

Groton Daily Independent

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**“At the height of
laughter, the
universe is flung into
a kaleidoscope
of new
possibilities.”**

-Jean Houston

*Chicken Soup
for the Soul*

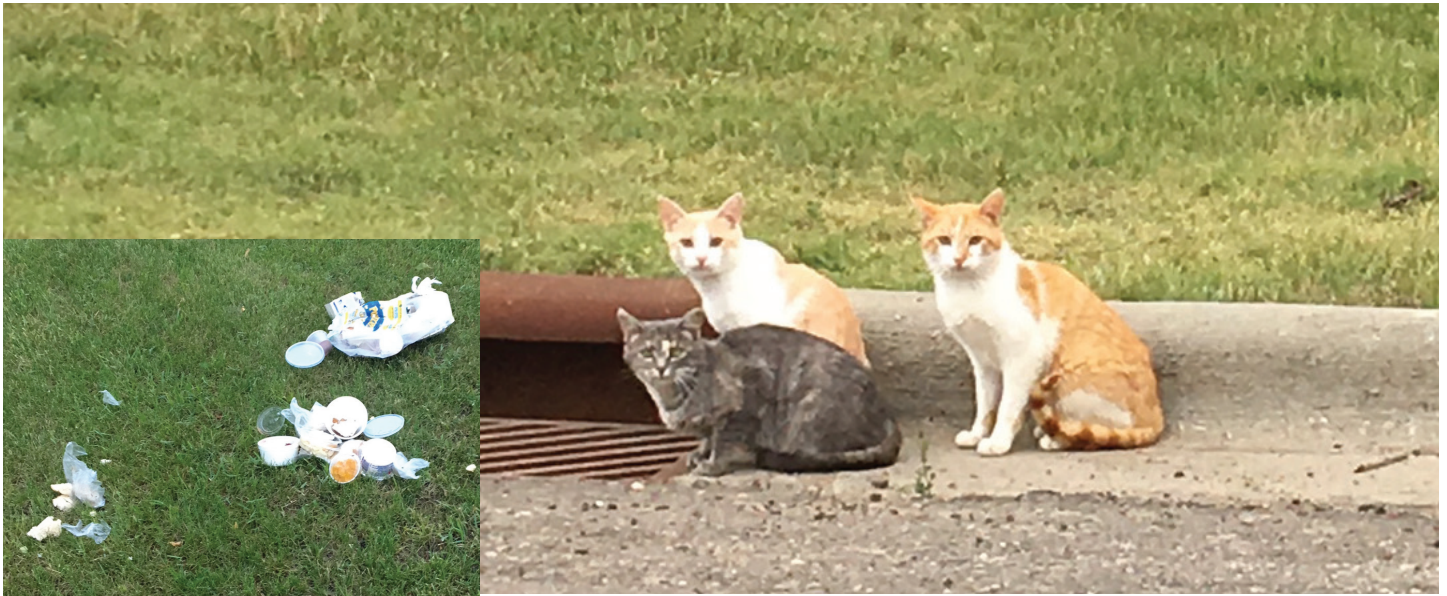
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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
Over 30 Years of Combined Experience!
TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**



Cats Everywhere!

The storm sewers in Groton are inundated with cats. Here are three cats ready to dart into the storm sewer just south Groton Care and Rehab Center. The following morning, this garbage was ripped apart as shown in the bottom left photo. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Pool shelter is authorized

The pool shelter is a go. The council accepted the only bid and that was from Block Construction for \$21,727.57 for a shelter on the east side of the pool. The city will also apply for a grant from the Big Stone South-Ellendale Transmission Line project.

Doug Abeln came before the council to discuss the annexation of the southwest part of Groton. The resolution had the wrong property description back in 1999 and the council is trying to make it correct. Abeln bought his property in 2007. City Attorney Drew Johnson outlined all of the issues that were at play on the resolution and the process that is being taken to correct it. The mistake was on the part of Clark Engineering. Abeln then asked if the city would be willing to bring utilities out to that property. Johnson suggested waiting until a full board is present. Abeln was also going to research his title insurance. The council tabled the revised resolution at the suggestion of Johnson for two reasons - 1) Wait to see what Abeln finds out and 2) he felt more comfortable with a full council making the decision.

There were only three councilmen at the meeting plus the mayor. It takes four councilman to have a quorum; however, with the death of Eddy Opp, SDCL 9-8-8, "When a seat on a council is vacant due to removal, resignation, death, or by operation of law, the quorum consists of the majority of the remaining aldermen who are qualified to serve as aldermen by election or appointment pursuant to chapter 9-13." So with the remaining five councilmen, it only takes three for a quorum.

The council also tabled the first reading of the revised tree trimming ordinance, the pool manager's request to paint the front of the divider when you come into the guard shack with a mural, and the appointment of Shirley Wells to fill in as councilman for Opp's position, filling out the term until April 2019.

The city will pay for a golf team on June 22 at the Groton Area Business Scramble Golf Tournament, even if no team is filled. The July meeting dates were set for July 9 and July 23. The council authorized to pay \$338.90 for a special events insurance policy for the Pumpkin Fest. Authorized for Shawn Lambertz, Hope Block and any other councilman that wants to attend the annual Heartland Summer Conference July 10 in Sioux Falls. During the financial report, Finance Officer Hope Block mentioned that the city debt is now under \$3 million.

The council voted to add baseball grounds keeper to the list of duties for Matt Locke.

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Groton City May 2018 Financial Report

May 2018

1st State Bank Checking Acct	\$ 691,402.37
1st State Bank Savings Acct	\$ 145,281.93
General Cash	\$ 300.00
Wells Fargo Savings Acct	\$ 102,712.66
SD FIT Acct	\$ 956,744.61
1st State Bank Water CD	\$ 81,200.00
SD FIT Water CD	\$ 100,000.00
BB Trust CD	\$ 1,500.00
SD FIT CD	\$ 200,000.00
Cemetery Perp Care CD	\$ 32,876.69
Total	\$ 2,312,018.26

Invested In		
Cash	\$ 300.00	0.01%
1st State Bank	\$ 952,260.99	41.19%
Wells Fargo Bank	\$ 102,712.66	4.44%
SD Fit	\$ 1,256,744.61	54.36%
Total	\$ 2,312,018.26	100.00%

	Beginning Cash Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Transfers	Ending Cash Balance
General	\$ 495,320.69	\$ 326,890.17	\$ 114,296.73		\$ 707,914.13
Bed, Board, Booze Tax	\$ 9,256.88	\$ 1,100.26	\$ -		\$ 10,357.14
Baseball Uniforms	\$ 1,710.20				\$ 1,710.20
Airport	\$ 23,123.73	\$ -	\$ 117.63		\$ 23,006.10
**Debt Service	\$ 492,525.17	\$ 18,269.97	\$ 43,750.00		\$ 467,045.14
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 34,706.69				\$ 34,706.69
Water Tower	\$ 180,000.00				\$ 180,000.00
Water	\$ 80,768.32	\$ 20,317.56	\$ 16,233.71		\$ 84,852.17
Electric	\$ 450,891.10	\$ 145,728.91	\$ 110,621.10		\$ 485,998.91
Wastewater	\$ 179,611.85	\$ 16,949.55	\$ 7,881.24		\$ 188,680.16
Solid Waste	\$ 27,613.75	\$ 10,735.36	\$ 10,774.67		\$ 27,574.44
Family Crisis	\$ 4,276.80	\$ 50.00			\$ 4,326.80
Sales Tax	\$ 18,198.51	\$ 9,933.15	\$ 10,366.53		\$ 17,765.13
Employment	\$ (4,727.29)	\$ -	\$ (1,477.41)		\$ (3,249.88)
Utility Prepayments	\$ 10,802.91	\$ (1,070.97)			\$ 9,731.94
Utility Deposits	\$ 71,944.58	\$ 250.00	\$ 950.00		\$ 71,244.58
Other	\$ 354.61				\$ 354.61
Totals	\$ 1,590,381.28	\$ 549,153.96	\$ 313,514.20	\$ -	\$ 2,312,018.26

**Debt to be Paid		
**2015 Refinance	\$ 2,732,687.50	by 12/1/2035
**Sewer Lagoon	\$ 55,068.52	by 1/1/2019
**West Sewer	\$ 119,512.15	by 10/15/2022
**RR Sewer Crossing	\$ 70,445.81	by 7/15/22
Total Debt	\$ 2,977,713.98	

New Dugouts getting lots of use



Here are the new dugouts on Nelson Field. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

The Groton Softball/Baseball Foundation has been busy doing major improvements to the Groton Baseball Complex. Last year, the blue fencing was installed on Nelson Field. This year, new dugouts were constructed on Nelson Field and also Falk Field. The new dugouts are made from concrete blocks. You will also notice the blue seats. The seats are from the old Metro Dome. The Groton shop class built the stand for the seats.

Major fund-raising was done in the past year for the new dugouts, which cost about \$8,000 each. Matt Locke from the Groton Softball/Baseball Foundation, said, "We'd like to thank all of the supporters of Groton Baseball to make the improvements possible. Special thanks to the Twins Fields for Kids grant, the City of Groton and to the Falk Family for their considerable contributions. We want the Groton area to be proud of this fine facility."

The City of Groton had applied for a Twins Fields for Kids matching grant. The Twins Community Fund Board of Directors, and the entire Minnesota Twins Baseball Club, informed the city that they had been awarded a \$10,000 matching grant. The City of Groton matched the \$10,000.

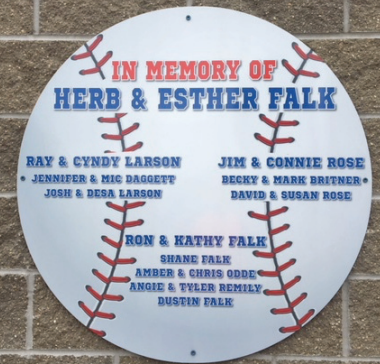
More games have been scheduled on Nelson and Falk Field this year, which included an U8 Tournament held Saturday.



The inside of one of the new dugouts. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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This dugout on Falk Field was paid for by the Falk Family. Again, you will notice the blue old Metro Dome seats to the side of the dugout. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Here are the new dugouts on Falk Field. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



New playground equipment was installed in 2017, thanks to a grant from the Game, Fish and Parks Department, and also Rev. Dr. David Paul Olson Memorial Money. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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AAA: Good news, bad news on gas prices

June 18, 2018 - South Dakota drivers are finding both good news and bad news at the pump. The good news is that local gas prices continue to drop slightly but the bad news is that many areas are seeing prices between 50 and 60 cents higher than one year ago.

"Drivers may be enjoying a continued drop in gas prices but they shouldn't get too comfortable with it," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "Motorists can expect to spend an average of \$200 more on gas this season, fueled by the price of crude and the high demand for gasoline."

With strong summer consumer gasoline demand expected in the months ahead, AAA says motorists can expect little relief at the pump with the national gas price average ranging between \$2.85 and \$3.05 through Labor Day.

On the week, the national gas price average is two cents cheaper at \$2.90. Today's national average is only one cent more expensive than a month ago, but 60 cents more expensive than a year ago.

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.892

Yesterday Avg. \$2.901

Week Ago Avg. \$2.888

Month Ago Avg. \$2.805

Year Ago Avg. \$2.335

Nationwide, 44 states have less expensive or steady gas price averages compared to last Monday. However, the cheaper trend may be reversing. Gasoline demand spiked in the latest Energy Information Administration's (EIA) report, in fact setting a new all-time record at 9.88 million b/d for the week ending June 8. As demand skyrockets, U.S. gasoline inventories plummeted 2.27 million bbl, to land total inventories at 237 million bbl, which is 5.7 million below stocks last year at this time.

"If demand continues to strengthen and inventories decrease in the weeks ahead, motorists can expect gas prices do a reversal and start to increase again," said Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "AAA expects the national gas price average to range between \$2.85 and \$3.05 through Labor Day, likely seeing the summer's highest prices in June."

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.73), California (\$3.71), Washington (\$3.45), Alaska (\$3.43), Oregon (\$3.32), Nevada (\$3.31), Utah (\$3.19), Idaho (\$3.19), Connecticut (\$3.11) and Arizona (\$3.07).

The nation's top 10 largest weekly changes are: Ohio (-10 cents), Florida (-5 cents), Delaware (-5 cents), Indiana (+5 cents), Virginia (-5 cents), Utah (+4 cents), Maryland (-4 cents), Iowa (-4 cents), Kansas (-4 cents) and Illinois (-4 cents).

Central and Great Lakes Region

Finding cheaper gas prices at the pump continues this week for the bulk of motorists in the Great Lakes and Central states. Ohio (-10 cents) tops the chart for the biggest weekly change in gas price averages in the country. Also making an appearance on the top 10 changes list: Iowa (-4 cents), Kansas (-4 cents) and Illinois (-4 cents). However, gas prices are more expensive for three states on the week: Indiana (+5 cents), Michigan (+2 cents) and Missouri (+1 cent).

Some states in the region are paying a hefty year-over-year increase. Indiana's gas price is 80-cents more expensive than last year – the highest of any state in the country and region. Other states at the 55-cent or more mark include Michigan (+70 cents), Illinois (+64 cents), North Dakota (+62 cents), Missouri (+61 cents), Kentucky (+59 cents), Kansas (+58 cents), Wisconsin (+58 cents), Idaho (+57 cents), Ohio (+57 cents), South Dakota (+56 cents) and Minnesota (+56 cents).

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI decreased \$1.83 cents to settle at \$65.06. Oil prices trended marginally higher last week because of a stronger dollar.

According to EIA's latest weekly petroleum status report, total U.S. production jumped to around 10.9 million b/d, up about 100,000 b/d on the week.

Come "Experience the Magic" at the South Dakota State Fairgrounds

By Mike Jaspers, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture

Whether you want to "Experience the Magic" at the South Dakota State Fair or wrangle in some memories at the National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR), the State Fair Park is the place for you and your family this summer.

We are kicking off our summer celebrations with the second largest rodeo in the world; welcoming nearly 1,000 young rodeo athletes from 48 states, five Canadian provinces, and Australia to compete in the NJHFR the last week in June. This is a great opportunity to showcase our state sport over the next two years. To learn more about all you can see and do at the NJHFR, please visit sdstatefair.com.

I also hope you will join us for the 2018 South Dakota State Fair, Thursday, Aug. 30, through Monday, Sept. 3. This yearly celebration has a deep history with the State of South Dakota since 1885 and continues to grow in attendance year after year. However, this year is extra special, as the State Fair Grandstand turns 100 years old. To honor this great achievement, we will be hosting a 1918 celebration where the State Fair will throwback to the year 1918, giving you and fellow fairgoers a chance to experience what the State Fair was like in the early 1900s.

You will not want to miss the great 21st century acts coming to the grandstand this year either! Entertainment this year includes the Red Wilk Construction Tuff Hedeman Bull Bash; Toby Keith with Chancey Williams and The Younger Brothers Band; Foreigner and Night Ranger; Gary Allan and Sawyer Brown; and the "Thunder at the Fair" Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pulling Association.

The annual state fair is a place to catch up with friends and take in a concert or a rodeo. It's also an opportunity to recognize the important role agriculture has in South Dakota and her history. Every year at the State Fair, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and South Dakota Farm Bureau recognize farms and ranches that have been owned by the same family for over 100 years through the Century Farm program. The Century Farm program symbolizes the long legacy of family-owned farming and ranching in the State of South Dakota. Since the start of the program in 1984, thousands of farms have been recognized for being in the family for 100, 125 or 150 years. If your family qualifies for this honor, we hope you take the time to fill out the application on the South Dakota Farm Bureau website and return it by Aug. 10, 2018.

The State Fair has always been magical for me because it is a time to catch up with friends and family and enjoy the last few days of summer. I am excited for everything happening at the State Fair Park this summer and hope you have time to pay us a visit to see for yourself.

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Today in Weather History

June 19, 1894: A tornado moved NNE, passing 12 miles northwest of Bowdle, ending in extreme south-eastern Campbell County. A child was killed, and the mother and four other children were severely injured. A man was killed in another home, and his wife was injured. Fourteen homes were damaged or destroyed. Clothes were said to be torn to shreds and scattered for miles. This tornado was estimated to be an F3.

June 19, 1931: A tornado moved east from just south of St. Lawrence, passing south of Wessington. Buildings were destroyed on eight farms. Two farms were said to be wiped out, house and all. A woman was injured as she tried to rescue chickens. Cattle, horses, and over 100 hogs were killed. This tornado had an estimated strength of an F3.

June 19, 2013: Slow moving thunderstorms brought some large hail along with very heavy rains and flash flooding to parts of northeast South Dakota. One thunderstorm produced quarter hail and winds over 50 mph, which caused significant damage to a bean field along with damaging the siding of the house south of Wilmot in Roberts County. Several roads in Wilmot had water running over them for several hours. Over three inches of rain caused water to go over a part of Highway 123 south of Wilmot. The heavy rain of three to four inches brought many flooded roads in and around Veblen in Marshall County.

1794: A violent tornado commenced west of the Hudson River in New York. The tornado traveled through Poughkeepsie then crossed the border into Connecticut where it went through the towns of New Milford, Waterbury, North Haven, and Branford. It then continued into Long Island Sound. The tornado did extensive damage, and the funnel was reported by one observer to look like the "aurora borealis."

1835 - A tornado tore through the center of New Brunswick NJ killing five persons and scattering debris as far as Manhattan Island. The tornado provided the first opportunity for scientists to study firsthand the track of such a storm. (David Ludlum)

1938 - A cloudburst near Custer Creek, MT, (near Miles City) caused a train wreck killing forty-eight persons. An estimated four to seven inches of rain deluged the head of the creek that evening, and water flowing through the creek weakened the bridge. As a result, a locomotive and seven passenger cars plunged into the swollen creek. One car, a tourist sleeper, was completely submerged. (David Ludlum)

1972 - Hurricane Agnes moved onshore near Cape San Blas FL with wind gusts to 80 mph, and exited Maine on the 26th. There were 117 deaths, mainly due to flooding from North Carolina to New York State, and total damage was estimated at more than three billion dollars. Up to 19 inches of rain deluged western Schuylkill County PA. The rains of Hurricane Agnes resulted in one of the greatest natural disasters in U.S. history. Agnes caused more damage than all other tropical cyclones in the previous six years combined (which included Celia and Camille). (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - It was a warm June day, with plenty of thunderstorms east of the Rockies. Lightning knocked out power at Throckmorton, TX, and ignited an oil tank battery. A woman in Knox City TX was struck by lightning while in her car, and a man was struck by lightning near his home in Manatee County FL. Strong thunderstorm winds overturned several outhouses near Bixby OK, but no injuries were reported. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Temperatures soared above 100 degrees in the central U.S. for Father's Day. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Severe thunderstorms in Minnesota and Wisconsin produced softball size hail near River Falls WI, and wind gusts to 80 mph at Menomonie WI. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Fourteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date as searing heat spread from the southwestern deserts into the High Plains Region. Record highs included 98 degrees at Billings, MT, 107 degrees at Valentine, NE, and 112 degrees at Tucson, AZ. (The National Weather Summary)

2004: Annette Island, Alaska set an all-time record high temperature of 93 degrees. Since record keeping began in 1941, Annette Island has seen 90-degree temperatures four times.

2006 - Up to 11 inches of rain fell in the Houston, Texas area, causing widespread flash flooding. The Houston Fire Department rescued more than 500 people from flood waters, but no serious injuries or fatalities were reported.

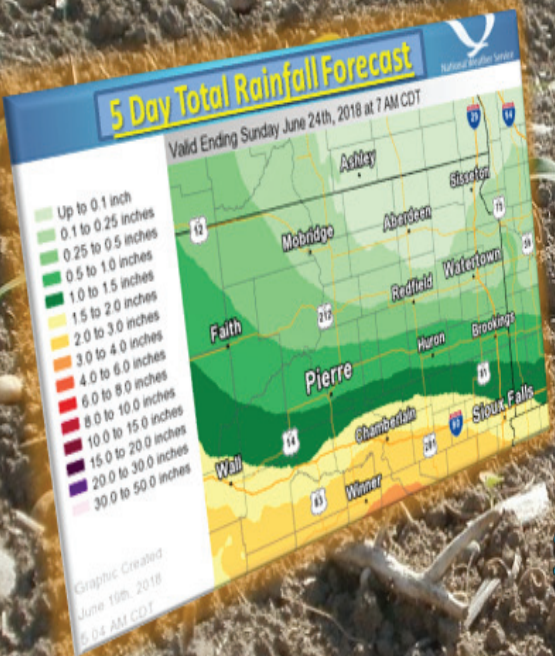
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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 77 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 82 °F



Mild Today Through Friday Best Rain Chances South In The Region



**Today's Highs:
60s and 70s**

**Wednesdays Highs:
60s to Near 80**

**Thursday/Fridays Highs:
70s and 80s**

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 6/19/2018 5:31 AM Central

Published on: 06/19/2018 at 5:49AM

An area of low pressure over the Intermountain West will gradually make its way southeast through the nations middle states region, including the southern third of South Dakota during the next couple of days. Some areas could see over an inch of rainfall by Thursday morning. Also, high temperatures for some areas for the next couple of days will struggle to reach mid-June climate normals.

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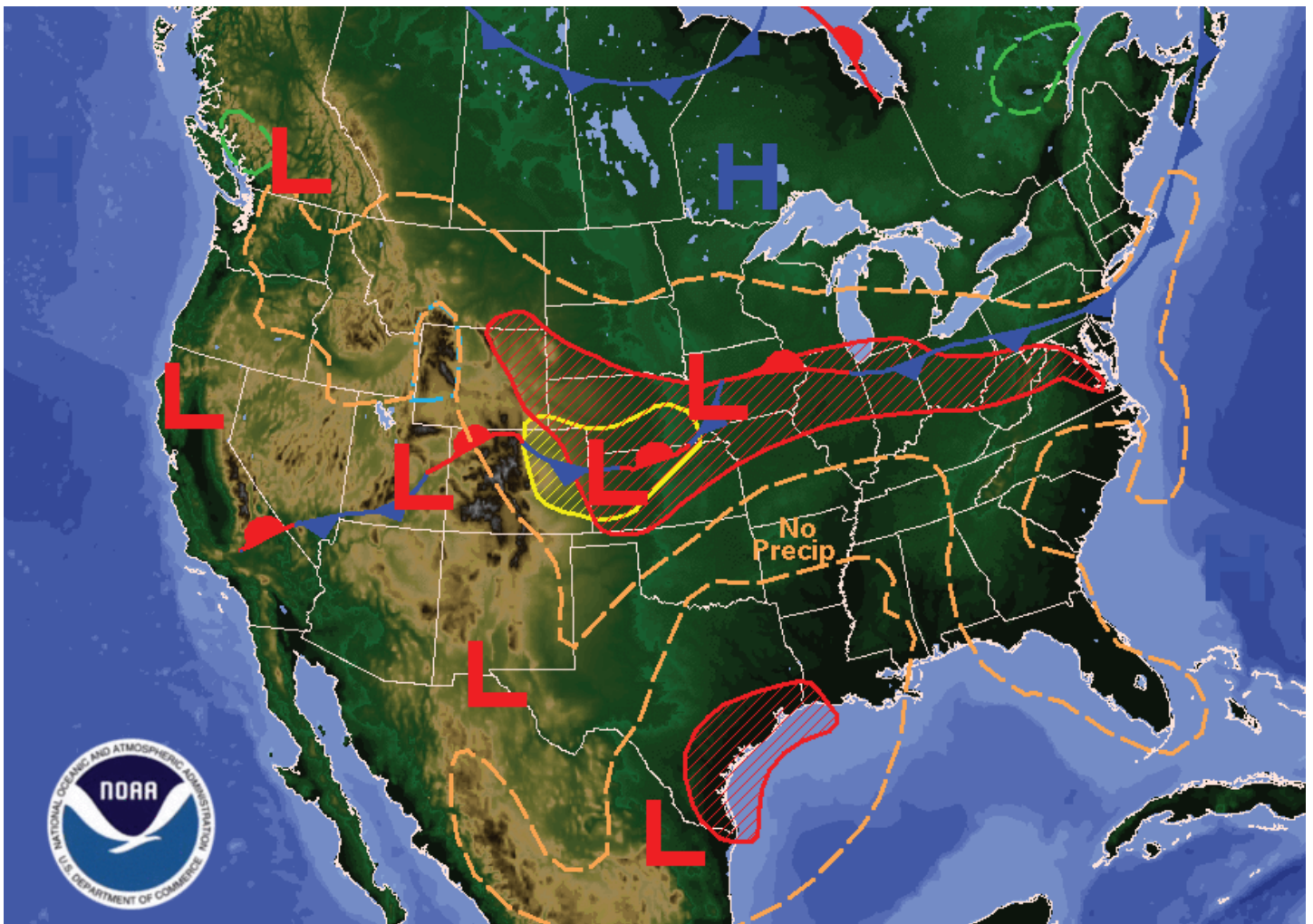
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 76.4 F at 1:26 PM
Low Outside Temp: 60.8 F at 5:42 AM
Wind Chill:
High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 11:44 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 108° in 1933
Record Low: 38° in 1940
Average High: 79°F
Average Low: 55°F
Average Precip in June: 2.33
Precip to date in June: 1.42
Average Precip to date: 9.47
Precip Year to Date: 5.72
Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jun 19, 2018, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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THE WONDER OF WORSHIP

Many anthropologists who study human behavior say that the one universal behavior is worship. There seems to be an internal compass in everyone, everywhere that says, "There is someone, somewhere who is greater, more powerful than any of us here or all of us combined." Man seems to be incurably religious – having a deep desire or need to have a god. Shrines and idols of all shapes and sizes are as old as history. And if people do not worship the God of the Bible they will make a god of themselves or another object.

A story is told of a British scientist who had a famous chameleon named "Billy the Lizard." Before he left for a vacation he asked his butler to take special care of him while he was away. When he returned home, he went to Billy's cage but did not see him. He went to his butler and demanded an explanation.

"Sir," said his butler, "it was this way. Some of the villagers wanted to see Billy. So we put him on a piece of red cloth and he turned red. Then we put him on a green cloth and he turned green. Then we put him on a piece of striped cloth and he exploded. What can I say?"

"Hear, O my people," God said to the Israelites, "I will warn you...You shall have no foreign gods before me!" It is almost impossible to believe that after all God had done for Israel He had to warn them about worshipping idols.

Is it any different today? Not really. The problems we face in the world today are not political problems but spiritual problems. We worship too many "foreign" false gods.

Prayer: Guard us, Father, from allowing the "things" of this world to become our "gods" and take Your place. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 81:9 There shall be no foreign god among you; Nor shall you worship any foreign god.

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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

Inmate dies of undisclosed illness at Springfield prison

SPRINGFIELD, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Corrections says a 63-year-old inmate has died at the Springfield prison.

Officials say the prisoner, Robbie Thennis, died Monday of an undisclosed illness at the Mike Durfee State Prison. Thennis was sentenced in Bon Homme County in 1992 to serve 25 years for a sexual assault conviction.

US could back 1st pot-derived medicine, and some are worried

By KATHLEEN FOODY and P. SOLOMON BANDA, Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — A British pharmaceutical company is getting closer to a decision on whether the U.S. government will approve the first prescription drug derived from the marijuana plant, but parents who for years have used cannabis to treat severe forms of epilepsy in their children are feeling more cautious than celebratory.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to decide by the end of the month whether to approve GW Pharmaceuticals' Epidiolex. It's a purified form of cannabidiol — a component of cannabis that doesn't get users high — to treat Dravet and Lennox-Gastaut syndromes in kids. Both forms of epilepsy are rare.

Cannabidiol's effect on a variety of health conditions is frequently touted, but there is still little evidence to back up advocates' personal experiences. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has long categorized cannabis as a Schedule I drug, a category with "no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse." That strictly limits research on potential medical uses for cannabis or the chemicals in it, including cannabidiol, or CBD.

But for years, parents desperate to find anything to help their children have turned to the marijuana-based products made legal by a growing number of states.

Meagan Patrick is among the parents using CBD to treat symptoms in their children. She moved from Maine to Colorado in 2014 so she could legally get CBD for her now-5-year-old daughter, Addelyn, who was born with a brain malformation that causes seizures.

"My child was dying, and we needed to do something," Patrick said.

As for the potential approval of a pharmaceutical based on CBD, she said fear is her first reaction.

"I want to make sure that her right to continue using what works for her is protected, first and foremost. That's my job as her mom," Patrick said.

Advocates like Patrick became particularly concerned when GW Pharmaceuticals' U.S. commercial business, Greenwich Biosciences, began quietly lobbying to change states' legal definition of marijuana, beginning in 2017 with proposals in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Some worried the company's attempt to ensure its product could be legally prescribed and sold by pharmacies would have a side effect: curtailing medical marijuana programs already operating in more than two dozen states.

The proposals generally sought to remove CBD from states' legal definition of marijuana, allowing it to be prescribed by doctors and supplied by pharmacies. But the change only applies to products that have FDA approval.

Neither Nebraska nor South Dakota allows medical use of marijuana, and activists accused the company of trying to shut down future access to products containing cannabidiol but lacking FDA approval.

GW Pharmaceuticals never intended for the changes to affect other marijuana products, but they are necessary to allow Epidiolex to be sold in pharmacies if approved, spokesman Stephen Schultz said.

He would not discuss other places where the company will seek changes to state law. The Associated Press confirmed that lobbyists representing Greenwich Biosciences backed legislation in California and

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Colorado this year.

"As a company, we understand there's a significant business building up," Schultz said. "All we want to do is make sure our product is accessible."

Industry lobbyists in those states said they take company officials at their word, but they still insisted on protective language ensuring that recreational or medical marijuana, cannabidiol, hemp and other products derived from cannabis plants won't be affected by the changes sought by GW Pharmaceuticals.

Patrick Goggin, an attorney who focuses on industrial hemp issues in California, said the company would run into trouble if it tried to "lock up access" to marijuana-derived products beyond FDA-approved drugs.

"People need to have options and choices," he said. "That's the battle here."

Legal experts say the changes are logical. Some states' laws specifically prohibit any product derived from the marijuana plant from being sold in pharmacies. The FDA has approved synthetic versions of another cannabis ingredient for medical purposes but has never approved marijuana or hemp for any medical use.

A panel of FDA advisers in April unanimously recommended the agency approve Epidiolex for the treatment of severe seizures in children with epilepsy, conditions that are otherwise difficult to treat. It's not clear why CBD reduces seizures in some patients, but the panel based its recommendation on three studies showing significant reduction in children with two forms of epilepsy.

Denver-based attorney Christian Sederberg, who worked on the GW Pharmaceuticals-backed legislation in Colorado on behalf of the marijuana industry, said all forms of marijuana can exist together.

"The future of the industry is showing itself here," Sederberg said. "There's going to be the pharmaceutical lane, the nutraceutical (food-as-medicine) lane, the adult-use lane. This shows how that's all coming together."

Alex and Jenny Inman said they won't switch to Epidiolex if it becomes available, though their son Lukas has Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

Alex, an information technology professional, and Jenny, a preschool teacher, said it took some at-home experimentation to find the right combination of doctor-prescribed medication, CBD and THC — the component that gives marijuana users a high — that seemed to help Lukas with his seizures.

"What makes me a little bit nervous about this is that there's sort of a psyche amongst patients that, 'Here's this pill, and this pill will solve things,' right? It works differently for different people," Alex Inman said.

The Inmans moved from Maryland to Colorado in 2015 after doctors recommended a second brain surgery for Lukas' seizures. The couple and other parents and advocates for CBD said children respond differently to a variety of strains.

The Realm of Caring Foundation, an organization co-founded by Paige Figi, whose daughter Charlotte's name is attached to the CBD oil Charlotte's Web, said it maintains a registry of about 46,000 people worldwide who use CBD.

For Heather Jackson, who said her son Zaki, now 15, benefited from CBD and who co-founded the foundation, Epidiolex's approval means insurers will begin paying for treatment with a cannabis-derived product.

"That might be a nice option for some families who, you know, really want to receive a prescription who are going to only listen to the person in the white coat," Jackson said.

Banda and Foody are members of members of AP's marijuana beat team. Follow them at Twitter at <http://twitter.com/psbanda> and <http://twitter.com/katiefoody> . Find complete AP marijuana coverage here: <http://apnews.com/tag/LegalMarijuana>

Primary voter delays prompt push for change in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State election officials are pushing to change how electronic poll books are used after technical glitches created long waits and delays during the South Dakota primary elections earlier this month.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs is proposing that polling places keep paper backups for electronic voter registration books to avoid future issues. The Argus Leader reports that the Board of Elections approved

her proposal by a 6-1 vote on Monday.

The computer hitches bogged down electronic poll books in several counties, forcing election workers to scramble to find alternative paper books. It also saw some polls stay open for nearly two hours after normal closing times, dragging out final results and holding up voters.

The South Dakota Legislature reconvenes in January and may take action on the proposal.

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

Ex-Lowe's worker sues, says she was groped by coworker

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A former employee of Lowe's Home Improvement store in Sioux Falls is suing the retailer claiming it failed to discipline a male worker who groped her.

Vickie Mader filed a lawsuit in federal court accusing Lowe's of discrimination, emotional distress and breach of contract, the Argus Leader reported.

In her lawsuit, Mader alleges that a male employee groped her at work in May 2017 and that she reported it the next day to an assistant manager who assured her action would be taken. She says the groping was captured on store surveillance video, but the assistant manager and a human resources manager disagreed about what it showed, with the human resources manager suggesting that the accused employee could have been putting out his hand in case Mader backed into him as he passed her.

Mader said she felt angry and humiliated and had to work with the other employee for nearly four more weeks.

"Plaintiff was constantly looking over her shoulder and felt creeped out," the lawsuit states.

Mader said the human resources director told her that Lowe's wouldn't fire the man or change his hours, so she decided to quit because she couldn't continue to work with him. She filed a complaint May 26, 2017, the same day she resigned.

Mader has "struggled with the fact that (the employee) got away with touching her and she lost her job for it," the lawsuit asserts.

Lowe's has not responded to the newspaper's request for comment about the lawsuit.

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

Sioux Falls police investigate stabbing

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police are investigating a stabbing in Sioux Falls over the weekend.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the victim was approached by three men early Sunday and one had a knife. Clemens says the man was beat and stabbed. He went to a friend's house where an ambulance was called. Clemens says the man underwent surgery but his wounds apparently aren't life threatening.

No arrests have been made.

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

Graduate student from Iroquois crowned Miss South Dakota

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — A graduate student has been named Miss South Dakota after impressing pageant judges with her rendition of Europe's "The Final Countdown" on the piano.

Carrie Wintle, a graduate student at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, was crowned Miss South Dakota on Saturday at the annual pageant. A native of the town of Iroquois, her platform centered on her nonprofit "money \$sheep," whose mission is to teach financial literacy skills to young people.

The Argus Leader reports that Wintle won over \$10,000 in scholarships. First runner-up Amber Hulse of Hot Springs won over \$5,000 in scholarships.

Wintle will go on to compete in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City in September.

Supreme Court rejects appeal from gay inmate in South Dakota

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is rejecting an appeal from a gay death row inmate in South Dakota who says jurors were biased against him because of his sexual orientation.

The justices did not comment Monday in leaving in place the death sentence for Charles Rhines. He was convicted in the stabbing death of a doughnut shop employee in Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1992.

Rhines tried to persuade the court to take an interest in his case after the justices last year ruled that evidence of racial bias in the jury room allows a judge to consider setting aside a verdict. Rhines said one juror said Rhines should not be sentenced to life in prison because he is gay and would be housed with other men.

North Korea's Kim visits China in follow-up to Trump summit

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN and DAKE KANG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un landed in Beijing on Tuesday for a two-day visit at which he's expected to meet with Chinese leaders and discuss his next steps after last week's nuclear summit with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Kim's visit to Beijing, while expected, is one way for China to highlight its crucial role in U.S. efforts to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear program. The U.S. has long looked to China to use its influence with North Korea to bring it to negotiations, but the visit comes as ties between Beijing and Washington are being tested by a major trade dispute.

China's official Xinhua News Agency announced the North Korean leader's visit shortly after he apparently landed Tuesday morning, dispensing with the secrecy shrouding previous trips to China by Kim and his father and predecessor, Kim Jong Il.

On the younger Kim's first visit to China as leader, he took an armored train as his father had. His first two trips were not announced until after he had safely returned to North Korea.

Chinese President Xi Jinping "is exerting a lot of influence from behind the scenes," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"I expect they will talk about the path going forward and where priorities should lie," Glaser said. Those priorities, from China's perspective, would be to ensure that Beijing is included in any peace treaty talks and in creating an environment on the Korean Peninsula that will make it unnecessary for U.S. troops to remain.

Security was tight Tuesday morning at Beijing airport, where paramilitary police prevented journalists from taking photos.

A motorcade including sedans, minibuses, motorcycles and a stretch limo with a golden emblem similar to one Kim used previously was seen leaving the airport and later entering the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, where senior Chinese officials meet with visiting leaders.

A similar convoy of vehicles was seen heading in the direction of the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing on Tuesday afternoon.

Kim was diplomatically isolated for years before making his first foreign trip as leader in March to meet with Xi in Beijing. This is his third visit to China, North Korea's main ally and key source of trade and economic assistance.

Following his summit with Trump in Singapore, Kim was expected to meet with Chinese leaders to discuss progress in halting his country's missile and nuclear weapons programs in exchange for economic incentives. Kim is likely hoping to get China's support for relief from punishing U.N. sanctions.

China's foreign ministry refused to provide details on Kim's visit other than to say that Beijing hopes it will help deepen relations between the countries.

Geng Shuang, a ministry spokesman, said at a regular briefing Tuesday that the visit would "strengthen our strategic communication on major issues to promote regional peace and stability."

Geng said Beijing supported Russia's calls last week for unilateral sanctions on North Korea — ones that aren't imposed within the United Nations framework — to be canceled immediately.

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"China always stands against the so-called unilateral sanctions outside the Security Council framework. This position is very clear and we believe sanctions themselves are not the end," Geng said.

While Beijing and Moscow have supported U.N. restrictions, they bristle at Washington imposing unilateral sanctions to pressure North Korea.

The Singapore meeting resulted in a surprise announcement of a U.S. suspension of military drills with its South Korean ally, a goal long pursued by China and North Korea. That move is seen as potentially weakening defenses and diplomacy among America's Asian allies, while bolstering China and Russia.

The U.S. has stationed combat troops in South Korea since the Korean War, in which China fought on North Korea's side and which ended in 1953 with an armistice and no peace treaty.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Kim's visit to China highlights the "constructive role" Beijing could play in disarming North Korea.

Ministry spokesman Noh Kyu-duk also downplayed concerns that improving relations between China and North Korea could result in loosened Chinese sanctions against North Korea.

Cheng Xiaohu, an associate professor at Renmin University's School of International Studies in Beijing, said it was significant that Chinese state broadcaster CCTV announced Kim's visit before his return home.

"This is an improvement. This shows that China is moving toward a healthier and more normal direction in relations with North Korea," Cheng said. He added that the frequency of Kim's visits — three so far this year — was "unprecedented."

Yang Mu-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said Kim's visits show the recent chill in the two countries' ties over Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles had fully lifted.

"I believe that indicates that the blood alliance between the North and China has been completely restored," Yang said.

Washington has long pressed Beijing to use its influence to compel North Korea into negotiations, but Kim's visit comes as a dispute over the large trade imbalance between China and the U.S. has been escalating, moving them closer to a potential trade war.

That could make it less attractive for China to use its influence over North Korea to help the U.S. achieve its objectives of denuclearization.

"The potential comprehensive trade war will make the cooperation between China and U.S. in North Korea's nuclear issue more complicated," Cheng said. "There will be a big question mark over whether China and the U.S. will continue this cooperation."

Associated Press journalists Gillian Wong and Shanshan Wang in Beijing, Adam Schreck in Pyongyang, North Korea, and Kim Tong-hyung and Yong Jun Chang in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report.

In tit-for-tat, Trump threatens more tariffs against China

By JEFF KAROUB and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump directed the U.S. Trade Representative to prepare new tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports on Monday as the two nations moved closer to a potential trade war.

The tariffs, which Trump wants set at a 10 percent rate, would be the latest round of punitive measures in an escalating dispute over the large trade imbalance between the two countries. Trump recently ordered tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods in retaliation for intellectual property theft. The tariffs were quickly matched by China on U.S. exports, a move that drew the president's ire.

"China apparently has no intention of changing its unfair practices related to the acquisition of American intellectual property and technology," Trump said in a statement Monday announcing the new action. "Rather than altering those practices, it is now threatening United States companies, workers, and farmers who have done nothing wrong."

Trump added: "These tariffs will go into effect if China refuses to change its practices, and also if it insists

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on going forward with the new tariffs that it has recently announced.”

China’s Commerce Ministry on Tuesday criticized the latest threat of tariffs, saying it was an “act of extreme pressure and blackmail that deviates from the consensus reached by both parties after many negotiations, and is a disappointment to the international community.”

“If the U.S. becomes irrational and issues this list, China will have no choice but to adopt strong countermeasures of the same amount and quality,” the ministry statement said.

Trump said that if China responds to this fresh round of tariffs, then he will move to counter “by pursuing additional tariffs on another \$200 billion of goods.”

It wasn’t immediately clear when the new tariffs could be put in place, as the trade office has yet to identify the Chinese goods to be penalized or conduct a legal review. The first round of penalties announced by both nations is set to take effect July 6.

The intellectual property sanctions were the latest in a spate of protectionist measures unveiled by Trump in recent months that included tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to the U.S. and a tough rhetoric on trade negotiations from North America to Asia.

The escalation in the dispute with China may also serve as a warning to other trading partners with whom Trump has been feuding, including Canada and the European Union.

The move quickly drew praise from former Trump senior adviser Steve Bannon, who told The Associated Press: “President Trump told China and the world tonight that America will not back down when it comes to economic aggression.”

But Wall Street has viewed the escalating trade tensions with wariness, fearful they could strangle the economic growth achieved during Trump’s watch. Gary Cohn, Trump’s former top economic adviser, said last week that a “tariff battle” could result in price inflation and consumer debt — “historic ingredients for an economic slowdown.”

Trump’s comments came hours after the top U.S. diplomat accused China of engaging in “predatory economics 101” and an “unprecedented level of larceny” of intellectual property.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the remarks at the Detroit Economic Club as global markets reacted to trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

He said China’s recent claims of “openness and globalization” are “a joke.” He added that China is a “predatory economic government” that is “long overdue in being tackled,” matters that include IP theft and Chinese steel and aluminum flooding the U.S. market.

“Everyone knows ... China is the main perpetrator,” he said. “It’s an unprecedented level of larceny.”

“Just ask yourself: Would China have allowed America to do to it what China has done to America?” he said later. “This is predatory economics 101.”

Asked to comment on Pompeo’s remarks, the Chinese foreign ministry in Beijing said in a regular briefing with reporters that the U.S. had lost credibility as a free trader.

“We don’t want a trade war, but we’re not afraid of a trade war,” ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

Pompeo raised the trade issue directly with China last week, when he met in Beijing with President Xi Jinping and others.

“I reminded him that’s not fair competition,” Pompeo said.

Trump had announced a 25 percent tariff on up to \$50 billion in Chinese imports. China is retaliating by raising import duties on \$34 billion worth of American goods, including soybeans, electric cars and whiskey. Trump also has slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and European allies.

Pompeo on Monday described U.S. actions as “economic diplomacy,” which, when done right, strengthens national security and international alliances, he added.

“We use American power, economic might and influence as a tool of economic policy,” he said. “We do our best to call out unfair economic behaviors as well.”

In a statement, Trump says he has an “excellent relationship” with Xi, “but the United States will no longer be taken advantage of on trade by China and other countries in the world.”

Karoub reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers Ken Thomas in Washington and Gillian Wong

and Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

Trump, GOP to huddle as outrage builds over border policy

By **DUSTIN WEAVER** and **ALAN FRAM**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calls are mounting on Capitol Hill for the Trump administration to end the separation of families at the southern border ahead of a visit from President Donald Trump to discuss legislation.

Trump's meeting late Tuesday afternoon with House Republicans comes at a time when lawmakers in both parties are up in arms over the administration's "zero tolerance" approach to illegal border crossings.

Under the policy, all unlawful crossings are referred for prosecution — a process that moves adults to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service and sends many children to facilities run by the Department of Health and Human Services. Under the previous administration, such families were usually referred for civil deportation proceedings, not requiring separation.

Nearly 2,000 children were separated from their families over a six-week period in April and May.

The fight is erupting at a time when the House was already embroiled in an election-year struggle over immigration legislation that threatens to depress voter turnout in November.

Democrats have seized on the family separation issue, swarming detention centers in Texas to highlight the policy. They are demanding that the administration act to keep migrant families together. Republicans are increasingly joining Democrats in that call.

Michigan Republican Rep. Fred Upton called for an immediate end to the "ugly and inhumane practice," adding, "It's never acceptable to use kids as bargaining chips in political process." Kansas GOP Sen. Pat Roberts said he is "against using parental separation as a deterrent to illegal immigration."

"The time is now for the White House to end the cruel, tragic separations of families," Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said in a statement.

The Trump administration insists the family separations are required under the law.

At a White House briefing Monday, Homeland Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen declared, "Congress alone can fix it." That line has been echoed by others in the administration, including Trump himself, who has falsely blamed a law passed by Democrats for the "zero tolerance" approach to prosecutions of families crossing the border.

Two immigration bills under consideration in the House could address the separations, but the outlook for passage is dim. Conservatives say the compromise legislation that GOP leaders helped negotiate with moderates is inadequate.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a member of the Freedom Caucus, said he's skeptical that even a full-throated endorsement from Trump will be enough to get the compromise bill through the House.

The compromise bill shifts away from the nation's longtime preference for family immigration to a new system that prioritizes entry based on merits and skills. It beefs up border security, clamps down on illegal entries and reinforces other immigration laws.

To address the rise of families being separated at the border, the measure proposes keeping children in detention with their parents, undoing 2-decade-old rules that limit the time minors can be held in custody.

Rep. Dave Brat, R-Va., another Freedom Caucus member, said he expects the GOP compromise bill to be defeated if it reaches the floor. "There's not enough votes because it doesn't solve the problem," he said.

Faced with the prospect of gridlock in the House, senators appear willing to take matters into their own hands.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican leader, said Senate Republicans are working on language to address the family separations that could receive a floor vote, potentially as part of a spending bill package.

"I don't think the answer to family separation is to not enforce the law. I think the answer to family separation is: Don't separate families while you're enforcing the law," Cornyn told reporters. "It's all within our power, and people have to overcome their desire to preserve an issue to campaign on."

Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said he wants to do

away with a legal settlement that requires the government to release children from custody and to their parents, adult relatives or other caretakers, in order of preference.

GOP senators including Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Jeff Flake of Arizona and Susan Collins of Maine also said they've been discussing family separation legislation.

Graham told reporters the measure would keep migrant families together, provide additional judges so detained families would face shorter waiting periods, and supply facilities for the families to stay. He said he did not know how much the proposal would cost.

The administration, meanwhile, is hoping to force Democrats to vote for the bills or bear some of the political cost in November's midterm elections. Democrats brushed aside that pressure.

"As everyone who has looked at this agrees, this was done by the president, not Democrats. He can fix it tomorrow if he wants to, and if he doesn't want to, he should own up to the fact that he's doing it," said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

Senate Democrats have rallied behind an immigration bill from Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. Her bill would prohibit the separation of migrant children from their parents, with exceptions for findings of child abuse or trafficking. If separations occur, Homeland Security would have to provide clear guidelines for how parents can contact their kids.

One House Republican in a swing district, Rep. Mike Coffman of Colorado, said he's willing to endorse the Feinstein bill if that's what it takes.

"I reached out to Sen. Feinstein's office to let her know I want to help her put a stop to this human rights disaster at the border. If that means introducing her bill in the House, I'd be honored to stand with her," he said.

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>

'Papa! Papa!' Audio of children stokes rage over separation

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT** and **ANITA SNOW**, Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — An audio recording that appears to capture the heartbreaking voices of small Spanish-speaking children crying out for their parents at a U.S. immigration facility took center stage Monday in the growing uproar over the Trump administration's policy of separating immigrant children from their parents.

"Papa! Papa!" one child is heard weeping in the audio file that was first reported by the nonprofit Pro-Publica and later provided to The Associated Press.

Human rights attorney Jennifer Harbury said she received the tape from a whistleblower and told Pro-Publica it was recorded in the last week. She did not provide details about where exactly it was recorded.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said she had not heard the audio but said children taken into custody by the government are being treated humanely. She said the government has high standards for detention centers and the children are well cared for, stressing that Congress needs to plug loopholes in the law so families can stay together.

The audio surfaced as politicians and advocates flocked to the U.S.-Mexico border to visit U.S. immigration detention centers and turn up the pressure on the Trump administration.

And the backlash over the policy widened. The Mormon church said it is "deeply troubled" by the separation of families at the border and urged national leaders to find compassionate solutions. Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, reversed a decision to send a National Guard helicopter from his state to the Mexican border to assist in a deployment, citing the administration's "cruel and inhumane" policy.

At the border, an estimated 80 people pleaded guilty Monday to immigration charges, including some who asked the judge questions such as "What's going to happen to my daughter?" and "What will happen to my son?"

Attorneys at the hearings said the immigrants had brought two dozen boys and girls with them to the

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U.S., and the judge replied that he didn't know what would happen to their children.

Several groups of lawmakers toured a nearby facility in Brownsville, Texas, that houses hundreds of immigrant children.

Democratic Rep. Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico said the location was a former hospital converted into living quarters for children, with rooms divided by age group. There was even a small room for infants, complete with two high chairs, where two baby boys wore matching rugby style shirts with orange and white stripes.

Another group of lawmakers on Sunday visited an old warehouse in McAllen, Texas, where hundreds of children are being held in cages created by metal fencing. One cage held 20 youngsters.

More than 1,100 people were inside the large, dark facility, which is divided into separate wings for unaccompanied children, adults on their own, and mothers and fathers with children.

In Texas' Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for people trying to enter the U.S., Border Patrol officials say they must crack down on migrants and separate adults from children as a deterrent to others trying to get into the U.S. illegally.

"When you exempt a group of people from the law ... that creates a draw," said Manuel Padilla, the Border Patrol's chief agent there.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, speaking to reporters during a tour of San Diego immigration detention facilities with Rep. Juan Vargas and other House Democrats, said family separation is a "heartbreaking, barbarian issue that could be changed in a moment by the president of the United States rescinding his action."

"It so challenges the conscience of our country that it must be changed and must be changed immediately," she said during a news conference at a San Diego terminal that is connected to the airport in Tijuana, Mexico, by a bridge.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas announced late Monday that he was introducing emergency legislation intended to keep immigrant families together.

"All Americans are rightly horrified by the images we are seeing on the news, children in tears pulled away from their mothers and fathers," Cruz said. "This must stop."

President Donald Trump emphatically defended his administration's policy Monday, again falsely blaming Democrats.

"The United States will not be a migrant camp and it will not be a refugee holding facility," he declared. "Not on my watch."

Snow reported from Phoenix. Associated Press writers Elliot Spagat in San Diego and Steve LeBlanc in Boston contributed to this report.

On a big night for 'Panther,' Boseman honors real-life hero

By PABLO ARAUZ PENA, Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — The MTV Movie & TV Awards gave "Black Panther" its first taste of awards glory, with Marvel's blockbuster taking home four honors including two awards for its star, Chadwick Boseman.

Boseman quickly handed off his best hero award to James Shaw Jr., who wrestled an assault-style rifle away from a gunman in a Tennessee Waffle House in April. "This is going to live at your house," Boseman told Shaw, giving him the show's golden popcorn award.

The actor said while it was an honor to be recognized for playing a superhero, it was more important to "acknowledge the heroes we have in real life."

Boseman, who starred as T'Challa in "Black Panther," also won the award for best performance in a movie. Michael B. Jordan, who played the villain Erik Killmonger, won best villain.

"Stranger Things" was the top television honoree, winning four awards including a repeat win for best

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show.

The awards were handed out Saturday and were broadcast Monday night.

The show is known for bringing fresh talent to light, as well as acknowledging established celebrities in more quirky categories like best kiss and most frightened performance. Host Tiffany Haddish donned a variety of costumes throughout the ceremony, including nods to classic film and TV roles such as Holly Golightly from "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and Starlet from "The Carol Burnett Show."

She kicked off the show with a "Black Panther" skit, foreshadowing the film's big night, noting in her opening monologue that it is the first African-American film to earn more than \$1 billion at the box office. Throughout the night, Haddish also parodied other hit films such as "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" and "A Quiet Place."

"Black Panther," about a king and virtuous superhero of the technologically-advanced nation of Wakanda, broke barriers earlier this year as the first Marvel film to feature a black lead. Its massive popularity overshadowed competing films like "Wonder Woman" and "Avengers: Infinity War."

Haddish, who also won an award for her breakthrough role in "Girls Trip," noted that she is the first black woman to host the awards show, which is in its 27th year.

The gay teen comedy "Love, Simon" won for best kiss for a scene between Nick Robinson and Keiynan Lonsdale.

While Robinson wasn't there to accept the award, Lonsdale gave some encouraging words to LGBTQ youth.

"I just want to say to every kid," he said. "You can live your dreams and kiss the one that you love no matter what gender."

In addition to winning best show, kids of "Stranger Things" also won awards for most frightened performance, best musical moment and best performance for Millie Bobby Brown. The actress, who plays Eleven in the series, couldn't make the event because of a broken kneecap. Brown accepted the award for best performance via satellite.

Other winners included Madelaine Petsch as Cheryl Blossom in "Riverdale" for scene stealer, Gal Gadot for best fight as Wonder Woman and the young cast of "It" for best on-screen team.

"Gaga: Fight Foot Two" won the award for best documentary. The Netflix feature followed Lady Gaga during the production of her fifth studio album "Joanne."

Common presented Lena Waithe with the trailblazer award for her activism, writing and "deeply honest art."

During her acceptance speech, Waithe paid tribute to "Paris is Burning," the 1990 documentary released about the drag scene in New York during the late '80s. She called those documented, many who aren't alive anymore, "the bravest human beings that ever lived"

"I'm doing what we as a society should have done a long time ago and give them the glory and shine that they deserve," she said.

Chris Pratt mixed humor and religious messages while accepting the show's generation award, telling the crowd to "breathe. If you don't, you'll suffocate."

He also urged fans to "learn to pray" and accept that they are imperfect.

The show also featured musical performances by Nick Jonas and Mustard, as well as rising stars and Beyoncé protégés Chloe x Halle.

Follow Pablo Arauz Pena on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pabloarauz>

Trump defiant despite rising outrage over border separations

By ZEKE MILLER and KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An unapologetic President Donald Trump defended his administration's border-protection policies in the face of rising national outrage over the forced separation of migrant children from their parents. Calling for tough action against illegal immigration, Trump declared the U.S. "will not be a migrant camp" on his watch.

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Images of children held in fenced cages fueled a growing chorus of condemnation from both political parties, four former first ladies and national evangelical leaders. The children are being held separately from parents who are being prosecuted under the administration's "zero-tolerance" policy for illegal border crossings.

Trump on Monday falsely blamed Democrats — the minority party in Washington — for obstructing legislation to fix the situation. In fact, it was Trump's administration that broke with longstanding practice of processing migrant families in civil, rather than criminal, proceedings that allow families to be held together.

"I say it's very strongly the Democrats' fault," Trump said Monday as his administration rejected criticism that the policy has resulted in inhuman and immoral conditions.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said, "We will not apologize for the job we do or for the job law enforcement does, for doing the job that the American people expect us to do."

In an appearance before the National Sheriffs' Association in New Orleans, Nielsen said: "Illegal actions have and must have consequences. No more free passes, no more get out of jail free cards."

Nearly 2,000 children were separated from their families over a six-week period in April and May after Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the new "zero-tolerance" policy that refers all cases of illegal entry for criminal prosecution. Prior procedure had limited prosecution for many family entrants, in part because regulations prohibit detaining children with their parents since the children are not charged with a crime and the parents are.

The policy change was meant to deter unlawful crossings — and Sessions issued a warning last month to those entering the U.S. illegally that their children "inevitably for a period of time might be in different conditions."

The current holding areas have drawn widespread attention after journalists gained access to one site Sunday. At a McAllen, Texas, detention center hundreds of immigrant children wait in a series of cages created by metal fencing. One cage had 20 children inside. Scattered about are bottles of water, bags of chips and large foil sheets intended to serve as blankets.

Audio of sobbing children calling out for their parents dominated the discussion Monday. "Papa! Papa!" one child is heard weeping in an audio file that was first reported by the nonprofit ProPublica and later provided to The Associated Press.

Administration officials said they do not like the family separations either — calling it the result of legal loopholes — but insist migrants who arrive illegally simply won't be released or loosely kept track of.

"The United States will not be a migrant camp and it will not be a refugee holding facility," Trump declared. "Not on my watch."

Sessions, on Monday, echoed the administration's defense of the zero tolerance policy, and called on Congress to act.

"We do not want to separate parents from their children," he said. "If we build the wall, if we pass legislation to end the lawlessness, we won't face these terrible choices."

Mindful of the national outcry, lawmakers in both parties rushed Monday to devise a targeted legislative fix. But the White House signaled it would oppose any narrow fix aimed solely at addressing the plight of children separated from their parents under the immigration crackdown. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump's priorities, like funding a border wall and tightening immigration laws, must also be fulfilled as part of any legislation.

"We want to fix the whole thing," she said. "We don't want to tinker with just part of it."

The national debate over the family separation policy comes as Republican lawmakers are growing ever more concerned about negative effects on their re-election campaigns this fall. Trump is to travel to Capitol Hill Tuesday for a strategy session on upcoming immigration legislation.

Underscoring the sensitivity of the issue, language curbing the taking of immigrant children from parents held in custody will be added to the House's conservative immigration bill, a House GOP aide said Monday. A similar provision is already in a compromise GOP immigration measure between party conservatives and moderates, with the House expected to vote on both late this week.

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The administration is hoping to force Democrats to vote for the bills or bear some of the political cost in November's midterm elections.

White House officials have privately embraced the border policy as a negotiating tactic to win votes for legislation to fulfill the president's pledge to build a border wall and to tighten the nation's immigration laws.

Trump's commitment to the current policy showed no sign of faltering as voices of outrage and condemnation grew louder and more diverse.

In Massachusetts, Republican Gov. Charlie Baker reversed a decision to send a state National Guard helicopter to the southern border, citing what he called the administration's "cruel and inhumane" policy of separating children from their parents.

The Rev. Franklin Graham, a longtime Trump ally, called the policy "disgraceful." Several religious groups, including some conservative ones, have pushed to stop the practice of separating immigrant children from their parents. The Mormon church said it was "deeply troubled" by the separation of families and urged national leaders to find compassionate solutions.

Former first lady Laura Bush called the policy "cruel" and "immoral," and said it was "eerily reminiscent" of the U.S. internment of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II.

On Capitol Hill, Republicans joined Democrats in calling for an end to the separations. Michigan Republican Rep. Fred Upton called for an immediate end to this "ugly and inhumane practice," adding, "It's never acceptable to use kids as bargaining chips in political process." Kansas GOP Sen. Pat Roberts said he is "against using parental separation as a deterrent to illegal immigration." And GOP Rep. Mike Coffman warned, "History won't remember well those who support the continuation of this policy."

Kevin McGill reported from New Orleans. AP writers Alan Fram, Ken Thomas, Jill Colvin and Catherine Lucey in Washington, Nick Riccardi in Denver and Nomaan Merchant in McAllen, Texas, contributed to this report.

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>

Authorities: Rapper XXXTentacion shot dead in Florida

By KELLI KENNEDY, Associated Press

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Troubled rapper-singer XXXTentacion was shot and killed Monday in Florida in what police called an apparent robbery attempt.

The 20-year-old rising star, whose real name is Jahseh Dwayne Onfroy, was pronounced dead Monday evening at a Fort Lauderdale-area hospital, the Broward Sheriff's Office said. He was shot earlier outside a Deerfield Beach motorcycle dealership.

XXXTentacion had been at RIVA Motorsports checking out inventory, sheriff's public information officer Keyla Concepcion said. He was in a black BMW i8 and preparing to leave before 4 p.m. when two armed suspects approached him. At least one of them fired, and then both suspects fled the scene in a dark SUV, Concepcion said. Investigators don't have a motive, and no arrests have been made.

Stephanie Martinez, a 29-year-old mother who lives in the neighborhood, was just coming back from the pool with her kids when she heard three shots. She drove to the end of the street and saw the rapper's body in the car.

"He has his mouth open and his hand out. Two people went over and checked his pulse," said Martinez, who also saw blood. "It's just weird because he should've had security and stuff with him."

On Twitter, his peers expressed shock and sadness.

Kanye West said: "rest in peace ... I never told you how much you inspired me when you were here thank you for existing." Producer Diplo posted a photo of the two together and said, "Thanks for inspiring me." Travis Barker tweeted: "I'm at a loss for words... speechless #RIPXXXTentacion Loved collaborating with you. You were a true artist ..."

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And J. Cole said, in part: "RIP X. Enormous talent and limitless potential and a strong desire to be a better person. God bless his family, friends and fans."

The entertainer, who sported dreadlocks and a number of facial tattoos, was a rising star and notched a No. 1 album in March with his sophomore effort "?" and had a top 10 hit with "Sad!" but was facing trial on charges that he beat up his pregnant girlfriend.

XXXTentacion racked up huge streaming numbers — on Spotify, his "Sad!" had more than 270 million streams and was on its Top 50 chart this week in the United States and globally. He also has several songs that have been declared platinum, including "Changes," "Roll in Peace" with fellow rapper Kodak Black and "Look at Me!"

In interview with XXL magazine, which named him an up-and-coming artist last year, the rapper cited Nirvana, the Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur among his musical influences.

"Obviously, I'm one of the greatest of this generation, the upcoming generation, as far as artistry. ... And I say that humbly," he said in a video interview with the outlet last year.

But much of his brief career had been mired in controversy. In 2016, he was arrested on charges including home invasion for a 2015 incident, and less than a month later was arrested on charges that he attacked his girlfriend, who was pregnant at the time. He later faced more charges including witness tampering.

Regarding a June 2017 attack at a San Diego concert, the following messages were posted on XXXTentacion's Twitter account: "security and venue set me up, I got sucker punched and knocked out, it is what it is."

A subsequent tweet said, "next time make sure you kill me so I can't talk (expletive)."

He was released from jail on house arrest late last year and was released from house arrest earlier this year to allow him to tour.

Fan Wyatt Rubin, 21, jumped in his car and headed to the scene shooting Monday as soon as he heard, playing the rapper's songs like "Jocelyn Flores" and "King" on the drive over.

"He was just maturing as a person and as an artist ... it couldn't have come at a worse time," Rubin said. "A lot of it was really beautiful music, progressive music."

In an interview earlier this month with the Miami New Times, XXXTentacion described his upbringing, which included seeing his mother infrequently and being raised by friends, other family and babysitters. His mother would buy him clothes, phones and other gifts. He told the paper he used violence so she would engage with him.

"I used to beat kids at school just to get her to talk to me, yell at me," he said.

XXXTentacion was initially one of two artists Spotify removed from its promoted playlists in May in accordance with its new policy on hateful music and conduct. But after a backlash in the music industry, Spotify backpedaled and said it would no longer attempt to police conduct and restored XXXTentacion to its playlists (although they did not do the same for R. Kelly).

While he made headlines for his legal woes, he connected to millions of fans musically. Among the topics he spoke about was depression and addressed it in his music.

In one video posted to social media, he said: "If worse things come to worse, I (expletive) die a tragic death or some (expletive), and I'm not able to see out my dreams, I at least want to know that the kids perceive my message and were able to make something of themselves."

He continued later: "I appreciate and love all of you and I believe in you all; do not let your depression make you, do not let your body define your soul, let your soul define your body. Your mind is limitless ... you are worth more than you can believe."

This story has been corrected to show "?" in all references that was released in March, not last month.

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Upping ante, Trump threatens new tariffs on Chinese imports

By ZEKE MILLER and JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump directed the U.S. Trade Representative to prepare new tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports on Monday as the two nations moved closer to a potential trade war.

The tariffs, which Trump wants set at a 10 percent rate, would be the latest round of punitive measures in an escalating dispute over the large trade imbalance between the two countries. Trump recently ordered tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods in retaliation for intellectual property theft. The tariffs were quickly matched by China on U.S. exports, a move that drew the president's ire.

"China apparently has no intention of changing its unfair practices related to the acquisition of American intellectual property and technology," Trump said in a statement Monday announcing the new action. "Rather than altering those practices, it is now threatening United States companies, workers, and farmers who have done nothing wrong."

Trump added: "These tariffs will go into effect if China refuses to change its practices, and also if it insists on going forward with the new tariffs that it has recently announced."

China's Commerce Ministry on Tuesday criticized the latest threat of tariffs, saying it was an "act of extreme pressure and blackmail that deviates from the consensus reached by both parties after many negotiations, and is a disappointment to the international community."

"If the U.S. becomes irrational and issues this list, China will have no choice but to adopt strong countermeasures of the same amount and quality," the ministry statement said.

Trump said that if China responds to this fresh round of tariffs, then he will move to counter "by pursuing additional tariffs on another \$200 billion of goods."

It wasn't immediately clear when the new tariffs could be put in place, as the trade office has yet to identify the Chinese goods to be penalized or conduct a legal review. The first round of penalties announced by both nations is set to take effect July 6.

The intellectual property sanctions were the latest in a spate of protectionist measures unveiled by Trump in recent months that included tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to the U.S. and a tough rhetoric on trade negotiations from North America to Asia.

The escalation in the dispute with China may also serve as a warning to other trading partners with whom Trump has been feuding, including Canada and the European Union.

The move quickly drew praise from former Trump senior adviser Steve Bannon, who told The Associated Press: "President Trump told China and the world tonight that America will not back down when it comes to economic aggression."

But Wall Street has viewed the escalating trade tensions with wariness, fearful they could strangle the economic growth achieved during Trump's watch. Gary Cohn, Trump's former top economic adviser, said last week that a "tariff battle" could result in price inflation and consumer debt — "historic ingredients for an economic slowdown."

Trump's comments came hours after the top U.S. diplomat accused China of engaging in "predatory economics 101" and an "unprecedented level of larceny" of intellectual property.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the remarks at the Detroit Economic Club as global markets reacted to trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

He said China's recent claims of "openness and globalization" are "a joke." He added that China is a "predatory economic government" that is "long overdue in being tackled," matters that include IP theft and Chinese steel and aluminum flooding the U.S. market.

"Everyone knows ... China is the main perpetrator," he said. "It's an unprecedented level of larceny."

"Just ask yourself: Would China have allowed America to do to it what China has done to America?" he said later. "This is predatory economics 101."

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment.

Pompeo raised the trade issue directly with China last week, when he met in Beijing with President Xi Jinping and others.

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"I reminded him that's not fair competition," Pompeo said.

Trump had announced a 25 percent tariff on up to \$50 billion in Chinese imports. China is retaliating by raising import duties on \$34 billion worth of American goods, including soybeans, electric cars and whiskey. Trump also has slapped tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and European allies.

Pompeo on Monday described U.S. actions as "economic diplomacy," which, when done right, strengthens national security and international alliances, he added.

"We use American power, economic might and influence as a tool of economic policy," he said. "We do our best to call out unfair economic behaviors as well."

In a statement, Trump says he has an "excellent relationship" with Xi, "but the United States will no longer be taken advantage of on trade by China and other countries in the world."

Karoub reported from Detroit. AP writer Ken Thomas contributed.

Redistricting changes headed to the ballot in several states

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling Monday on redistricting lawsuits in Wisconsin and Maryland comes as several states already are considering changes to the criteria and processes that will be used to draw legislative districts after the 2020 Census.

In most places, the state legislature and governor are responsible for redistricting U.S. House and state legislative seats. More than a dozen states primarily use boards or commissions to redraw state legislative districts, and about a half-dozen do so for congressional districts.

Here's a look at proposed redistricting measures that already have been — or are likely to be — placed on ballots this year:

COLORADO

Issues: Two proposed constitutional amendments placed on the Nov. 6 ballot by the state Legislature affecting congressional and state legislative redistricting.

Status quo: Congress: four Republicans, three Democrats. State Senate: 18 Republicans, 16 Democrats, one independent. State House: 36 Democrats, 29 Republicans.

Current process: For Congress, the state Legislature passes a redistricting plan by a majority vote, subject to a gubernatorial veto. For the Legislature, House and Senate districts are drawn by an 11-member commission consisting of four bipartisan legislative appointees, three gubernatorial appointees and four members chosen by the chief justice. Maps are automatically submitted to the state Supreme Court for review and, if rejected, the commission is given another chance to draw maps.

Proposed process: For both Congress and state legislative chambers, a 12-person commission — consisting of four Republicans, four Democrats and four independents — would be selected from a pool of applicants. Half would be chosen randomly and the rest by a judicial panel. Nonpartisan legislative staff would draft proposed maps for the commission's approval, which would require at least eight votes including two from independents. The state Supreme Court then would review the maps to determine whether legal criteria were followed. If not, legislative staff would draft a new plan for the commission to submit to the court.

Proposed criteria: Districts would have to be nearly equal in population, compact and as much as possible preserve communities of interest such as racial and ethnic groups and whole cities and counties. The commission also would have to "maximize the number of politically competitive districts."

OHIO

Issue: Constitutional amendment affecting congressional redistricting, approved by 75 percent of voters on May 8.

Status quo: Congress: 11 Republicans, four Democrats, one vacancy.

Old process: State Legislature passes a redistricting plan by a majority vote, subject to a gubernatorial

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veto.

New process: State Legislature passes a redistricting plan by a three-fifths majority with support of at least half the members of the majority and minority parties, subject to a gubernatorial veto. If that fails, districts are drawn by a seven-member commission composed of two majority and two minority party lawmakers, the governor, auditor and secretary of state; approval requires four votes, including two each from majority and minority party commissioners. If that fails, the Legislature may pass a plan by a three-fifths vote with the support of at least one-third of the majority and minority party members, subject to a gubernatorial veto. If that fails, the Legislature may pass a plan by a majority subject to a gubernatorial veto, but it would remain in effect for only four years instead of 10.

New Criteria: Districts must protect racial minority voting rights, be compact and contiguous, and limit the number of counties and cities that are split among multiple districts.

MICHIGAN

Issue: Petition signatures submitted for a proposed constitutional amendment on the Nov. 6 ballot affecting congressional and state legislative redistricting. The state appeals court has ordered that it be certified for the ballot, but an appeal is pending with the Michigan Supreme Court.

Status quo: Congress: nine Republicans, four Democrats, one vacancy. State Senate: 27 Republicans, 10 Democrats, one vacancy. State House: 63 Republicans, 46 Democrats, one vacancy.

Current process: State Legislature passes redistricting plans by a majority vote, subject to a gubernatorial veto.

Proposed process: Districts would be drawn by a 13-member citizens' commission, composed of four Democrats, four Republicans and five independents randomly selected by the secretary of state from among applicants. Approval of districts would require a majority vote with support of at least two Democrats, two Republicans and two independents. If that fails, each commissioner would submit a plan and rank their options by preference, with the highest-ranked plan prevailing. In case of a tie, the secretary of state would randomly select the final plan.

Proposed criteria: Districts must be compact, contiguous, limit splitting of counties and cities, "reflect the state's diverse population and communities of interest," not favor or disfavor incumbents, and not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party.

MISSOURI

Issue: Petition signatures submitted for a proposed constitutional amendment on the Nov. 6 ballot affecting state legislative redistricting.

Status quo: State Senate: 23 Republicans, nine Democrats, two vacancies. State House: 113 Republicans, 47 Democrats, three vacancies.

Current process: For the Senate, the governor appoints a 10-member bipartisan commission from nominees submitted by the state Republican and Democratic parties. For the House, the governor appoints a 16-member bipartisan commission from nominees submitted by Republican and Democratic congressional district committees. Approval of maps requires a seven-tenths majority vote. If that fails, the state Supreme Court appoints a panel of six appellate judges to draw the maps, with a majority vote of the panel required.

Proposed Process: A demographer would be selected from among applicants by agreement of the Senate majority and minority leaders or, if that fails, by random selection of the state auditor. The demographer, required to be a state resident, would submit maps for approval to the redistricting commissions, which would follow existing procedures for voting.

Proposed criteria: The demographer must take into account the rights of racial and language minorities and design districts to achieve both "partisan fairness" and "competitiveness" as determined by statistical measurements using the results of previous elections. Districts also shall be contiguous and limit splits among counties and cities. Compact districts are preferred but rank last among the criteria.

UTAH

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Issue: Petition signatures submitted and approved for a proposed constitutional amendment to appear on the Nov. 6 ballot affecting congressional and state legislative redistricting.

Status quo: Congress: Four Republicans. State Senate: 24 Republicans, five Democrats. State House: 62 Republicans, 13 Democrats.

Current process: State Legislature passes redistricting plans by a majority vote, subject to a gubernatorial veto.

Proposed process: Districts would be drawn by a seven-member commission, composed of one gubernatorial appointee, two appointees by Republican legislative leaders, two appointees by Democratic legislative leaders and two political independents appointed by majority and minority party legislative leaders. The commission may approve between one and three plans by a vote of at least five members. Their recommended plans then would be submitted to the Legislature for final approval or rejection. If the Legislature adopts a plan that wasn't recommended by the commission, it must provide a detailed explanation of why its plan better satisfies the redistricting standards.

Proposed criteria: Districts shall limit splits among cities and counties, be compact and contiguous, preserve communities of interest and not favor or disfavor incumbents. Partisan voting records may not be considered. But statistical tests, including a measurement of partisan symmetry, shall be used to determine whether the maps meet the other criteria.

Trump announces plans for Pentagon to create 'Space Force'

By LOLITA C. BALDOR, KEN THOMAS and MARCIA DUNN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump announced Monday he is directing the Pentagon to create a new "Space Force" as an independent military service branch aimed at ensuring American supremacy in space — though he may have limited power to develop a new military command.

While Trump has previously talked about his desire for a space unit, he seemed to take those musings one step further, specifically ordering the Pentagon to begin the creation of a sixth branch of the American armed forces.

"When it comes to defending America, it is not enough to merely have an American presence in space. We must have American dominance in space," Trump said during remarks at the White House. "We are going to have the Air Force and we are going to have the Space Force, separate but equal."

Turning to seek out Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Trump said, "General Dunford, if you would carry that assignment out, I would be very greatly honored also ...Where's General Dunford? General? Got it?"

Dunford appeared to acknowledge the order, responding, "we got it." But the directive seemed to take defense officials by surprise. Creating a new joint military command is largely the purview of Congress, which would have to provide the authority and any funding or shifting of money to a new unit.

Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said that the department understands the president's guidance, and is working on the matter while taking into consideration the implications for intelligence operations for the other services. "Working with Congress, this will be a deliberate process with a great deal of input from multiple stakeholders," she said.

A senior congressional aide said that Trump's order is consistent with efforts by members of Congress over the past two years to find a way to dedicate additional resources to the country's warfighting in space. But the issue has been contested, and even Defense Secretary Jim Mattis expressed some early reluctance to creating a new military service citing the expense and broader effort to integrate warfighting.

The Defense Department is already in the middle of a congressionally-mandated review of the space force issue. The study began in March, with an interim review due in August and a final report due December 31. It's not clear if the president's comments Monday were meant to override or influence that study.

Decades ago, the military deemed space a critical war-fighting domain, creating the Colorado-based Air Force Space Command in 1982. It includes more than 36,000 personnel around the world that provide space and cyber capabilities for the Defense Department. And the Space and Missile Systems Center at

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Los Angeles Air Force Base in California, designs and buys most of the Pentagon's space systems, while also overseeing satellite and other aircraft launches.

In addition, a number of federal defense agencies control portions of the space program, including NASA and the National Reconnaissance Office, which develops and operates surveillance spacecraft and satellites for intelligence gathering.

In a March document outlining the review, the Pentagon said it has already made organizational changes to beef up the stature of the space force, but is reviewing others. The document sent to Congress said the review will look at research, capabilities, acquisition and joint warfighting needs, and will assess "whether the Space Corps concept should be implemented."

The establishment of an independent space force was mentioned by Trump in a March speech to service members in California, but it has faced opposition since it could create an expensive new headquarters bureaucracy and trigger complex and divisive battles between the agencies that currently control part of the space mission. So far, the Pentagon doesn't have any cost estimates for the development of a new command, or any description of how it would be set up or its impact on other defense and intelligence agencies.

Ever since the Space Age started with the Soviet Union's launch of Sputnik, there has been a military and national security aspect to space, even though there are treaties and a United Nations committee that explicitly talk about keeping space a place of peace. In the 1950s, President Dwight Eisenhower established two separate space programs — a civilian one that became NASA, and a military one.

Trump more broadly envisioned a bright future for the U.S. space program, pledging to revive the country's flagging efforts, return to the moon and eventually send a human mission that would reach Mars. The president framed space as a national security issue, saying he does not want "China and Russia and other countries leading us." While the U.S. has dominated in space since the 1969 moon landing, China is making strong headway, while Russia is in decline.

"My administration is reclaiming America's heritage as the world's greatest spacefaring nation," Trump said in the East Room, joined by members of his space council. "The essence of the American character is to explore new horizons and to tame new frontiers."

The president also used the White House event to establish a new policy for reducing satellite clutter in space. The policy calls for providing a safe and secure environment up in orbit, as satellite traffic increases. It also sets up new guidelines for satellite design and operation, to avoid collisions and spacecraft breakups.

The council's executive secretary, Scott Pace, told reporters before the meeting that space is becoming increasingly congested and current guidelines are inadequate to address the challenge.

Trump also encouraged SpaceX, Blue Origin and other nontraditional aerospace companies led by wealthy U.S. entrepreneurs to beat NASA to Mars.

"Just go ahead, if you beat us to Mars, we'll be very happy, and you'll be even more famous," he said. "As long as it's an American rich person, that's good, OK? They can beat us. We'll save a little money, and they can beat us, and we're taking full credit for it, don't worry about it."

Dunn reported from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

H. Clinton: Separating families at border a 'moral crisis'

By DEEPTI HAJELA, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday called the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" policy that has separated children from their parents at the southern U.S. border "a moral and humanitarian crisis."

Speaking at an awards lunch for the Women's Forum of New York, Clinton said what was happening to families at the U.S.-Mexico border is "horrific."

"Every human being with a sense of compassion and decency should be outraged," Clinton said.

The separations stem from a policy that turns all cases of people trying to enter the country illegally

over for criminal prosecution. Children are not detained with their parents when those parents are facing a criminal charge, as per U.S. protocol.

President Donald Trump has defended the policy, which has taken nearly 2,000 immigrant children away from their parents.

"The United States will not be a migrant camp and it will not be a refugee holding facility," he added. "Not on my watch," Trump said Monday.

Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee, said she had warned during the campaign that Trump's hard-line immigration stance would result in family separations.

"Now as we watch with broken hearts, that's exactly what's happening," she said.

The policy has come under increasingly strong criticism, with accounts of children kept in cages and parents not knowing where their children are.

Trump has falsely blamed Democrats, and his administration has echoed his stance by claiming it was enforcing the law, with some using the Bible as religious justification.

Clinton pushed back on all of those points, saying the separations are required by no law and grounded in no religion.

"The test of any nation is how we treat the most vulnerable among us," she said. "We are a better country than one that tears families apart."

See AP's complete coverage of the debate over the Trump administration's policy of family separation at the border: <https://apnews.com/tag/Immigration>

Doubts loom over Colombia peace deal with hawk's election

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN** and **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**, Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Uncertainty loomed over Colombia's fragile peace deal on Monday with the victory of one of its most hawkish critics in a bruising presidential runoff that laid bare deep divisions in the South American nation as it emerges from decades of bloody conflict.

Ivan Duque, a law-and-order disciple of a powerful former president, won Sunday's vote with a commanding 12-point lead over rival Gustavo Petro, a former rebel and ex-Bogota mayor.

On the campaign trail, Duque repeatedly vowed to roll back benefits inscribed in the deal, such as demanding that rebel commanders behind scores of atrocities first confess to their war crimes and compensate victims before they are allowed to take up the congressional seats they have been promised in the accord.

But once he takes office in August from the peace deal's architect, President Juan Manuel Santos, Duque is likely to tread softer if he wants to broaden his base of support and unite the country, analysts said.

"Ironically, he has a chance to make the accords stronger by providing something the peace process has lacked from the outset: a national consensus," said Michael Shifter, a longtime observer of Colombia and president of the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington.

This year's elections were the safest in generations, a testament to how far the country has already come in putting Latin America's longest-running conflict behind it. Not a single act of violence affected the campaign.

In the final stretch before the vote, as victory seemed within reach, the pro-business Duque was already moderating some of his proposals, including a call to overturn a negotiated amnesty for rebels involved in drug trafficking. He also stressed that rank-and-file guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia would have his full support in making their transition to civilian life.

While Santos didn't endorse any candidate and has feuded with Duque's mentor, former President Alvaro Uribe, throughout his eight years in office, two of Santos' advisers on the peace process have quietly migrated to the Duque camp in recent months, which is likely to make for a smoother transition.

"This is the opportunity that we have been waiting for," the 41-year-old Duque said in his victory speech, playing up his youth — he is the youngest Colombian president ever elected in a popular vote — and pledging "to turn the page on the politics of polarization, insults and venom."

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His biggest challenge will be reining in the pressure from conservative allies. As a senator Duque earned a reputation for being a thoughtful, cordial adversary who frequently stretched his hand across the aisle, but some of his prominent backers are outright hostile to the FARC. Hours after his victory, congresswoman Maria Fernanda Cabal blasted on social media: "The FARC lost. Colombia won!"

One unknown is how much influence Uribe will wield. Duque was elected to Colombia's Senate in 2014 barely two months after returning to Colombia from Washington, where he had worked for more than a decade at a development bank, thanks to Uribe's endorsement. Throughout his presidential campaign, he was dogged by accusations that he would be little more than a puppet for Uribe, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a third term. Though praised for weakening the FARC and drawing record foreign investment, Uribe has also been blamed for the military's killing of thousands of civilians who were falsely accused of being rebels.

"He will have to make some adjustments to the accord, if only to placate Uribe and other hard-liners and avoid being labeled a traitor," Shifter said. "But these could be relatively modest and not put the entire peace effort at risk."

It's also not clear how much leeway there is to make changes to the 310-page accord that put a formal end to a conflict that caused more than 250,000 deaths. Colombia's constitutional court has declared some aspects of the agreement irreversible. For Duque to prevail in his call for substantive "corrections" that deliver "peace with justice," he'll likely need to build political support in Congress that he currently lacks to pass a constitutional reform.

Among the rebels there is concern — and some goodwill.

The FARC has already accepted changes to the accord once before, after the original deal was rejected by voters led by Uribe in a referendum. After Sunday's election victory, ex-guerrilla leader Rodrigo Londoño immediately congratulated Duque and said Colombians should work together because "the road of hope is open."

"The truth is we're worried," said Elkin Sepulveda, who joined the FARC at 15 and is now trying to launch an organization to help ex-combatants disabled during the conflict. He's living in a rural camp in northern Colombia where some 200 rebels are catching up on their studies and learning new skills needed to reintegrate into civilian life.

Even before the election, implementation of the accord had been slow going and rebel commanders have complained that the recent arrest of a former rebel peace negotiator on U.S. drug charges could lead some of the 7,000 fighters who've surrendered their weapons to join dissident rebel factions or criminal gangs that have proliferated in former FARC-dominated areas.

"We hope that the next government complies with the peace accords," said Virginia Lobo, a FARC militant living in the same camp. "Nobody wants to return to war."

In addition to dealing with the rebels, Duque will have to contend with a weak economy, a migration crisis spurred by neighboring Venezuela's collapse and a boom in illegal coca crops that has tested traditionally close relations with the U.S.

As part of the peace process, Santos had been betting heavily on a coca crop substitution program that has so far failed to reduce the supply of cocaine, leading the Trump administration to warn last year that it could decertify Colombia as a partner in the war on drugs. Last week, the government said the amount of land dedicated to coca production surged 23 percent last year, to 180,000 hectares, a level unseen in decades.

In March, Duque said he'd bring back a controversial aerial coca eradication program that Santos ended over health concerns. In his victory speech on Sunday, he said the rise in coca production threatens Colombia's national security.

"Duque has the opportunity to be sort of like Nixon going to China," said Bernard Aronson, who was the Obama administration's special envoy to the Colombia peace talks. "I think he's smart enough to know that not to pursue a pragmatic route could start his presidency off with a big crisis."

Associated Press writer Manuel Rueda in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.

Merkel, allies avert collision for now in German migrant row

By GEIR MOULSON, Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Chancellor Angela Merkel's allies in Bavaria averted an immediate collision Monday with the German leader, giving her two weeks to make deals on migrants with other European countries instead of turning them back unilaterally at Germany's border.

In her fourth term at the helm of Europe's largest economy, Merkel made it clear that she has no intention of being pushed around after an internal power struggle over immigration escalated into a threat to her government.

She said she would report back July 1 on the results of her negotiations, and that as far as she's concerned it's not yet clear what will happen if there's no European deal on the divisive topic.

Her interior minister, Horst Seehofer, has been calling for Germany to turn back migrants at the border who have previously applied for asylum or registered as asylum-seekers in other European countries.

Merkel opposes such unilateral action, arguing that it would increase pressure on Mediterranean countries such as Italy and Greece and weaken the entire 28-nation European Union.

Seehofer heads the Bavaria-only Christian Social Union, the sister party to Merkel's Christian Democratic Union. The CSU is determined to show that it's tough on migration, arguing that this is the best way to cut support for the anti-migration, far-right Alternative for Germany party ahead of a challenging state election in Bavaria in October.

A CSU leadership meeting Monday in Munich unanimously backed Seehofer's plan to give Merkel until the end of the month to find a solution with other EU countries. That banished — if only for now — the specter of Seehofer pushing through his proposal in defiance of the chancellor, which would risk bringing down her government.

Asked in Berlin whether her government can work well until the end of its term in 2021 and whether she is still in full control, Merkel replied: "Yes to both."

Merkel emphasized the need for Germany's conservative parties to stick together, but she and Seehofer may only have delayed a head-on collision.

"We think that turning people back without consultation at our borders, as a country at the heart of Europe, could lead to negative domino effects that could also hurt Germany and ultimately lead to the questioning of European unity," Merkel said after her party's leadership met.

Merkel said she would hold bilateral agreement talks during a June 28-29 EU summit. Her party will consider the results on July 1 "and decide how to proceed in light of what has been achieved," she said.

It wasn't immediately clear what she might offer other countries in the talks. Merkel said she will have to discuss "what is important for others; I can't say today what that is."

Hours later, Merkel met in Berlin with Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte, the head of a new, populist government whose interior minister has pledged to deport tens of thousands of migrants.

The German leader noted that both Italy and Germany have been disproportionately affected by recent mass migration to Europe, where Italy is often the point of entry for new arrivals and Germany the hoped-for destination.

Merkel said European nations needed to work harder to help Libya and other points of departure to provide for refugees so they don't attempt the perilous trip across the Mediterranean Sea. She also called for doing more to stop human smugglers.

"We want to support Italy's desire for solidarity, and also hope that Germany receives understanding when it comes to the question of European solidarity on the question of migration," she said.

Saying he appreciated Merkel's acknowledgment of Italy's situation, Conte reiterated his view that EU accords that link asylum-seekers to the first country they reach should be replaced.

The Italian government is proposing so-called "hotspots" in migrants' countries of origin or transit to prescreen asylum candidates before they set out for Europe.

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Such an approach, Conte said, would reflect more of a shared view of the challenge and less of what he said was the prevailing attitude now that "he who sets foot in Italy sets foot in Europe."

In Munich, Seehofer said his party would be happy to see European or bilateral solutions this month that "achieve the same that we can achieve by turning people back at the border."

"We wish the chancellor success in this," he said. "But we stand by our position that, if this does not succeed, turning people back immediately at the border must be possible."

Seehofer said he told fellow leaders that "we're not out of the woods yet."

He said he would go ahead with preparations to block some asylum-seekers at the border in case Merkel's negotiations on getting other countries to take back migrants don't bear fruit.

The spat over immigration has laid bare the deep tensions in a fractious German government that took office only in March, after nearly six months of postelection haggling. The two conservative parties govern Germany in a coalition with the center-left Social Democrats.

Seehofer and Merkel have long had an awkward relationship. In his previous job as Bavarian governor, Seehofer was one of the leading critics of Merkel's decision in 2015 to leave Germany's borders open as migrants streamed across the Balkans.

Most first arrived in Bavaria, which borders Austria. More than 1 million migrants came to Germany in 2015 and 2016, though the number of new arrivals has since dropped sharply.

In Brussels, the EU asylum office said Monday the number of people applying for international protection in Europe plunged last year but remains higher than before 2015, when more than 1 million migrants entered, many fleeing the war in Syria.

The office said 728,470 application requests were made for international protection in 2017, compared to almost 1.3 million applications the previous year. Around 30 percent came from conflict-torn countries such as Syria and Iraq.

David Rising in Berlin and Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this story.

Apple sets up iPhones to relay location for 911 calls

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is trying to drag the U.S.'s antiquated system for handling 911 calls into the 21st century.

If it lives up to Apple's promise, the iPhone's next operating system will automatically deliver quicker and more reliable information pinpointing the location of 911 calls to about 6,300 emergency response centers in the U.S.

Apple is trying to solve a problem caused by the technological mismatch between a 50-year-old system built for landlines and today's increasingly sophisticated smartphones.

An estimated 80 percent of roughly 240 million emergency calls in the U.S. this year will come from mobile phones, most of which are capable of precisely tracking where their users are.

Emergency calling centers, however, don't get that detailed location information from mobile 911 calls. Instead, they get the location of the cellular tower transmitting the call, and must rely on other methods to figure out where the caller is.

That can take up precious time and often isn't very accurate, especially when calls come from inside a building. Emergency responders are sometimes dispatched a mile or more away from a caller's location.

Apple's upcoming 911 feature relies on technology from RapidSOS, a New York startup. The approach developed by Apple and RapidSOS sends location data from an iPhone to a "clearinghouse" accessible to emergency calling centers. Only the 911 calling centers will be able to see the data during the call, and none of it can be used for non-emergency purposes, according to Apple.

Individual call centers will each have to embrace the technology required to communicate with the RapidSOS clearinghouse. Some centers already have the compatible software, according to Apple, but others will have to install upgrades to their existing software.

Apple expects calling centers for large metropolitan areas to upgrade more quickly than those in rural areas.

Tom Wheeler, a former chairman for the Federal Communications Commission, believes Apple's new approach for locating 911 calls will set a new industry standard. "This is going to save a lot of lives," said Wheeler, now a visiting professor at Harvard University. He said he hopes other phone makers will follow Apple's lead.

The planned changes were announced Monday in Nashville, Tennessee during a 911 convention. They'll be part of iOS 12, the next version of Apple's iPhone software, which the company will release in September as a free update.

Trump administration to propose 'association health plans'

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is close to finalizing a health insurance option for small firms and self-employed people that would cost less but could cover fewer benefits than current plans, congressional officials and business groups said.

They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the pending announcement. The Labor Department scheduled an announcement Tuesday morning.

As originally proposed, the new "association health plans" would have to cover people with pre-existing health conditions. However, they could offer narrower benefits than required under the Obama-era health law.

They could be marketed across state lines to businesses in a common industry — auto repair shops, for example — or they could be sold to self-employed people like musicians.

President Donald Trump has long asserted that promoting the sale of health insurance across state lines can bring down premiums without sacrificing quality. But many experts aren't convinced, because medical costs vary greatly according to geography. Like real estate, health insurance is a local business.

Ultimately, the idea's success depends on buy-in from plan sponsors, consumers, insurers and state regulators. No major consequences are expected for people covered by large employers.

After Republicans hit a dead end trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the Trump administration has pushed regulatory actions to loosen ACA requirements and try to lower premiums for individuals and small businesses, which now reflect the cost of comprehensive coverage.

Another major initiative is expected later this summer when the administration eases rules for short-term health plans lasting less than a full year that could be purchased by individuals. Those plans wouldn't have to cover people with pre-existing conditions, but would offer healthy people much lower premiums.

Critics say the administration's approach will draw healthy people away from the Obama health law's insurance markets, raising the cost of coverage, which is subsidized by taxpayers. About 11 million people are covered by HealthCare.gov and state markets, but the administration's priority is to try to lower premiums for another 7 million or so who buy their coverage directly and don't get any help from the government.

"To the extent that these plans develop and serve as a parallel market, that could have a destabilizing effect," said Karen Pollitz of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, an expert on individual health insurance. Pollitz also served as a consumer protection regulator in the Obama administration.

"People who think they can get by without those (comprehensive) benefits will look for cheaper premiums," she added.

State insurance regulators are concerned about association health plans because similar plans in the past had problems with financial solvency and even fraud. A key concern about Tuesday's announcement is to what degree state regulators will retain oversight over the Trump administration's new plans.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 19, the 170th day of 2018. There are 195 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 19, 1953, Julius Rosenberg, 35, and his wife, Ethel, 37, convicted of conspiring to pass U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union, were executed at Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York.

On this date:

In 1775, George Washington was commissioned by the Continental Congress as commander in chief of the Continental Army.

In 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War was over, and that all remaining slaves in Texas were free — an event celebrated to this day as "Juneteenth."

In 1867, Maximilian I, emperor of Mexico, was executed by firing squad a month after being taken prisoner by the forces of President Benito Juarez. The inaugural running of the Belmont Stakes took place; the winner was a filly named Ruthless.

In 1868, "Tales from the Vienna Woods," a waltz by Johann Strauss "the Younger," was first publicly performed by Strauss' orchestra.

In 1917, during World War I, King George V ordered the British royal family to dispense with German titles and surnames; the family took the name "Windsor."

In 1938, four dozen people were killed when a railroad bridge in Montana collapsed, sending a train known as the Olympian hurtling into Custer Creek.

In 1944, during World War II, the two-day Battle of the Philippine Sea began, resulting in a decisive victory for the Americans over the Japanese.

In 1952, the U.S. Army Special Forces, the elite unit of fighters known as the Green Berets, was established at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The celebrity-panel game show "I've Got A Secret" debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was approved by the U.S. Senate, 73-27, after surviving a lengthy filibuster.

In 1978, the comic strip "Garfield," created by Jim Davis, was first published in 41 newspapers. The Alicia Bridges single "I Love the Nightlife (Disco Round)" was released by Polydor Records.

In 1986, University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, the first draft pick of the Boston Celtics, suffered a fatal cocaine-induced seizure. Artificial heart recipient Murray P. Haydon died in Louisville, Kentucky, after 16 months on the man-made pump.

In 1999, author Stephen King was seriously injured when he was struck by a van driven by Bryan Smith in North Lovell, Maine. Britain's Prince Edward married commoner Sophie Rhys-Jones (rees johnz) in Windsor, England.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush surveyed the aftermath of devastating floods during a quick tour of the Midwest, assuring residents and rescuers alike that he was listening to their concerns and understood their exhaustion. Democrat Barack Obama announced he would bypass public financing for the presidential election, even though Republican John McCain was accepting it.

Five years ago: Afghan President Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAH'R'-zeye) suspended talks with the United States on a new security deal to protest the way his government was left out of initial peace negotiations with the Taliban. President Barack Obama, speaking in front of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate, pledged to cut deployed U.S. nuclear weapons by one-third if Cold War foe Russia did the same. Actor James Gandolfini, 51, died while vacationing in Rome. Country singer Slim Whitman, 90, died in Orange Park, Florida.

One year ago: Otto Warmbier (WARM'-beer), a 22-year-old American college student released by North Korea in a coma after more than a year in captivity, died in a Cincinnati hospital. A man drove a van into worshippers near a London mosque, killing one man and injuring a dozen others; a suspect was later sentenced to at least 43 years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Pop singer Tommy DeVito (The Four Seasons) is 90. Actress Gena (JEH'-nuh) Rowlands

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is 88. Hall of Fame race car driver Shirley Muldowney is 78. Singer Spanky McFarlane (Spanky and Our Gang) is 76. Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee) is 73. Author Sir Salman Rushdie is 71. Actress Phylicia Rashad is 70. Rock singer Ann Wilson (Heart) is 68. Musician Larry Dunn is 65. Actress Kathleen Turner is 64. Country singer Doug Stone is 62. Singer Mark DeBarge is 59. Singer-dancer-choreographer Paula Abdul is 56. Actor Andy Lauer is 55. Rock singer-musician Brian Vander Ark (Verve Pipe) is 54. Actor Samuel West is 52. Actress Mia Sara is 51. TV personality Lara Spencer is 49. Rock musician Brian "Head" Welch is 48. Actor Jean Dujardin is 46. Actress Robin Tunney is 46. Actor Bumper Robinson is 44. Actress Poppy Montgomery is 43. Alt-country singer-musician Scott Avett (AY'-veht) (The Avett Brothers) is 42. Actor Ryan Hurst is 42. Actress Zoe Saldana is 40. Actress Lauren Lee Smith is 38. Rapper Macklemore (Macklemore and Ryan Lewis) is 35. Actor Paul Dano is 34. Actor Giacomo Gianniotti is 29. Actor Chuku Modu (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 28. Actor Atticus Shaffer is 20.

Thought for Today: "To seek fulfillment is to invite frustration." — Jiddu Krishnamurti, Indian author and philosopher (1895-1986).