

Groton Daily Independent

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

BLOCKER
CONSTRUCTION

NEW CONSTRUCTION
REMODELING
HOOP BARNs

(605) 216-2677 (605) 226-4062



Help Wanted

Dairy Queen in Groton has openings for part-time team members – day hours during the school year and can be year round, if desired. Flexible scheduling. Stop in to apply. 11 East Hwy 12, Groton, SD.

Janitor Wanted

The Groton Area School District has immediate openings for a full or part-time custodian. Position includes great benefits package. Apply at the Groton Area School District Office – 406 N 2nd Street. (0808.0823)



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Deer Hunt Available for First Time Youth Deer Hunters

PRESHO, S.D. – Ten first-time deer hunters will have the opportunity to participate in a mentored youth deer hunt on Sept. 22-23 at the Snake Den Lodge in Presho.

The Lyman and Jones County Pheasants Forever chapters in partnership with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) are hosting a free event that is open to first-time youth deer hunters between the ages of 10 and 15. The youth hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to participate.

Youth hunters will learn how to select the best ammunition and firearm for deer hunting, improve shooting and firearm safety, sight in a firearm and field dress and properly care for meat. Participants will be provided meals, snacks, lodging, deer licenses, guns, ammunition, safety equipment, transportation to and from the field, binoculars and assistance with field processing.

"This youth hunt is built for kids who don't have the opportunity to hunt or who have never hunted," said Lyman/Jones County Conservation Officer Spencer Downey. "We want to teach the kids about safety, ethics and being in the outdoors; all while taking part in one of our state's most popular pastimes. It's an experience they'll remember forever."

Each hunter will be paired with a knowledgeable and experienced hunting guide. Participation is limited to ten youth hunters. Applicants will be selected based on application responses. Successful applicants are required to attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting on the morning of Sept. 22. Hunting will take place on Presho-area farms on Sept. 22-23.

For more information and to apply for this opportunity, contact Spencer Downey at 605.730.0774 or youthdeerhunt@gmail.com. Application deadline is Aug. 31.

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Sat. Aug. 18, 2018 10:00 am

Location: Trucks-N-Tractors, 14069 434th Ave., Webster, SD 57274

Now taking Consignments – Watch Website & Next Week's Forum for Sale Bill. Tractors, Combines/Heads, Payloaders/Skidsteers, Semis/Trailers, Vehicles/ATVs, Planting/Haying/Spraying/Augers, Construction Equipment, Fencing.

**To consign your equipment, call our office at
605-448-0048 or Bill Jensen 605-848-0943**

Don Wolter 605-881-6789

VOLD AUCTIONEERS & REALTY

voldrealty.com voldauctions@ag4bid.com

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Sturgis Rally Vehicle Counts Continue Upward Climb

STURGIS, S.D. – Data from the South Dakota Department of Transportation shows that traffic is up 3.8 percent overall for the first five days of this year's 78th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally compared to the same time last year.

The numbers, released Wednesday, are for Friday through Tuesday.

Traffic totals at the nine locations entering Sturgis for the 2018 Rally:

Friday August 3: 49,424 entering – up 1.9% from Friday last year

Saturday August 4: 60,119 entering – up 10.8% from Saturday last year

Sunday August 5: 52,153 entering – down 4.2% from Sunday last year

Monday August 6: 59,431 entering – up 1.55% from Monday last year

Tuesday August 7: 60,281 entering – up 8.8% from Tuesday last year

Five Day total:

2018: 281,408 2017: 271,126 up
3.8% over last year

Note: One of the entering stations had a counter failure for much of Tuesday so the count for that station was estimated.

**SCHOOL
SUPPLIES DRIVE**



**GROTON CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER
HAS BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT! STARTING
AUGUST 1ST THRU AUGUST 20TH WE WILL BE
COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT THE
FACILITY TO GIVE TO THE GROTON AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT.**





Presenting Swanson with the award is the president of the South Dakota American Choral Directors Association, Kaye Waltner. (Courtesy photo)

Garduno sings in Honor Choir; Swanson earns Overture Award

Ashley Garduno of Groton attended the 2018 Honor Choir in Sioux Falls on August 6. This is Ashley's second consecutive year for attending this event as one of the alto singers.

Groton Area Choir Director Cody Swanson was presented with the Overture Award. The Overture Award is presented to a choral director working in South Dakota in recognition of excellence in his or her first five years in choral music education.



Ashley Garduno is pictured on the left with a friend from Huron, Bethany Larson. Larson's mother, Trisha Larson, was the director at NE-SO-Dak Bible Camp on Enemy Swim Lake when Bethany and Ashley were about 3 years old. Since then they have moved to Huron. (Courtesy photo)

Van Riper wins national honor from Kappa Psi

A dozen years after he retired from the faculty, Gary Van Riper, a 1964 GHS graduate, continues to win awards for the work he does with students.

This summer the assistant professor emeritus from the South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions was awarded the Grand Council Deputy Outstanding Achievement Award by Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity. Van Riper has been adviser for 45 years, longer than anyone else in the national organization.

The Brookings resident also has won the adviser of the year award more than anyone else—2005, when it was first presented, 2015 and this year.

"His reputation precedes him and he has always been around to make sure (Kappa Psi) brothers are understanding the importance of what it means to be a brother," according to Savannah Suchor, the regent (president) of the Gamma Kappa chapter in 2017-18.

Van Riper scored a perfect 1,400 points on objective categories like years a Grand Council Deputy (the group's term for adviser), percentage of chapter meetings attended and number of chapter social events attended. A committee then subjectively ranks essays written by chapter presidents, according to Van Riper, who actually is committee co-chair.

Committee members don't evaluate applications from their own chapter, he clarified.

Kappa Psi, the largest professional pharmaceutical fraternity in the world, has 111 collegiate chapters and 24 of them submitted applications to honor their Grand Council Deputy.

Van Riper, who retired in 2006 after 34 years on the faculty, said he continues to advise the chapter because "We enjoy the interaction with the students. (My wife) Sharon and I say it keeps us young. It keeps us in touch with the university and we've made a tremendous number of friends in the Northern Plains."

In addition to Kappa Psi, Van Riper also stays in touch with the South Dakota Pharmacists Association, where leaders are often former Kappa Psi brothers and has served as secretary of the South Dakota Society of Health-System Pharmacists for 44 years.

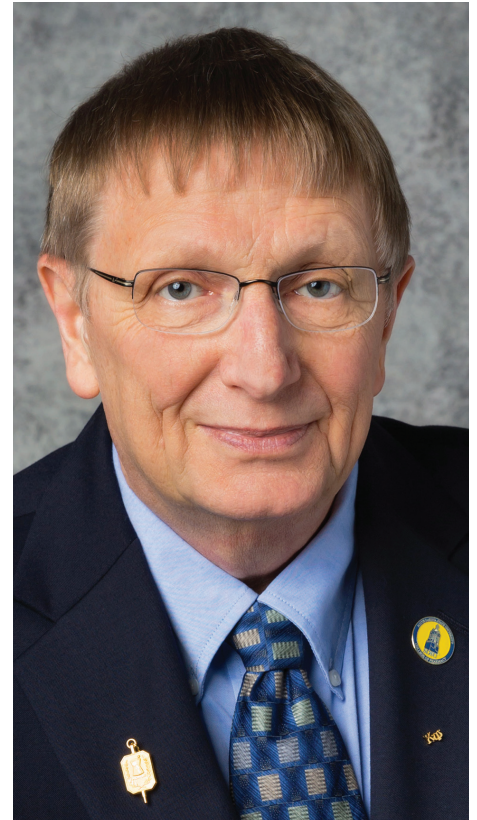
Suchor wrote, "Gary Van Riper has been a longtime standing role model for all of us brothers. He routinely follows up with the executive board by making sure the officers are ahead of their tasks for the semester. I can't think of a time when he ever missed a meeting or was unprepared for any activity that was going on in the Gamma Kappa chapter.

"GVR always made an effort to make an appearance at nearly every event we had going on throughout the year. He was a major staple in the success of our chapter and our brothers on the collegiate level. His capability to instill a sense of pride of the profession of pharmacy, through Kappa Psi, in fellow brothers is beyond comprehension."

His work in the chapter also is evidenced in awards won by the chapter—five times (1997-98, 2009-11) it has had the best academic record of any chapter. In addition, the chapter has numerous top 10 placings for overall excellence, fueled in part by the group's extensive community service.

Van Riper, who is pushing toward his 72nd birthday, plans to continue "as long as I'm able to do so."

- Dave Graves



Gary Van Riper
1964 GHS Graduate

Gov. Dugaard Fills Three Legislative Vacancies In Advance Of Sept. 12 Special Session

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Dugaard today announced that he will fill three vacancies in the South Dakota State Legislature. The appointments come in anticipation of next month's special legislative session, which the Governor called to consider legislation relating to implementation of sales tax on remote sellers.

The three appointees, all Republicans, are currently candidates for their respective seats in the 2018 general election. The appointments are effective immediately and run until the newly-elected State Legislature convenes in January 2019.

"With the upcoming special session, it is important for these districts to be fully represented," said Gov. Dugaard. "I thank Maggie Sutton, Rebecca Reimer and Scyller Borglum for their willingness to serve in this way."

District 10 State Senate

Gov. Dugaard will appoint Margaret "Maggie" Sutton, of Sioux Falls, to the State Senate from District 10. Sutton is a sales manager for Trademark Uniforms in Sioux Falls. She will succeed Sen. Jenna Netherton, who resigned in April.

District 10 includes an area of Minnehaha County encompassing the cities of Brandon, Corson and Renner, as well as a portion of northeastern Sioux Falls.

District 26B State House of Representatives

The Governor will appoint Rebecca Reimer, of Oacoma, to the State House of Representatives from District 26B. Reimer is a financial representative and served for 13 years on the Chamberlain/Oacoma school board. She will succeed Rep. Jim Schaefer, who died in May.

District 26B includes Brule, Buffalo, Jones and Lyman counties.

District 32 State House of Representatives

Gov. Dugaard will appoint Scyller J. Borglum, of Rapid City, to the State House of Representatives from District 32. Borglum, an entrepreneur and engineer, earned her doctorate in geological engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. She will succeed Rep. Sean McPherson, who died in April.

District 32 includes downtown Rapid City and the area to the south.

Detailed maps of all three districts are available at http://sdlegislature.gov/Reference_Materials/Maps/Default.aspx.



The Life of Jean Hanson

A Celebration of Life for Jean Sippel Hanson, 85, of Aberdeen will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 8, at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Pastor Brandon Dunham will officiate. Inurnment will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Jean passed away Sunday, August 5, 2018, at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo after injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Jean Koehler was born on December 21, 1932, in Brown County, SD, to William and Josephine (Donovan) Koehler. She attended and graduated from Groton High School. In 1950, she married Blaine Sippel who died in 1961. Together they were blessed with three daughters: Vickie, Sandy, and Pam. Jean worked as a bookkeeper for the Farmers Union in Pierpont and later in payroll administration in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1980, she married Royal "Sonny" Hanson, and they made their home in Phoenix, Arizona.

Celebrating her life are her daughters, Vickie (Don) Gooding of Bismarck, North Dakota; Sandy (Tom) Deis of Bismarck, North Dakota; Pam (Jeff Penney) Sippel of Parker, Colorado, and her grandchildren: Stace Gooding, Teresa Wald, Jessica Gooding, Shannon Paulson, Jeremy Camire, Tyler Penney, and Kelly Penney. She is also survived by her brother, Don Koehler of Groton.

Jean will be remembered for her giving nature through her volunteer work at Storybook Land and Meals on Wheels and for the life she dedicated to the wellbeing of her family. She had an open mind and a big heart for those in need whether they were family or friends or causes dear to her. What will be greatly missed is her keen sense of humor--there was never a conversation with Jean without smiles and laughter!

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husbands Blaine and Sonny. her sister Darlene Nehls, and her brother Jerry Koehler.

Memorial donations in memory of Jean can be made to the Salvation Army, 1003 6th Ave SW, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

www.paetznick-garness.com

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

August 13, 2018 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of July 9, 2018 school board meeting as drafted.

2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as fiscal agent.

3. Approval of July 2018 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.

4. Approve Open Enrollment Applications #19-15 (Grade 7), #19-16 (Grade 8), and #19-17 (Grade 9) from Aberdeen School District.

5. Acknowledge receipt of Public School Exemption #19-01 (Grades 1, 6, and 7).

6. Acknowledge receipt of Public School Exemption #19-02 (Grade 11).

7. Acknowledge receipt of Public School Exemption #19-03 (Grade K).

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

2. School Board Committee Reports:

a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder

b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Deb Gengerke, Kara Pharis

c. Negotiations: Grant Rix, Steve Smith, Marty Weismantel

3. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review/Approve 2018-2019 bus routes.

2. Authorize Eide Bailly to conduct FY2018 School District Audit.

3. Energy Efficiency presentation – Doug Dykstra, GenPro Energy Solutions.

4. Consideration of playground proposals from Lien's Transportation.

5. Approve resignation of Kandi Weismantel, Elementary Paraprofessional.

6. Approve resignation of Deb Kurth, Elementary Paraprofessional.

7. Approve Jasmine Schaller as volunteer assistant girls soccer coach.

8. Approve Wyatt Kurtz as volunteer assistant boys soccer coach.

ADJOURN

West Nile Virus — South Dakota

August 8, 2018



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Human West Nile Virus (WNV) reported to SD Department of Health (SD-DOH)

Human cases: 27 (Median age: 47; range 2-85)

Hospitalized: 5

Deaths: 1

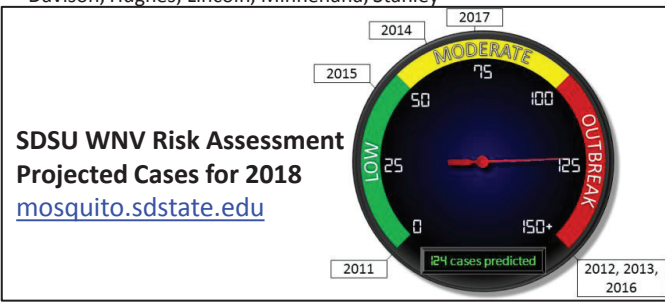
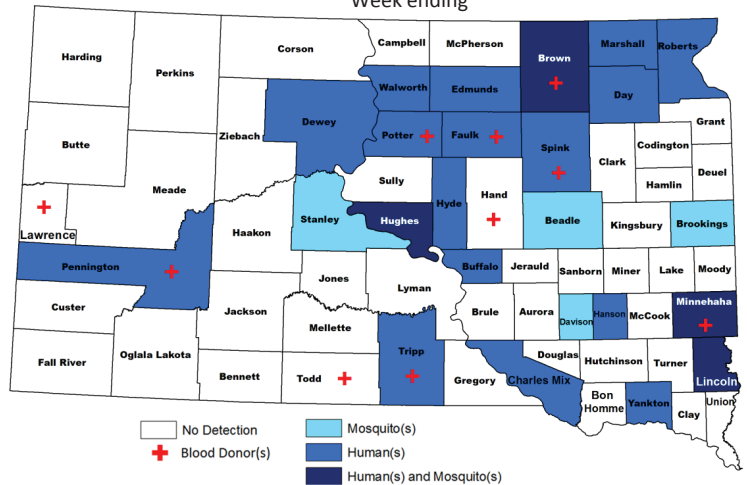
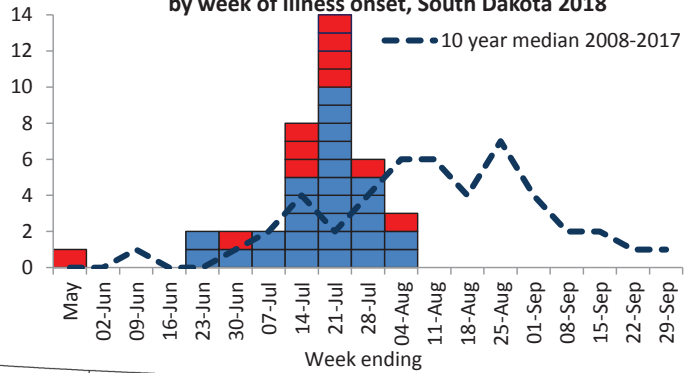
County Counts

Human cases: Brown (3), Buffalo (1), Charles Mix (1), Day (2), Dewey (2), Edmunds (1), Faulk (1), Hanson (1), Hughes (2), Hyde (1), Lincoln (1), Marshall (1), Minnehaha (2), Pennington (1), Potter (1), Roberts (1), Spink (1), Tripp (1), Walworth (1), Yankton (2)

Viremic blood donors: Brown (1), Faulk (1), Hand (1), Lawrence (1), Minnehaha (2), Pennington (1), Potter (1), Spink (1), Todd (1), Tripp (1)

Positive mosquito detections: Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Davison, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley

West Nile Cases (blue) and blood donors (red) by week of illness onset, South Dakota 2018



SD-DOH: Phone 800-592-1861; westnile.sd.gov
 CDC West Nile: cdc.gov/westnile

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Today in Weather History

August 9, 1918: An estimated F2 tornado touched down east of Bristol, in Day County, and moved NNE. The tornado was said to look like a long snake in a spiral, smashing barns into kindling.

August 9, 1992: A tornado packing winds estimated between 113 and 157 mph caused significant damage to the town of Chester, in Lake County. Shortly after 7 pm CDT a tornado tore right through the heart of Chester causing considerable damage. Four businesses were destroyed, three others had major damage, and five had minor damage. An elevator and new grain bin were leveled, and another bin was heavily damaged. Most of the building housing the fire department was demolished. Also, many houses and vehicles sustained damage, and large trees were uprooted or broken off. In one instance a steel beam was thrust through a garage and into the car inside. One mile north of Chester, an entire house was moved off the foundation. The town had to be evacuated for 19 hours after the tornado because the tornado damaged a 12,000-gallon ammonia tank releasing 4,000 gallons of the liquid gas into the air. The ammonia was a health hazard forcing residents out. To the south of Chester, the storm destroyed a new convenience store and blew two fuel tanks over 100 yards.

1878 - The second most deadly tornado in New England history struck Wallingford CT killing 34 persons, injuring 100 others, and completely destroying thirty homes. The tornado started as a waterspout over a dam on the Quinnipiac River. It was 400 to 600 feet wide, and had a short path length of two miles. (The Weather Channel)

1969 - A tornado hit Cincinnati OH killing four persons and causing fifteen million dollars property damage. The tornado moved in a southeasterly direction at 40 to 50 mph. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Florida baked in the summer heat. Nine cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Jacksonville with a reading of 101 degrees. Miami FL reported a record high of 98 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Tropical Storm Beryl deluged Biloxi with 6.32 inches of rain in 24 hours, and in three days drenched Pascagoula MS with 15.85 inches of rain. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region and over the Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced wind gusts to 92 mph at Harrah. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms in Arizona deluged Yuma with record torrential rains for the second time in two weeks. The rainfall total of 5.25 inches at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot established a state 24 hour record, and was nearly double the normal annual rainfall. Some of the homes were left with four feet of water in them. Seventy-six cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Lake Charles LA equalled their record for August with a low of 61 degrees. Canaan Valley WV was the cold spot in the nation with a low of 32 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Patchy Smoke

High: 93 °F

Tonight



Patchy Smoke

Low: 58 °F

Friday



Hot

High: 94 °F

Friday
Night



Clear

Low: 62 °F

Saturday



Hot

High: 96 °F

Updated: 8/8/2018 5:21 PM Central

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Hot and Dry

through Sunday

Highs 88 to 99°

warmest over central South Dakota

weather.gov/abr

Published on: 08/08/2018 at 3:25PM

A pattern of heat and dry weather will continue through the weekend, with the next chance of precipitation not arriving until potentially Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 94.8 F at 5:59 PM

Heat Index: 104 at 5:55 PM

Low Outside Temp: 61.6 F at 6:47 AM

High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 6:16 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 108° in 1936

Record Low: 42° in 1939

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.55

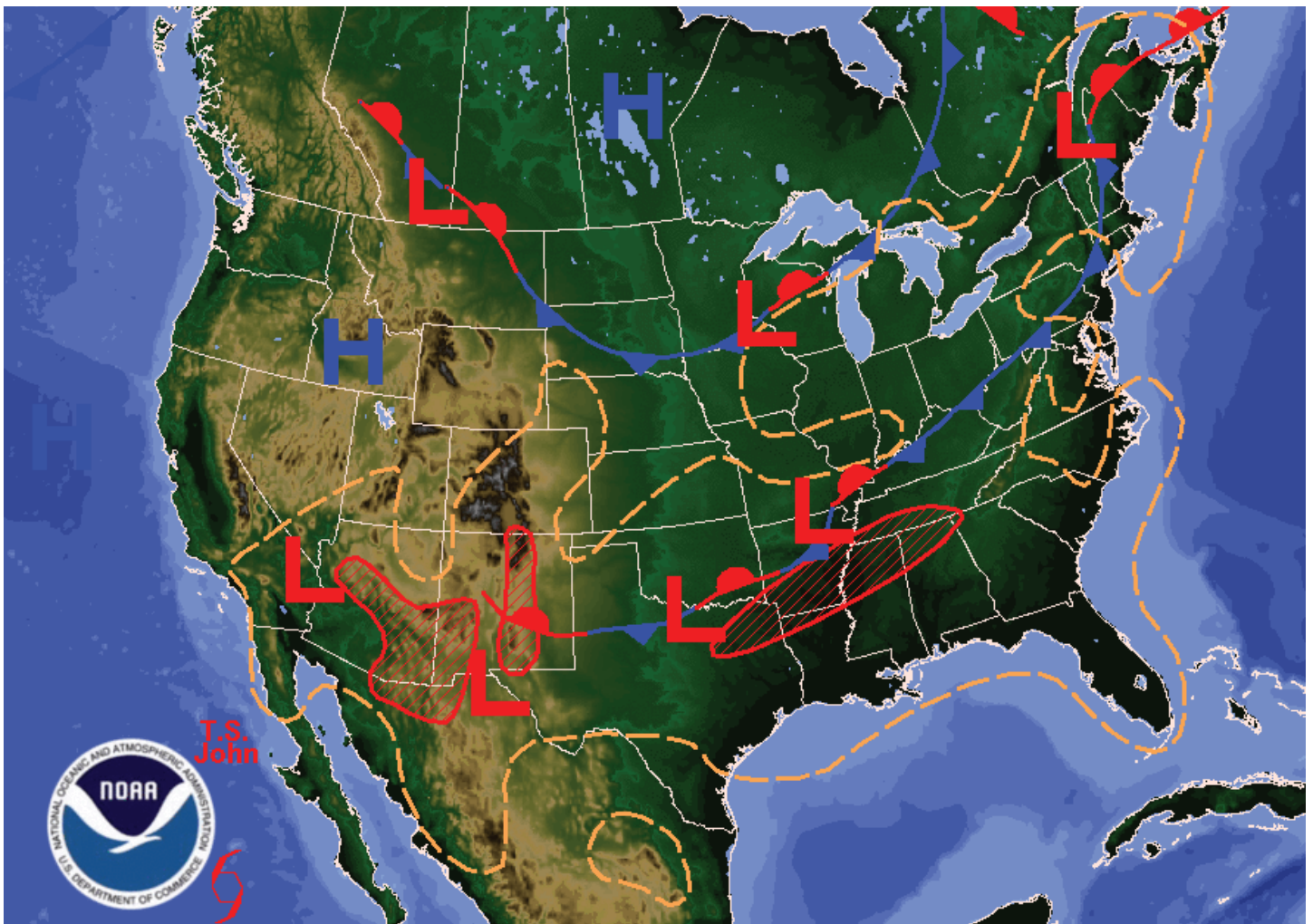
Precip to date in Aug: 0.25

Average Precip to date: 14.41

Precip Year to Date: 10.14

Sunset Tonight: 8:52 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:27 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Aug 09, 2018, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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AN EVERLASTING FOUNDATION

Years ago it was the custom in England to carve the words found in Psalm 127:1 over the doorways of homes: Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Perhaps returning to this custom and following its implications would have great benefits for everyone.

There is only one Builder - the Lord. But He placed two laborers - the husband and wife (mother and father) - as the ones responsible for the construction and maintenance of the home. Husband is an Anglo-Saxon word which means the band of the house. He is the one who organizes it, controls it and holds it together. The wife becomes his chief assistant - and the meaning of the word wife is weaver. She is to weave godliness into the activities of the home. She is to use her gifts to demonstrate Gods expressions of thoughtfulness, kindness, grace, and compassion in the everyday activities that are required to make the atmosphere God-honoring, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled through her examples of service.

There is only one Person who can watch over the home - the Lord. For the Psalm continues, Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. This statement describes the parenting role of mothers and fathers in a strange but significant way: They are the ones who turn the building into a home. They are to be examples of Christ at all times. They are ultimately responsible to God for whatever is allowed to enter into the activities and entertainment of the home. What a priceless opportunity God has given to parents.

Prayer: Father, give those of us who are parents grace and courage to raise our children to love and honor You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash

21-24-25-29-31

(twenty-one, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-nine, thirty-one)

Estimated jackpot: \$175,000

Lotto America

03-20-28-31-37, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 3

(three, twenty, twenty-eight, thirty-one, thirty-seven; Star Ball: one; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$6.08 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$63 million

Powerball

10-21-30-43-63, Powerball: 17, Power Play: 2

(ten, twenty-one, thirty, forty-three, sixty-three; Powerball: seventeen; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$223 million

Rapid City man sentenced to 10 years in friend's death

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Rapid City man who beat his friend to death during a drunken fight in January has been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

But the Rapid City Journal reports that 27-year-old Joseph Dowty could be paroled in four years. He pleaded guilty last month to second-degree manslaughter in the death of 27-year-old Nathaniel Ten Fingers.

Rapid City police officers found Ten Fingers lying outside the back door of an apartment in the early hours of Jan. 26, his face covered in blood. He died at the scene.

Circuit Court Judge Matt Brown said at Wednesday's sentencing that alcohol added "fuel to the fire" of Dowty's anger and violence issues. He said the sentence was a "pittance" to what Ten Fingers and his family lost.

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

South Dakota sets execution for man in prison guard's death

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man who pleaded guilty to the 2011 killing of a South Dakota prison guard is set to be executed in the fall, the state's attorney general said Wednesday.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a statement that Rodney Berget, 56, is scheduled to be executed between Oct. 28 and Nov. 3. Jackley's office said the warden of the state penitentiary will choose the specific time and date, which will be announced within 48 hours of the execution.

Circuit Court Judge Bradley Zell issued a warrant of execution for Berget, who would be the first person put to death in South Dakota in roughly six years.

"We will be ready to carry out the order of the court," Department of Corrections Secretary Denny

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Kaemingk said in a statement.

Berget pleaded guilty in April 2012 to killing Ronald "R.J." Johnson in a failed prison escape attempt in April 2011 along with fellow inmate Eric Robert, who was executed in 2012.

An attorney for Berget wasn't immediately available to comment to The Associated Press. Berget's mental status and death penalty eligibility have played a key role in court delays.

Berget in 2016 appealed his death sentence, but later asked to withdraw the appeal against the advice of his lawyers, the Argus Leader reported .

"I want this to be the last day I appear in court," Berget said at a September 2016 hearing.

The last execution in South Dakota was the lethal injection of Donald Moeller on Oct. 30, 2012, for the killing of Becky O'Connell.

State Department of Corrections policy says lethal injections involve one to three drugs, depending on drug availability and the date of the prisoner's conviction. State law makes a drug supplier confidential.

Robert Dunham, executive director of the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center, said U.S. pharmaceutical manufacturers have distribution policies that prohibit the sale of their medicines for non-therapeutic uses. The "secrecy" provision in South Dakota law raises serious questions about how the drugs are obtained, Dunham said.

"The big problem is that with secrecy we can't have any assurances," Dunham said. "Given the history of behavior of many of the states that have carried out executions, 'Trust me I'm the government,' is not a satisfactory explanation."

Ex-student sues district over reaction to 'Netflix n' Chill'

ELK POINT, S.D. (AP) — A high school graduate is suing a South Dakota school district and two officials, accusing them of sexual discrimination over an article she wrote for a school newspaper in which she said she likes to "Netflix n' Chill."

Addison Ludwig alleged in the lawsuit that she was unfairly singled out last September after the article appeared in Elk Point-Jefferson High School's publication, "The Husky."

Principal Travis Aslesen told Ludwig in a closed-door meeting that the phrase is used to refer to casual sex, according to the lawsuit filed last week. Aslesen asked Ludwig to look up the phrase on her school-issued laptop and read aloud one of the definitions referring to the term as a sexual innuendo. Ludwig, who was editor of the school newspaper at the time, said she thought it meant to watch movies.

The lawsuit alleged the confrontation violated district policy because a staff member of the same gender must be present when discussing sex and gender. Ludwig felt "humiliated, uncomfortable, ashamed and embarrassed," according to the court filing.

Aslesen and the current superintendent, Derek Barrios, haven't returned a request for comment. The superintendent at the time of the incident, Sheri Hardman, is also named in the lawsuit, but no longer works for the district.

Court documents state that Aslesen removed Ludwig from honors study hall and revoked her senior privileges. He also demanded that she write an apology to the newspaper and step down as editor.

Ludwig alleged that male students had used the term without punishment. One student had used the phrase in a newspaper article months earlier and another had worn a shirt with the term on it to school, according to the suit.

The lawsuit claimed the reasoning behind Aslesen forcing a young woman to repeat "vulgar sexual content" to him in his office but overlooking the same reference when used by male students was a "pretext to achieve domination and control" over Ludwig.

Group asks high court to block release of food stamp figures

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A group representing food retailers is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the disclosure of food stamp revenues for stores in the federal program.

The Argus Leader reports that the Food Marketing Institute's request Tuesday to Justice Neil Gorsuch

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came as the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied the group's bid to block release of the information. The appeals court ruled previously that the figures were public in a Freedom of Information Act case filed by the South Dakota newspaper.

The institute argues that releasing the sales information would cause competitive harm. The group wrote in its motion to Gorsuch that it would be an "extraordinary release of confidential sales information."

The Argus Leader sued in 2011 after the Department of Agriculture refused to hand over the figures.

Completion of Dakota Access oil pipeline study delayed

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Federal officials say it will take about three more weeks to wrap up an environmental study of the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access oil pipeline.

The Army Corps of Engineers had expected to finish by the end of this week. Justice Department attorneys have informed the court the work is now expected to take until the end of the month.

The Corps needs more time to review information it recently received from Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, which is leading a lawsuit seeking to shut down the pipeline that's moving North Dakota oil to Illinois.

Federal Judge James Boasberg allowed oil to begin flowing in June 2017 but also ordered additional study due to lingering concerns about the pipeline's potential impact on tribal water rights.

Governor appointing 3 to Legislature before special session

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is appointing three people to fill vacancies in the South Dakota Legislature ahead of a special session scheduled for September.

Daugaard's office said Wednesday that the three Republican appointees are candidates in November for the seats they're filling. Daugaard is naming Maggie Sutton, of Sioux Falls, to the Senate and Rebecca Reimer, of Oacoma, and Scyller Borglum, of Rapid City, to the House of Representatives.

The appointments last until the newly elected Legislature gathers in January for the 2019 session.

Daugaard says it's important for the districts to be fully represented in the special session aimed at speeding up implementation of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing states to force online shoppers to pay sales tax. The special session will be Sept. 12 at the state Capitol.

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally fatality count now up to 3

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Three people have now died in crashes related to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The Highway Patrol says a 63-year-old man died about midday Tuesday after his motorcycle went off a road on a curve west of Piedmont, hit a pole and rolled. He wasn't immediately identified.

Two other fatalities happened Saturday — one involving a motorcycle and the other a utility terrain vehicle.

The annual event in South Dakota's Black Hills draws hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. This year's rally started last Friday and runs through Sunday.

The state Transportation Department says that traffic during the first five days of the rally was up nearly 4 percent compared to last year.

2 inmates escape from Sioux Falls corrections center

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities are looking for two inmates who escaped from a minimum-security corrections facility in Sioux Falls.

Sheriff's officials say the two escaped early Wednesday morning from the Minnehaha County Community Corrections Center.

Fifty-year-old William Calkins was serving time for damage to property and burglary. Forty-five-year-old Roy Hampton was behind bars for distributing and possessing illegal drugs.

Warden Jeff Gromer says officials are reviewing surveillance video and talking to inmates to figure out how the men escaped. Gromer says they are not believed to be armed.

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\$100,000 cash bond set for Sip-N-Cycle crash suspect

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$100,000 cash for a man accused of driving under the influence of illegal drugs and crashing into a Sip-N-Cycle in downtown Sioux Falls.

Authorities say eight people on the party bike were injured Saturday night.

The Argus Leader reports 25-year-old Justin Rabago appeared in court Tuesday. He did not immediately enter pleas to charges of vehicular battery, DUI third offense, driving without a license and driving without insurance.

His attorney called the bond "excessive." But Judge Brendan Johnson called the allegations "extremely serious."

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

Billionaire philanthropist donates \$1M to Sioux Falls zoo

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Billionaire philanthropist T. Denny Sanford has donated \$1 million to the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls.

It's the largest donation in the zoo's history. Sanford says, "I'm a zoo guy."

The money will go toward a lion exhibit. The zoo is trying to raise \$5 million for the project, and has reached the \$2 million mark.

The lion habitat will feature a pride of up to 10 lions and cubs, including a habitat and yard area, a holding and viewing building, and a training demonstration area. The project also will expand seating at a cafe to accommodate the zoo's growing attendance numbers.

Deputy sues sheriff over claims of free speech violations

SALEM, S.D. (AP) — A McCook County deputy is suing the sheriff claiming he violated his free speech and pushed him to resign.

Deputy Dylan Hillestad says he was encouraged to resign by Sheriff Mark Norris after reporting another deputy's possible illegal activity and for submitting a letter of support for a family member who was charged in a criminal case.

The Argus Leader says Hillestad is suing the sheriff and county for unspecified damages for violation of free speech, failure to pay overtime and for interfering with his ability to find work at other law enforcement agencies in South Dakota. Norris was not immediately available for comment.

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

Sioux Falls taxi driver attacked with stun gun, robbed

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say two teenagers who couldn't pay their cab fare attacked a Sioux Falls taxi driver with a stun gun and stole his phone.

Officers caught one of the suspects inside a mall Monday night. The 14-year-old boy is charged in juvenile court with false impersonation for allegedly giving the taxi driver a false name.

The other teen reportedly wielded the stun gun and took the phone. He was not immediately caught.

Elderly woman dies of injuries in Lamoure County crash

EDGELEY, N.D. (AP) — An elderly woman has died of injuries suffered in a weekend crash in Lamoure County.

The North Dakota Highway Patrol says 85-year-old Jean Hanson of Aberdeen, South Dakota died Sunday at a Fargo hospital. She was involved in a collision Saturday with a truck and livestock trailer near Edgeley.

KFGO reports authorities arrested the 21-year-old driver of the truck who they say ran a stop sign and caused the crash.

Information from: KFGO-AM, <http://www.kfgo.com>

Israel launches scores of airstrikes as Gaza fire persists

By ILAN BEN ZION, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli warplanes struck dozens of targets in the Gaza Strip and three people were reported killed there, while Palestinian militants from the territory fired scores of rockets into Israel in a fierce burst of violence overnight and into Thursday morning.

The flare-up comes as Egypt is trying to broker a long-term cease-fire between the two sides. At least three Palestinians died — a pregnant woman, her 1-year-old daughter and a Hamas militant, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

On the Israeli side, at least seven people were wounded.

Israeli and Hamas officials both threatened a further intensification of hostilities. The U.N.'s Mideast envoy appealed for calm.

It was not clear if the escalation, the latest in a series of intense exchanges of fire in recent months, would derail the indirect negotiations between Israel and Gaza's Hamas militant rulers.

Air raid sirens signaling incoming rocket fire continued in southern Israel on Thursday morning, raising the likelihood of further Israeli reprisals.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007. Despite the animosity, the bitter enemies appear to be working through Egyptian mediators to avoid another war.

Hamas is demanding the lifting of an Israeli-Egyptian border blockade that has devastated Gaza's economy, while Israel wants an end to rocket fire, as well as recent border protests and launches of incendiary balloons, and the return of the remains of two dead soldiers and two live Israelis believed to be held by Hamas.

But the continued outbursts of fire have jeopardized those cease-fire efforts. On Tuesday, the Israeli military struck a Hamas military post in Gaza after it said militants fired on Israeli troops on the border. Hamas said two of its fighters were killed after taking part in a gunfire parade inside a militant camp.

The incident occurred while a group of senior Hamas leaders from abroad were visiting Gaza to discuss the cease-fire efforts with local leaders.

A top Hamas official told The Associated Press that the group waited for the delegation to leave Gaza before responding with rocket fire late Wednesday.

The Israeli military said over 150 rockets and mortars were fired at Israel, and Israel carried out over 140 airstrikes targeting Hamas militant positions.

Gaza's Health Ministry identified those killed in the airstrikes from Wednesday to Thursday as Hamas fighter Ali Ghandour, 23-year-old Enas Khamash and her daughter Bayan. The ministry said the militant and the civilians were killed in separate incidents.

Kamal Khamash, brother-in-law of the killed woman, said the family was asleep when the projectile hit the house.

The mother and daughter died immediately and the father is in critical condition, Kamal said.

"This is a blatant crime and Israel is responsible for it," he said.

Israeli army spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus insisted Israel only targeted Hamas military targets in Gaza.

In southern Israel, two Thai laborers were among the seven wounded by rocket fire, and rockets damaged buildings in the cities of Sderot and Ashkelon. The military said it intercepted some 25 rockets, while most of the others landed in open areas. Israel said it launched airstrikes targeting rocket launchers, weapons stockpiles, tunnels and other Hamas infrastructure.

Israeli Cabinet minister for construction and housing, Yoav Galant, said that "whatever is needed to be done to defend our civilians and soldiers, will be done, no matter what would be the price in Gaza."

Conricus wouldn't comment on Israeli media reports of troops preparing for a possible ground operation, but said Israel "had ground troops that are ready to deploy. We are reinforcing the southern command and Gaza division."

Nickolay Mladenov, the U.N. special envoy who is involved in Egyptian efforts to broker a truce, said

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in a statement on Thursday that he's "deeply alarmed" by "multiple rockets fired toward communities in southern Israel" the day before.

Mladenov warned that "if the current escalation however is not contained immediately, the situation can rapidly deteriorate with devastating consequences for all people."

On Wednesday, the Israeli military shelled the Palestinian territory after civilians working on the Gaza border fence came under fire. Hamas militants responded with a cross-border fusillade that sent Israelis scrambling for air raid shelters.

The Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was discussing classified negotiations, said that cease-fire talks were in their final stage but that disagreements remained. He said Hamas is demanding the complete lifting of the Israeli-Egyptian blockade, while Israel has offered only to ease the restrictions.

Tension along the Israel-Gaza border has escalated since late March, when Hamas launched what would become regular mass protests along Israel's perimeter fence with Gaza. The protests have been aimed in part at trying to break the blockade.

Over the past four months, 163 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire, including at least 120 protesters, according to the Gaza Health Ministry and a local rights group. An Israeli soldier was killed by a Gaza sniper during this period.

Israel says it has been defending its sovereign border against infiltration attempts by Hamas. But it has come under heavy international criticism for its frequent use of force against unarmed protesters.

Associated Press writers Mohammad Daraghmeh in Ramallah, West Bank, and Fares Akram contributed to this report.

Third strong earthquake shakes Lombok as death toll tops 300

By ANDI JATMIKO, Associated Press

TANJUNG, Indonesia (AP) — The Indonesian island of Lombok was shaken by a third big earthquake in little more than a week Thursday as the official death toll from an earlier quake topped 300.

The strong aftershock, measured at magnitude 5.9 by the U.S. Geological Survey, caused panic, damage to buildings, landslides and injuries. It was centered in the northwest of the island and didn't have the potential to cause a tsunami, Indonesia's geological agency said.

Videos showed rubble strewn across streets and clouds of dust enveloping buildings. In northern Lombok, some people leaped from their vehicles on a traffic jammed road while an elderly woman standing in the back of a pickup truck wailed "God is Great." An Associated Press reporter in the provincial capital Mataram saw people injured by the tremor and a hospital moved patients outside.

The aftershock had caused more "trauma," said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

Wiranto, Indonesia's top security minister, told reporters the death toll from Sunday's magnitude 7.0 quake had risen to 319. The announcement came after an inter-agency meeting was called to resolve wildly different figures from different agencies.

Grieving relatives were burying their dead and medics tended to people whose broken limbs hadn't yet been treated in the day since the quake. The Red Cross said it was focusing relief efforts on an estimated 20,000 people yet to get any assistance.

In Kopang Daya village in the hard-hit Tanjung district of north Lombok, a distraught family was burying their 13-year-old daughter who was struck by a collapsing wall and then trampled when the quake Sunday caused a stampede at her Islamic boarding school.

Villagers and relatives prayed outside a tent where the girl's body lay inside covered in a white cloth.

"She was praying when the earthquake happened," said her uncle Tarna, who gave a single name. "She was trying to get out, but she got hit by a wall and fell down. Children were running out from the building in panic and she was stepped on by her friends," he said.

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Thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed in Sunday's quake and more than 150,000 people are homeless. The earlier earthquakes also left cracks in walls and roofs, making the weakened buildings susceptible to collapse.

"People are always saying they need water and tarps," said Indonesian Red Cross spokesman Arifin Hadi. He said the agency has sent 20 water trucks to five remote areas, including one village of about 1,200 households.

He also said they're continuing to look for people with untreated injuries.

In Kopang Daya, injured villagers got their first proper treatment Thursday after medics arrived with a portable X-ray and other supplies. They tended to an elderly woman with an injured face and hips who'd been knocked over by her grandson as they scrambled from their house.

"Her son managed to get out from the house when the earthquake hit but the grandmother and grandson were left behind," said a relative Nani Wijayanti. "The grandson tried to help the grandmother to get out but he pushed too hard," she said.

A July 29 quake on Lombok killed 16 people.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Associated Press journalists Ali Kotarumalos in Jakarta, Indonesia and Firdia Lisnawati in Mataram, Indonesia contributed to this report.

New Russia sanctions over poisoning of former spy, daughter

By SUSANNAH GEORGE and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — New sanctions against Russia will be imposed later this month for illegally using a chemical weapon in an attempted assassination of a former spy and his daughter in Britain earlier this year, the United States said.

The penalties come despite President Donald Trump's efforts to improve relations with Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin, and his harsh criticism of the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

In response to the announcement, the Russian Embassy in the U.S. issued a statement referring to "far-fetched accusations" and saying Russian officials had yet to hear any facts or evidence and that the U.S. had refused to answer questions.

The State Department said Wednesday the U.S. made the determination this week that Russia had used the Novichok nerve agent to poison Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, and that sanctions would follow. It said Congress is being notified of the Aug. 6 determination and that the sanctions would take effect on or around Aug. 22, when the finding is to be published in the Federal Register.

Those sanctions will include the presumed denial of export licenses for Russia to purchase many items with national security implications, according to a senior State Department official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to do so by name.

The U.S. made a similar determination in February when it found that North Korea used a chemical weapon to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother at the airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2017.

Skripal and his daughter were poisoned by the Novichok military-grade nerve agent in the English town of Salisbury in March. Both eventually recovered. Britain has accused Russia of being behind the attack, which the Kremlin vehemently denies.

Months later, two residents of a nearby town with no ties to Russia were also poisoned by the deadly toxin. Police believe the couple accidentally found a bottle containing Novichok. One of them died.

The U.S. had joined Britain in condemning Russia for the Skripal poisoning and joined with European nations in expelling Russian diplomats in response, but it had yet to make the formal determination that

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the Russian government had “used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law or has used lethal chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals.”

British Prime Minister Theresa May welcomed the U.S. decision. Her Downing Street office issued a statement saying the move sends “an unequivocal message to Russia that its provocative, reckless behavior will not go unchallenged.”

In its statement, the Russian Embassy said it had been informed Wednesday of “draconian” sanctions against Russia.

“We grew accustomed to not hearing any facts or evidence. The American side refused to answer our follow-up questions, claiming that the information is classified. However, we were told that the US has enough intel to conclude that Russia is to blame,” the embassy said.

Referring to its communications with the State Department on the issue, the embassy added: “We confirmed that we continue to strongly stand for an open and transparent investigation of the crime committed in Salisbury and for bringing the culprits to justice. We suggested publishing our correspondence on this issue. No answer has followed so far.”

Konstantin Kosachev, the chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of the Russian parliament, said Thursday that the U.S. has behaved like a “police state, threatening and torturing a suspect to get evidence.” He added that the new sanctions amount to “inflicting a punishment in the absence of a crime in the tradition of lynch law.”

Leonid Slutsky, the head of the lower house’s foreign affairs committee, denounced the sanctions as a manifestation of “unbridled Russophobia” and mockery of international law, saying that Russia may respond with countersanctions.

Several members of Congress had expressed concern that the Trump administration was dragging its feet on the determination and had missed a deadline to publish its findings.

Lawmakers praised Wednesday’s announcement.

“The administration is rightly acting to uphold international bans on the use of chemical weapons,” said Ed Royce, R-Calif., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Royce had previously accused Trump of ignoring the Russian nerve agent attack.

“The mandatory sanctions that follow this determination are key to increasing pressure on Russia. Vladimir Putin must know that we will not tolerate his deadly acts, or his ongoing attacks on our democratic process,” Royce said Wednesday.

While criticized as too keen to strike up a friendship with Putin, Trump maintains that he’s been tough on Moscow. His administration has sanctioned a number of Russian officials and oligarchs for human rights abuses and election meddling.

In March, the Trump administration ordered 60 Russian diplomats — all of whom it said were spies — to leave the United States and closed down Russia’s consulate in Seattle in response to the Skripal case. The U.S. said at the time it was the largest expulsion of Russian spies in American history.

The State Department announced a number of possible exceptions to the sanctions announced Wednesday. Waivers have been issued for foreign assistance and space flight activities, while commercial passenger aviation and other commercial goods for civilian use will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, according to the official who briefed reporters.

Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report. This story has been corrected to show that Sergei Skripal didn’t die in the attack.

Argentine Senate rejects legalizing elective abortion

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO, Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina’s Senate on Thursday rejected a bill to legalize elective abortion, a defeat for a grassroots movement that came closer than ever to achieving the decriminalization of the procedure in the homeland of Pope Francis.

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Lawmakers debated for more than 15 hours and voted 38-31 against the measure that would have legalized abortion in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. The decision could echo across Latin America, where the Roman Catholic Church has lost influence and moral authority due to secularization, an out-of-touch clerical caste and an avalanche of sex abuse scandals.

For long hours, thousands of supporters wearing green handkerchiefs that represent the effort to legalize abortion and opponents of the measure wearing light blue, braved the heavy rain and cold temperatures in Argentina's winter to watch the debate on large screens set up outside Congress.

The demonstrations were largely peaceful, but after the vote, small groups of protesters clashed with police, throwing firebombs and setting up flaming barricades. Police officers responded with tear gas.

Pushed by a wave of demonstrations by women's groups, the lower house had already passed the measure and conservative President Mauricio Macri had said that he would sign it, even though he is anti-abortion. "Regardless of the result, today, democracy wins," Macri said ahead of the vote.

In Argentina, abortion is only allowed in cases of rape and risks to a woman's health. Thousands of women, most of them poor, are hospitalized each year for complications linked due to unsafe abortions.

Backers of the measure said legalizing abortion would save the life of many women. The Health Ministry estimated in 2016 that the country sees as many as half a million clandestine abortions each year, with dozens of women dying as a result. The Catholic Church and other groups opposed it, saying it violated Argentine law, which guarantees life from the moment of conception.

In recent years, Argentina has been at the forefront of social movements in the region. In 2010, it became the first country in Latin America to legalize same-sex marriage. More recently, the Ni Una Menos, or Not One Less, movement that was created in Argentina to fight violence against women has grown into a global phenomenon.

"There are positive points that have come out of this...even when there are differing ways of thinking, there's a square in peace right now, with thousands of people defending their convictions," said Buenos Aires provincial Gov. Maria Eugenia Vidal, who was against the measure.

"There was talk of a green square and a light blue square. But the truth is that these are people who are right there next to each other, coexisting and defending what they believe to be the truth."

But the contentious issue has divided Argentines, pitting conservative doctors and the Catholic Church against feminist groups and physicians. While thousands waited for the decision on the streets guarded by umbrellas, others gathered Wednesday night at a "Mass for Life" at the Metropolitan Cathedral, the church of Pope Francis during his tenure as the archbishop of Buenos Aires.

"It's not about religious beliefs but about a humanitarian reason," Cardinal Mario Poli, the archbishop of Buenos Aires, told churchgoers. "Caring for life is the first human right and the duty of the State."

Pope Francis this year had denounced abortion as the "white glove" equivalent of the Nazi-era eugenics program and urged families "to accept the children that God gives them."

Activists estimate that 3,000 women in Argentina have died of illegal abortions since 1983.

"Let's recognize that we're facing a public health tragedy because 3,030 women who have died is a tragedy," said Magdalena Odarda, a senator for Rio Negro province.

"We're not deciding abortion yes or no. We're deciding abortion in a hospital, or illegal abortion, with a clothes hanger, or anything else that puts a woman in a humiliating, degrading situation — a real torture," she said.

Many women in Argentina use misoprostol to end first-trimester pregnancies. The drug is only sold under prescription, but for the poorest women the cost of the drug is out of reach.

For many of them, the methods used to induce an abortion include using an IV tube with a sharp wire clothes hanger or a knitting needle to try to break the amniotic sac inside womb. Others drink herbs, insert dubious non-abortive pills in the vagina, or pump toxic mixtures, which can cause ulcers, hemorrhage and ultimately severe infections, and death.

For months, hundreds of doctors in Argentina had staged anti-abortion protests, in one case laying their white medical coats on the ground outside the presidential palace. Feminists and other groups led even

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larger demonstrations in support of the measure, often wearing green that symbolizes the pro-abortion movement, or red cloaks and white bonnets like the characters from the novel-turned-TV series "The Handmaid's Tale."

International human rights and women's groups have been closely following the vote, and figures such as U.S. actress Susan Sarandon and "The Handmaid's Tale" author Margaret Atwood supported the pro-abortion cause in Argentina.

Jose Miguel Vivanco, director for the Americas at Human Rights Watch, said that Argentina had a "historic opportunity" to protect the rights of women. Amnesty International told Argentine legislators that "the world is watching."

Demonstrations in support of the Argentine abortion measure were held Wednesday in Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay and Ecuador.

Efforts to ease or tighten abortion restrictions have repeatedly emerged across the region in recent years. In neighboring Chile, the Constitutional Court last year upheld a measure that would end that country's absolute ban on abortions, permitting abortions when a woman's life is in danger, when a fetus is not viable and in cases of rape. Chile had been the last country in South America to ban abortion in all cases, though several nations in Central America still have absolute prohibitions.

Cuba, Guyana, Puerto Rico and Uruguay permit early-term elective abortions, as does Mexico City.

"It's a shame that we were not able to reach a consensus because the problem will continue to exist exactly as it did before we began this debate," said former President Cristina Fernandez, who is an opposition senator.

"We need to make an effort to resolve this," she said.

Associated Press writer Almudena Calatrava contributed to this report.

Seoul: Rival Koreas to meet to prepare for leaders' summit

By YOUKYUNG LEE, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The rival Koreas will meet Monday for high-level talks meant to prepare for a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, South Korea said, the third such meetings between the leaders in recent months.

The announcement Thursday by the South's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean issues for Seoul, comes amid attempts by Washington and Pyongyang to follow through on nuclear disarmament vows made at a summit in June between President Donald Trump and Kim.

Pyongyang has also stepped up its calls for a formal end to the Korean War, which some analysts believe is meant to be the first step in the North's effort to eventually see all 28,500 U.S. troops leave the Korean Peninsula. Washington is pushing for the North to begin giving up its nuclear program.

A South Korean official at the Unification Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules, said the two Koreas will also discuss ways to push through tension-reducing agreements made during an earlier summit between Kim and South Korean President Moon. Among the agreements was holding another inter-Korean summit in the fall in Pyongyang.

The rival Koreas may try to seek a breakthrough amid what experts see as little progress on nuclear disarmaments between Pyongyang and Washington despite the Singapore summit in June and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's several visits to North Korea.

Pyongyang insisted that the U.S. should reciprocate to the North's suspension of missile launches and nuclear tests and other goodwill gestures such as the return of remains of American troops killed in the Korean War. The United States has dismissed calls to ease sanctions until the North delivers on its commitments to fully denuclearize.

The inter-Korean meeting on Monday will be held at Tongilgak, a North Korean-controlled building in the border village of Panmunjom. It wasn't clear who would attend the talks, but such meetings have typically been handled in the past by South Korea's unification minister and his counterpart in the North. It

also wasn't clear when another summit might happen, but if the April 27 summit agreements are followed through, the leaders will likely meet in Pyongyang in the next couple of months.

In the meantime, both Koreas are seeking an early end of the Korean War. South Korea's presidential spokesman said last month that Seoul wants an early declaration of the end of the 1950-53 war sooner than later. The Korean Peninsula is still technically in a state of war because the fighting ended with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty.

Earlier Thursday, North Korea's Rodong Sinmun said in a commentary that ending the Korean War is "the first process for ensuring peace and security not only in the Korean peninsula but also in the region and the world."

Seoul said it accepted the North's proposal after Pyongyang first suggested a meeting Monday to discuss another summit.

Kim and Moon met in April at a highly publicized summit that saw the leaders hold hands and walk together across the border, and then again in a more informal summit in May, just weeks before Kim met Trump in Singapore.

Venezuela ruling party cracks down on opposition lawmakers

By SCOTT SMITH, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's pro-government constitutional assembly stripped two opposition lawmakers of their immunity from prosecution on Wednesday, accusing them of having roles in a drone attack that authorities say was an attempt to kill socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

The National Constituent Assembly voted unanimously to lift the protection for Julio Borges and Juan Requesens, who have seats in the opposition-controlled legislature. The move came after the Supreme Court ordered the arrest of Borges, who lives in exile in Colombia's capital, Bogota.

Requesens was arrested Tuesday, an action purportedly captured in a video circulating on social media. His party, Justice First, said that the video showed Requesens.

Maduro has accused the two of being tied to a weekend incident in which two drones loaded with explosives exploded while he spoke at an outdoor military celebration.

Wednesday's developments threaten to deepen Venezuela's political crisis as opposition lawmakers accuse the government's ruling party of using the alleged attack to clamp down on the opposition.

Constituent Assembly leader Diosdado Cabello said Borges and Requesens were just the first lawmakers to be accused in the investigation of the incident.

"These are the first two who appear to be involved, but the investigation continues," Cabello said. "Justice is coming."

In ordering the 48-year-old Borges' arrest, the supreme court accused him of "flagrant crimes," including public incitement, treason to the fatherland and attempted homicide.

During a national television broadcast on Tuesday, Maduro accused Requesens, 29, and Borges of complicity in the weekend drone explosions.

Maduro said statements from some of the six suspects arrested earlier had implicated the two lawmakers, as well as key financiers.

"Several of the declarations indicated Julio Borges. The investigations point to him," Maduro said, though he provided no details of Borges' alleged role.

On Wednesday, Borges, who has rejected the accusation, met with top lawmakers in Colombia, which has blamed Maduro's government for causing the crisis that has led to masses of Venezuelans fleeing across the border into the neighboring country.

"We want to see you out of power, imprisoned for the violation of human rights, imprisoned for the destruction of democracy," Borges said. "The only promoter of violence is a man named Nicolas Maduro."

Antonio Ledezma, an opposition leader and exiled mayor of Caracas who now lives in Spain, stood alongside Borges in Bogota.

"Neither the deputy Borges, nor the deputy Requesens — no Venezuelan parliamentarians are involved

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in this type of scheme cooked up by the regime," Ledezma said. "This is another parody of Maduro."

The six suspects arrested earlier face charges of treason, attempted murder and terrorism. Investigators have linked a total of 19 people to the attack, Chief Prosecutor Tarek William Saab said Wednesday.

Critics of Maduro's socialist government said immediately after the drone explosions that they feared the unpopular leader would use the incident as an excuse to round up opponents as he seeks to dampen spreading discontent over Venezuela's devastating economic collapse.

The events come as Venezuela's economy continues to hemorrhage and thousands flee to neighboring nations seeking food and medical care. Maduro has grown increasingly isolated, with the United States and other foreign powers slapping economic sanctions on a growing list of high-ranking Venezuelan officials and criticizing his government of being an autocratic regime.

The International Monetary Fund projects inflation could top 1 million percent by year's end.

During Maduro's two-hour speech, videos were displayed showing alleged suspects and images of the drones exploding. One video included a purported confession by a handcuffed suspect, whose face was blurred out.

The president also displayed wanted posters with names and pictures of other suspects who he said are living in the United States and Colombia.

Maduro said he would provide evidence to authorities in both countries and ask for their cooperation in handing over suspects who helped orchestrate and finance the attack.

"I want to explain to the government of the United States and the government of Colombia in detail all the evidence," Maduro said. "I trust in the good faith of Donald Trump."

Venezuela's foreign minister, Jorge Arreaza, and Saab, the attorney general, met Wednesday with James Story, the top U.S. diplomat in Caracas.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment on what was discussed or whether Venezuela had made any extradition request.

Associated Press writers Cesar Garcia in Bogota and Fabiola Sanchez in Caracas contributed to this report.

Ack! Distant fires leave California's capital city in a haze

By KATHLEEN RONAYNE, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — No major wildfires are burning near Sacramento but for two weeks a dull haze and the faint smell of smoke from distant blazes has blanketed California's capital region, forcing summer campers to stay inside, obscuring normally bright skylines and leaving ash on cars.

Experiencing smoky air from blowing winds is nothing new in many California cities, but Sacramento air quality experts say it's rare for the dirty air to linger for so long, a reality of ever-larger fires that take longer to extinguish.

The haze stretches to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range, and nearly every major population center in between has suffered air quality that's considered dangerous for children, the elderly and people with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

Kaela Baylis used to take her nearly 2-year-old son to a park twice a day, but has only gone in the morning the last 10 days.

"He asks to go outside a lot in the afternoon," she said Wednesday.

There are two major wildfires — one called the Mendocino Complex Fire that is the largest in California history — burning more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of Sacramento and another huge fire near Yosemite National Park a little farther to the southeast. Firefighters made significant progress against the Mendocino Complex for the first time Wednesday but said the blazes will likely continue through September.

The fires have combined to produce unhealthy air that has drifted as far east as Salt Lake City, 450 miles (725 kilometers) away.

The skies there were so murky that residents there couldn't even see the nearby mountain range that hovers over the valley earlier this week. Utah air quality officials warned children and seniors to limit time

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outside.

The skies cleared a bit on Wednesday in Utah's capital city, but more smoke is expected to blow in over the weekend, National Weather Service meteorologist Steve Rogowski said.

Wednesday marked the Sacramento region's 13th straight "Spare the Air" day, when people are encouraged not to drive and add further pollutants to the air — the longest stretch since at least 2001. A similar warning is in effect in the San Francisco Bay Area, and air quality experts in California's Central Valley and areas southeast of Los Angeles are warning residents to limit outdoor exposure because of wildfires there.

On Wednesday morning, John and Rosalie Gonzales strolled through a Sacramento park with their toddler granddaughter they were visiting. For the last few days at their home in the San Francisco Bay Area community of Albany they have awakened to ash on their cars from the Mendocino Complex Fire.

That was a rarity until a few years ago, before California began experiencing more unusually large wildfires, they said. "It doesn't seem like it's sustainable to have this happening year after year after year," she said.

A day earlier, dozens of summer campers sat inside watching a movie at a Sacramento YMCA.

"Normally that doesn't happen on a regular day at camp," said Jay Lowden, president of the YMCA for a nine-county region that serves more than 700 kids weekly at 13 summer camps. His counselors monitor the air quality on a daily basis, and Lowden said he may cancel a planned family camp this weekend in the foothills because of the smoke.

Sac United, a competitive youth soccer club, has cancelled four practices in the past two weeks because of poor air quality. High school sports teams are being similarly conscious of dangerous air as practices get underway.

Sacramento residents have taken to Twitter to share photos of a dark grey sky hanging over the Capitol in mid-afternoon and a city skyline difficult to make out. The smell of smoke has even slipped into downtown office buildings.

"It was horrible; I've never seen anything like it before," Mayor Darrell Steinberg said of Monday's afternoon haze.

Lori Kobza, spokeswoman for the Sacramento Air Quality Management District, said it's hard to predict when things will improve because of the unpredictability of the fires and the winds.

Because the city is located in a valley, it's easier for smoky air to get trapped here when high pressure systems blow in, making Sacramento like a smoke-filled bowl that's had a lid placed tightly on top.

"We're all trapped in it," Kobza said.

Associated Press writer Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed.

Instead of tax cuts, GOP candidates motivate with anxiety

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's a border crisis in Pennsylvania. The radical left is surging in New Jersey. And Nancy Pelosi is a threat to New York.

Republican candidates in the nation's premiere midterm battlegrounds have embraced a central message in their fight to maintain the House majority this fall — and it has little to do with the surging economy or the sweeping tax cuts that the GOP celebrated as a once-in-a-generation achievement just eight months ago.

Instead, as Republicans enter the final month of the primary season, they're looking ahead to a general-election strategy of embracing anxiety as a tool to motivate voters. That was clear this week as the GOP's closing message in an Ohio special election questioned Democrat Danny O'Connor's connection to Pelosi, the House Democratic leader and preferred super villain for Republicans.

"We wish it got the pitch forks out and it doesn't," GOP ad maker Will Ritter said of the Republican tax cuts.

Some Republican strategists are frustrated the party isn't focused on the tax law or the broader health of the economy in the run-up to Election Day. Others concede that in the Trump era, there's no better

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motivator than fear of the other side, particularly the prospect of Pelosi returning to the speaker's chair. The plan had some success in Ohio: The race was too close to call Wednesday as Republican Troy Balderson maintained a razor-thin advantage over O'Connor, staving off an embarrassing GOP debate for now. Going forward, the debate over highlighting the tax law will help determine whether Republicans will maintain control of Capitol Hill after November.

While Republicans are reluctant to engage on tax cuts, it's a fight Democrats — and their voters — want. "The tax cuts were for the top ... income earners," said George Stringer, a 58-year-old Democrat who lives in Detroit. "The rich keep getting richer, the poor keep getting poorer."

In Ohio, which hosted the season's final special election, O'Connor railed against the tax cuts as a giveaway to the rich that threatened Medicare and Social Security. While his Republican opponent may prevail, the 31-year-old Democrat trailed by less than 1 percentage point in a district that's been in Republican hands since before he was born. On the defensive, Balderson appeared in a late ad sitting next to his ailing mother and promising that he wouldn't dismantle the social safety net.

It's somewhat similar to the problems Democrats faced in 2010, when they controlled the White House and Congress and managed to pass the most significant health care legislation since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. They celebrated with President Barack Obama in the Rose Garden, only to run from it in the midterm elections that became a disaster for the party.

President Donald Trump, plagued by scandal and wed to his Twitter account, sits atop the struggle.

Republican pollster Frank Luntz said Trump energizes the Republican base, but that his broadsides and distractions will also alienate the swing voters who tip battleground House districts.

"This is political malpractice," he said. "You can't find me a time in modern times when the economy was this strong and the governing party was headed toward a potential political disaster like this."

Republicans are also reluctant to embrace their tax cuts because the benefits don't change the household budget for many Americans. The party predicts that will change next year when families file their first tax returns under the new law. But as electoral strategy, that's akin to Democrats in 2010 insisting voters would like the health care law once they understood it.

The tax debate comes amid new evidence of a Democratic surge in early elections across America.

Michigan Democrats will feature the state's first all-female statewide ticket this November following Tuesday's primary elections. Democrat Rashida Tlaib also won a race to run unopposed for the Detroit-area House seat vacated by John Conyers, making her poised to become the first Muslim woman in Congress. In Kansas, 38-year-old attorney Sharice Davids won her congressional primary and became the state's first Native American and gay nominee for Congress.

Both Davids and Tlaib campaigned aggressively against the Republican tax cuts.

Beyond avoiding the tax law, there has been a consistent theme for Republicans across House battlegrounds: casting the Democrat as too liberal.

A National Republican Congressional Committee ad in Ohio tied Democratic candidate O'Connor to Pelosi and "the liberal resistance movement." A super PAC backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan charged that it was O'Connor who would cut Social Security and Medicare by \$800 billion; fact checkers have questioned the accuracy of the attack.

In central Kentucky, GOP Rep. Andy Barr is reminding voters that Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot, voted for President Barack Obama and opposes Trump's proposed border wall. In suburban Pennsylvania, vulnerable Republican Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick has warned of "a border in crisis" and demanded a surge of immigration enforcement agents. And in New Jersey, Republican Rep. Leonard Lance featured an ad in which Democrat opponent Tom Malinowski calls himself a "lifelong progressive Democrat" over and over. Lance also warns of his "dangerous policies" like abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Anthony Brindisi, Democratic nominee in an upstate New York district, is the target of an ad from Rep. Claudia Tenney claiming that Pelosi is "bankrolling" Brindisi "because he'll support their radical immigration agenda."

Brindisi blasted the Tenney ad as dishonest, repeating his general support for border security and opposition to Pelosi continuing as Democratic leader. "I'd think after almost two years of being in Congress,

the first advertisement that my opponent would run would be something about her accomplishments," Brindisi said.

He's running his own tax ad, localizing the law by highlighting Tenney's campaign support from the cable giant Charter, whose New York subsidiary, Spectrum, has raised rates and spent hundreds of millions on stock buybacks after getting a tax windfall. "I want to point out to the voters that when we talk about the swamp, this is the worst kind of example," Brindisi told The Associated Press.

Republicans aren't apologizing for their tax votes, even if it's not at the forefront of their campaigns.

Rep. Mimi Walters, a vulnerable Republican in southern California, said in a recent interview that she plans to use it in her paid advertising this fall. But her ads so far this year have focused on other topics.

"In the beginning ... there was a lot of pushback. That's just natural. You're making a big change, and people weren't sure," said Walters, who represents one of 25 districts nationally that sent a Republican to the House in 2016 but opted for Hillary Clinton over Trump in the presidential race.

"Now that people have started to see the benefits ... people come up and thank me," Walters said, adding that she's "results oriented" and pointing to economic growth figures that she says prove "we made the right decision."

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Josh Boak and Hannah Fingerhut in Washington and Jeff Karoub in Detroit contributed to this report.

Organic dairy farmers vow to compete in changing industry

By DAVID PITT, Associated Press

FAIRFIELD, Iowa (AP) — Small family operated dairy farms with cows freely grazing on verdant pastures are going out business as large confined animal operations with thousands of animals lined up in assembly-line fashion are expanding into the organic market.

Many traditional small-scale organic farmers are determined to fight back against the industry transformation by appealing to consumers to look closely at the organic milk they buy to make sure it comes from a farm that meets the idyllic expectations portrayed on the cartons. While the large operations say they're meeting U.S. Department of Agriculture standards for organic milk, the smaller farms say federal regulators under Republican and Democratic administrations have relaxed enforcement of strict organic standards for dairy farms, allowing confinement dairies to grow and put intense competition on small family operated dairies.

"There's a higher authority than the USDA. There's a higher authority than the federal courts where we've litigated some of these issues. And that's the consumer. Their dollar has power," said Mark Kastel at the Wisconsin-based Cornucopia Institute, a nonprofit farm policy public interest group.

The dairy industry, like much of U.S. farming, has trended toward fewer but larger farms since the 1980s, when organic milk was available only at farmers markets or specialty grocers and the milk came from small-scale dairy farms selling to a local cooperative. Now organic dairy products are widely distributed by mainstream grocers and mass retailers including Costco, Target and Walmart. But much of those companies' store-brand milk comes from dairies with thousands of cows maintained in immense confinement operations.

Kastel says that style of farming is contrary to what the founders of the organic movement envisioned and what consumers believe they're buying. His group on Thursday is releasing an updated Organic Dairy Scorecard, which will rank 160 brands evaluated for their organic practices including quality of pasture, how frequently cows graze and how often they're milked.

A spokeswoman for Aurora Organic Dairy, the industry's largest supplier to grocery chains such as Costco, Safeway, and Walmart, said activists who believe organic food should come from only small producers are the primary critics inaccurately portraying large-scale organic production.

Sonja Tuitele said the company's farms have more than 10,000 acres (4,046 hectares) of organic pasture for grazing and the farms exceed minimum requirements for grazing days and percent of diet from grazing.

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The company has nine barns in Colorado and Texas with about 26,000 cows. The largest has 4,400 cows and the smallest, 900 cows. Aurora CEO Scott McGinty said in a statement released in April that the company maintains two USDA accredited certifiers for each farm.

"A second organic certification is a voluntary quality assurance step to ensure our farms receive more frequent inspections and measurement of compliance," he said.

Competition from large operations combined with plummeting dairy prices in the past four years have left organic dairy farmers either barely squeezing out a profit or in most cases losing money. It has accelerated the loss of smaller farms.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported in February that the number of U.S. dairy farms, including organic and conventional fell nearly 4 percent last year from the previous year to 40,219. The number of dairy farms declined 32 percent in the last decade.

For Patti and Brian Wilson, the changing industry has soured the profitability at their 600-acre dream dairy farm in Orwell, Vermont, they converted to organic 16 years ago. Milking their 50 cows has become unprofitable, said Patty, who was an agronomist with the USDA before she began farming full time.

"We just put an ad out listing our herd for sale," she said. "It's been a slow decline, kind of a slow death."

Southern Iowa organic dairy farmer Francis Thicke's strategy is to work with other farmers to create the Organic Farmers Association, a grassroots group focused on organic policy issues. They have launched the Real Organic Project, an effort to create an additional label that will be placed on packaging to tell consumers that the products meet traditional organic standards. A pilot project this year will have 50 farms with products carrying the Real Organics label.

In addition to meeting USDA certification requirements, they must meet the project's standards, including that produce has been grown in soil and not hydroponically and that animals have access to the outdoors.

Thicke, who has been in organic farming since the 1970s, walks among 85 docile Jersey cows on his 730-acre (295-hectare) Radiance Dairy farm near Fairfield as they lounge under a grove of trees on a sunny summer day, casually walking and grabbing mouthfuls of thick green grass. He sells 2,000 gallons (7,570 liters) of organic milk a week in the form of milk, cheese and yogurt to nearby restaurants, grocery stores and a private college.

"Basically, it's just bringing organic back to the roots that the pioneer organic farmers envisioned," Thicke said of the Real Organics label effort.

Follow David Pitt on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/davepitt>

Compound suspects built in tiny off-the-grid community

By MORGAN LEE and MARY HUDETZ, Associated Press

TAOS, N.M. (AP) — They arrived at the start of winter to set up makeshift living quarters on the high-desert plains of northern New Mexico, amid a tiny community of off-the-grid homes on 10-acre lots.

For a time, the newcomers appeared to adapt to life 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the nearest groceries in Amalia by installing solar electricity and stockpiling used tires — just like neighbors who used recycled materials for the region's signature "earthship" self-built homes.

"We just figured they were doing what we were doing, getting a piece of land and getting off the grid," said Tyler Anderson, a 41-year-old auto mechanic who lived nearby.

But by late spring, the extended Muslim family was the target of investigations and surveillance involving the FBI, the local sheriff and authorities in Georgia. The Taos County sheriff said they were searching for a 3-year-old boy who had abruptly disappeared in December with his father from Jonesboro, Georgia.

A raid on the property Friday led authorities to find five adults, one of them a heavily armed man identified as the missing boy's father, and 11 malnourished children living in filth and without clean drinking water, the Taos County sheriff said. A second search of the property Monday led authorities to another grim discovery — the remains of a young boy that have since been sent to a medical examiner to be identified.

The missing boy's father, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, who is the son of a well-known imam in New York, is under

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investigation in the death of the unidentified child found on the property. He also is accused in court documents of training children at the compound to carry out school shootings after a foster parent of one of the 11 youths removed from the property reported the allegation to authorities.

Prosecutor Timothy Hasson included the claim in a court filing Wednesday, marking yet another dark turn in the story of a squalid compound that authorities have described as a small, camping trailer wedged into the ground. Wahhaj and the four other adults, including a man and three women, all have been charged with 11 counts of child abuse in the case.

"He poses a great danger to the children found on the property as well as a threat to the community as a whole due to the presence of firearms and his intent to use these firearms in a violent and illegal manner," Hasson wrote in the filing as he sought to have Wahhaj remain jailed without bail.

Prosecutors did not bring up the accusation of the training for a school shooting during initial court hearings Wednesday for the abuse suspects. A judge ordered them all held without bond pending further proceedings.

Aleks Kostich of the Taos County Public Defender's Office questioned the new accusations, saying the claim was presented with little information beyond the explanation that it came from a foster parent. He also has questioned "thin" criminal complaints filed against the five adults on child abuse charges, saying they are vague and may be legally insufficient.

While he did not elaborate, Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe has said adults at the compound are considered to be "extremist of the Muslim belief."

Before the raid that followed a two-month investigation and FBI surveillance, Hogrefe said, there had been reports of gunfire coming from the sage-brush laden acreage where the group built their compound.

But Anderson, the auto mechanic, said the sound of gunfire hadn't bothered him in an area where target practice on private property attracts little notice. He says he and his wife bought a plot of land for \$8,000 and moved to the rural subdivision seven years to escape big-city economic pressures and stress.

He remembered this week that two adolescent boys from the compound rode a motorbike on the community's private dirt roads. The younger children at first had visited neighboring properties to find playmates.

Anderson didn't recall seeing the missing boy, Abdul-ghani Wahhaj, whose mother says cannot walk and requires constant attention due to a condition caused by lack of oxygen and blood flow around the time of birth.

Authorities expected to learn Thursday from medical examiners whether the human remains found at the compound site are his.

His grandfather, Imam Siraj Wahhaj, earlier this year posted a plea on Facebook for help finding his grandson.

The grandfather heads the Masjid At-Taqwa in Brooklyn, a mosque that has attracted radical speakers to over the years. He met Mahmud Abouhalima when he came to the site to raise money for Muslims in Afghanistan. Abouhalima later helped bomb the World Trade Center in 1993.

The mosque was founded in a neighborhood that, at the time, was plagued with drug violence, and got press attention in the 1980s for organizing nighttime anti-drug patrols intended to improve public safety.

In a Georgia arrest warrant, authorities said 39-year-old Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, the imam's son, had told his son's mother that he wanted to perform an exorcism on the child because he believed he was possessed by the devil. He later said he was taking the child to a park and didn't return. He is accused of kidnapping in Georgia.

At the compound, Anderson said he had helped the two men with electrical work as they hired another neighbor to excavate, and with installing solar panels. Eventually, he grew frustrated that they couldn't maintain solar equipment on their own and stopped helping.

He visited the property again after the raid Friday and was astonished that it had fallen into decay and disarray — and by reports that children at the compound had gone hungry.

"I don't know what happened to the money," he said. "Maybe they felt like they were being watched and couldn't leave."

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Hudetz reported from Albuquerque. AP writers Kate Brumback in Atlanta, and Russell Contreras in Albuquerque, N.M. , contributed to this report.

History shared but unreconciled in city's Confederate statue

By JAY REEVES, Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) — In 1906, when aging, white Confederate veterans of the Civil War and black ex-slaves still lived on the old plantations of the Deep South, two very different celebrations were afoot in this city known even then as a beacon of black empowerment.

Tuskegee Institute, founded to educate Southern blacks whose families had lived in bondage for generations, was saluting its 25th anniversary.

Meanwhile, area whites were preparing to dedicate a monument to rebel soldiers in a downtown park set aside exclusively for white people.

Flash forward to today and that same Confederate monument still stands in the same park, both of them owned by a Confederate heritage group. They sit in the heart of a poor, black-controlled town of 9,800 people that's less than 3 percent white.

Students from what's now Tuskegee University once tried and failed to tear down the old gray statue, which has since become a target for vandals. But critics who want it gone aren't optimistic about removing it, even as similar monuments come down nationwide.

"I think it would probably take a bomb to get it down," said Dyann Robinson, president of the Tuskegee Historic Preservation Commission.

The story of how such a monument could be erected and still remain in place a century later offers lessons in just how hard it can be to confront a shared history that still divides a nation.

In 1860, before the Civil War began, Census records show 1,020 white people owned 18,176 black people in Macon County, where Tuskegee sits. The enslaved were mostly kept uneducated. Schooling became nearly as big a need as food and shelter once the fighting stopped in 1865.

Established by the Alabama Legislature through the joint work of a freed slave and a former slave owner, the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute was founded in 1881, according to the school's official history. Booker T. Washington built it into a leading institution for educating blacks. To this day, it remains a leading historically black university.

By the time of Tuskegee's 25th anniversary, Washington was widely acclaimed for advocating practical education, character building and hard work to lift blacks from the poverty of the postwar South. William Howard Taft, who would become U.S. president a few years later, attended the celebration; so did industrialist and donor Andrew Carnegie.

Coverage of the anniversary festivities in The Tuskegee News, a white-owned newspaper, emphasized that blacks needed to get along with the whites who had near total control in the old Confederate states.

"Every address from northerner, or southerner, and black gave forth the unmistakable tribute to the value, yea, the absolute necessity of the southern negro doing all in his power to merit the confidence and friendly cooperation of the southern white man ...," the paper reported on its front page.

Meanwhile, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, composed of female descendants of Confederate veterans, was erecting monuments glorifying the "lost cause" of the South all over the region in the early 1900s. The women of the Tuskegee chapter planned one for their town.

They staged a musical performance and a chrysanthemum show to raise money for a Confederate statue, according to Tuskegee News accounts. Then, two months after the Tuskegee Institute anniversary, leaders of the white-controlled county government gave the United Daughters the main downtown square to serve as a "park for white people" around a memorial to Macon County's Confederate veterans, city records show.

The monument, which included the inscribed admonition to "honor the brave," finally was dedicated on Oct. 6, 1909. The Montgomery Advertiser called the ceremony "one of the largest masses of white

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people ever before witnessed in Tuskegee." Confederate flags waved and 13 young women were dressed in crimson and white to represent the Confederate states.

Newspaper stories from the time don't say whether any blacks attended the event, which included a parade through town, but they most certainly were around. Macon County was around 82 percent black at the time, Census records show, although Jim Crow laws kept whites in firm political control.

The nation's first black combat pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen, trained in the town in the 1940s, but not until the 1960s did the civil rights movement start changing political dynamics.

Blacks were first elected to office in Tuskegee in 1964, but whites still controlled most of Alabama. Frustrated after an all-white jury in another county acquitted a white man accused of murder in the shooting death of a civil rights worker, blacks took out their anger on the Confederate monument in 1966.

A crowd described in news reports as Tuskegee students converged downtown after jurors acquitted white gas station attendant Marvin Segrest in the killing of black Navy veteran and civil rights worker Samuel L. Younge Jr., who was gunned down after asking to use a whites-only bathroom. It took only 70 minutes or so for jurors to side with Segrest.

On a night when rocks flew through windows around the town square, demonstrators went after the Confederate monument.

Simuel Schutz Jr., a friend of Younge who participated in the demonstration, said protesters attached a chain or rope to the monument in a bid to pull it down, but failed.

"We didn't have a vehicle to topple it that night and that's why it's still there," said Schutz, 72, now a contractor in Trenton, New Jersey.

But protesters did have spray paint. The next morning, the soldier atop the monument had a yellow stripe down its back with the words "black power" scrawled on the base in black paint.

First elected mayor in 1972, Johnny Ford said he tried to have the monument relocated after taking office and again in 2015. Both efforts failed, as did a few similar attempts during the intervening years.

"Whites oppose moving it and older blacks didn't want to for fear of upsetting race relations," said Ford, now out of office after serving more than three decades both as mayor and a state representative from the area.

For some, the statue is just part of the city's landscape and isn't much of an issue.

"It's just part of Tuskegee, part of its history," said Kelvin Stephens, a black man who works in a computer shop across a street from the memorial.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy still owns the square where the monument stands, and they don't plan to remove it.

"It is a wonderful addition to the downtown area and has been there for over 100 years, and the United Daughters see no reason for it to change," said a letter to the city by an attorney for the group, Richard L. Wyatt.

The 2-acre square has been open to everyone for years despite records that show it was supposed to be for only whites originally. Community members of all colors regularly gather on the green for events including the upcoming All Macon County Day, an annual event that will include hip-hop and rap music.

The city cuts the grass on the square and trims the rose bushes around the monument, but the United Daughters are in charge of the statue itself, officials said.

A United Daughters newsletter posted online shows the Tuskegee chapter faded away in 2001 only to be reactivated with eight members in 2014. A member of the United Daughters, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the topic in town, said the chapter was revived in large part to protect and maintain the memorial.

The few members still in town cleaned the statue after vandals tagged it with spray paint about three years ago, Wyatt said in an interview, but they've yet to remove black paint that stains the gray stone following a similar incident in October. No one was charged in the vandalism.

The United Daughters member said the group decided against cleaning the statue after the latest incident

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out of fear it would only be repeated. "We started to but we decided to just let sleeping dogs lie," she said.

Mayor Lawrence F. Haygood Jr. has said he understands why some people want the statue gone, but there are no moves afoot to remove it as the one-year anniversary approaches of a deadly confrontation over a Confederate monument in Charlottesville, Virginia.

It's unclear whether anything can be done anyway, since Alabama legislators passed a law last year banning the removal or alteration of sites including Confederate monuments.

In Birmingham, city officials built a wooden box around a 52-foot-tall obelisk that was erected to honor Confederate veterans in 1905 in a downtown park, and the state sued to enforce the law. A judge's upcoming ruling could clarify whether cities like Tuskegee can do anything about memorials that some find offensive and others revere.

In the meantime, Tuskegee's stone Confederate stands in the middle of a nearly all-black city, the butt of his musket resting near the feet and the hands gripping the barrel.

"It's just there in town like it's always been," said the mayor.

Associated Press news researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

For the complete AP coverage marking one year since the rally in Charlottesville, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/CharlottesvilleAYearLater> .

For now, Army suspends discharges of immigrant recruits

By MARTHA MENDOZA and GARANCE BURKE, Associated Press

The U.S. Army has stopped discharging immigrant recruits who enlisted seeking a path to citizenship — at least temporarily.

A memo shared with The Associated Press on Wednesday and dated July 20 spells out orders to high-ranking Army officials to stop processing discharges of men and women who enlisted in the special immigrant program, effective immediately.

It was not clear how many recruits were impacted by the action, and the Pentagon did not immediately respond to requests for comment about the memo.

"Effective immediately, you will suspend processing of all involuntary separation actions," read the memo signed by Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Marshall Williams.

The disclosure comes one month after the AP reported that dozens of immigrant enlistees were being discharged or had their contracts cancelled. Some said they were given no reason for their discharge. Others said the Army informed them they'd been labeled as security risks because they have relatives abroad or because the Defense Department had not completed background checks on them.

Early last month, the Pentagon said there had been no specific policy change and that background checks were ongoing. And in mid-July the Army reversed one discharge, for Brazilian reservist Lucas Calixto, 28, who had sued. Nonetheless, discharges of other immigrant enlistees continued. Attorneys sought to bring a class action lawsuit last week to offer protections to a broader group of reservists and recruits in the program, demanding that prior discharges be revoked and that further separations be halted.

A judge's order references the July 20 memo, and asks the Army to clarify how it impacts the discharge status of Calixto and other plaintiffs. As part of the memo, Williams also instructed Army officials to recommend whether the military should issue further guidance related to the program.

Margaret Stock, an Alaska-based immigration attorney and a retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel who helped create the immigrant recruitment program, said Wednesday the memo proves there was a policy.

"It's an admission by the Army that they've improperly discharged hundreds of soldiers," she said. "The next step should be go back and rescind the people who were improperly discharged."

Discharged recruits and reservists reached Wednesday said their discharges were still in place as far as they knew.

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One Pakistani man caught by surprise by his discharge said he was filing for asylum. He asked that his name be withheld because he fears he might be forced to return to Pakistan, where he could face danger as a former U.S. Army enlistee.

The reversal comes as the Defense Department has attempted to strengthen security requirements for the program, through which historically immigrants vowed to risk their lives for the promise of U.S. citizenship.

President George W. Bush ordered "expedited naturalization" for immigrant soldiers after 9/11 in an effort to swell military ranks. Seven years later the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program, known as MAVNI, became an official recruiting program.

It came under fire from conservatives when President Barack Obama added DACA recipients — young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children — to the list of eligible enlistees. In response, the military layered on additional security clearances for recruits to pass before heading to boot camp.

The Trump Administration added even more hurdles, creating a backlog within the Defense Department. Last fall, hundreds of recruits still in the enlistment process had their contracts canceled.

Government attorneys called the recruitment program an "elevated security risk" in another case involving 17 foreign-born military recruits who enlisted through the program but have not been able to clear additional security requirements. Some recruits had falsified their background records and were connected to state-sponsored intelligence agencies, the court filing said.

Eligible recruits are required to have legal status in the U.S., such as a student visa, before enlisting. More than 5,000 immigrants were recruited into the program in 2016, and an estimated 10,000 are currently serving. Nearly 110,000 members of the Armed Forces have gained citizenship by serving in the U.S. military since Sept. 11, 2001, according to the Defense Department.

14,000 fight California fires, some from prisons or overseas

By JONATHAN J. COOPER and PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

UKIAH, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters said for the first time Wednesday that they have made good progress battling the state's largest-ever wildfire but didn't expect to have it fully under control until September.

The blaze north of San Francisco has grown to the size of Los Angeles since it started two weeks ago, fueled by dry vegetation, high winds and rugged terrain that made it too dangerous for firefighters to directly attack the flames now spanning 470 square miles (1,217 square kilometers).

Crews, including inmates and firefighters from overseas, have managed to cut lines around half the fire to contain the flames, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. The blaze about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of San Francisco around the resort region of Clear Lake has destroyed 116 homes and injured two firefighters.

Those lines have kept the southern edge of the fire from spreading into residential areas on the east side of the lake. But Cal Fire said the flames are out of control to the north, roaring into remote and unpopulated areas of thick forests and deep ravines as firefighters contend with record-setting temperatures.

California is seeing earlier, longer and more destructive wildfire seasons because of drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change and home construction deeper into the forests.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jonathan Cox said the area has few natural barriers to slow flames and terrain that firefighters can't get to. So firefighters fall back to the nearest road, ridge or river, where they bulldoze a wide line and wait for the flames to come to them.

The Mendocino Complex, which will take months to put out, is one of 18 burning throughout the state Wednesday. Because of such extreme conditions early on, officials and experts warn that California could be facing its toughest wildfire season yet, with the historically worst months still to come.

Here's a look at the firefighters who are battling California's blazes:

14,000 FIREFIGHTERS

They are deployed statewide and led by Cal Fire. The state's firefighting agency employs 5,300 full-time firefighters and hires an additional 1,700 each fire season. Trained prisoners and firefighters from 17 states

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and around the world fill out the ranks.

They are battling blazes on the Nevada border and along the coast. Cal Fire crews are helping federal firefighters put out flames in national forests and one that has reached Yosemite National Park, prompting its closure at the height of tourist season.

Those on the ground get help from more than 1,000 fire engines, 59 bulldozers, 22 air tankers, 17 airplanes, 12 helicopters and 11 mobile kitchens.

Firefighters under Cal Fire's command have helped Oregon authorities fight a fire near the California border and responded to a blaze that broke out this week in Orange County and burned a dozen cabins.

4,088 AT MENDOCINO COMPLEX FIRE

The state's largest wildfire in history has drawn a contingent to battle what is actually two fires burning so closely together that they're being attacked as one.

Though it's exploded in size, more firefighters are fighting a fire near Redding that has killed six people and destroyed more than 1,000 homes and businesses. It threatens a much larger urban area, so Cal Fire has devoted more resources to it.

Both blazes are considered nearly half contained.

1,916 INMATES

California prisoners also are fighting fires. Cal Fire trains minimum-security inmates and pays them \$1 an hour in the field and \$2 a day when they're not on duty. Inmate firefighters also typically have their sentences reduced for every day spent fighting fires.

They do similar work to any firefighter, working long hours and sleeping in camps with other inmates. Most are on the front lines, using chain saws and hand tools to reduce tinder-dry brush and trees to stop the flames.

53 FROM DOWN UNDER

Firefighters from Australia and New Zealand are helping California, arriving this week at the Mendocino Complex Fire after an 8,600-mile (13,840-kilometer) flight and two-hour bus trip.

Craig Cottrill, chief of the Wellington Fire Department in New Zealand, said his country doesn't see fires nearly as big as California's.

"Everything is on a 100 times scale," he said. "This thing's massive."

Rob Gore, a firefighter from the Australian capital of Canberra, said it makes for good relationships that Australians often fight fires in North America and that Canadians and Americans regularly fight fires in his country.

"When those big events happen across the continents, we all pitch in," he said.

The New Zealanders have been assigned as safety officers, line supervisors and heavy equipment "bosses" who direct bulldozer operators.

200 SOLDIERS

They are undergoing four days of training to fight wildfires and are expected to be deployed to California next week, U.S. Army Col. Rob Manning said in a statement. Authorities haven't decided where to send the soldiers from the Tacoma, Washington-based 14th Brigade Engineer Battalion.

They will be outfitted with wildland protective gear, organized into 10 teams and led by experienced civilian firefighters. Personnel from the same base helped fight California wildfires last year.

Elias reported from San Francisco. Associated Press writer Amanda Lee Myers in Los Angeles and Haven Daley in the Mendocino National Forest also contributed to this report.

Follow AP's wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>

Video shows massacre suspect punching self, speaking softly

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Prosecutors on Wednesday released hours of video interrogation of Florida's school shooting suspect, footage showing the young man slouching in a chair, being repeatedly urged by a detective to speak louder and punching himself in the face when he is alone.

The footage contained the same material as a transcript released earlier in the week, and both were edited to remove what authorities say was a direct confession by Nikolas Cruz to the Feb. 14 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

In other developments, a sheriff leading the state commission investigating the massacre said Wednesday that the suspect's behavior before the shooting was a "roller-coaster," where he would have stretches of good conduct before it deteriorated.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gaultieri told the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission that Cruz's fluctuating behavior through the years made it difficult for school officials to determine how he should be handled. Cruz, a 19-year-old former student at Stoneman Douglas, is charged with killing 17 people in the Valentine's Day attack there.

"It was really a roller-coaster with Cruz really from birth," Gaultieri said. A report released last week by the Broward County school district said he began showing behavioral issues that got him kicked out of pre-kindergarten. He spent his school years shuttling between regular campuses and those for children with emotional and behavioral problems. "He had some really bad low times but at times he was without behavioral issues," Gaultieri said.

The video made public Wednesday shows Cruz hunched over at times, leaning back at others. He is seen wearing hospital clothes and speaking so softly at the beginning that Broward Sheriff's Detective John Curcio has to repeatedly urge him to talk louder. Shortly after entering a small interrogation room, the detective asks Cruz: "You all right? Got to be able to speak so I can hear you."

At one point, with the police out of the room, the video shows Cruz take two fingers, put them to his left temple and pretend to pull a trigger. He gave a little shake after doing this. Later, he is seen punching himself hard in the face with both hands and occasionally scratching at his right arm with a small object he picked up off the floor.

Much of the interrogation focused on a demonic voice Cruz claims he has heard inside his head for years that urges him to commit violent acts. When asked what the voice usually said, Cruz answered, "Burn. Kill. Destroy." He also said the voice told him to cut himself.

At another point with Curcio out of the room, Cruz mutters, "Kill me," and then, later, "I want to die."

Earlier, at Wednesday's public safety commission session, Gaultieri said there were times in middle school and at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that Cruz's behavior "dive-bombed," and he required an escort to monitor him.

Gaultieri didn't go into details Wednesday, but it has been previously reported that Cruz got into fights, committed vandalism, cursed teachers and drew a swastika on his backpack. Administrators conducted a threat assessment of him in 2016, about five months before he was kicked out of the school.

The 14 appointed members and five ex-officio members will learn more about Cruz's educational, mental health and medical history during a closed session Thursday as they conclude their monthly two-day meeting.

The commission must file a report with its findings of what led to the shooting and recommendations for system improvements by Jan. 1. Commission members include law enforcement and educational officials, mental health professionals, a legislator and two parents of students who died in the attack.

Guy Grace, the security head for the Littleton, Colorado, school district, presented the commission Wednesday with suggestions for improving safety at Florida's schools. He said his district boosted security after the 1999 shooting at Columbine High School that left 13 dead plus the two student attackers. He said measures can range from high-tech solutions such as camera systems that can alert monitors to potential problems to simply making doors easier to lock. Stoneman Douglas teachers complained after the shoot-

ing that their classrooms couldn't be locked from the inside — they had to go into the hallway with a key. Grace said his district has also issued devices to all staff members allowing them to initiate a lockdown at their schools.

Associated Press writers Curt Anderson in Fort Lauderdale and Mike Schneider in Orlando contributed to this story.

Prosecutors present more evidence of fraud in Manafort case

By CHAD DAY, STEPHEN BRAUN and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort's protégé wrapped up his testimony after implicating the former Trump campaign chairman and himself in financial crimes while also enduring stinging attacks on his character and credibility.

Once Rick Gates finished testifying, prosecutors resumed trying to make their case through documentary evidence to demonstrate Manafort's control of offshore bank accounts containing millions of dollars. None of those accounts was reported to the IRS as required by U.S. law.

Gates has been the government's star witness in Manafort's financial fraud trial, testifying how, at the behest of his longtime boss, he helped conceal millions of dollars in foreign income and submitted fake mortgage and tax documents.

Defense lawyers saw an opening to undermine his testimony by painting him as liar and a philanderer, getting him to admit to an extramarital affair and reminding jurors how he had lied to special counsel Robert Mueller's team while working out a plea deal for himself.

The testimony, stretching across three days and ending Wednesday, created an extraordinary courtroom showdown between the two former Trump campaign aides who were indicted together by Mueller but who have since opted for radically different strategies: Manafort is the lone American charged by Mueller to opt for trial, whereas Gates pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate by testifying against his former boss.

Neither man was charged in connection with their Trump campaign work, but the trial has nonetheless been a distraction for a president who insists Manafort was treated shabbily and who continues to publicly fume about Mueller's investigation into potential ties between his associates and the Kremlin.

Prosecutors sandwiched the testimony of Gates around other witnesses who, in sometimes dry and detailed testimony, described Manafort's lavish spending and use of offshore accounts to stash Ukrainian political consulting fees.

A clothier said he sold Manafort more than \$900,000 in luxury clothes, a bookkeeper says she helped disguise foreign income as a loan to reduce Manafort's tax burden and, on Wednesday, an FBI forensic accounting specialist said Manafort hid more than 30 offshore accounts in three types of currencies from the IRS.

Overall, the accountant traced more than \$65 million flowing into offshore accounts controlled by Manafort, and she detailed for jurors how more than \$15.5 million flowed out to fund his lavish lifestyle between 2010 and 2014.

But it was Gates' testimony that has so far generated the most drama, as the witness admitted embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from his boss, confessed to an extramarital affair and turned in spectacular fashion against a longtime mentor.

Prosecutors relied on Gates to provide direct, first-hand support of the accusations against Manafort.

He told jurors how he disguised millions of dollars in foreign income as loans in order to lower Manafort's tax bill. He recounted how he and Manafort used more than a dozen offshore shell companies and bank accounts in Cyprus to funnel the money, all while concealing the accounts and the income from the IRS.

Prosecutors sought to soften the blow of the cross-examination by asking Gates to acknowledge his own crimes, including a lie to Mueller's team in February. But Gates nonetheless faced aggressive questioning by Manafort's lawyer, Kevin Downing, who at one point asked him, "After all the lies you've told and the fraud you've committed, you expect this jury to believe you?"

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Downing made one last effort Wednesday to erode Gates' credibility as he tried to confront him over whether he had engaged in four extramarital affairs, instead of just the one that he had admitted to earlier in the trial.

But after a lengthy conference between lawyers, Downing asked Gates only about the time span of his "secret life."

Gates replied, "I made many mistakes over many years" before he stepped down from the witness stand.

Downing also sought to counter earlier testimony that Manafort had encouraged Gates to deceive authorities. He got Gates to acknowledge that Manafort told him to be truthful about offshore shell companies and bank accounts during a 2014 interview with the FBI.

The interview was part of an FBI investigation that sought to recover assets looted from the Ukrainian government under the rule of former President Viktor Yanukovich.

Gates said under questioning Wednesday that he told FBI agents and Justice Department lawyers about some of the offshore companies that contained millions of dollars in proceeds from their Ukrainian political work.

But prosecutor Greg Andres followed up by suggesting that Gates and Manafort were not fully truthful.

"Did you tell the FBI that there was hidden income in those accounts?" Andres asked.

"No, I did not," Gates responded.

Following Gates' testimony, an FBI forensic accountant, Morgan Magionos, told jurors bank records from Cyprus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom revealed the accounts were connected to Manafort and his associates. She said Manafort's passport was used to open many of them in U.S. dollars, euros and British pounds.

Using charts, emails and financial and tax records, Magionos told jurors how she traced millions of dollars of payments for mortgages, home improvements, rugs and clothes back to his hidden foreign bank accounts. In one case, she alleged that foreign accounts were used by Manafort to pay for more than \$3.5 million in home improvements.

Konstantin Kilimnik, a man prosecutors say has ties to Russian intelligence, was also among the beneficial owners of some of the companies. Kilimnik is charged along with Manafort with witness tampering in a separate case. Gates was also listed as an owner of several of the accounts.

Also Wednesday, an IRS agent, Michael Welch, testified that Manafort didn't report at least \$16 million on his tax returns between 2010 and 2014. He also said Manafort should have reported multiple foreign bank accounts to the IRS in those years.

U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III repeatedly has interrupted prosecutors to encourage them to speed things along. He poked fun at himself Wednesday as he haggled with attorneys over the number and type of charts prosecutors could present during the testimony of the accountant.

"Judges should be patient. They made a mistake when they confirmed me. I'm not very patient, so don't try my patience," Ellis said.

Prosecutors say they have eight witnesses left and expect to rest their case by Friday afternoon.

Associated Press writer Matthew Barakat contributed to this report.

GOP congressman from New York charged with insider trading

By TOM HAYS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Republican U.S. Rep. Christopher Collins of New York was arrested Wednesday on charges he fed inside information he gleaned from sitting on the board of a biotechnology corporation to his son, helping family and friends dodge hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses when one of the company's drugs failed in a medical trial.

Collins, a staunch supporter of President Donald Trump who was among the first sitting members of Congress to endorse his candidacy for the White House, pleaded not guilty to an indictment unsealed at a court in Manhattan. The indictment charges Collins, his son and the father of the son's fiancée with

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conspiracy, securities fraud, wire fraud and making false statements to the FBI.

Speaking to reporters in Buffalo hours after his release on bail, Collins, 68, professed his innocence and said he would remain on the ballot for re-election this fall.

"I believe I acted properly and within the law at all times," he said. "I will mount a vigorous defense in court to clear my name. I look forward to being fully vindicated and exonerated."

Prosecutors said the charges stem from Collins' decision to share with his son insider information about Innate Immunotherapeutics Ltd., a biotechnology company headquartered in Sydney, Australia, with offices in Auckland, New Zealand. Collins was the company's largest shareholder, with nearly 17 percent of its shares, and sat on its board.

According to the indictment, Collins was attending the Congressional Picnic at the White House on June 22, 2017, when he received an email from the company's chief executive saying that a trial of a drug the company developed to treat multiple sclerosis was a clinical failure.

Collins responded to the email saying: "Wow. Makes no sense. How are these results even possible???" the indictment said.

It said he then called his son, Cameron Collins, and, after several missed calls, they spoke for more than six minutes.

The next morning, according to the indictment, Cameron Collins began selling his shares, unloading enough over a two-day period to avoid \$570,900 in losses before a public announcement of the drug trial results. After the announcement, the company's stock price plunged 92 percent.

Prosecutors said the son passed the information to a third defendant, Stephen Zarsky. Their combined trades avoided more than \$768,000 in losses, authorities said. They said Zarsky traded on it and tipped off at least three others.

U.S. Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman, a Republican, said Collins was supposed to keep the trial results secret. "Instead, he decided to commit a crime," he said. "Representative Collins, who, by virtue of his office, helps write the laws of this country, acted as if the law did not apply to him."

Collins, a conservative first elected in 2012 to represent parts of western New York between Buffalo and Rochester, has vehemently denied wrongdoing. When the House Ethics Committee began investigating the stock trades a year ago, his spokeswoman called it a "partisan witch hunt."

All three defendants pleaded not guilty and were freed on \$500,000 bail.

In his Buffalo news conference, Collins acknowledged being disappointed that Innate's drug trials didn't go well.

"We firmly believed we were on the verge of a medical breakthrough," he said.

But he said that even after learning of the setback, "I held on to my shares rather than sell them" as the law required.

He said the decision not to sell cost him millions of dollars.

"That's OK," he said. "That's the risk I took."

Collins has remained a vocal Trump supporter, most recently calling for an end to special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into possible campaign collusion and blaming Barack Obama's administration for failing to push back on Russia.

On Wednesday, House Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican, said he was removing Collins from the House Energy and Commerce Committee, calling insider trading "a clear violation of the public trust."

In a written statement Wednesday, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the charges against Collins "show the rampant culture of corruption and self-enrichment among Republicans in Washington today."

Collins ran unopposed in the Republican primary and holds what's largely considered a safe Republican seat in a state that went to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in 2016. He's being challenged in November by Democrat Nate McMurray.

McMurray said Collins has brought shame to the region, but he stopped short of saying he should resign.

"That's his decision to make. I'll leave it up to him, but I know what I would do if I was in his place,"

said McMurray, the town supervisor in the Buffalo suburb of Grand Island.

The advocacy group Public Citizen filed a request for an investigation of Collins' stock dealings with the Office of Congressional Ethics and the Securities and Exchange Commission in January 2017.

Tom Price, who was Trump's first secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, also came under scrutiny for his purchases of Innate stock while he was a Republican member of Congress from Georgia.

Democrats made an issue of Price's purchase at his Senate confirmation hearings in early 2017, after the Wall Street Journal reported that company officials had said Price was allowed to buy the stocks at a low price. Price, who bought about 400,000 shares of the stock, said he'd learned of the firm through Collins but said the price he received was available to any investor.

Price resigned as health secretary last September under criticism for taking pricey charter flights at taxpayers' expense.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram in Washington, Larry Neumeister in New York, David Klepper in Albany and Carolyn Thompson in Buffalo contributed to this story.

This story has been corrected to show Collins was first elected in 2012, not 2014.

Video shows massacre suspect slouched, punching self in face

By TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Prosecutors on Wednesday released hours of video interrogation of Florida's school shooting suspect, footage showing the young man slouching in a chair, being repeatedly urged by a detective to speak louder and punching himself in the face when he is alone.

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The commission must file a report with its findings of what led to the shooting and recommendations for system improvements by Jan. 1. Commission members include law enforcement and educational officials, mental health professionals, a legislator and two parents of students who died in the attack.

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Grace said his district has also issued devices to all staff members allowing them to initiate a lockdown at their schools.

Associated Press writers Curt Anderson in Fort Lauderdale and Mike Schneider in Orlando contributed to this story.

Court upholds ex-Stanford swimmer's sex assault conviction

By PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An appeals court on Wednesday rejected a former Stanford University swimmer's bid for a new trial and upheld his sexual assault and attempted rape convictions.

The three-judge panel of the 6th District Court of Appeal in San Jose ruled Wednesday that there was "substantial evidence" that Brock Turner received a fair trial.

In 2016, a jury convicted Turner of sexually assaulting an intoxicated and unconscious woman outside an on-campus fraternity party.

The case got national attention after the victim's powerful statement, which she read in court before Turner was sentenced, was shared widely online.

She recounted the assault, her treatment by investigators and the ordeal of facing questions about her sexual activity and drinking habits. It quickly went viral.

"Instead of taking time to heal, I was taking time to recall the night in excruciating detail, in order to prepare for the attorney's questions that would be invasive, aggressive and designed to steer me off course, to contradict myself, my sister, phrased in ways to manipulate my answers," she wrote. "This was a game of strategy, as if I could be tricked out of my own worth."

The Associated Press doesn't generally identify sexual abuse victims.

Judge Aaron Persky rejected a prosecutor's demand for a lengthy prison term and instead sentenced Turner to six months in jail. He was released from jail in September 2016 after serving three months.

Persky's sentence sparked nationwide outrage by those who felt it too lenient.

Voters recalled Persky in June.

The sentence was not part of the appeal and the judges didn't address it.

Turner filed an appeal in December seeking a new trial, arguing that the evidence presented at his trial didn't support his convictions. The jury convicted him of sexually assaulting an intoxicated victim, sexually

assaulting an unconscious victim and attempting to rape her.

Judge Franklin Elia writing for the unanimous panel said there was "substantial evidence" to support conviction of all three charges. In particular, the judge pointed out that Turner tried to run from two graduate students who confronted him assaulting the then-22-year-old woman. The judge wrote that the victim was slurring her speech when she left a fraternity party with Turner and the graduate students testified the victim appeared unconscious when they showed up, chased Turner and held him down until police arrived. He denied running when questioned by police.

"He did not explain or defend himself to them," Elia wrote. "And he lied to police about running."

Turner could petition the California Supreme Court to consider his appeal. Turner's attorney Eric Multhaupt didn't return a phone call Wednesday.

Stanford law professor Michelle Dauber, who led the judge's recall campaign, called on Turner to drop any further appeals.

"The appellate court has now rejected that idea and I think everyone, including Brock Turner, would be better served by accepting the jury's verdict and moving on," she said.

Turner lives outside Dayton, Ohio, with his parents. He is required to register as a sex offender for life.

Tesla CEO's buyout bid raises eyebrows, legal concerns

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Tesla CEO Elon Musk is seeking relief from the pressures of running a publicly held company with a \$72 billion buyout of the electric car maker, but he may be acquiring new headaches with his peculiar handling of the proposed deal.

Almost everything about the deal is outlandish, from Musk's out-of-the-blue disclosure in a nine-word tweet to the assertion that he has lined up adequate financing to a buy a company that seems to burn through cash faster than it produces cars.

If Musk can pull it off, he will have burnished his reputation as an eccentric visionary who has been compared to Tony Stark, the billionaire playboy depicted by actor Robert Downey Jr. in the "Iron Man" movies.

But if the buyout flops, Musk and Tesla will likely face class-action lawsuits from shareholders alleging they were duped, and potential legal trouble from the Securities and Exchange Commission, too.

The SEC already has opened an inquiry into the wording and method of Musk's disclosure about the deal, according to a Wednesday report in The Wall Street Journal, which cited unidentified people familiar with the matter.

"It's very obvious that Musk did not talk to any lawyers before he made his tweet," said John Coffee Jr., a Columbia University law professor and corporate-governance expert.

Tesla didn't respond to requests for comment Wednesday. The SEC declined to comment.

Skepticism about the legitimacy of Musk's proposed deal surfaced almost immediately after Musk dropped the bombshell on his Twitter account a few hours after the stock market opened Tuesday.

"Am considering taking Tesla private at \$420. Funding secured," Musk tweeted, without elaboration or any corroboration from the company.

It took about two hours before Tesla posted a Musk email to company employees on its website elaborating on his reasons for wanting to do the deal, making it clear he was serious. Before that happened, Tesla's stock had already soared. Trading in Tesla's stock was eventually halted until everyone could figure out what was going on.

It wasn't until Wednesday when six directors on Tesla's nine-member board publicly acknowledged that Musk approached them last week about pursuing the financing for a buyout that would take the company off the stock market.

Like Musk's tweet and email to employees, the directors' statement didn't contain details on how the buyout would be financed.

The murkiness of the financing could turn into a legal mine field for Musk and Tesla, according to both Coffee and former SEC lawyer Pete Henning, now a law professor at Wayne State University.

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That's because Musk tweeted that the financing for the buyout had been locked up without equivocation. If there is an indication the financing is shaky, it almost certainly will expose the company and its CEO to allegations of market manipulation or fraud, Coffee and Henning said.

News of the potential buyout already has stung investors known as "short sellers" who have long been a thorn in Musk's side. Short sellers borrow company stock and then resell the shares in the open market in a bet that they will be able to replace them at a much lower price in the near future to repay their debt.

Tesla's stock surged 11 percent on Tuesday, collectively costing short sellers more than \$1 billion, by some estimates.

"If (Musk's) motive was frustration with short sellers, then that could be a case of market manipulation," Coffee said.

Those who believe Musk is carrying out a vendetta against short sellers may point to a May 4 tweet suggesting he might have something up his sleeve. "Oh and uh short burn of the century comin (sic) soon," he wrote.

Musk's use of Twitter to announce a huge deal also raised eyebrows, but that probably didn't violate any laws, Coffee and Henning said. The SEC has previously ruled that using social media to disclose company news is OK, as long as investors have been told that those channels may be used.

Tesla disclosed in a November 2013 regulatory filing that shareholders should follow Musk's Twitter account to keep up with company news.

Even though Musk has 22.3 million followers on Twitter, Tesla probably should have ensured even wider distribution of the news by simultaneously posting information on its website and filing documents with the SEC, Coffee and Henning said.

Some of the fervor for a Tesla buyout faded Wednesday. Tesla's stock backtracked by more than 2 percent to close at \$370.34.

One of the biggest questions surrounding the buyout is Tesla's long history of losing money while it has been investing in electric car technology and ramping up production of its vehicles.

The Palo Alto, California, company has only posted a quarterly profit twice in its history and has never made money during an entire calendar year, something that Musk has been trying to change by cutting costs, including recent mass layoffs that trimmed Tesla's workforce by 9 percent. Tesla lost another \$717.5 million in its most recent quarter.

Musk has promised to begin making money on a consistent basis starting in the third quarter, escalating the pressure that he has already publicly acknowledged has taken an immense toll on him.

Just last week, he revealed he had been working 110 hours a week to deliver on short-term promises he had made to Wall Street, a load he traced to his boorish behavior toward two analysts earlier this year.

"It's very clear that he doesn't like to deal with being a CEO of a public company," said Gene Munster, a former stock market analyst who is now managing partner of investment fund Loup Ventures. "I am not sure it is beating him down, but I am sure he is sick of it."

By taking Tesla private, Musk believes that the company will be able to sharpen its long-term focus of revolutionizing an automobile industry dominated by fuel-combustion vehicles without having to cater to investors' fixation on how the business is faring from one quarter to the next.

Buying Tesla in its entirety would cost \$72 billion, based on the company's outstanding stock as of July 27. But Musk probably doesn't need that much financing because he owns a roughly 20 percent stake in the company and he is also creating a special fund that will allow existing shareholders to retain their stakes in Tesla in the private market, if they want.

Munster estimates Musk will need \$25 billion to \$30 billion to buy out all the Tesla shareholders who want to sell at \$420. Tesla also would likely need to borrow billions more to help pay for its ambitious plans of its electric vehicle line and its battery manufacturing plants.

In a Wednesday research note, Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas estimated Tesla will end up taking on about \$50 billion in additional debt if the company goes private.

___ AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this story.

Man at compound accused of training kids for school attacks

By MORGAN LEE and MARY HUDETZ, Associated Press

TAOS, N.M. (AP) — A father arrested at a ramshackle New Mexico compound where 11 hungry children were found living in filth was training youngsters to commit school shootings, prosecutors said in court documents obtained Wednesday.

The allegations against Siraj Ibn Wahhaj came to light as authorities awaited word on whether human remains discovered at the site were those of his missing son, who is severely disabled and went missing in December in Jonesboro, Georgia, near Atlanta.

The documents say Wahhaj was conducting weapons training with assault rifles at the compound on the outskirts of Amalia, a tiny town near the Colorado border marked by scattered homes and sagebrush.

"He poses a great danger to the children found on the property as well as a threat to the community as a whole due to the presence of firearms and his intent to use these firearms in a violent and illegal manner," Prosecutor Timothy Hasson wrote in the court documents Wednesday.

Authorities raided the compound Friday in an investigation that has yielded a series of startling revelations — including the discovery of the 11 children in rags and word that Wahhaj wanted to perform an exorcism on his son because he thought the boy was possessed by the devil.

Prosecutor Timothy Hasson filed the court documents while asking that Wahhaj be held without bail after he was arrested last week with four other adults at the compound facing child abuse charges.

Prosecutors did not bring up the school shooting accusation during initial court hearings Wednesday for the abuse suspects. A judge ordered them all held without bond pending further proceedings.

In the court documents, authorities said a foster parent of one of the children removed from the compound had told authorities the child had been trained to use an assault rifle in preparation for a school shooting.

Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe previously said adults at the compound were "considered extremist of the Muslim belief." He did not elaborate, saying it was part of the investigation.

Aleks Kostich of the Taos County Public Defender's Office questioned the accusation of a school shooting conspiracy, saying the claim was presented with little information beyond the explanation that it came from a foster parent.

Kostich believes prosecutors are not certain about the credibility of the foster parent, whom he has no way of reaching to verify the claim, he said.

The human remains were being analyzed by medical examiners to determine if they are those of Abdulghani Wahhaj, the missing boy.

Earlier this year, his grandfather, Imam Siraj Wahhaj, posted a plea on Facebook for help finding his grandson.

The elder Wahhaj heads the Masjid At-Taqwa in Brooklyn, a mosque that has attracted radical speakers over the years. He met Mahmud Abouhalima when he came to the site to raise money for Muslims in Afghanistan. Abouhalima later helped bomb the World Trade Center in 1993.

In a Georgia arrest warrant, authorities said 39-year-old Siraj Ibn Wahhaj had told his son's mother that he wanted to perform an exorcism on the child. He later said he was taking the child to a park and didn't return.

He is accused in Georgia of kidnapping the boy.

The arrest warrant issued there says the missing boy has a condition caused by lack of oxygen and blood flow around the time of birth. He cannot walk and requires constant attention, his mother told police.

For months, neighbors worried about the squalid compound built along the remote New Mexico plain, saying they took their concerns to authorities long before sheriff's officials raided the facility described as a small camping trailer in the ground.

The search at the compound came amid a two-month investigation that included the FBI. Hogrefe said federal agents surveilled the area a few weeks ago but did not find probable cause to search the property.

That changed when Georgia detectives forwarded a message to the sheriff that he said initially had been sent to a third party, saying: "We are starving and need food and water."

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Authorities found what Hogrefe called "the saddest living conditions and poverty" he has seen in 30 years in law enforcement. He said Wahhaj was armed with multiple firearms, including an assault rifle. But he was taken into custody without incident.

The group arrived in Amalia in December, with enough money to buy groceries and construction supplies, according to Tyler Anderson, a 41-year-old auto mechanic who lives nearby.

He said he helped them install solar panels after they arrived but eventually stopped visiting.

Anderson said he met both of the men in the group, but never the women, who authorities have said are the mothers of the 11 children, ages 1 to 15.

"We just figured they were doing what we were doing, getting a piece of land and getting off the grid," Anderson said.

As the months passed, he said he stopped seeing the smaller children playing in the area and didn't hear guns being fired at a shooting range on the property.

Jason Badger, who owned the property where the compound was built, said he and his wife had pressed authorities to remove the group after becoming concerned about the children.

The group had built the compound on their acreage instead of a neighboring tract owned by Lucas Morton, one of the men arrested during the raid.

However, a judge dismissed an eviction notice filed by Badger against Morton in June, court records said. The records did not provide further details on the judge's decision.

After the raid, Anderson looked over the property for the first time in months.

"I was flabbergasted from what it had turned into from the last time I saw it," he said.

Hudetz reported from Albuquerque. Associated Press writers Kate Brumback in Atlanta, and Russell Contreras in Albuquerque, N.M., contributed to this report.

'Superman' actress Margot Kidder's death ruled a suicide

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — "Superman" actress Margot Kidder's death has been ruled a suicide, and her daughter said Wednesday it's a relief to finally have the truth out.

Kidder, who played Lois Lane opposite Christopher Reeve's Superman in her most famous role, was found by a friend in her Montana home on May 13.

At the time, Kidder's manager, Camilla Fluxman Pines, said Kidder died peacefully in her sleep.

A statement released Wednesday by Park County coroner Richard Wood said the 69-year-old Kidder "died as a result of a self-inflicted drug and alcohol overdose" and that no further details would be released.

Maggie McGuane, Kidder's daughter by her ex-husband Thomas McGuane, told The Associated Press in a phone interview that she knew her mother died by suicide the moment authorities took her to Kidder's home in Livingston, a small town near Yellowstone National Park.

"It's a big relief that the truth is out there," she said. "It's important to be open and honest so there's not a cloud of shame in dealing with this."

Kidder's death is one of several high-profile suicides this year that include celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain and fashion designer Kate Spade.

McGuane noted that Montana has one of the highest suicide rates in the nation and she urged people with mental illness to seek help.

"It's a very unique sort of grief and pain," McGuane said. "Knowing how many families in this state go through this, I wish that I could reach out to each one of them."

Kidder struggled with mental illness much of her life, and it was made worse by a 1990 car accident that left her in debt and led to her using a wheelchair for almost two years.

Kidder and Reeve starred in four Superman movies between 1978 and 1987. She also appeared in "The Great Waldo Pepper" with Robert Redford in 1975, Brian De Palma's "Sisters" in 1973 and "The Amityville Horror" in 1979.

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She later appeared in small films and television shows until 2017, including "R.L. Stine's the Haunting Hour." She received a Daytime Emmy Award as outstanding performer in a kids' series in 2015 for that role.

Kidder, a native of Yellowknife, Canada, was a political activist who was arrested in 2011 in a Washington, D.C., protest over the proposed Keystone XL pipeline from Canada's oil sands.

Her final years were troubled by conflicts with people who were down on their luck that she took into her home. Between August 2016 and her death in May, authorities were called to her house 40 times on reports of people trespassing, theft and other disturbances, according to police logs released to the AP under a public-records request.

The calls include responses by ambulances five times in seven months, including at the time of her death.

Joan Kesich, a longtime friend who found Kidder's body, said Kidder was fearless and always spoke the truth, regardless of the consequences.

"In her last months, she was herself — same kind of love, same kind of energy," Kesich said. "The challenges that she had were very public. I want what I know about her to be out there because it was glorious. She was really a blazing energy."

Deputies: Arrest made in lemonade stand stickup

MONROE, N.C. (AP) — North Carolina authorities arrested a juvenile Wednesday they say robbed a 9-year-old lemonade vendor of \$17 at gunpoint, a stickup that prompted an outpouring of sympathy and donations for the young entrepreneur.

Tony Underwood, a spokesman for the Union County Sheriff's Office, said detectives had obtained security camera footage of a person who matched the suspect's description in an area near where the holdup occurred. Underwood said a juvenile, identified as a male in the agency's news release, was arrested without incident.

The suspect's identity was being withheld under North Carolina law. Detectives working with the state's Department of Juvenile Justice obtained petitions charging the juvenile with robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia, authorities said.

A judge issued a secure custody order for the suspect. Underwood said the order means the suspect will be confined until his next custody hearing in juvenile court.

The young vendor, whose first name is Mark, told sheriff's deputies he was held up at gunpoint Saturday while selling lemonade at a traffic circle not far from the entrance to his community in Monroe, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Charlotte. Investigators subsequently said they were seeking a male suspect.

A business card that one customer collected from the lemonade stand said Mark also works as a lawn mower, dog walker and professional ring bearer.

A person who responded to a text sent to the telephone number listed on Mark's business card said Tuesday that the boy was selling lemonade again Sunday at a community pool and had collected more than \$250 in donations.

Home-improvement chain Lowe's subsequently gave the boy a new, \$1,100 riding mower on Monday after spokeswoman Sarah Lively said officials at the company's headquarters near Charlotte saw news reports about the robbery.

Michigan attorney set to be first Muslim woman in Congress

By COREY WILLIAMS and JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Rashida Tlaib's opposition to President Donald Trump began while he was still candidate Trump and before she decided to run for Congress.

The 42-year-old attorney, who is set to become the first Muslim woman elected to Congress, was booted from a 2016 Trump campaign speech in Detroit for heckling the polarizing Republican.

After winning Tuesday's Democratic primary to run unopposed for the House seat that Rep. John Conyers

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held for more than five decades before retiring amid sexual harassment allegations, Tlaib, the eldest of 14 children born to Palestinian immigrants, vowed to take the fight to Trump once she's in Washington.

"I will uplift you in so many ways," she told her cheering supporters early Wednesday. "Not only through service, but fighting back against every single oppressive, racist structure that needs to be dismantled, because you deserve better than what we have today in our country."

She also challenged Trump, calling him a "bully" and adding: "I don't know if he's ready for me."

"You think of the hope and possibilities about being in America — he doesn't really believe in that," Tlaib told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "He believes there are winners and losers. (That's) dangerous and very divisive."

Tlaib, who served in the Michigan House from 2009 until 2014, defeated five other candidates to win the nomination to run for a full term representing the heavily Democratic district, which covers much of Detroit and some of its suburbs. Since no Republicans or third-party candidates are running, Tlaib is running unopposed in November's general election.

Since leaving the Legislature, Tlaib has worked as an attorney for the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice. Her views align with the Bernie Sanders wing of the Democratic Party, and on Wednesday, she said she'll push for universal Medicare, a \$15 minimum wage, sustainable environmental policies, public school funding and fair immigration policies.

"This is a huge victory for the Arab and Muslim American communities — it's also a huge victory for the city of Detroit," said Sally Howell, the director of the Center for Arab American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"Rashida Tlaib brings forward the legacy of John Conyers in terms of the groundbreaking role he played in Congress and his commitment to civil rights."

The 89-year-old Conyers was first elected to the House in 1964. He stepped down in December citing health reasons, though several former female staffers had accused him of sexual harassment. The 13th District seat has remained vacant since then.

There are currently two Muslim men in Congress: Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison, who in 2007 became the first Muslim to take office, and Indiana Rep. Andre Carson. Ellison's decision to run for Minnesota attorney general has left his House seat open, and two of the Democrats seeking to replace him are also Muslim: Ilhan Omar, the country's first Somali-American state lawmaker, and Jamal Abdulahi, a Somali-American activist.

A congressman from western Michigan, Republican Rep. Justin Amash, is the son of a Palestinian refugee father and a Syrian immigrant mother. He is Christian.

There were as many as 90 Muslim-Americans running for national or statewide offices this election cycle. They've been spurred to action by the anti-Muslim policies and rhetoric of Trump and his supporters and are running for office in numbers not seen since before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, according to Muslim groups and political observers.

Among those running was Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, who hoped to become the nation's first Muslim governor. But the Sanders-backed former Detroit health director lost to Gretchen Whitmer in Tuesday's primary.

Tlaib believes that El-Sayed at the top of the ticket motivated many young Arab Americans to vote, which in turn helped her campaign.

Arabs have been coming to the U.S. in large numbers since the late 19th century, and their ranks have grown in recent decades due to wars and political instability in the Middle East. Many settled in and around New York, Los Angeles and Detroit, which has one of the country's largest Middle Eastern populations, with at least 150,000 Arabs and Chaldeans, or Iraqi Christians.

The district Tlaib will represent notably doesn't have a majority of Arabs or Muslims, and is mostly a mix of whites, blacks and Hispanics.

"Her accomplishments were recognized by the larger public," said Howell, the University of Michigan professor. "This shows that Arab and Muslim candidates in Michigan are part of the political mainstream."

In a twist, Tlaib narrowly lost a special primary election Tuesday to serve the final two months of Conyers' term. Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones won that primary and will be unopposed in November's

special election.

Jeff Karoub and Corey Williams are members of AP's Race and Ethnicity Team.

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <https://bit.ly/2ICEr3D>

Palestinian-American candidate is source of West Bank pride

By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH, Associated Press

BEIT OUR AL-FOQA, West Bank (AP) — The Michigan primary victory of Rashida Tlaib, a Palestinian-American who is expected to become the first Muslim woman to serve in the U.S. Congress, triggered an outpouring of joy in her ancestral village on Wednesday.

Relatives in Beit Our al-Foqa, where Tlaib's mother was born, greeted the news with a mixture of pride and hope that she will take on a U.S. administration widely seen as hostile to the Palestinian cause.

"It's a great honor for this small town. It's a great honor for the Palestinian people to have Rashida in the Congress," said Mohammed Tlaib, the village's former mayor and a distant relative. "For sure she will serve Palestine, for sure she will serve the interests of her nation. She is deeply rooted here."

Rashida Tlaib, a former state lawmaker, defeated five other candidates to win the Democratic nomination in her Michigan district in Tuesday's primary. She will run unopposed, setting her up to take the spot held since 1965 by John Conyers, who stepped down in December citing health reasons amid charges of sexual harassment.

While celebrating her win, Tlaib was embraced early Wednesday morning by her mother, Fatima, who briefly wrapped a Palestinian flag around Tlaib's shoulders. "My mom is really, genuinely excited," Tlaib said of her victory.

The eldest of 14 children born to Palestinian immigrants in Detroit, the 42-year-old Tlaib advocates progressive positions associated with the Bernie Sanders wing of the Democratic Party, such as universal health care, a higher minimum wage, environmental protection and affordable university tuition.

As a state lawmaker, she sought to defend Detroit's poor, taking on refineries and a billionaire trucking magnate who she accused of polluting city neighborhoods. On the campaign trail, she criticized the influence of "big money" on politics and took aim at President Donald Trump, whom she famously heckled in 2016 while he was delivering a speech in Detroit.

While noting her Palestinian heritage, her website makes no mention of her views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In a 2016 op-ed explaining why she disrupted then-presidential candidate Trump, she described herself as an "American, parent, Muslim, Arab-American, and woman."

In an interview on Wednesday, Tlaib said her grandfather emigrated from Palestine to Brazil during the U.S. depression and eventually moved to Detroit to find better opportunities.

Her father grew up in east Jerusalem, she said. "When he was 19, he joined his father here. At 27, my grandmother grabbed him by the ear and took him to Palestine and said, 'You are going to marry a good Arab woman.'"

While Tlaib would be the first Muslim woman to occupy a seat in the U.S. Congress, she would not be the first Palestinian-American. A lawmaker from western Michigan, U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, a Republican, is the son of a Palestinian refugee father and Syrian immigrant mother. He is a Christian.

In the West Bank, family members were jubilant as news of Tlaib's victory came in early Wednesday. Relatives served baklava, a sweet pastry, and grapes, figs and cactus fruits from their garden to visitors celebrating her win.

Tlaib's uncle and aunt were speaking on an iPad with her mother, Fatima, back in Michigan.

"Thank God. Thank God," her mother said. "This is for the Arabs and Muslims all over the world."

She said her daughter detests Trump and that "God willing" she will defeat him and become the next U.S. president. "She stood up to him during his campaign. God willing, she will do it again and win."

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The first visitor was Mohammed Tlaib, the former mayor, who predicted his 5-year-old daughter, Juman, will grow up to be like her famous American relative. "Look at her. She is beautiful, smart and strong like her. From now on, I will name her Rashida," he said.

The family's story is typical of many Palestinians, with relatives scattered across the West Bank, Jordan and the United States. Mohammed Tlaib said some 50 people from the small village have immigrated to the U.S. and now have children in schools and universities in America.

"They are Americans, like other Americans, and have deep roots here. So we expect them to serve their occupied and embattled country there," he said.

Trump is widely loathed by the Palestinians following his decision last December to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The Palestinians, who seek the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip for an independent state, see Trump as unfairly biased toward Israel. They have cut off most contacts with the Trump administration and pre-emptively rejected a peace plan expected to be unveiled by the White House in the near future.

The Tlaib family home in the West Bank is located near Road 443, an Israeli highway cutting through the territory that is largely off limits to Palestinian motorists. The home is near a towering military checkpoint, and relatives said that like many Palestinians, they are unable to build on their property because Israel will not give them a construction permit.

Rashida Tlaib's uncle Bassam, 54, said the family always believed she had a bright future and has high hopes for her career in Washington.

"She told the family that she wants to run for election to defend human rights, women rights, immigrant rights and the Palestinian rights," he said, adding that the Democrats are much better for the Palestinians than the Republicans. "There is a space in the Democratic party to defend Palestinian issues" he said

Her aunt, Fadwa Tlaib, who was visiting from Jordan, described her niece as a strong advocate for the weak. "She hates to see anyone take the rights of others. She supports human rights, women's rights. She empowered girls in the family," she said.

She said that Rashida Tlaib is part of a new, more powerful and politically involved generation of Palestinian-Americans who are better educated and integrated than their immigrant parents.

"Our kids are having better opportunities, better educations, here and in the U.S., and they have a much brighter and more influential future," she said.

Associated Press writer Corey Williams on Detroit contributed to this report.

Man upset by wife's illness kills them both at hospital

By DEEPTI HAJELA and JENNIFER PELTZ, Associated Press

VALHALLA, N.Y. (AP) — A man who said he wanted to end his ailing wife's suffering shot her to death in her bed at a suburban New York hospital Wednesday and then killed himself, police said.

Richard DeLucia, 71, left a note at the couple's condo indicating he was distraught about how his wife, Ann, 70, was suffering and wanted to put a stop to her ordeal, Westchester County police spokesman Kieran O'Leary said.

Then the husband went to his wife's room at Westchester Medical Center with a licensed .38-caliber revolver, fired a single shot that killed his wife and then took his own life with another shot, police said. No one else was in the room at the time, authorities said.

Ann DeLucia, whose medical condition wasn't immediately revealed, was found in her bed and her husband was found on the floor of her fourth-floor room at the Valhalla hospital, about 35 miles north of Manhattan, police said.

Richard DeLucia had once owned a well-known Westchester catering hall, the Westchester Manor, called the Manor House during his time, current co-owner Enrico Mareschi said. Although DeLucia sold the venue to another owner roughly 15 years ago, he still came by occasionally until two to three years ago, Mareschi said.

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"He was a nice guy," Mareschi said. "He really was a good person."

At the couple's condo building in Yorktown Heights, neighbors absorbed the news with dismay.

"Everybody's just shocked," resident Valeria Tassone said, adding that she had no insight into what was going on in the couple's life.

The gunfire prompted a brief lockdown of a major suburban medical center that cares for tens of thousands of people per year. Jatziri Escobar, a patient who arrived at the hospital shortly after 9 a.m., told The Journal News she was in a first-floor room when staffers ran through the building, alerting patients about the active shooting.

"I was kinda scared, but one of the officers told me to relax and all would be OK," said Escobar, 22, of Elmsford.

Dr. Srihari Naidu, an interventional cardiologist at the hospital, told The Associated Press he was at his office in a nearby building when he got an "active shooter alert," followed by a lockdown notification that lasted for about a half-hour.

The building where the shooting happened is "very well guarded," he said, and many areas cannot be accessed without badges.

A third-party company handles security for Westchester Medical Center, providing both unarmed guards and some armed supervisors with law-enforcement backgrounds. People entering the hospital aren't searched for weapons.

Police said the hospital's security staff responded immediately, and police arrived within two minutes.

Visitor Linda Pepitone said she was trying to get on an elevator, aiming to seek out some salt and pepper for her egg breakfast, when she realized the elevator didn't seem to be running. A hospital employee came by and told her there was an alert about someone with a weapon.

The fourth-floor area around the site of the shooting remained sealed off afterward, Gleason said, but other aspects of the hospital got back to normal.

Hope Conley said she and her mother-in-law came to visit her hospitalized father-in-law right around the time of the shooting and were told they had to wait. After about a half-hour, they were allowed up to his fourth-floor room, which wasn't in the closed-off area, she said.

They found the door to his room had been closed for safety, she said.

"They just made sure the patients were secured — they shut all the doors. They did what they had to do," said Conley, of New Windsor, New York. She said hospital staffers quickly resumed their work: Her father-in-law went into surgery around 10:30 a.m.

The hospital totals over 600 adult, pediatric and psychiatric beds in a campus in northern Westchester.

A study in the Annals of Emergency Medicine counted 154 shootings at hospitals in the U.S. from 2000 through 2011.

In June 2017, a doctor who had been forced to resign from Bronx Lebanon Hospital in New York City two years earlier amid a sexual harassment claim opened fire inside the hospital, killing a doctor and hurting six others, authorities said. Police said the doctor, Henry Bello, killed himself at the scene.

Hospitals have since been beefing up security.

Two hospitals on Long Island recently started arming their security guards. Another now requires visitors to show identification and obtain a hospital-issued guest pass before passing through security turnstiles.

Other New York-area hospitals have been hiring police officers to provide security.

Westchester Medical Center spokeswoman Kara Bennorth declined to discuss whether any security changes might be made in the wake of Wednesday's shooting.

Peltz reported from New York. Associated Press writers Kiley Armstrong and Michael R. Sisak contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to identify the month of the 2017 shooting at Bronx Lebanon Hospital to June, not July.

Gates, star witness against Manafort, concludes testimony

By CHAD DAY, STEPHEN BRAUN and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort's protégé wrapped up his testimony Wednesday after implicating the former Trump campaign chairman and himself in financial crimes while also enduring stinging attacks on his character and credibility.

Rick Gates has been the government's star witness in Manafort's financial fraud trial, testifying how, at the behest of his longtime boss, he helped conceal millions of dollars in foreign income and submitted fake mortgage and tax documents.

Defense lawyers saw an opening to undermine his testimony by painting him as liar and a philanderer, getting him to admit to an extramarital affair and reminding jurors how he had lied to special counsel Robert Mueller's team while working out a plea deal for himself.

The testimony, stretching across three days, created an extraordinary courtroom showdown between the two former Trump campaign aides who were indicted together by Mueller but who have since opted for radically different strategies: Manafort is the lone American charged by Mueller to opt for trial, whereas Gates pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate by testifying against his former boss.

Neither man was charged in connection with their Trump campaign work, but the trial has nonetheless been a distraction for a president who insists Manafort was treated shabbily and who continues to publicly fume about Mueller's investigation into potential ties between his associates and the Kremlin.

Prosecutors sandwiched the testimony of Gates around other witnesses who, in sometimes dry and detailed testimony, described Manafort's lavish spending and use of offshore accounts to stash Ukrainian political consulting fees.

A clothier said he sold Manafort more than \$900,000 in luxury clothes, a bookkeeper says she helped disguise foreign income as a loan to reduce Manafort's tax burden and, on Wednesday, an FBI forensic accounting specialist said Manafort hid more than 30 offshore accounts in three types of currencies from the IRS.

Overall, the accountant traced more than \$65 million flowing into offshore accounts controlled by Manafort, and she detailed for jurors how more than \$15.5 million flowed out to fund his lavish lifestyle between 2010 and 2014.

But it was Gates' testimony that has so far generated the most drama, as the witness admitted embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from his boss, confessed to an extramarital affair and turned in spectacular fashion against a longtime mentor.

Prosecutors relied on Gates to provide direct, first-hand support of the accusations against Manafort.

He told jurors how he disguised millions of dollars in foreign income as loans in order to lower Manafort's tax bill. He recounted how he and Manafort used more than a dozen offshore shell companies and bank accounts in Cyprus to funnel the money, all while concealing the accounts and the income from the IRS.

Prosecutors sought to soften the blow of the cross-examination by asking Gates to acknowledge his own crimes, including a lie to Mueller's team in February. But Gates nonetheless faced aggressive questioning by Manafort's lawyer, Kevin Downing, who at one point asked him, "After all the lies you've told and the fraud you've committed, you expect this jury to believe you?"

Downing made one last effort Wednesday to erode Gates' credibility as he tried to confront him over whether he had engaged in four extramarital affairs, instead of just the one that he had admitted to earlier in the trial.

But after a lengthy conference between lawyers, Downing asked Gates only about the time span of his "secret life."

Gates replied, "I made many mistakes over many years" before he stepped down from the witness stand.

Downing also sought to counter earlier testimony that Manafort had encouraged Gates to deceive authorities. He got Gates to acknowledge that Manafort told him to be truthful about offshore shell companies and bank accounts during a 2014 interview with the FBI.

The interview was part of an FBI investigation that sought to recover assets looted from the Ukrainian

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government under the rule of former President Viktor Yanukovich.

Gates said under questioning Wednesday that he told FBI agents and Justice Department lawyers about some of the offshore companies that contained millions of dollars in proceeds from their Ukrainian political work.

But prosecutor Greg Andres followed up by suggesting that Gates and Manafort were not fully truthful. "Did you tell the FBI that there was hidden income in those accounts?" Andres asked.

"No, I did not," Gates responded.

Once Gates finished testifying, prosecutors resumed trying to make their case through documentary evidence to demonstrate Manafort's control of offshore bank accounts containing millions of dollars. None of those accounts were reported to the IRS as required by U.S. law.

An FBI forensic accountant, Morgan Magionos, told jurors bank records from Cyprus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom revealed the accounts were connected to Manafort and his associates. She said Manafort's passport was used to open many of them in U.S. dollars, euros and British pounds.

Using charts, emails and financial and tax records, Magionos told jurors how she traced millions of dollars of payments for mortgages, home improvements, rugs and clothes back to his hidden foreign bank accounts. In one case, she alleged that foreign accounts were used by Manafort to pay for more than \$3.5 million in home improvements.

Konstantin Kilimnik, a man prosecutors say has ties to Russian intelligence, was also among the beneficial owners of some of the companies. Kilimnik is charged along with Manafort with witness tampering in a separate case. Gates was also listed as an owner of several of the accounts.

Also Wednesday, an IRS agent, Michael Welch, testified that Manafort didn't report at least \$16 million on his tax returns between 2010 and 2014. He also said Manafort should have reported multiple foreign bank accounts to the IRS in those years.

U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III repeatedly has interrupted prosecutors to encourage them to speed things along. He poked fun at himself Wednesday as he haggled with attorneys over the number and type of charts prosecutors could present during the testimony of the accountant.

"Judges should be patient. They made a mistake when they confirmed me. I'm not very patient, so don't try my patience," Ellis said.

Prosecutors say they have eight witnesses left and expect to rest their case by Friday afternoon.

Associated Press writer Matthew Barakat contributed to this report.

Republicans promote fear, not tax cuts, in key elections

By **STEVE PEOPLES** and **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's a border crisis in Pennsylvania. The radical left is surging in New Jersey. And Nancy Pelosi is a threat to New York.

Republican candidates in the nation's premiere midterm battlegrounds have embraced a central message in their fight to maintain the House majority this fall — and it has little to do with the surging economy or the sweeping tax cuts that the GOP celebrated as a once-in-a-generation achievement just eight months ago.

Instead, as Republicans enter the final month of the primary season, they're looking ahead to a general-election strategy of embracing anxiety as a tool to motivate voters. That was clear this week as the GOP's closing message in an Ohio special election questioned Democrat Danny O'Connor's connection to Pelosi, the House Democratic leader and preferred super villain for Republicans.

"We wish it got the pitch forks out and it doesn't," GOP ad maker Will Ritter said of the Republican tax cuts.

Some Republican strategists are frustrated the party isn't focused on the tax law or the broader health of the economy in the run-up to Election Day. Others concede that in the Trump era, there's no better motivator than fear of the other side, particularly the prospect of Pelosi returning to the speaker's chair.

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The plan had some success in Ohio: The race was too close to call Wednesday as Republican Troy Balderson maintained a razor-thin advantage over O'Connor, staving off an embarrassing GOP debate for now. Going forward, the debate over highlighting the tax law will help determine whether Republicans will maintain control of Capitol Hill after November.

While Republicans are reluctant to engage on tax cuts, it's a fight Democrats — and their voters — want. "The tax cuts were for the top ... income earners," said George Stringer, a 58-year-old Democrat who lives in Detroit. "The rich keep getting richer, the poor keep getting poorer."

In Ohio, which hosted the season's final special election, O'Connor railed against the tax cuts as a giveaway to the rich that threatened Medicare and Social Security. While his Republican opponent may prevail, the 31-year-old Democrat trailed by less than 1 percentage point in a district that's been in Republican hands since before he was born. On the defensive, Balderson appeared in a late ad sitting next to his ailing mother and promising that he wouldn't dismantle the social safety net.

It's somewhat similar to the problems Democrats faced in 2010, when they controlled the White House and Congress and managed to pass the most significant health care legislation since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. They celebrated with President Barack Obama in the Rose Garden, only to run from it in the midterm elections that became a disaster for the party.

President Donald Trump, plagued by scandal and wed to his Twitter account, sits atop the struggle. Republican pollster Frank Luntz said Trump energizes the Republican base, but that his broadsides and distractions will also alienate the swing voters who tip battleground House districts.

"This is political malpractice," he said. "You can't find me a time in modern times when the economy was this strong and the governing party was headed toward a potential political disaster like this."

Republicans are also reluctant to embrace their tax cuts because the benefits don't change the household budget for many Americans. The party predicts that will change next year when families file their first tax returns under the new law. But as electoral strategy, that's akin to Democrats in 2010 insisting voters would like the health care law once they understood it.

The tax debate comes amid new evidence of a Democratic surge in early elections across America. Michigan Democrats will feature the state's first all-female statewide ticket this November following Tuesday's primary elections. Democrat Rashida Tlaib also won a race to run unopposed for the Detroit-area House seat vacated by John Conyers, making her poised to become the first Muslim woman in Congress. In Kansas, 38-year-old attorney Sharice Davids won her congressional primary and became the state's first Native American and gay nominee for Congress.

Both Davids and Tlaib campaigned aggressively against the Republican tax cuts. Beyond avoiding the tax law, there has been a consistent theme for Republicans across House battlegrounds: casting the Democrat as too liberal.

A National Republican Congressional Committee ad in Ohio tied Democratic candidate O'Connor to Pelosi and "the liberal resistance movement." A super PAC backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan charged that it was O'Connor who would cut Social Security and Medicare by \$800 billion; fact checkers have questioned the accuracy of the attack.

In central Kentucky, GOP Rep. Andy Barr is reminding voters that Amy McGrath, a former fighter pilot, voted for President Barack Obama and opposes Trump's proposed border wall. In suburban Pennsylvania, vulnerable Republican Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick has warned of "a border in crisis" and demanded a surge of immigration enforcement agents. And in New Jersey, Republican Rep. Leonard Lance featured an ad in which Democrat opponent Tom Malinowski calls himself a "lifelong progressive Democrat" over and over. Lance also warns of his "dangerous policies" like abolishing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Anthony Brindisi, Democratic nominee in an upstate New York district, is the target of an ad from Rep. Claudia Tenney claiming that Pelosi is "bankrolling" Brindisi "because he'll support their radical immigration agenda."

Brindisi blasted the Tenney ad as dishonest, repeating his general support for border security and opposition to Pelosi continuing as Democratic leader. "I'd think after almost two years of being in Congress,

the first advertisement that my opponent would run would be something about her accomplishments," Brindisi said.

He's running his own tax ad, localizing the law by highlighting Tenney's campaign support from the cable giant Charter, whose New York subsidiary, Spectrum, has raised rates and spent hundreds of millions on stock buybacks after getting a tax windfall. "I want to point out to the voters that when we talk about the swamp, this is the worst kind of example," Brindisi told The Associated Press.

Republicans aren't apologizing for their tax votes, even if it's not at the forefront of their campaigns.

Rep. Mimi Walters, a vulnerable Republican in southern California, said in a recent interview that she plans to use it in her paid advertising this fall. But her ads so far this year have focused on other topics.

"In the beginning ... there was a lot of pushback. That's just natural. You're making a big change, and people weren't sure," said Walters, who represents one of 25 districts nationally that sent a Republican to the House in 2016 but opted for Hillary Clinton over Trump in the presidential race.

"Now that people have started to see the benefits ... people come up and thank me," Walters said, adding that she's "results oriented" and pointing to economic growth figures that she says prove "we made the right decision."

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writers Josh Boak and Hannah Fingerhut in Washington and Jeff Karoub in Detroit contributed to this report.

Helping nature: Inducing labor avoids cesarean for some moms

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**, AP Chief Medical Writer

Move over, Mother Nature. First-time moms at low risk of complications were less likely to need a cesarean delivery if labor was induced at 39 weeks instead of waiting for it to start on its own, a big study found. Their babies fared better, too.

The results overturn the longtime view that inducing labor raises the risk for a C-section, and prompted two leading OB-GYN doctor groups to say it's now reasonable to offer women like those in the study that option.

But only certain pregnant women qualify, and the study did not track how inducing labor affected breastfeeding or other mom-baby issues later. Some groups such as Lamaze International still advocate letting nature take its course rather than giving medicines to make the womb start contracting.

"Many women don't want all of the medical care that goes with induction" such as an IV and fetal monitoring, said Lisa Kane Low, past president of the American College of Nurse-Midwives and associate dean of the University of Michigan School of Nursing. "It can result in a very different type of experience."

Being induced doesn't mean moms can't have "natural childbirth" — they can forgo pain medicine or use a hospital's homelike birthing center rather than delivering in "an operating room in a sterile suite with a big light over your head," said the study leader, Dr. William Grobman, an OB-GYN specialist at Northwestern University in Chicago.

"Everyone has a different definition of what a natural birth is," said Dr. Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman of New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, which participated in the study.

"Some women feel that natural just means delivering vaginally" and more were able to do that when labor was induced, she said.

Results of the federally funded study were published Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

ABOUT THE STUDY

About 40 percent of U.S. women giving birth are first-time moms, and at least half are low risk — no problems requiring early delivery or a cesarean. Many women ask to be induced now, to let them plan delivery and ensure their doctor is available, but the risks and benefits are unclear.

Previous studies suggesting that inducing labor raises the risk for a C-section were observational and compared different types of women giving birth under different types of circumstances. This was the first very big experiment to time labor induction for 39 weeks — when a pregnancy is considered full term and

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complication rates are lowest.

More than 6,100 women at 41 hospitals were randomly placed in two groups: one had labor induced at 39 weeks; the other waited for labor to start on its own and were induced only if a problem developed or they hadn't delivered by 42 weeks.

HOW MOMS AND BABIES FARED

Deaths and severe complications were fewer among babies of women who were induced — about 4 percent versus 5 percent in the other group — but the difference was so small it could have occurred by chance alone. Significantly fewer babies in the induced group needed breathing tubes or extra oxygen after birth, and they spent less time in the hospital.

Nineteen percent of induced moms had a cesarean versus 22 percent of the others. Doctors estimate that one C-section would be avoided for every 28 women induced.

Nine percent of induced women developed dangerous high blood pressure at the end of pregnancy versus 14 percent of the others. Study participants who were induced, such as Aleksa Owen, said they had less pain and felt more in control.

"I was pretty open to any kind of birth, whatever works to keep the baby safe and myself safe as well," said Owen, a 34-year-old graduate student from the Chicago suburb of Woodridge, Illinois. Her son was born in October 2016 and "I felt like I had a sense of control throughout the process."

THE COST

It's not clear which option costs more; researchers plan to study that. Induced women spent more time in the labor and delivery unit but went home sooner after birth. Insurers often pay a fixed rate for births, complicating cost comparisons.

The labor and delivery suite is one of the most expensive places in a hospital, said Dr. Nanette Santoro, OB-GYN chief at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. If all eligible moms decided to be induced, "I do not believe we would have the resources to accommodate them," but may have to adapt based on this study, she said.

WHAT OTHERS THINK

Christen Sadler, a certified nurse-midwife and president-elect of Lamaze International, said other research suggests that "letting labor start on its own is almost always best for moms and babies" unless there's a problem that requires intervening.

Nan Strauss, policy chief for the advocacy group Every Mother Counts, agreed: "Inducing labor disrupts the complex hormonal processes that help labor progress, prepare the baby for birth, and promote successful breastfeeding and bonding."

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine says it's reasonable for doctors to offer labor induction "after discussing the options thoroughly" with first-time moms at low risk who had an ultrasound early in pregnancy to verify when they will reach 39 weeks.

Dr. Michael Greene of Massachusetts General Hospital noted that women in the study were younger than U.S. mothers on average and fewer were over 35, calling into question how generalizable the results are.

Still, the study "should reassure women that elective induction of labor at 39 weeks is a reasonable choice" that's unlikely to harm moms or babies, he wrote in a commentary in the journal.

Marilynn Marchione can be followed on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MMarchioneAP>

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US to impose sanctions on Russia over nerve agent attack

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE** and **MATTHEW LEE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States announced Wednesday it will impose new sanctions on Russia for illegally using a chemical weapon in an attempt to kill a former spy and his daughter in Britain earlier this year.

The new sanctions, to be imposed later this month, come despite President Donald Trump's efforts to improve relations with Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin, and his harsh criticism of the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The State Department said the U.S. this week made the determination that Russia had used the Novichok nerve agent to poison Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, and that sanctions would follow. It said Congress is being notified of the Aug. 6 determination and that the sanctions would take effect on or around Aug. 22, when the finding is to be published in the Federal Register.

Those sanctions will include the presumed denial of export licenses for Russia to purchase many items with national security implications, according to a senior State Department official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to do so by name.

The U.S. made a similar determination in February when it found that North Korea used a chemical weapon to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother at the airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 2017.

Skripal and his daughter were poisoned by the Novichok military-grade nerve agent in the English town of Salisbury in March. Britain has accused Russia of being behind the attack, which the Kremlin vehemently denies.

Months later, two residents of a nearby town with no ties to Russia were also poisoned by the deadly toxin. Police believe the couple accidentally found a bottle containing Novichok. One of them died.

The U.S. had joined Britain in condemning Russia for the Skripal poisoning and joined with European nations in expelling Russian diplomats in response, but it had yet to make the formal determination that the Russian government had "used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law or has used lethal chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals."

Several members of Congress had expressed concern that the Trump administration was dragging its feet on the determination and had missed a deadline to publish its findings.

Lawmakers praised Wednesday's announcement.

"The administration is rightly acting to uphold international bans on the use of chemical weapons," said Ed Royce, R-Calif., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Royce had previously accused Trump of ignoring the Russian nerve agent attack.

"The mandatory sanctions that follow this determination are key to increasing pressure on Russia. Vladimir Putin must know that we will not tolerate his deadly acts, or his ongoing attacks on our democratic process," Royce said Wednesday.

While criticized as too keen to strike up a friendship with Putin, Trump maintains that he's been tough on Moscow. His administration has sanctioned a number of Russian officials and oligarchs for human rights abuses and election meddling.

In March, the Trump administration ordered 60 Russian diplomats — all of whom it said were spies — to leave the United States and closed down Russia's consulate in Seattle in response to the Skripal case. The U.S. said at the time it was the largest expulsion of Russian spies in American history.

The State Department announced a number of possible exceptions to the sanctions announced Wednesday. Waivers have been issued for foreign assistance and space flight activities, while commercial passenger aviation and other commercial goods for civilian use will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, according to the official who briefed reporters.

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The Latest: Late vote tally further tightens Ohio race

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP) — The Latest on primaries in Missouri, Kansas, Michigan and Washington state and a congressional special election in Ohio (all times local):

5:45 p.m. p.m.

A late addition to voting tallies in Ohio's congressional special election has further tightened the race.

The Franklin County Board of Elections said Wednesday afternoon that a routine preliminary audit identified hundreds of additional votes cast in suburban Columbus precincts.

The elections board says the tally from the precincts in Worthington included 388 votes for Democrat Danny O'Connor and 198 for Republican Troy Balderson.

Unofficial vote tallies before those ballots were announced had Balderson leading by about 1,750 votes, with the race too close to call.

Franklin County Elections Board spokesman Aaron Sellers says votes from a portion of one voting location weren't processed into the tabulation system.

Elections boards must still count hundreds of absentee and provisional ballots in the race before the final results are known.

4:45 p.m.

Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones has won a special primary election to serve the final two months of former Michigan Rep. John Conyers' congressional term.

Jones defeated three other Democrats in Tuesday's special primary, including former Michigan state Rep. Rashida Tlaib.

Tlaib won the Democratic nomination to run unopposed in the general election for the House seat. No Republicans are running for the seat in either the special primary or general election.

The 89-year-old Conyers was first elected to the House in 1964. He stepped down in December citing health reasons, though several former female staffers had accused him of sexual harassment.

The heavily Democratic 13th District covers much of Detroit and some of its suburbs.

3 p.m.

A former Michigan state lawmaker who might become the first Muslim woman elected to Congress has thrown out a challenge to "the biggest bully," President Donald Trump.

Rashida Tlaib told supporters Wednesday after declaring victory in Michigan's 13th District Democratic primary that she's "pretty ready for it," but doesn't know if Trump is ready for her.

The 42-year-old Tlaib says she will fight "against every single oppressive, racist structure that needs to be dismantled, because you deserve better than what we have today in our country."

She defeated five other candidates Tuesday for the Democratic nomination for the seat.

It had been held by Rep. John Conyers, who stepped down in December, citing health reasons. Several former female staffers had accused him of sexual harassment.

11:15 a.m.

President Donald Trump is celebrating Tuesday night's election results by proclaiming himself "5 for 5!" on Twitter, even though two of the races remain too close to call.

Tuesday's primaries in five states were seen as a test of Trump's clout as well as the persistence of his hard-core supporters as they face energized, anti-Trump Democrats.

But races in Ohio and Kansas remain too close to call.

That didn't stop Trump from claiming victory in tweets Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Trump earlier took credit for Republican Troy Balderson's performance in battleground Ohio, even though that contest could be headed to a recount.

The Republican primary for governor in Kansas is also too close to call, with Trump-endorsed Secretary of State Kris Kobach leading incumbent Gov. Jeff Colyer by fewer than 200 votes.

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11:15 a.m.

A former Obama administration official will face a Michigan co-chairman for Donald Trump's presidential campaign in the race for the suburban Detroit congressional seat held by retiring Republican Rep. Dave Trott.

Haley Stevens won the Democratic nomination, edging out four other Democrats in Tuesday's District 11 race. She was a Treasury official who worked on the auto bailout under Obama.

Detroit-area business executive Lena Epstein won the Republican nomination. She bested four other Republicans in Tuesday's primary. She co-owns an automotive oil company.

Democrats are hoping to flip the district, which includes Detroit's affluent northwestern suburbs. Although it has traditionally leaned Republican, Trump barely won the district in 2016.

11:10 a.m.

Kansas won't have final results for the close Republican primary between Gov. Jeff Colyer and Secretary of State Kris Kobach until early next week.

Kobach led Wednesday morning by fewer than 200 votes.

But state elections director Bryan Caskey said the secretary of state's office is estimating that between 8,000 and 10,000 provisional ballots were cast. Voters get such ballots when it's not clear whether they are eligible to vote at a particular polling place.

State law also allows mail-in ballots postmarked Tuesday to be counted if they arrive by Friday. Caskey said state law prevents county officials from canvassing their results until Monday.

Colyer was not conceding the race. In a statement, he cited the close results and "extraordinary problems" in Johnson County, the state's most populous county.

10:25 a.m.

Sharice Davids has become Kansas' first Native American and gay nominee for Congress.

The 38-year-old attorney and activist prevailed in a close six-candidate Democratic primary and will face four-term Republican Rep. Kevin Yoder.

Davids also is a former mixed martial arts fighter who introduced herself to fellow Democrats with a video showing her in the ring and landing solid kicks to a large punching bag.

She was raised by a single mother and earned a law degree from Cornell University. She was a White House fellow during Barack Obama's presidency.

Democrats are targeting Yoder this fall because Democrat Hillary Clinton narrowly won the district in the 2016 presidential race.

9:10 a.m.

The Republican primary for Kansas governor is too close to call.

With election officials in Kansas halting the vote count Wednesday morning, Secretary of State Kris Kobach leads incumbent Gov. Jeff Colyer by fewer than 200 votes. It could be a few days before all absentee votes are counted.

A new state law allows ballots postmarked as of Tuesday to be counted, so long as they arrive three days after Election Day.

Kobach received a late endorsement from President Donald Trump. Colyer received the endorsement of the National Rifle Association and had the backing of Kansas political legend Bob Dole.

8:54 a.m.

Two high-stakes elections that tested President Donald Trump's clout and cost both parties millions of dollars were too close to call early Wednesday. Trump claimed victory in one nevertheless.

In battleground Ohio, the president took credit for Republican Troy Balderson's performance, calling it "a great victory," even though the contest could be headed to a recount. Democrats could also celebrate

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their showing in a district that has gone Republican for decades.

In deep-red Kansas' Republican gubernatorial primary, the candidate Trump backed on the eve of the election, Secretary of State Kris Kobach, was neck and neck with current Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer.

The day's races in five states, like many before them, tested the persistence of Trump's fiery supporters and the momentum of the Democratic Party's anti-Trump resistance.

Gay, Native American Democrat busts candidate mold in Kansas

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and JOHN HANNA, Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Democrat Sharice Davids of Kansas added her name Wednesday to her party's increasingly diverse slate of candidates advancing to the November ballot.

Davids, who would be the first gay, Native American elected to Congress, narrowly won a six-way primary in her eastern Kansas district, shattering the mold for a congressional primary winner in conservative Kansas and embodying the range of ethnicities and sexual orientations of Democratic candidates running throughout the country this fall.

Notably, the 38-year-old lawyer and activist from Kansas City, Kansas, is among a wave of gay, bisexual and transgender candidates running — the vast majority as Democrats — including at the top of the ballot in key states.

"Voters in the third congressional district have sent a clear message to the nation: Fairness and tolerance are Kansas values," said Tom Witt, executive director of Equality Kansas, a LGBT advocacy organization.

Roughly 200 LGBT candidates are expected to be on the November ballot across the country for state and federal office, the most ever, according to Sean Meloy, senior political director of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, a non-partisan political advocacy group. They include national figures such as Wisconsin Sen. Tammy Baldwin, the nation's first openly gay member of the U.S. Senate, as well as Arizona Senate candidate Kyrsten Sinema, who is bisexual, and Jared Polis of Colorado, who could become the first openly gay man elected governor in the U.S.

Davids also is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, a Native American tribe in Wisconsin, but is not alone among Native American women running for prominent political office this year.

Democrat Deb Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe, won the June primary for New Mexico's 1st Congressional District, a Democratic-leaning district that includes the Albuquerque area.

There's also Democrat Paulette Jordan of Idaho. A member of the Couer d'Alene Tribe, Jordan won the June primary for Idaho governor, but faces an uphill battle in the Republican-heavy state to become the first Native American governor.

In Michigan on Tuesday, state Rep. Rashida Tlaib won the Democratic primary in the state's 13th Congressional District. With no Republican opponent on the November ballot, she's poised to become the nation's first Muslim woman elected to Congress.

In Kansas, Davids will face four-term Republican Kevin Yoder in the 3rd Congressional District, a Republican-leaning swath of urban and suburban eastern Kansas.

In their effort to claim seats in competitive districts now represented by Republicans, Democrats are targeting Yoder's, where Democrat Hillary Clinton narrowly won in 2016 while losing the state overall to Republican Donald Trump. Democrats must gain 23 seats to claim the House majority.

Davids was overshadowed nationally by labor lawyer Brent Welder, whom Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and New York congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez endorsed and campaigned for last month. Preliminary totals showed Davids edging Welder in the crowded field by 2,088 votes out of 61,321 cast.

"We were excited to talk with her, to fight for her, as others got national attention," LGBTQ Victory's Meloy said.

Though Davids represents a new generation of diverse candidates, the district she's running to represent has little ethnic diversity. Johnson County, the district's most populous, is 87 percent white.

Davids is a Cornell University law school graduate who worked as a lawyer for an Indian reservation in South Dakota before working as a White House fellow during Barack Obama's presidency.

She also is a mixed martial arts fighter who introduced herself to voters with a video showing her in the

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ring, landing solid kicks to a large punching bag.

"You told me you needed someone who lives your struggles," she wrote in an early Wednesday fundraising email to supporters that began with, "We did it!"

Dauids was backed by abortion-rights advocacy group EMILY's List, has called for treating gun violence as a public health crisis and has criticized tax cuts enacted by Trump.

The Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Paul Ryan, quickly tagged Dauids as an "extreme" liberal and predicted she would vote in lockstep with House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

Follow Beaumont at <https://twitter.com/TomBeaumont> and Hanna at <https://twitter.com/apjdhanna>

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <https://bit.ly/2ICER3D>

Like father, like son: Trump Jr. defiant about Russia probe

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — If Donald Trump Jr. is worried, he sure doesn't show it.

His father, the president, is reported to be fretting about his eldest son's entanglement in the Russia investigation. And Don Jr.'s role in the special counsel's probe continues to throw off headlines. But the 40-year-old son is hardly ducking his head.

He's beloved on the right as the swaggering embodiment of the Make America Great Again agenda. And he's embracing his role as a popular emissary for his father, crisscrossing the country on campaign trips, penning op-eds in support of favored candidates and showcasing his new relationship with former Fox News host Kim Guilfoyle.

Unbowed and unapologetic, the son's approach appears to mirror the father's combative defiance toward special counsel's Robert Mueller's investigation. The enthusiastic reception he receives in many Republican strongholds is more evidence that Trump voters are rallying around the president's criticism of the probe — perhaps even fired up by the fight.

Trump Jr. has downplayed any talk of his own legal exposure stemming from his involvement in a 2016 Trump Tower meeting that's a focus of Mueller's investigation into possible links between the president's election campaign and Russia. The president recently unleashed a series of angry tweets on the subject, and in one he acknowledged that his son set up the meeting to seek damaging information about Democrat Hillary Clinton from a Kremlin-connected lawyer.

In another political era, that's the sort of uncomfortable fact that could make someone a pariah on the campaign trail. Today, Trump Jr. is a sought-after surrogate.

He's stumped in West Virginia, Montana, Florida and Kansas in recent months. In the coming weeks, he's expected to campaign in Missouri, Indiana and North Dakota.

"He's one of the top draws, if not the top draw for people not named President Trump," says Jason Miller, a top aide to the 2016 Trump campaign.

His appeal was clear in Great Falls, Montana, recently where he was cheered as he discussed his love of hunting in the state and laid into Democratic Sen. Jon Tester.

"Just because Donald Trump isn't on the ticket in 2018 doesn't mean that everything he has accomplished is not on the ticket," Trump Jr. said, adding: "I'm going to be coming a lot out here in this fall, helping all of these guys."

He welcomed Montana Republican Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte onto the stage. Invited to speak, Daines said, "Donald Trump Jr. is a heck of a shot."

And the Mueller investigation?

"I never see anybody at any of these events, nobody even brings it up," Miller said. "The base loves him because he's a true believer."

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In fact, the legal concerns may work in his favor, says Sam Nunberg, a consultant who was a political adviser to the Trump 2016 campaign. "It actually helps him because he's being persecuted," says Nunberg. "Don is the biggest asset of all the kids. He's a guy's guy. He understands the movement. And knows how to communicate it."

Trump Jr. has long been the Trump child most in touch with the president's most ardent voters. He seems to relish the button-pushing, asserting or trolling Tweet. His Twitter feed has traded in conspiracy theories and hard-line messages about immigration or gun control. He once circulated a post that compared Syrian refugees to a bowl of Skittles candy that contained some that "would kill you."

"He's someone who like the president can rile up the base and get party activists excited," said Republican strategist Ryan Williams. "He's probably not someone you're going to send to a swing district, but in a red state he may be able to draw out some base voters."

Republicans say Trump Jr. shows few signs of being rattled by the attention. He is not talking much privately about the investigation and tends to dismiss the scrutiny as mere media fixation, according to a person familiar with his thinking who demanded anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Trump Jr.'s allies believe he's being held to a higher standard than others and that any campaign would have taken the meeting with someone offering dirt on an opponent.

But his legal woes have not been so easily brushed off by his father.

The president has stewed over the media coverage of the federal trial of Paul Manafort, his former campaign chairman, who has been charged with financial fraud as part of the Mueller probe. Though the trial is not connected to Russian election interference, Trump has seethed to confidants that he views the Manafort charges as "a warning shot" from Mueller. He has told those close to him that as he watches the courtroom proceedings, he fears that Donald Trump Jr. could at some point be the one on trial, according to two people familiar with his thinking but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

Despite his behind-closed-doors concerns, the president publicly denies that he is worried about his son. While doing so on Twitter in recent days, he offered a new — and potentially legally damaging — explanation of why his son is under such legal scrutiny.

"Fake News reporting, a complete fabrication, that I am concerned about the meeting my wonderful son, Donald, had in Trump Tower," Trump tweeted last Sunday. "This was a meeting to get information on an opponent, totally legal and done all the time in politics - and it went nowhere. I did not know about it!"

Trump Jr. has acknowledged that he took the meeting in anticipation of receiving dirt about Clinton.

"To the extent that they had information concerning the fitness, character or qualifications of any presidential candidate, I believed that I should at least hear them out," he told Senate staff in a private interview last year.

Trump Jr. told investigators his father was never advised about the arrangement.

Federal law makes it a crime for a campaign to knowingly accept or solicit a "thing of value" from foreign nationals. But Trump Jr. has said he received nothing of value during the meeting, which he has suggested was ultimately a waste of time. He declined to comment for this article but has not shied from the limelight as he campaigns around the country.

In a recent interview with TV host Laura Ingraham, he angrily deemed the matter a Democratic conspiracy.

The meeting lasted 20 minutes and "ended up being about essentially nothing that was relevant to any of these things," he said. "That's all it is and that's all they've got."

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed.

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

Father blames 'stand your ground' in son's parking-lot death

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK, AP National Writer

Michael McGlockton is convinced that two things killed his son in a Florida parking lot last month: The man who pulled the trigger and the state's polarizing "stand your ground" self-defense law.

Markeis McGlockton, 28, died a few yards from his children and girlfriend at a store in Clearwater after a confrontation over a parking spot that reignited the debate over the law. The local sheriff said that under "stand your ground," Michael Drejka was justified in the killing.

In an interview with The Associated Press — his first one-on-one with a news outlet since the shooting — Michael McGlockton said that if the law didn't exist, his son might have gone home the night of July 19, or Drejka might have been arrested. Instead, McGlockton said, he buried his firstborn while the killer walked free.

"No law should be able to protect somebody to the point that they kill somebody on the street and they can lay in the bed the same night," McGlockton said. "To me and my family, that's a slap in the face. (Drejka) would've thought twice before he pulled the trigger. With the law, he knew that he could hide behind that."

The law received international attention in 2012 when black teenager Trayvon Martin was killed by George Zimmerman. In the end, Zimmerman did not argue a "stand your ground" defense and was acquitted anyway. Critics say the law unfairly allows young black men to be victimized by gun violence.

The dispute with Drejka started when he yelled at McGlockton's girlfriend, Britany Jacobs — who was in a car with two of the couple's small children — outside a store for parking in a handicapped space. McGlockton, who was black and unarmed, pushed Drejka, a white man, to the ground. Drejka pulled out his handgun and killed him.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri has declined to press charges. State prosecutors are considering whether to charge Drejka, 47.

"I didn't make the law, and I do not do what people want because of outrage," Gualtieri said. "If you're outraged by the law and don't like the law, then change it."

The case drew hundreds to a rally last weekend in Clearwater.

Instead of scrapping the law, Florida lawmakers have strengthened it to force prosecutors to prove the shooting doesn't fall under a "stand your ground" defense. Previously, defendants had to prove why that defense applied.

A 2015 American Bar Association task force report on "stand your ground laws" found the statute is unpredictable, results in racial disparities, and undermines victims' rights. Additionally, the report said there was widespread confusion among law enforcement as to when shootings were justified.

Georgetown University law professor Paul Butler said the law does have a racially disparate effect that devalues black life. Because the law is predicated on the belief that an imminent threat exists, shootings are more likely to be considered justified by a judge or jury when white people shoot blacks, he said.

"White fear is seen as more reasonable than black fear," Butler said.

Dennis Baxley, a Republican legislator from Ocala and an initial "stand your ground" sponsor, says the law's intent was to make it clear that when people are attacked, they have a right to defend themselves.

"I don't think anyone should be raped or beaten because they think they would get in trouble for defending themselves," Baxley said.

Baxley called the Clearwater case a "tough call" but said it's up to the sheriff and prosecutor to decide whether a crime was committed.

Markeis McGlockton was 23 when Martin was killed in 2012. It was the first time Michael McGlockton, a lifelong Florida resident, had heard of "stand your ground." He said he thought the "messed-up" law should be changed but never imagined it would strike so personally.

McGlockton said it is his son who was defending himself and his family against a threat.

"Every man raises his kid to be that ultimate man for his family," McGlockton said. "That's exactly what he was doing, standing up for his family. I'm so proud of him because he did exactly what I taught him to do."

Nearly 30 years ago, McGlockton was sitting in Spanish class as a high school junior when he got the

call that his girlfriend was in labor.

He rushed to the hospital, but by the time he arrived, Markeis had already entered the world. It was the best day of Michael's life.

"I stayed with him all night, crying," Michael McGlockton, now 46, recalled. "I was just happy."

Father and son were close. He chided his father for babying him, even as an adult. Warning him away from the mistakes he had made was simply McGlockton's way of showing love — a word he began using with his son only a few years ago.

"A lot of grown men don't really say that to their sons," McGlockton said.

Their hometown, Clearwater, known for its beaches and sunshine, bills itself as "a progressive city committed to enhancing residents' lives." McGlockton wouldn't disagree, and seldom thought of Markeis' safety as the father of a black son.

But "this law does not work in favor of black people," he said.

Like Martin's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, Michael McGlockton and Monica Moore-Robinson want justice for their son's killing. He no longer wants or expects an apology from sheriff Gualtieri and regrets voting for him.

McGlockton hopes for a different outcome from prosecutors.

"Everybody in America can see that tape," McGlockton said, referring to the video of the confrontation. "I'm hoping the state's attorney can see the exact same thing."

McGlockton's family is focused on pushing for Drejka's arrest, prosecution and conviction. Then, he said, he'll focus on pushing to change the law.

"He didn't have to pull that trigger," McGlockton said. "But because of 'stand your ground,' this is what happens."

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

Associated Press writer Gary Fineout contributed from Tallahassee, Florida.

Republican law limiting labor powers defeated in Missouri

By DAVID A. LIEB, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — The steady march of new "right-to-work" laws in Republican-led states hit a wall in Missouri, where voters resoundingly rejected a measure that could have weakened union finances after national and local labor groups poured millions of dollars into the campaign against it.

Missouri's law against compulsory union fees was defeated Tuesday by a 2-to-1 margin, nearly a year after the measure adopted by the state's Republican governor and Legislature had been scheduled to take effect. It was put on hold after unions successfully petitioned to force a public referendum.

The election results effectively vetoed the Missouri measure and halted a string of stinging losses for organized labor. Since 2012, five other once historically strong union states had adopted right-to-work laws as Republicans gained strength in state capitols, raising the total to 27 states with such laws.

The Missouri referendum marked the first chance for voters to weigh in on union powers since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in late June that public sector employees cannot be compelled to pay fees to unions. Missouri's ballot measure essentially would have extended that to all private sector employees in the state.

"Working people made their voices heard at the ballot box today and overturned right to work. It's a truly historic moment," Missouri AFL-CIO President Mike Louis said.

Missouri voters had last rejected right to work in 1978, when national union membership was more than double its current rate of 10.7 percent.

Business groups and conservative interest groups pledged to try again to enact it in Missouri, potentially as soon as the 2019 legislative session.

"The defeat of Proposition A is merely a minor setback on the road to providing workers with the free-

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dom they deserve," said Jeremy Cady, the Missouri director of Americans for Prosperity, which is part of the conservative Koch network.

At issue are so-called fair-share fees, which are less than full dues but are intended to cover unions' nonpolitical costs such as collective bargaining. Unions say it's fair for workers to pay the fees, because federal law requires them to represent even those employees who don't join. But supporters of right-to-work laws counter that people should have the right to accept a job without being required to pay a union.

Former Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens signed a right-to-work bill in February 2017. It was supposed to take effect as law on Aug. 28. But before that could happen, union organizers submitted enough petition signatures to suspend its implementation pending a statewide referendum.

Right-to-work supporters had been banking on Greitens to help draw money and attention to their campaign. But Greitens resigned amid scandal on June 1 and disappeared from the public spotlight.

Unions powered an opposition effort that had spent more than \$15 million as of late July, well over three times as much as various groups that support right-to-work. Advertisements generally focused on economics, with supporters claiming right-to-work would lead to more jobs and opponents claiming it would drive down wages.

Studies looking at the economic effects of right-to-work laws have found mixed and sometimes conflicting results.

The Washington-based Economic Policy Institute, which opposes right to work, found that wages in right-to-work states average 3.1 percent less than elsewhere after accounting for other workforce differences such as educational backgrounds, racial composition, the industrial makeup of employers and the cost of living.

But a case study focused on Oklahoma found different results. Economists Ozkan Eren of Louisiana State University and Serkan Ozbeklik of Claremont McKenna College in California used data from states with similar characteristics to analyze the effect of Oklahoma's 2001 right-to-work law. They found it resulted in a significant reduction in private sector unionization rates but had no short-term effect on either the total unemployment rate or average private sector wages.

Most right-to-work laws were enacted in the 1940s and 1950s. But Republicans have led a resurgence of such laws, starting in Indiana in 2012 and following in Michigan, Wisconsin, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Follow David A. Lieb at: <http://twitter.com/DavidALieb>

Sign up for "Politics in Focus," a weekly newsletter showcasing the AP's best political reporting from around the country leading up to the midterm elections: <https://bit.ly/2ICEr3D>

Charlottesville gave momentum to Confederate monument foes

By **RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press**

Pressure to take down America's monuments honoring slain Confederate soldiers and the generals who led them didn't start with Charlottesville. But the deadly violence that rocked the Virginia college town a year ago gave the issue an explosive momentum.

Confederate monuments at public parks, county courthouses and college campuses fell almost daily for weeks after a speeding car killed a woman and injured dozens in Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017. The vehicle plowed into a crowd protesting a gathering of white supremacists whose stated goal was to protect a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

At least 30 Confederate monuments have been uprooted in the year since the Charlottesville clashes, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Groups including the Sons of Confederate Veterans complain America is purging history. Others say the monuments romanticize the Confederacy and downplay its defense of slavery and racism.

Many more Confederate monuments remain standing. Seven Southern states have laws protecting them. Here's a look at some key monument battles in Charlottesville's aftermath.

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PROSECUTING A TAKEDOWN

A 2015 law in North Carolina essentially prohibits permanent removal of Confederate monuments on public property without approval from state lawmakers. Protesters in Durham took matters into their own hands using a ladder and a rope — and found themselves charged with rioting and vandalism.

It was Aug. 14, two days after the violence in Charlottesville, when an angry crowd gathered around a monument to Confederate soldiers outside a former courthouse building. A woman climbed a ladder and attached a rope to the bronze statue. Protesters yanked it down.

The woman on the ladder, 22-year-old college student Takiyah Thompson, was among a dozen protesters charged with crimes in the monument takedown.

None of the cases stuck. A judge found one defendant not guilty and dismissed charges against two others. On Feb. 20, six months after the statue came down, Durham District Attorney Roger Echols dropped all remaining prosecutions.

A 2015 state law essentially prevents permanent removal of Confederate monuments unless the General Assembly agrees to it.

'QUICKLY AND QUIETLY'

Like other U.S. cities, Baltimore began reconsidering its Confederate monuments before Charlottesville gave the issue new urgency.

Following the 2015 slayings of nine black church members in Charleston, South Carolina, by an avowed white supremacist, Baltimore named a special commission that spent a year reviewing four monuments on Baltimore city property. The panel ultimately urged the city to keep two Confederate monuments, with some changes. It advocated removing two others, including a monument honoring Gens. Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

They remained standing for almost another year before Mayor Catherine Pugh ordered all four taken down on Aug. 15, 2017, following the violence in Charlottesville. City crews dismantled them in the dead of night.

The Maryland Sons of Confederate Veterans complained that Baltimore acted without approval from the Maryland Historical Trust. Pugh said waiting would have risked more violence.

"It was important that we move quickly and quietly," Pugh said.

FINDING A LOOPHOLE

Civil rights groups wanted Confederate statues out of public parks in Memphis, arguing they glorified racism in a city where most residents are black. But Tennessee's Heritage Protection Act prohibited removing monuments to U.S. military figures on public land.

Memphis city leaders sought a waiver in 2016 to relocate one monument — a statue of Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, who had also been a slave trader and Ku Klux Klan leader. Their petition was denied.

After Charlottesville's bloody protests, the Memphis city council looked for new options. And they found a loophole.

On Dec. 20, the city sold the two public parks for \$1,000 apiece to a nonprofit group. Almost immediately, the new owner took down the Forrest monument as well as statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Capt. J. Harvey Mathes.

A judge upheld the move. Tennessee legislators were outraged. They soon amended the law to close the loophole. The state House also stripped \$250,000 for Memphis' bicentennial celebration from a budget bill.

MONUMENT AVENUE

Take down Jefferson Davis, but leave standing statues of Gen. Robert E. Lee and three other Confederate officers.

A commission delivered those recommendations in July to city officials in Richmond, Virginia, after spending nearly a year considering five Confederate statues along Monument Avenue in the former Confederate capital.

Virginia has one of the oldest state laws protecting war monuments. Richmond's city attorney warned that removing any of the statues would risk fines and possible criminal charges.

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Still, the commission urged removing the monument to Davis, saying its design “most unabashedly” romanticizes the South while downplaying the role of slavery in the Civil War.

Lee’s monument stands on state property, meaning the city can’t move it. The commission said statues of J.E.B. Stuart, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson and Confederate naval commander Matthew Fontaine Maury should stay, but with new signs or plaques to add historical context.

City officials haven’t taken action. Meanwhile, vandals splattered the Lee monument’s base with red paint in early August, about a week before the Charlottesville anniversary.

CONFEDERATE RUSHMORE

Carved into a mountainside, the towering Confederate figures of Stone Mountain have shown a rock-solid resistance to the wave of toppling Southern monuments.

The giant sculpture of Jefferson Davis and Gens. Robert E. Lee and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson has long made Stone Mountain Park near Atlanta one of Georgia’s top tourist attractions. After the bloodshed in Charlottesville, the Democrat running to become the state’s next governor said it’s “a blight on our state and should be removed.”

Stacey Abrams would be the first black woman elected governor of a U.S. state if she wins in November.

Demolishing the granite monument would be tough, and not just because of its imposing scale. Stone Mountain is protected by its own state law that mandates the carving “be preserved and protected for all time.”

Confronted about her criticism of Stone Mountain at a recent event, Abrams said the sculpture was created “to terrify African Americans.” But she also hedged on whether it should be destroyed.

“I never once said sandblast, but I did say that we should do something about the fact that we have this massive monument to domestic terrorism without context and without information,” Abrams said. “And I believe absolutely the state should not be paying for a monument to domestic terrorism.”

For the complete AP coverage marking one year since the rally in Charlottesville, visit <https://apnews.com/tag/CharlottesvilleAYearLater> .

Immigration raids in Nebraska, Minnesota target businesses

By MARGERY A. BECK, Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A large federal law enforcement operation conducted Wednesday targeted businesses in Nebraska and Minnesota that officials say knowingly hired — and mistreated — immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally.

The investigative arm of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement — Homeland Security Investigations — led the operation that saw about a dozen businesses and plants raided and 17 business owners and managers indicted for fraud, wire fraud and money laundering.

Of those, 14 were taken into custody Wednesday and three were still being sought. Authorities also arrested more than 130 workers at various businesses, busing them to Grand Island, Nebraska, to be questioned and processed.

Most of the arrests occurred in northern Nebraska and southern Minnesota. Several of the businesses were in O’Neill, Nebraska, a town of about 3,000 about 160 miles (260 kilometers) northwest of Omaha. Officials said they were still looking to take three owners or managers into custody as part of the operation.

Special agent in charge Tracy Cormier described the operation as one of the largest in Homeland Security Investigations’ 15-year history. Between 350 and 400 federal, state and local law enforcement officers worked together on the arrests, she said.

The focus of the operation is unusual in that it targeted business operators for arrest. Most immigration raids have targeted workers suspected of being in the country illegally.

“The whole investigation was initiated, basically, because we knew that these businesses were cheating these workers and cheating taxpayers and cheating their competition,” Cormier said.

The businesses engaged in a scheme that used fraudulent names and Social Security numbers to employ

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people in the country illegally, she said. The businesses used "force, fraud, coercion, threat of arrest and/or deportation" to exploit the workers, Cormier said. The business that hired out the immigrants also forced the workers to cash their paychecks with that business for an exorbitant fee, officials said, and withheld taxes from workers' pay without paying those taxes to the government.

"It kind of reminds us of the revival of the old 'company store' policy, where it used to keep the coal miners indebted to the company for all kinds of services ... like check cashing," she said.

Also arrested were 133 workers suspected of being in the country illegally, according to ICE. Some will be issued notices to appear before an immigration judge and released, while those with criminal backgrounds will remain in ICE custody.

The raids come as President Donald Trump's administration has been carrying out high-profile immigration enforcement actions against employers.

Dozens of workers were arrested at a meatpacking plant in rural Tennessee in April, followed by agents rounding up more than 100 employees two months later at an Ohio gardening and landscaping company.

Immigration officials have also beefed up audits of companies to verify their employees are authorized to work in the country. Officials opened nearly 5,300 employer audits since January, many after audits at 100 7-Eleven franchises in 17 states in January.

On Wednesday, investigators served warrants at Elkhorn River Farms, hydroponic tomato grower O'Neill Ventures, La Herradura restaurant and grocery store El Mercadito, all in O'Neill. A private ranch outside O'Neill also was searched.

No phone number could be found for El Mercadito. Calls to the other businesses went unanswered or messages left were not returned.

Pork producing giant Christensen Farms saw search warrants served at its headquarters in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, its truck wash facility in Appleton, Minnesota and a producer plant in Atkinson, Nebraska. Spokeswoman Amber Portner said the company was cooperating with agents. She said she knew of no arrests at any of the company's locations Wednesday.

Other businesses raided were in Stromsburg, Ainsworth, Bartlett and Royal, all in Nebraska.

Civil rights organizations in Nebraska were quick to denounce Wednesday's operation.

"The ACLU condemns this ongoing campaign of misery that targets immigrants, disrupts local businesses and separates families," Rose Godinez, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska, said in a written statement released Wednesday morning after news reports of the raid at O'Neill Ventures.

The effect of such operations are the same whether they target businesses or immigrants, said Jeff Sheldon, spokesman for advocacy group Nebraska Appleseed.

"This is going to leave widespread fear and damage in the community," he said. "You got businesses that are directly affected. You've got neighborhoods that are directly affected. You'll have kids tonight coming home to a house where one or more of their parents are gone. This is pain that can last for generations."

China exports accelerated in July despite rise in US tariffs

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — China's exports to the United States surged last month, shrugging off President Trump's tariff hike in a dispute over technology.

Shipments to the United States climbed 13.3 percent from a year earlier, to \$41.5 billion, after a roughly similar rise in June, customs data show.

At the same time, Beijing's trade surplus with the United States — a frequent source of anger and threats from Trump — widened by 11 percent from a year ago to \$28 billion.

The rise in exports defied expectations of a slump after merchants rushed to fill orders the previous month before Washington imposed 25 percent duties on \$34 billion of Chinese goods on July 6 in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

The trade war between the world's two biggest economies has forced many multinational companies to reschedule purchases and rethink where they buy materials and parts to try to dodge or blunt the effects

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of tit-for-tat tariffs between Washington and Beijing.

Beijing has warned that its exporters face "rising instabilities" after Washington's trade penalties. Beijing has retaliated with higher duties on a similar amount of American goods.

On Tuesday, the Trump administration announced that it would proceed with previously announced 25 percent tariffs on an additional \$16 billion of Chinese imports starting Aug. 23. On Wednesday, China hit back by saying it would impose identical 25 percent punitive duties on \$16 billion of U.S. goods, including cars, crude oil and scrap metal, also to take effect Aug. 23.

A Commerce Ministry statement labeled Trump's decision to go ahead with the latest U.S. tariffs "very unreasonable." Beijing's retaliatory move was a "necessary response" to "safeguard its legitimate interests," the ministry said on its website.

Escalating its tensions with Beijing, the Trump administration has also threatened to impose penalties on an additional \$200 billion in Chinese exports to the United States. Beijing says it is ready to retaliate against \$60 billion of American imports. (Beijing cannot tax an equal amount of U.S. products, because the United States exports far fewer goods to China than it imports.)

Tariffs are taxes on imports. They are meant to protect homegrown businesses and put foreign competitors at a disadvantage. But the taxes also exact a price on domestic businesses and consumers who pay more for imports.

In July, China's global exports surged 12 percent, even faster than an 11 percent increase in June. At the same time, overall imports to China jumped 27 percent last month.

Exports to the rest of the world might have been boosted by a weaker Chinese currency. The yuan has declined by 8 percent this year against the dollar and by about 4 percent against a basket of global currencies. A weakening currency makes a nation's goods more affordable for overseas buyers.

China's trade conflict with the United States, coupled with weakening global demand, has compounded the challenges for Beijing. Economic growth has slowed since regulators tightened controls on bank lending to rein in surging debt.

The unusually strong July import figures reflected higher prices, according to Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics.

"We expect export growth to cool in the coming months, though this will primarily reflect softer global growth rather than U.S. tariffs," Evans-Pritchard said in a report. "Import growth is likely to slow as domestic headwinds continue to weigh on economic activity."

China's global trade surplus narrowed by 40 percent from a year earlier to \$28 billion. In the meantime, its trade gap with the 28-nation European Union contracted 8 percent to \$11.2 billion.

China is running out of American goods to hit with retaliatory tariffs given the two nations' lopsided trade balance. Last year's imports from the United States totaled about \$130 billion. That leaves only about \$20 billion for penalty tariffs after increases that have already been imposed or threatened on U.S. goods are counted.

Beijing has stepped up efforts, so far without success, to recruit governments including Germany and France as allies. Those nations have criticized Trump's tactics, but they share U.S. complaints about Chinese industrial policy and market barriers.

AP Economics Writer Paul Wiseman in Washington contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that the tariff-related rise in Chinese exports was in June.

General Administration of Customs of China (in Chinese): www.customs.gov.cn

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Asian markets mixed as trade spat in focus, oil stabilizes

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were mixed on Thursday with Chinese stocks outperforming the region, as investors watched the latest developments on trade. Prices of oil stabilized.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.3 percent to 22,584.18 while South Korea's Kospi inched down 0.2 percent to 2,297.62. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index advanced 0.6 percent to 28,533.38. Shanghai Composite Index jumped 1.3 percent to 2,781.06. Australia's S&P-ASX 200 was up 0.5 percent to 6,301.30. Stocks in Taiwan and the Philippines were lower but they were higher in Indonesia and New Zealand.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Looking at the rhetorical battle between the United States and China recently, it may appear that finding a clue to resolve (the trade war) is impossible," said Lee Seunghoon, an analyst at Meritz Securities Co. in Seoul, South Korea. "But rather than prolonging the trade conflicts, such heated rhetorical battle between the U.S. and China will likely lead to a resumption of negotiations before the U.S. midterm elections." Lee said the actual imposition of additional tariffs by the U.S. on Chinese products could be delayed and concerns about higher consumer prices in the U.S. may discourage President Donald Trump's administration from imposing further tariffs.

TRADE SPAT: The U.S. and China both announced new tariffs. Later this month each country will put a 25 percent tax on \$16 billion in goods imported from the other. Both countries placed tariffs on \$34 billion in imports earlier this month, and they have threatened much larger tariffs to come. The Trump administration plans to tax Chinese industrial products such as steam turbines and iron girders starting Aug. 23. China's government said it will put tariffs on U.S. goods including cars, crude oil and scrap metal starting on the same date.

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished lower on Wednesday, ending a four-day winning streak. The S&P 500 index dipped 0.75 points to 2,857.70. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 45.16 points, or 0.2 percent, to 25,583.75. The Nasdaq composite rose 4.66 points, or 0.1 percent, to 7,888.33. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks lost 1.42 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,686.88.

OIL: Prices of oil stabilized after a sharp fall in the previous session. Benchmark U.S. crude oil added 11 cents to \$67.05 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract plunged 3.2 percent to finish at \$66.94 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, gained 25 cents to \$72.53 per barrel in London. It fell 3.2 percent to \$72.28 a barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 110.78 yen from 111.02 yen while the euro rose to \$1.1615 from \$1.1610.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 9, the 221st day of 2018. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford became the nation's 38th chief executive as President Richard Nixon's resignation took effect.

On this date:

In 1854, Henry David Thoreau's "Walden," which described Thoreau's experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts, was first published.

In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of Britain following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1944, 258 African-American sailors based at Port Chicago, California, refused to load a munitions ship following a cargo vessel explosion that killed 320 men, many of them black. (Fifty of the sailors were convicted of mutiny, fined and imprisoned.)

In 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress code-named

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Bockscar dropped a nuclear device ("Fat Man") over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally slain at Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his followers were later convicted of the crime.

In 1982, a federal judge in Washington ordered John W. Hinckley Jr., who'd been acquitted of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three others by reason of insanity, committed to a mental hospital.

In 1992, closing ceremonies were held for the Barcelona Summer Olympics, with the Unified Team of former Soviet republics winning 112 medals, the United States 108.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia, lead singer of the Grateful Dead, died in Forest Knolls, California, of a heart attack at age 53.

In 1997, Haitian immigrant Abner Louima was brutalized in a Brooklyn, New York, stationhouse by Officer Justin Volpe, who raped him with a broken broomstick. (Volpe was later sentenced to 30 years in prison.) An Amtrak train with more than 300 people aboard derailed on a bridge near Kingman, Arizona; 183 people were injured.

In 2004, Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols, addressing a court for the first time, asked victims of the blast for forgiveness as a judge sentenced him to 161 consecutive life sentences.

In 2014, Michael Brown Jr., an unarmed 18-year-old black man, was shot to death by a police officer following an altercation in Ferguson, Missouri; Brown's death led to sometimes-violent protests in Ferguson and other U.S. cities.

Ten years ago: Todd Bachman, the father of 2004 volleyball Olympian Elisabeth "Wiz" Bachman, was stabbed to death by a Chinese man in Beijing in an apparently random attack just hours after the start of the Olympic Games. (The assailant took his own life.) Mariel Zagunis led a U.S. sweep of the women's saber fencing for the first American medals of the Games. Comedian Bernie Mac died in Chicago at age 50.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama promised to work with Congress on "appropriate reforms" for the domestic surveillance programs that stirred criticism at home and abroad. President Obama signed into law a measure restoring lower interest rates for student loans. Infamous drug lord Rafael Caro Quintero walked free after 28 years in prison when a Mexican court overturned his 40-year sentence for the 1985 kidnap and killing of U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agent Enrique Camarena.

One year ago: North Korea's army said it was studying a plan to create an "enveloping fire" in areas around the U.S. territory of Guam with medium- to long-range ballistic missiles. Prosecutors in Florida said golfer Tiger Woods had agreed to plead guilty to reckless driving and would enter a diversion program that would allow him to have his record wiped clean; he'd been charged with DUI in May when he was found asleep in his car, apparently under the influence of a prescription painkiller and sleeping medication.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Cousy is 90. Actress Cynthia Harris is 84. Tennis Hall of Famer Rod Laver is 80. Jazz musician Jack DeJohnette is 76. Comedian-director David Steinberg is 76. Actor Sam Elliott is 74. Singer Barbara Mason is 71. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Bill Campbell is 70. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player John Cappelletti is 66. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Doug Williams is 63. Actress Melanie Griffith is 61. Actress Amanda Bearse is 60. Rapper Kurtis Blow is 59. Hockey Hall of Famer Brett Hull is 54. TV host Hoda Kotb (HOH'-duh KAHT'-bee) is 54. Actor Pat Petersen is 52. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders is 51. Actress Gillian Anderson is 50. Actor Eric Bana is 50. Producer-director McG (aka Joseph McGinty Nichol) is 50. NHL player-turned-assistant coach Rod Brind'Amour is 48. TV anchor Chris Cuomo is 48. Actor Thomas Lennon is 48. Rock musician Arion Salazar is 48. Rapper Mack 10 is 47. Actress Nikki Schieler Ziering is 47. Latin rock singer Juanes is 46. Actress Liz Vassey is 46. Actor Kevin McKidd is 45. Actress Rhona Mitra (ROH'-nuh MEE'-truh) is 43. Actor Texas Battle is 42. Actress Jessica Capshaw is 42. Actress Ashley Johnson is 35. Actress Anna Kendrick is 33.

Thought for Today: "The truth is lived, not taught." — Hermann Hesse, German-born Swiss poet and author (born 1877, died this date in 1962).