.13 a barrel. It was up 36 cents to \$66.10 per barrel Monday in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 9 cents to \$76.37 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.24 yen from 109.48 yen late Monday in Asia. The euro fell to \$1.1769 from \$1.1799.

Follow Yuri Kageyama on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>

Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 12, the 163rd day of 2018. There are 202 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 12, 1963, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, 37, was shot and killed outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. (In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and sentenced to life in prison; he died in 2001.)

On this date:

In 1550, the city of Helsinki was established through a decree by King Gustavus I Vasa of Sweden.

In 1665, England installed a municipal government in New York, formerly the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam, and appointed its first mayor, Thomas Willett.

In 1776, Virginia's colonial legislature adopted a Declaration of Rights.

In 1898, Philippine nationalists declared independence from Spain.

In 1939, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was dedicated in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1942, Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl living in Amsterdam, received a diary for her 13th birthday, less than a month before she and her family went into hiding from the Nazis.

In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, unanimously struck down state laws prohibiting interracial marriages.

In 1968, the Roman Polanski horror film "Rosemary's Baby," starring Mia Farrow and John Cassavetes, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1978, David Berkowitz was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for each of the six "Son of Sam" .44-caliber killings that terrified New Yorkers.

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In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, during a visit to the divided German city of Berlin, exhorted Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

In 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were slashed to death outside her Los Angeles home. (O.J. Simpson was later acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial, but was eventually held liable in a civil action.) Boeing's new 777 jetliner went on its first test flight.

In 2016, an American-born Muslim opened fire at the Pulse nightclub, a gay establishment in Orlando, Florida, leaving 49 people dead and 53 wounded before being shot dead by police.

Ten years ago: In a stinging rebuke to President George W. Bush's anti-terror policies, a deeply divided Supreme Court ruled that foreign detainees held for years at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba had the right to appeal to U.S. civilian courts to challenge their indefinite imprisonment without charges. Three heavily armed robbers stole two Pablo Picasso prints, "The Painter and the Model" and "Minotaur, Drinker and Women," plus two paintings by other artists from a museum in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (The works were later recovered.) Taiwan and China agreed to set up permanent offices in each other's territory for the first time in nearly six decades.

Five years ago: The director of the National Security Agency, Gen. Keith Alexander, vigorously defended once-secret surveillance programs before the Senate Intelligence Committee, saying that collecting Americans' phone records and tapping into their Internet activity had disrupted dozens of terrorist attacks. Ariel Castro, 52, accused of holding three women captive in his Cleveland home for about a decade, pleaded not guilty to hundreds of rape and kidnapping charges. (Castro was later sentenced to life plus 1,000 years and soon after committed suicide in prison.) NASCAR driver Jason Leffler, 37, died after an accident during a dirt car event at Bridgeport Speedway in New Jersey.

One year ago: Tens of thousands of protesters held anti-corruption rallies across Russia; more than a thousand were arrested, including opposition leader and protest organizer Alexei Navalny. The Golden State Warriors brought home the NBA championship, defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers 129-120 in Game 5.

Today's Birthdays: Former President George H.W. Bush is 94. Songwriter Richard M. Sherman is 90. Jazz musician Chick Corea is 77. Sportscaster Marv Albert is 77. Singer Roy Harper is 77. Pop singer Len Barry is 76. Actor Roger Aaron Brown is 69. Rock musician Bun E. Carlos (Cheap Trick) is 67. Country singer-musician Junior Brown is 66. Singer-songwriter Rocky Burnette is 65. Actor Timothy Busfield is 61. Singer Meredith Brooks is 60. Actress Jenilee Harrison is 60. Rock musician John Linnell (They Might Be Giants) is 59. Actor John Enos is 56. Rapper Grandmaster Dee (Whodini) is 56. Actor Paul Schulze is 56. Actor Eamonn Walker is 56. Actress Paula Marshall is 54. Actress Frances O'Connor is 51. Actor Rick Hoffman is 48. Actor-comedian Finesse Mitchell is 46. Actor Mel Rodriguez is 45. Actor Jason Mewes is 44. Actor Michael Muhney is 43. Blues musician Kenny Wayne Shepherd is 41. Actor Timothy Simons is 40. Actor Wil Horneff is 39. Singer Robyn is 39. Rock singer-musician John Gourley (Portugal. The Man) is 37. Actor Dave Franco is 33. Country singer Chris Young is 33. Actor Luke Youngblood is 32. Rap group MC Jay Are is 29. Actor Ryan Malgarini is 26.

Thought for Today: "A man without ambition is dead. A man with ambition but no love is dead. A man with ambition and love for his blessings here on earth is ever so alive." — Pearl Bailey, American entertainer (1918-1990).