

Groton Daily Independent

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"Never be afraid to try something new because life gets boring when you stay within the limits of what you already know."

-Author unknown

Chicken Soup for the Soul

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



FROST
CONSTRUCTION INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
605.290.1535
custom homes | remodels | additions



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)



Gov. Daugaard Adds Inauguration Fix To Special Session Proclamation

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard today issued an executive proclamation, calling a special session of the South Dakota State Legislature for Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. CDT to consider legislation relating to the collecting and remittance of sales tax by remote sellers. The special session, which was announced earlier this month, follows the state's win before the U.S. Supreme Court in *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* in June.

Gov. Daugaard is also adding a second topic to the special session, relating to the timing of the inauguration of the new governor in 2019.

By tradition, a new governor and other state officials are sworn in on the Saturday before the beginning of the legislative session. The state constitution requires that the legislative session begin on the second Tuesday of January, which will be Jan. 8 in 2019. Therefore, the inauguration festivities are set for Saturday, Jan. 5.

South Dakota state law, however, states that state officials cannot be sworn in until the first Monday in January, which will be Jan. 7 in 2019, the day before the legislative session begins. This calls into question the legality of an inauguration ceremony on Jan. 5.

Gov. Daugaard will be asking legislators to amend the law so that the inauguration can always be held on the Saturday before the State Legislature convenes, as has been the longstanding tradition.

"It is important to have a clear transfer of the Governor's Office, without any doubt about the legality of the ceremony," said Gov. Daugaard. "We have been in contact with Congresswoman Noem and Sen. Sutton, and both candidates agree that we should clarify this statute and remove any question surrounding next year's inaugural ceremony."

The Governor added that he hopes legislators will see a bright side: "It means they will be rid of me two days earlier."

Sturgis Rally Vehicle Count Final Tally

STURGIS, S.D. – Data from the South Dakota Department of Transportation shows traffic was up 7.9 percent overall for the 78th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally compared to the same time last year.

Summary for all 10 days – Friday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018

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

Wednesday, August 8: 60,608 entering – up 11.4% from Wednesday last year

Thursday, August 9: 56,3023 entering – up 11.5% from Thursday last year

Friday August 10: 48,787 entering – up 18.8% from Friday last year

Saturday August 11: 37,525 entering – up 9.5% from Saturday last year

Sunday August 12: 21,399 entering – up 20.1% from Sunday last year

10 Day total:

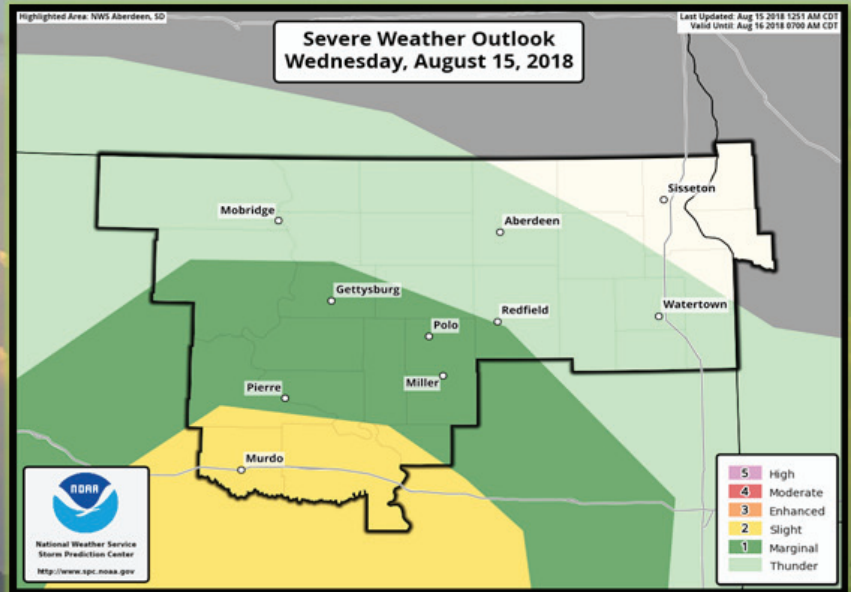
2018: 505,969 2017: 469,103 up 7.9% over last year

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Severe Storms Possible Today

Slight chance for strong winds and large hail this afternoon & evening, especially along and south of I90.



 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 8/15/2018 4:24 AM Central

Published on: 08/15/2018 at 4:28AM

Showers and storms will increase in coverage this morning over western South Dakota, then spread east and south over the southern half of the state this afternoon and evening. Isolated severe storms are expected this afternoon and evening, mainly along and south of I90.

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Today in Weather History

August 15, 1886: A tornado moved northeast from 5 miles southwest of Newark in Marshall County, through town and into North Dakota. Only three buildings were reportedly undamaged at Newark, and a bartender at a saloon was killed. Three people died in two homes on adjoining farms 2 miles southwest of town. A saddle from a Newark stable was carried for a half mile. In North Dakota, houses and barns were damaged along the Wild River. This tornado was estimated as an F3.

August 15, 1987: On this day the largest hailstone was reported in Brown County. The size of the hailstone as 4.5 inches in diameter, and fell on the southwest corner of Warner. This storm also produced F1 tornado that touchdown about 2 miles southwest of Warner. An estimated wind gust of 60 mph was also reported about 2 miles NNW of Stratford.

August 15, 2011: Slow moving thunderstorms across parts of northern Roberts County produced anywhere from 4 to 8 inches of rainfall resulting in flash flooding. The town of New Effington was affected with many roads along with several homes flooded. Sandbagging took place to keep the water from the school. Highway 127 from New Effington to Hammer was flooded in several spots. The floodwaters remained for several days afterward with several roads flooded.

1787: Tornadoes were reported in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. Wethersfield, Connecticut was hard hit by the tornado outbreak. There, a woman and her family were caught in the open. She and her son were killed. Clothes from the family farm were carried three miles away. This event is regarded to be the most significant tornado outbreak in early New England history.

1946 - Saint Louis, MO, was deluged with a record 8.78 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The Weather Channel)

1967 - The sundance fire in northern Idaho was started by lightning. Winds of 50 mph carried firebrands as much as ten miles in advance to ignite new fires, and as a result, the forest fire spread twenty miles across the Selkirk Mountains in just twelve hours, burning 56,000 acres. The heat of the fire produced whirlwinds of flame with winds up to 300 mph which flung giant trees about like matchsticks. (David Ludlum)

1983: Hurricane Alicia formed on this day and was the costliest tropical cyclone in the Atlantic since Hurricane Agnes in 1972. It struck Galveston and Houston, Texas directly, causing \$2.6 billion (1983 USD) in damage and killing 21 people. This storm was the worst Texas hurricane since Hurricane Carla in 1961. Also, Alicia was the first billion-dollar tropical cyclone in Texas history.

1987 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a sharp cold front produced severe weather in the Upper Midwest during the afternoon and evening hours, with Minnesota and eastern South Dakota hardest hit. A thunderstorm in west central Minnesota spawned a tornado at Eagle Lake which killed one person and injured eight others. A thunderstorm in eastern South Dakota produced softball size hail at Warner. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty five cities in twenty states in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lamoni IA and Baltimore MD, where the mercury hit 105 degrees. Temperatures 100 degrees or above were reported in twenty-two states. Pierre SD was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 114 degrees. Bluefield WV reported eight straight days of record heat. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms in eastern New Mexico produced wind gusts to 66 mph at Clovis. Evening thunderstorms in West Texas produced baseball size hail around Hereford, Dimmitt, Ware and Dalhart. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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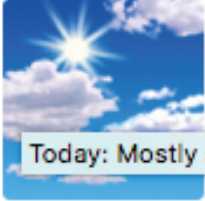
Today

Tonight

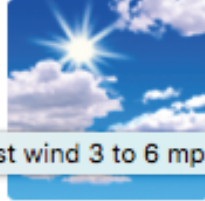
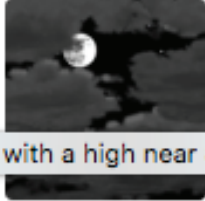
Thursday

Thursday
Night

Friday



Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. East wind 3 to 6 mph.



Mostly Sunny

Mostly Cloudy

Mostly Sunny

Mostly Clear

Sunny

High: 82 °F

Low: 58 °F

High: 84 °F

Low: 57 °F

High: 88 °F

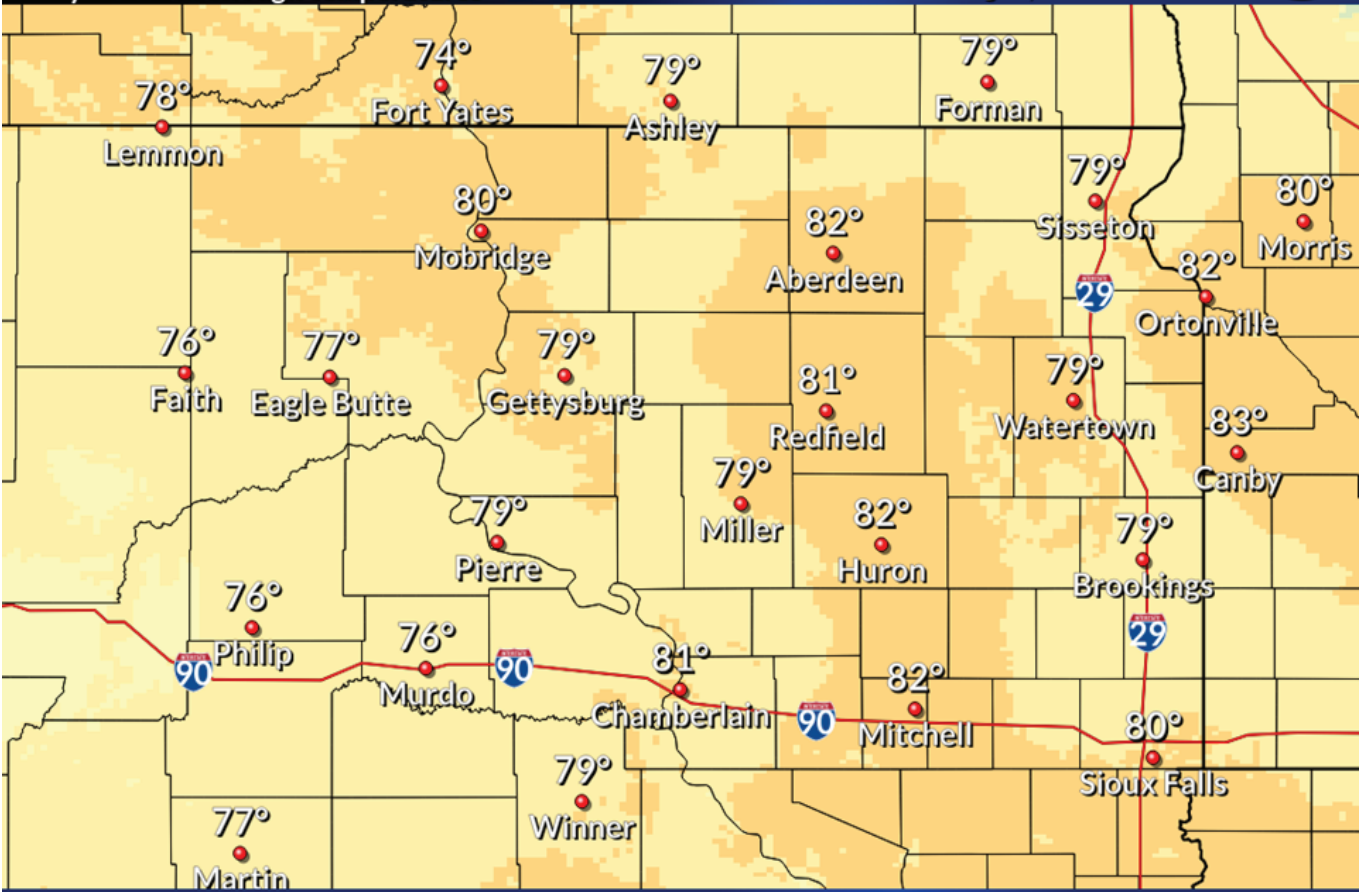
A Little Warmer Today

Today's Afternoon High Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office

Aberdeen, SD

Issued Aug 15, 2018 4:02 AM CDT



NWSAberdeen

weather.gov/abr

Published on: 08/15/2018 at 4:14AM

Today will turn a bit warmer vs Tuesday. Plus, showers and storms will develop over western South Dakota this morning, and then move east through the afternoon and evening. Isolated severe storms are possible, mainly along and south of I90.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 74.6 F at 12:00 AM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 62.7 F at 6:37 AM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 9:49 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 111° in 1937

Record Low: 42° in 1895

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 57°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.10

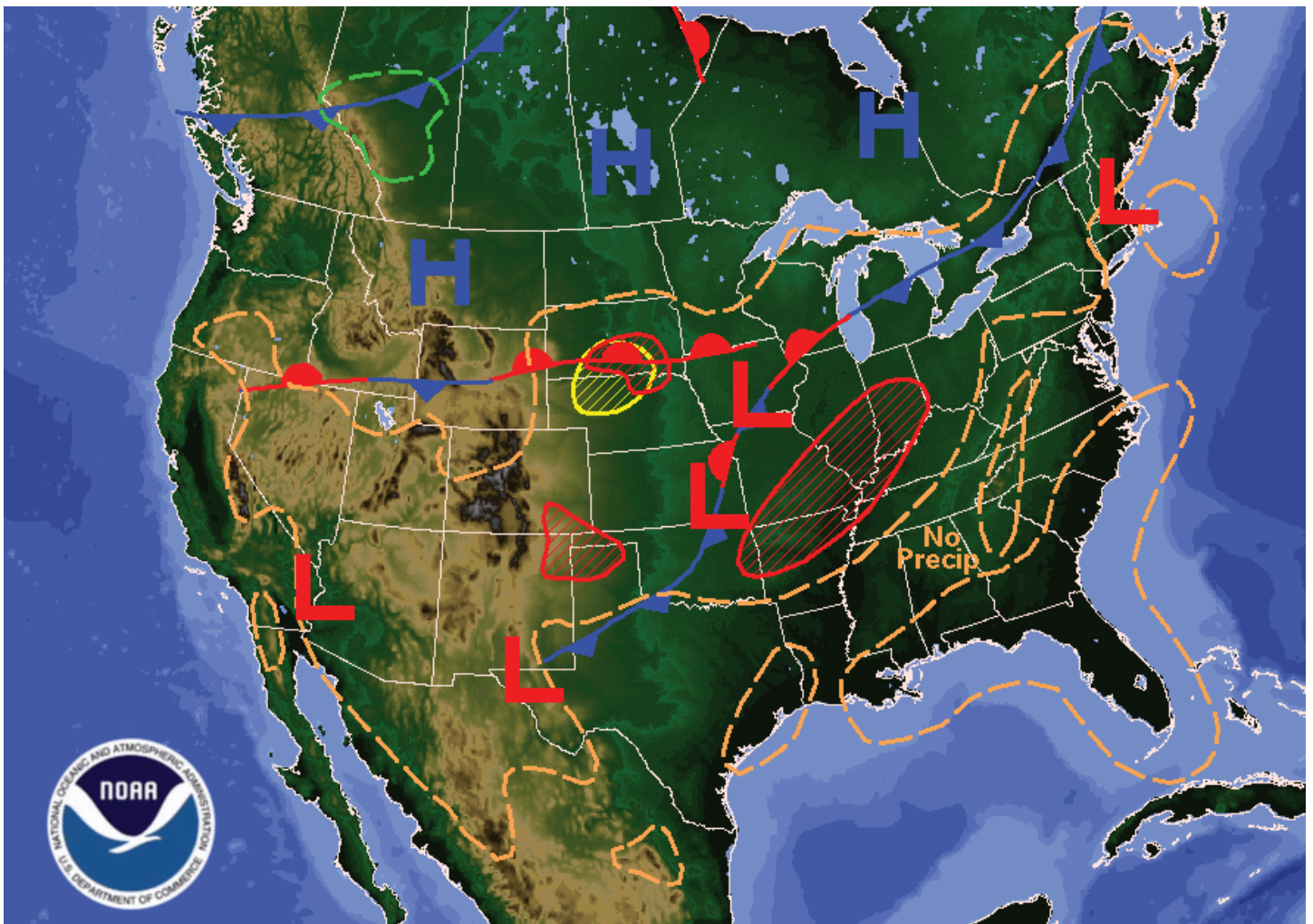
Precip to date in Aug: 0.25

Average Precip to date: 14.96

Precip Year to Date: 10.14

Sunset Tonight: 8:41 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:36 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Aug 15, 2018, issued 5:09 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



WAITING WITHOUT WORRYING

Fishing often seems futile and foolish. There may be long periods of time when the only progress is the movement of the hands on a clock. While some would say it is a great way to relax and think, others would say it is ridiculous and unjustifiable in this fast-paced world.

And, there are many who consider prayer the same way. Why wait for the Lord to hear our prayers when we can get by on our own? The Psalmist gave us a good reason to wait: I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in His Word I put my hope.

Some claim that waiting on the Lord is profitable and productive. Others say it is the best way to become efficient and effective. Really?

The person who does not wait on the Lord may be going places - but they may not be the right places. Often we move forward in haste and end up in a place other than what we had in mind. Often the consequences of rushing ahead of God results in destroying the plan He has laid out for us. Do you remember the wise bumper sticker that read, Dont follow me. Im lost.?

Waiting on the Lord is the way to empowerment. Not waiting on the Lord may lead to exhaustion. Our Lord is adequate to meet our every need, but there are times when we must wait on Him for whatever our need may be. We must wait on Him if we want His goodness and guidance, His wisdom and wealth, His healing and happiness.

The Psalmist said, In His Word, I put my hope. In Hebrews we are reminded that We have this hope as an anchor.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for reminding us of our need to place our hope in You. Grant us the gift of trust. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 130:5 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in His Word I put my hope.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

News from the Associated Press

Trial set for South Dakota men in fatal Nebraska ATV crash

HARTINGTON, Neb. (AP) — A Sept. 11 trial start has been scheduled for a South Dakota man and his father on charges stemming from the death of a 21-year-old woman after an all-terrain vehicle crash in northeast Nebraska.

Cedar County District Court records say 26-year-old Derrik Nelson pleaded not guilty Monday to vehicular homicide, manslaughter and other charges. The June 29 crash last year near Fordyce killed Jessi Anderson, a South Dakota State University student.

The records say Nelson's 65-year-old father, J. Douglas Nelson, has pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor accessory charge.

The records say Derrik Nelson was driving the ATV after consuming alcohol for several hours before the crash. Prosecutors say his father disassembled the ATV after the crash in an effort to hide evidence.

The two men live in Yankton, South Dakota.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

11-26-44-45-46, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 2

(eleven, twenty-six, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$75 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

SD man arrested after shooting at officer, taking hostages

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man is under arrest after authorities say he shot at a police officer and briefly took hostages at gunpoint in Box Elder.

Pennington County sheriff's authorities say Box Elder police responded Tuesday morning to a report of a man screaming. Police made contact with a man who fired a handgun at an officer who returned fire.

Authorities say the man then fled into a nearby yard and took two people hostage at gunpoint. Police closed in on the home and the suspect ran away, allowing both hostages to escape.

Officers began searching four houses, and deputies rescued a young girl from the second story of a home where the suspect was arrested.

The 31-year-old Yankton man was taken safely into custody. Charges are pending.

Energy Transfer CEO considers Dakota Access expansion

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The head of the natural gas company that developed the Dakota Access Pipeline is hoping to soon announce an expansion of the project.

Energy Transfer Partners CEO Kelcy Warren met with U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry and other energy industry leaders this week in Bismarck. Warren said he hopes to announce a pipeline expansion but didn't mention a timeline, the Bismarck Tribune reported .

Dakota Access transports Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois and carries an average 500,000 barrels per day. The potential expansion would increase the pipeline up to 570,000 barrels per day, said

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ETP spokeswoman Vicki Granado.

Conditions of Dakota Access' permit through the North Dakota Public Service Commission would allow the pipeline to ship up to 600,000 barrels per day in North Dakota. Companies can expand a pipeline's capacity by adding more pumping horsepower or using drag-reducing agents that allow the flow of more oil, said Justin Kringstad, director of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority.

The pipeline was part of months-long protests because it crosses Lake Oahe north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. To cross the lake, Dakota Access required an easement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is still studying the pipeline's environmental impacts more than a year after the pipeline began operating.

Dakota Access connects with the Energy Transfer Crude Oil Pipeline, which transports oil from Illinois to Texas.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

2 found guilty in Wisconsin pipeline protest case

SUPERIOR, Wis. (AP) — Jurors have convicted two people of disorderly conduct and obstructing an officer following a protest at Enbridge Energy's Line 3 construction site in Wisconsin last summer.

Alexander Emery Good-Cane-Milk, 24, of South Dakota, and Kyla L. Hassig, 26, of Minnesota, were also found guilty of trespassing on the site where Enbridge was working to replace a 12.5-mile (20-kilometer) segment of the 1960s-era oil pipeline, Wisconsin Public Radio reported.

"I don't feel justice was served today," Hassig said after the verdict.

Investigators said Good-Cane-Milk secured himself to an excavator at the site, while Hassig streamed the protest live on social media on Aug. 29, 2017. Investigators said both refused requests from Douglas County sheriff's deputies to leave the site.

An attorney for Hassig and Good-Cane-Milk said the pair's actions were warranted acts of civil disobedience because they were concerned about the pipeline's effect on the environment.

Douglas County Judge Kelly Thimm sentenced Hassig to serve 20 days in jail and ordered her to pay fines. The judge said Hassig had endangered herself and officers, and that that jail time would emphasize that "this type of behavior will not be tolerated."

Good-Cane-Milk has yet to be sentenced.

Enbridge has completed construction on the Wisconsin segment of the pipeline, which currently transports around 390,000 barrels of oil per day from Canada to the Enbridge terminal in Wisconsin. Work on the Minnesota segment of the pipeline is still being challenged.

Enbridge is spending around \$2.9 billion in the U.S. for the replacement project. The company has said the 1,031-mile (1,659-kilometer) replacement pipeline is necessary due to corrosion and cracking within the existing pipeline.

Information from: Wisconsin Public Radio, <http://www.wpr.org>

Feds: South Dakota reservation hospital could lose funding

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is threatening to pull key funding from a South Dakota hospital on a Native American reservation after an inspection flagged dangerous deficiencies in care.

The federal health agency placed the Rosebud Indian Health Service hospital on "immediate jeopardy" status last week, the Argus Leader reported. Federal officials gave the hospital near the Rosebud Indian Reservation until the end of the month to fix problems.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services inspectors surveyed the Rosebud hospital between July 24 and 26, but additional details about the inspection and deficiencies haven't yet been released.

The notice comes more than two years after the hospital was cited for similar shortcomings that forced

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the temporary closures of the emergency room and other departments. The hospital has since closed down its surgical and obstetrics and gynecology units.

"These deficiencies are so serious that they constitute an immediate and serious threat to the health and safety of any individual who comes to your hospital to receive emergency services," wrote Steven Chickering, an associate regional administrator for the federal health agency.

The hospital has submitted an improvement plan and is working with the agency's inspectors, according to an Indian Health Service spokesman.

"IHS is committed to providing patients with quality care in the most safe and efficient manner possible," the spokesman said. "The IHS has made measurable improvements through implementation of the quality framework, the development of its strategic plan, and other quality improvement efforts, and is working diligently to continue to improve."

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

Six arrested in sex trafficking sting during Sturgis rally

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Six men have been arrested as the result of a sex trafficking operation in the Rapid City area.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Tuesday his office worked in conjunction with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Rapid City police, Sturgis police and the state Division of Criminal Investigation on the sting which took place during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

The six men, ranging in age from 20 to 55, are charged with attempted enticement of a minor using the internet. The charge carries a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison upon conviction.

Woman arrested for vandalizing high school

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — Police have arrested a Belle Fourche woman for vandalism at the local high school.

The 59-year-old woman is accused of smashing 43 windows at the school last week causing damage of more than \$20,000. An affidavit filed in the case this week in Butte County says police reviewed security camera video and linked a van seen in the footage to the woman.

The Rapid City Journal says the woman has had a longstanding complaint against the city and the school district for flooding in her home.

Superintendent Steve Willard says the openings will be covered up until the windows can be replaced in a couple of weeks.

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

Trump's picks, Democrat diversity among primary winners

By STEVE PEOPLES and KYLE POTTER, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Democrats embraced diversity Tuesday in a primary night of firsts, while Republicans in Minnesota rejected a familiar face of the GOP old guard in favor of a rising newcomer aligned with President Donald Trump.

In Vermont, Democrats rallied behind the nation's first transgender nominee for governor. Minnesota Democrats backed a woman who would be the first Somali-American member of Congress. And in Connecticut, the party nominated a candidate who could become the first black woman from the state to serve in Congress.

Still, Democrats in Minnesota also backed a national party leader who is facing accusations of domestic violence. He has denied the allegations, yet they threaten to undercut enthusiasm in his state and beyond.

On the other side, Trump tightened his grip on the modern-day Republican Party as the turbulent 2018

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primary season lurched toward its finale. A one-time Trump critic, former two-term Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, lost a comeback attempt he was expected to win.

All but 10 states picked their candidates for November's general election by the time the day's final votes were counted. While the full political battlefield isn't quite set, the stakes are clear: Democrats are working to topple Republican control of Congress and governors' offices across the nation.

Four states held primaries Tuesday: Vermont, Connecticut, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Kansas' gubernatorial primary, which was held last week, was finalized when Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer conceded defeat.

In Minnesota, Republican County Commissioner Jeff Johnson defeated Pawlenty, who once called Trump "unhinged and unfit" and was hoping to regain his old post. In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker, endorsed just this week by Trump, won the right to seek a third term.

The president's pick for Kansas governor, Secretary of State Kris Kobach, scored a delayed victory against Colyer, who became the first incumbent governor to fall this season.

In Vermont, Democrat Christine Hallquist won the Democratic nomination in her quest to become the nation's first transgender governor. The former chief executive of Vermont Electric Cooperative bested a field of four Democrats that included a 14-year-old.

While she made history on Tuesday, Hallquist faces a difficult path to the governor's mansion. Republican incumbent Phil Scott remains more popular with Democrats than members of his own party in the solidly liberal state.

Vermont Democrats also nominated Sen. Bernie Sanders, who hasn't ruled out a second presidential run in 2020, for a third term in the Senate. The 76-year-old democratic socialist won the Democratic nomination, but he is expected to turn it down and run as an independent.

Democrats appeared particularly motivated in Wisconsin, where eight candidates lined up for the chance to take on Walker.

Walker's strong anti-union policies made him a villain to Democrats long before Trump's rise. State schools chief Tony Evers, who has clashed with Walker at times, won the Democratic nomination and will take on Walker this fall.

Once a target of Trump criticism, Walker gained the president's endorsement in a tweet Monday night calling him "a tremendous Governor who has done incredible things for that Great State."

Trump also starred, informally at least, in Wisconsin's Senate primaries as Republicans try to deny Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin a second term.

Longtime state lawmaker Leah Vukmir, who was backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan, won the Republican primary, even after struggling to explain footage recently unearthed from 2016 in which she called Trump "offensive to everyone."

Tuesday's primaries served as a test of Democratic enthusiasm in the upper Midwest, a region that has long been associated with liberal politics but has been trending red. Trump won Wisconsin by less than 1 percentage point in 2016, becoming the first Republican presidential candidate to carry the state since 1984.

It was much the same in Minnesota, where Trump lost by less than 3 percentage points in a state that hasn't backed a Republican presidential contender since 1972.

Nearly twice as many Minnesota Democrats as Republicans cast ballots in their parties' respective gubernatorial primaries.

Pawlenty had been considered the heavy favorite in a two-person Republican contest for his old job. But he struggled to adapt to a GOP that had changed drastically since he left office in 2011 and flamed out early in a 2012 presidential bid.

The former two-term governor strained to live down his October 2016 comment that Trump was "unhinged and unfit for the presidency," remarks that incensed many Republican voters in Minnesota and beyond. Johnson, his underfunded opponent, circulated Pawlenty's critique far and wide, telling voters that he was a steadfast supporter of the president.

Johnson will face Democratic Rep. Tim Walz, who won a three-way race for his party's nomination.

Three Minnesota women won Senate nominations, including incumbent Democrats Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith.

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Smith, who had been appointed to replace Democrat Al Franken, will face Republican state Sen. Karin Housley, ensuring a woman will hold the seat once held by Franken, who left Congress amid allegations of sexual misconduct toward women.

Nationwide, a record number of women are running this year for governor and Congress.

Meanwhile, a new scandal threatened to dampen Democratic enthusiasm.

Rep. Keith Ellison, the Democratic National Committee's deputy chairman, captured his party's nomination in the race to become the state's attorney general. That's after Ellison's candidacy was rocked by allegations over the weekend of domestic violence amid a broader national outcry against sexual misconduct by powerful men in business, entertainment and politics.

Ellison has denied a former girlfriend's allegations that he dragged her off a bed while screaming obscenities during a 2016 relationship she said was plagued by "narcissistic abuse."

Also in Minnesota, Democrat Ilhan Omar, the nation's first Somali-American legislator, won her party's congressional primary in the race to replace Ellison.

In Connecticut, Republican businessman Bob Stefanowski emerged from a field of five Republicans seeking to replace the unpopular outgoing governor, Democrat Dan Malloy. Former gubernatorial candidate Ned Lamont won the Democratic nomination.

Connecticut Democrats picked former teacher of the year, Jahana Hayes, to run for the seat vacated by Rep. Elizabeth Etsy, who is leaving Congress after bungling sexual abuse claims levied against a former staffer. Hayes could become the first black woman from the state to serve in Congress.

Peoples reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Scott Bauer in Madison, Wisconsin, contributed to this report.

Death toll hits 39 in Italy bridge collapse; blame begins

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA and FRANCES D'EMILIO, Associated Press

GENOA, Italy (AP) — Italian emergency workers pulled two more bodies out of tons of broken concrete and twisted steel Wednesday after a highway bridge collapsed in Genoa, raising the death toll in the disaster to at least 39 people.

The collapse of the Morandi Bridge sent dozens of cars and three trucks plunging as much as 45 meters (150 feet) to the ground Tuesday as many Italian families were on the road ahead of Wednesday's major summer holiday. The collapse took place after a violent storm.

Civil protection chief Angelo Borrelli confirmed Wednesday that 39 people had died and 15 were injured. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said three children were among the dead.

Working with heavy equipment, rescuers climbed over concrete slabs with sniffer dogs all through the night and into the day, searching for survivors or bodies. Borrelli said 1,000 of them were at the scene.

Investigators, meanwhile, were working to determine what caused an 80-meter (260-foot) long stretch of highway to break off from the 45-meter (150-foot) high bridge in the northwestern port city.

Italian politicians, for their part, were trying to find who to blame for the deadly tragedy.

The 1967 bridge, considered innovative in its time for its use of concrete around its cables, was long due for an upgrade, especially since the structure was more heavily trafficked than its designers had envisioned. One expert in such construction, Antonio Brencich at the University of Genoa, had previously called the bridge "a failure of engineering."

An unidentified woman who was standing below the bridge told RAI state TV that it crumbled Tuesday as if it were a mound of baking flour.

Engineering experts, noting that the bridge was 51 years old, said corrosion and weather could have been factors in its collapse.

The Italian CNR civil engineering society said structures dating from when the Morandi Bridge was built had surpassed their lifespan. It called for a "Marshall Plan" to repair or replace tens of thousands of Italian bridges and viaducts built in the 1950s and 1960s. It said that simply updating or reinforcing the bridges

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would be more expensive than destroying and rebuilding them with new technology.

Mehdi Kashani, an associate professor in structural mechanics at the University of Southampton in the U.K., said pressure from "dynamic loads," such as heavy traffic or strong winds, could have resulted in "fatigue damage" in the bridge's parts.

Italy's minister of transportation and infrastructure, Danilo Toninelli, said there was a plan pending to spend 20 million euro (\$22.7 million) on bids for significant safety work on the bridge.

While the collapse's cause is yet to be determined, political bickering moved into high gear Wednesday.

Toninelli, from the populist 5-Star Movement, threatened in a Facebook post that the state, if necessary, would take direct control of the highway contractor responsible for the bridge if it couldn't properly care for the roads and bridges it was responsible for.

State radio reported Wednesday that some 5-Star lawmakers in 2013 had questioned the wisdom of an ambitious, expensive infrastructure overhaul program as possibly wasteful, but that a post about that on the Movement's site was removed Tuesday after the bridge's collapse.

Within hours after the collapse, Salvini was trying to shift the blame away from Italy's new populist government, vowing not to let European Union spending strictures on Italy, which is laden with public debt, stop any effort to make the country's infrastructure safe.

Genoa is a flood-prone city, and officials were warning that the debris from the collapse must be removed as soon as possible. Some of the wreckage landed in a dry riverbed that could flood when the rainy season resumes in a few weeks.

At the Vatican, Pope Francis led prayers Wednesday for the victims of the Genoa bridge collapse.

Speaking to the faithful in St. Peter's Square, Francis expressed his "spiritual closeness" to the victims, the injured and their families, and the hundreds of local people who were forced to evacuate their homes in the area.

D'Emilio reported from Rome. Simone Somekh in Rome and Danica Kirka in London contributed.

Manafort jury to hear closing arguments in his fraud trial

By CHAD DAY, MATTHEW BARAKAT and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Closing arguments were expected Wednesday in the trial of Paul Manafort, the former Trump campaign chairman accused of tax evasion and bank fraud.

Manafort's defense rested its case Tuesday without calling any witnesses. Manafort himself chose not to testify.

It's the first trial to emerge from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, although the case didn't address allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 election. Mueller has been tasked with investigating those allegations, as well as possible collusion with the Trump campaign.

But as a result of the ongoing probe, Mueller's legal team says it discovered Manafort hiding millions of dollars in income he received advising Ukrainian politicians. The defense has tried to blame Manafort's financial mistakes on his former deputy, Rick Gates. Defense attorneys have called Gates a liar, philanderer and embezzler as they've sought to undermine his testimony.

Manafort's decision not to testify and not to call witnesses was announced by his attorney, Kevin Downing, before the jury on Tuesday afternoon. Asked by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III whether he wished to testify in his defense, Manafort responded: "No, sir."

The announcement came after a more than two-hour hearing that was closed to the public. The judge has not given any explanation for the sealed proceeding, only noting that a transcript of it would become public after Manafort's case concludes.

After announcing that they were resting their case, Downing told reporters outside the courthouse that they did so because they believe "the government has not met its burden of proof."

Also Tuesday, Ellis rejected a defense motion that the case should be dismissed on those same grounds. Manafort's lawyers asked the judge to toss out all the charges, but they focused in particular on four

bank-fraud charges.

The government says Manafort hid at least \$16 million in income from the IRS between 2010 and 2014 by disguising the money he earned advising politicians in Ukraine as loans and hiding it in foreign banks. Then, after his money in Ukraine dried up, they allege he defrauded banks by lying about his income on loan applications and concealing other financial information, such as mortgages.

Manafort's lawyers argued there is no way that one of the banks, Federal Savings Bank, could have been defrauded because its chairman, Stephen Calk, knew full well that Manafort's finances were in disarray but approved the loan to Manafort anyway. Witnesses testified that Calk pushed the loans through because he wanted a post in the Trump administration.

Ellis, in making his ruling, said the defense made a "significant" argument, but he ultimately ruled the question "is an issue for the jury."

Prosecutors rested their case on Monday, closing two weeks of a testimony in which they introduced a trove of documentary evidence as they sought to prove Manafort's guilt on 18 separate criminal counts. The prosecution depicted Manafort as using the millions of dollars hidden in offshore accounts to fund a luxurious lifestyle.

The case against Manafort does not relate to any allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination with the Trump campaign, the main thrust of Mueller's investigation.

Still, the proceedings have drawn President Donald Trump's attention — and prompted tweets — as the president has worked to undermine the standing of the Mueller investigation in the public square.

Trump has distanced himself from Manafort, who led the campaign from May to August 2016 with Gates at his side. Gates struck a plea deal with prosecutors and has provided much of the drama of the trial so far.

Gates testified that he helped Manafort commit crimes in an effort to lower his tax bill and fund his lavish lifestyle. During testimony, Gates was also forced to admit embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and conducting an extramarital affair.

After jurors were excused on Tuesday, lawyers for both sides conferred with the judge in open court on the language Ellis will use to instruct the jurors in their deliberations.

The only dispute was about what jurors should be told about how to interpret questions and comments interjected by the judge during the course of the trial.

Prosecutors, who have been frustrated by Ellis' tendency to interrupt and chide prosecutors in front of the jury, sought stronger language to make clear that jurors do not need to adopt any opinions expressed by the judge.

At one point in the discussion, Ellis asked prosecutors whether they thought he had ever interjected his own opinions. Prosecutor Greg Andres, who has had the strongest confrontations with Ellis, said "yes."

Ellis eventually came up with compromise language that was agreeable to both sides.

Report: Pennsylvania priests abused over 1,000 children

By MARC LEVY and MARK SCOLFORO, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A priest raped a 7-year-old girl while he was visiting her in the hospital after she'd had her tonsils removed. Another priest forced a 9-year-old boy into having oral sex, then rinsed out the boy's mouth with holy water. One boy was forced to say confession to the priest who sexually abused him.

Those children are among the victims of roughly 300 Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania who molested more than 1,000 children — and possibly many more — since the 1940s, according to a sweeping state grand jury report released Tuesday that accused senior church officials, including a man who is now the archbishop of Washington, D.C., of systematically covering up complaints.

The "real number" of abused children and abusive priests might be higher since some secret church records were lost and some victims never came forward, the grand jury said.

While the grand jury said dioceses have established internal processes and seem to refer complaints to law enforcement more promptly, it suggested that important changes are lacking.

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"Despite some institutional reform, individual leaders of the church have largely escaped public accountability," the grand jury wrote in the roughly 900-page report. "Priests were raping little boys and girls, and the men of God who were responsible for them not only did nothing; they hid it all."

Top church officials have mostly been protected and many, including some named in the report, have been promoted, the grand jury said, concluding that "it is too early to close the book on the Catholic Church sex scandal."

In nearly every case, prosecutors found that the statute of limitations has run out, meaning that criminal charges cannot be filed. More than 100 of the priests are dead. Many others are retired or have been dismissed from the priesthood or put on leave. Authorities charged just two, including a priest who has since pleaded guilty.

Attorney General Josh Shapiro said the investigation is ongoing.

The investigation of six of Pennsylvania's eight dioceses— Allentown, Erie, Greensburg, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Scranton — is the most extensive investigation of Catholic clergy abuse by any state, according to victim advocates. The dioceses represent about 1.7 million Catholics.

Until now, there have been just nine investigations by a prosecutor or grand jury of a Catholic diocese or archdiocese in the United States, according to the Massachusetts-based research and advocacy organization, BishopAccountability.org.

The Philadelphia archdiocese and the Johnstown-Altoona diocese were not included in the investigation because they have been the subject of three previous scathing grand jury investigations.

The grand jury heard from dozens of witnesses and reviewed more than a half-million pages of internal diocesan documents, including reports by bishops to Vatican officials disclosing the details of abusive priests that they had not made public or reported to law enforcement.

The grand jury concluded that a succession of Catholic bishops and other diocesan leaders tried to shield the church from bad publicity and financial liability. They failed to report accused clergy to police, used confidentiality agreements to silence victims and sent abusive priests to so-called "treatment facilities," which "laundered" the priests and "permitted hundreds of known offenders to return to ministry," the report said.

The conspiracy of silence extended beyond church grounds: police or prosecutors sometimes did not investigate allegations out of deference to church officials or brushed off complaints as outside the statute of limitations, the grand jury said.

Diocese leaders responded Tuesday by expressing sorrow for the victims, stressing how they've changed and unveiling, for the first time, a list of priests accused of some sort of sexual misconduct.

James VanSickle of Pittsburgh, who testified he was sexually attacked in 1981 by a priest in the Erie Diocese, called the report's release "a major victory to get our voice out there, to get our stories told."

The report is still the subject of an ongoing legal battle, with redactions shielding the identities of some current and former clergy named in the report while the state Supreme Court weighs their arguments that its wrongful accusations against them violates their constitutional rights. It also is expected to spark another fight by victim advocates to win changes in state law that lawmakers have resisted.

Its findings echoed many earlier church investigations around the country, describing widespread sexual abuse and church officials' concealment of it. U.S. bishops have acknowledged that more than 17,000 people nationwide have reported being molested by priests and others in the church.

The report comes at a time of fresh scandal at the highest levels of the U.S. Catholic Church. Pope Francis last month stripped 88-year-old Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of his title amid allegations that McCarrick had for years sexually abused boys and committed sexual misconduct with adult seminarians.

One senior American church official named in the grand jury report is Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who leads the Washington archdiocese, for allegedly helping to protect abusive priests when he was Pittsburgh's bishop. Wuerl, who was bishop of the Pittsburgh diocese from 1988 to 2006, disputed the allegations.

Terry McKiernan of BishopAccountability.org said the report did a good job of highlighting the two crimes of church sex abuse scandals: the abuse of a child and the cover up by church officials that allows the abuse to continue.

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"One thing this is going to do is put pressure on prosecutors elsewhere to take a look at what's going on in their neck of the woods," McKiernan said.

Associated Press writers Nicole Winfield in Vatican City, Claudia Lauer and Michael Rubinkam in Pennsylvania and David Porter in New Jersey contributed to this report.

The grand jury report: <http://media-downloads.pacourts.us/InterimRedactedReportandResponses.pdf?cb=22148>

Turkey increases tariffs on some US goods, escalating feud

By SUZAN FRASER, Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey said Wednesday it is increasing tariffs on imports of certain U.S. products, including rice, cars, alcohol and coal — escalating a feud with the United States that has helped trigger a currency crisis .

The Turkish government said it will impose extra tariffs on imports of products including rice, vehicles, alcohol, coal and cosmetics. Tariffs on American cars were doubled to 120 percent while tariff on alcoholic drinks to 140 percent.

Vice President Fuat Oktay said on Twitter that the tariffs on certain products were increased "within the framework of the principle of reciprocity in retaliation for the deliberate economic attacks by the United States."

The tariffs come a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey would boycott U.S. electronic goods, singling out iPhones. He suggested Turks would buy local or Korean phones instead, although it was unclear how he intended to enforce the boycott.

The Turkish lira has dropped to record lows in recent weeks, having fallen some 42 percent so far this year. It recovered a bit, by 4 percent to around 6.12 lira per dollar Wednesday, after the government took steps to shore up the currency by reducing the daily limit in bank foreign currency swap transactions.

Also helping was Turkey's decision to release two Greek soldiers from prison on Tuesday, increasing prospects for improved relations with the European Union.

Fundamental concerns about the economy persist, however.

Investors are worried that about Erdogan's control over the central bank and his pressure to keep it from raising interest rates. Higher rates would slow economic growth, which he wants to egg on, but are urgently needed to support the currency and tame inflation, experts say.

The currency drop is particularly painful for Turkey because it has accumulated a high debt in foreign currencies.

Attention will turn Thursday to an address by the finance minister to foreign investors for clues on any change in economic policy.

Erdogan has reacted to the financial instability by blaming foreign powers, in particularly the United States, a longtime NATO ally, which he says is waging an "economic war" as part of a plot to harm Turkey.

Washington has imposed financial sanctions on two Turkish ministers and doubled steel and aluminum tariffs on Turkey, as U.S. President Donald Trump tries to secure the release of Andrew Brunson, a 50-year-old American pastor being tried in Turkey on espionage and terrorism-related charges.

On Wednesday, a court rejected an appeal for Brunson's release from detention and for a travel ban against him to be lifted, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. A higher court was however, was scheduled to review the appeal, the agency said.

Although he was released to home detention, Brunson faces a prison sentence of up to 35 years if he is convicted on both counts at the end of his ongoing trial.

The evangelical pastor, who is originally from Black Mountain, North Carolina, has lived in Turkey for 23 years and led the Izmir Resurrection Church.

Vermont nominates 1st US transgender candidate for governor

By **WILSON RING, Associated Press**

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — A former Vermont utility executive on Tuesday became the first transgender candidate from a major political party to be nominated for governor, and she'll face the Republican incumbent, who survived a bitter backlash from his base over gun restrictions he supported.

GOP Gov. Phil Scott defeated a challenge from Springfield businessman Keith Stern in his quest to win a second term. He will face Christine Hallquist, who won the Democratic primary to run for the state's highest office in November, when she would become the nation's first transgender governor if elected.

Scott said he expected the race to be closer than it was.

"I know there are some who are still upset with me who may not welcome tonight's result but there's so much more that unites us than sets us apart," Scott said. "And no one agrees with their friends all the time, but as our success shows we can make a lot of good progress when we have clear priorities and we pull in the same direction."

Hallquist said her campaign would focus on improving the state's economy, yet she acknowledged the symbolism of being an openly transgender candidate.

"The whole world is looking at this as a historic moment for a transgender candidate, but that's not what Vermont looked at," Hallquist said. "Vermonters looked at, 'What's Christine and her team going to do for Vermont?'"

"Look to Vermont," she said. "We continue to demonstrate leadership in civil rights and how to honor and work with each other. We can be a beacon for the rest of the world."

Scott, first elected in 2016, faced a rebellion from his base due to his support for a series of gun restrictions that, while mild by national standards, angered many members of Vermont's avid hunting community. The restrictions, which Scott signed into law in April, came after the arrest of a teenager on charges he was plotting a school shooting.

They included raising the age to buy firearms from 18 to 21, restricting the size of gun magazines and requiring background checks for most private gun sales.

Scott will seek re-election by continuing his pledge to make the state more affordable, not raise taxes or fees, foster a better environment for businesses and attract newcomers to the state.

Hallquist defeated environmental activist James Ehlers; dance festival organizer Brenda Siegel; and 14-year-old student Ethan Sonneborn, who was on the ballot because a quirk in state law doesn't require candidates to be of voting age.

Democratic state Sen. John Rodgers, from Vermont's remote and conservative Northeast Kingdom, failed in his bid for a grassroots write-in campaign, largely motivated by his displeasure with firearms restrictions.

Defiant as Trump rages, Omarosa says she won't be silenced

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Former White House aide Omarosa Manigault Newman declared that she "will not be silenced" by President Donald Trump, remaining defiant as her public feud with her former boss appeared to shift to a possible legal battle.

In an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, Manigault Newman, who is promoting her new book about her time in Trump's orbit, said she believes the president's campaign is trying to keep her from telling her story. She commented just hours after Trump's campaign announced it was filing an arbitration action against her, alleging violations of a secrecy agreement she signed.

"I will not be intimidated," she told the AP. "I'm not going to be bullied by Donald Trump."

Still, the former reality TV star-turned-political aide declined to answer several questions about her experiences during her year as the highest-ranking African-American aide in Trump's White House, citing the arbitration action. She said she'd been interviewed by special counsel Robert Mueller's office, but would not discuss details.

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But Manigault Newman insisted she pushed for diversity at the White House, which currently has no African-American in a senior role following her departure.

Manigault Newman continued to unleash scathing criticism of the 72-year-old Trump, saying he's in mental decline and unfit to be president, and is intentionally sowing racial division. She accused him of using his rowdy political rallies to divide, even suggesting Trump is promoting violence.

Discussing the differences between their views, she said: "One, I want to see this nation united as opposed to divided. I don't want to see a race war as Donald Trump does."

The White House counters that Manigault Newman is a disgruntled former staffer with credibility and character issues who is now trying to profit through false attacks against someone she has worked with and supported for more than a decade, including his presidential campaign.

"She worked here for a year and didn't have any of these things to say," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters in Washington. "In fact, everything she said was quite the opposite. And not just the year that she worked here, but the time that she spent on the campaign trail and I think it's really sad what she's doing at this point."

Manigault Newman, who has known Trump since she was a contestant in 2003 on his reality TV show, "The Apprentice," said his proclivity for racial division is evident "when you see at every single opportunity he insults African-Americans." She noted, as examples, Trump's recent criticism of NBA player LeBron James and California Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters.

Trump recently tweeted that it took the "dumbest man on television" — also an African-American — to make James "look smart," and he regularly refers to Waters as "low I.Q."

"He wants to divide this nation," said Manigault Newman, who spoke to the AP during the publicity tour for her book, "Unhinged," in which she portrays Trump as racist and misogynistic.

"He wants to pit his base against successful African-Americans," she said. "He uses his rallies to really encourage people to bring down African-Americans. That is truly evidence that this man is not trying to unite us. But he is specifically trying to divide us."

In addition to speaking publicly about her experiences in Trump's White House, Manigault Newman has been releasing audio recordings of conversations and meetings held in the building, including a snippet of one she says is of her telephone conversation with Trump the day after she was fired in December by White House chief of staff John Kelly.

She declined Tuesday to answer questions about her recordings, which she has described as a "treasure trove," and the extent to which colleagues are secretly recording each other at the White House, again citing the arbitration action.

But she defended herself against criticism that she didn't do enough to help African-Americans. She noted that hiring and personnel were the responsibility of others in the White House, but said she has "tons and tons of emails" in which she pushed job candidates for consideration.

"And it just didn't seem good enough for this White House," Manigault Newman said, suggesting the president is uninterested having a diverse staff. "There is no excuse that there's not another African-American assistant to the president. No excuse whatsoever."

She talked about helping secure funding for the nation's historically black colleges and universities, of which she is a graduate.

Associated Press writer Laurie Kellman in Washington contributed to this report.

Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>

ICE takes into custody defendant in New Mexico compound case

By MORGAN LEE, Associated Press

TAOS, N.M. (AP) — A judge's decision to allow the release of an extended family accused of child abuse at a ramshackle desert compound in New Mexico prompted a political uproar Tuesday by prominent Republican lawmakers.

The controversy was stoked even further when court officials condemned threats of violence made against the judge who issued the ruling and evacuated several administrative court offices as a precaution.

State District Court Judge Sarah Backus on Monday cleared the way for the release of four defendants, despite assertions by prosecutors that the group was training children to use firearms for an anti-government mission and should remain in jail pending trial.

The father of a severely disabled boy who was kidnapped in Georgia will not be released because an arrest warrant has been issued for him in that state.

Another defendant, Jany Leveille, was taken into custody by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on Tuesday, Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe announced. The 35-year-old native of Haiti is the mother of six children taken into state custody during the compound raid.

Eleven children were taken into custody at the squalid compound near the Colorado border during an Aug. 3 raid by authorities who returned three days later and recovered the body of a small boy.

Backus, an elected Democrat, said her decision to grant release to house arrest, with conditions such as wearing ankle monitors, was tied to recent reforms of the state's pre-trial detention system that set a high bar for incriminating evidence needed to hold suspects without bail.

Backus said Monday the state failed to provide evidence backing up key allegations in the case.

"The state alleges that there was a big plan afoot but the state hasn't shown to my satisfaction and by clear and convincing evidence what that plan was," Backus told the courtroom, noting that none of the defendants has a criminal record.

Initiated by a statewide vote in 2016, New Mexico's bail reforms are modeled after similar changes made in New Jersey and under consideration in California that reduce the role of money as a means of ensuring court appearances or making release impossible for potentially dangerous suspects.

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, a former district attorney, said Tuesday she "strongly disagreed" with the judge's decision and renewed her criticism of rules for pre-trial detention that are determined in part by the state Supreme Court.

"You have a person who is training kids to shoot up schools, they have a compound that is like a third-world country," State Republican Party Chairman Ryan Cangioli said. "There's a child's body on the compound — I believe that allowing them to be released is absurd."

Medical examiners have yet to determine conclusively whether the body found at the compound outside Amalia was that of Abdul-ghani — the missing son of compound resident Siraj Ibn Wahhaj. Other relatives have said or told authorities that the remains are those of Abdul-ghani.

Prosecutors presented evidence that Siraj Ibn Wahhaj provided some of the children with firearms training, including tactical skills such as speed-loading guns and firing while in motion. Along with rifles, handguns and ammunition, authorities say they found books on being effective in combat and building untraceable assault-style rifles.

Backus, however, said prosecutors failed to articulate any specific threats or plan against the community.

She also pressed prosecutors for evidence to support allegations that the children were starving at the compound.

Administrative court officials say Backus was the target of threats via social media, email and telephone. One caller to the district court in Taos made a death threat, said Barry Massey, a spokesman for the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Agency Director Artie Pepin stressed that the judge's responsibility is to make decisions based on evidence and "not popular sentiment that may develop from incomplete or misleading information."

Suspect Siraj Ibn Wahhaj will remain in jail pending a warrant for his arrest in Georgia issued over accusa-

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tions that he abducted his son, Abdul-ghani, from the boy's mother in December and fled to New Mexico. Three other defendants — Lucas Morton, Subhannah Wahhaj and Hujrah Wahhaj — had yet to be released on Tuesday.

Attorneys for those four defendants say volunteers have come forward to provide a suitable place for them to live as legal proceedings move forward.

Backus set bail at \$20,000 with no up-front deposit — just a threat of a fine if defendants break condition of their release.

Court testimony Monday by an FBI agent shed light on the fate of the boy whose body was found.

Agent Travis Taylor said a 15-year-old resident of the compound described attempts to cast demonic spirits the child through a ritual that involved reading passages from the Quran while Siraj Ibn Wahhaj held a hand on the boy's forehead,

The boy apparently died after one of the sessions, Taylor said.

APNewsBreak: US, Mexico to announce new plans on cartels

By MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Top U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials will unveil new plans to combat Mexican drug cartels Wednesday in Chicago alongside members of the Mexican government and federal police, DEA officials told The Associated Press.

The announcement at a joint news conference will be a public display of bilateral cooperation amid ongoing tensions over President Donald Trump's trade and immigration policies, including over his vow to build a wall along the nearly 2,000-mile (3,218-kilometer) U.S.-Mexican border.

The new plans include putting greater emphasis on attacking cartels' financial infrastructure. Plans also call for a new enforcement group based in Chicago that will concentrate on international investigations of cartels.

Matthew G. Donahue, director for the DEA's North and Central American Region, told the AP on Tuesday that the U.S. wants to rely more on changes in the Mexican legal system in recent years designed to make evidence gathering and prosecutions more efficient.

"The new game plan is ... pick up the speed and arrest more people, faster," Donahue said. "That's what we're really trying to push — the cooperation that we currently have with Mexico to be a little more efficient, a little bit more aggressive."

He said the U.S. also intends to do more to help stem the flow of guns into Mexico that contributes to deadly violence in the country. Donahue said around 31,000 people were killed in Mexico last year, a new record for a single year.

The DEA didn't immediately name the Mexican officials who will attend the event in Chicago.

Donahue said the targeting of top cartel brass will remain a core component of bids to disrupt the powerful syndicates. The biggest trophy in this long-standing kingpin strategy was Sinaloa Cartel leader Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, extradited to New York in 2017 to face U.S. trafficking charges.

Sinaloa has dominated the drug supply to many U.S. cities, though the takedown of Guzman lessened its influence. Among up-and-coming cartels cutting into Sinaloa drug-market share is the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, or CJNG, led by Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, also known as "El Mencho."

Last year, a DEA drug-threat report called CJNG "one of the most powerful and fastest growing in Mexico and the United States." It said the cartel's primary product is methamphetamine, with main U.S. distribution hubs in Los Angeles, New York, and Atlanta.

A 2018 report by the University of San Diego's Justice in Mexico said Guzman's takedown "dramatically reshaped the landscape of Mexican organized crime," including by clearing the way for Cervantes and the CJNG to expand.

The same report urged policymakers not to rely as much on a strategy of going after kingpins and extraditing them to the U.S., saying it often had a "hydra-effect," in which a new series of drug lords emerge and without reducing the overall menace of cartels.

Donahue defended the strategy to date, saying the U.S. and Mexico will “always go after the top dog” in a cartel and “always go after the entire organization.”

Foe accused by Maduro says Venezuela military is fracturing **By CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press**

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The exiled opposition leader accused by Venezuelan authorities of directing a failed plot to assassinate President Nicolas Maduro says the greatest threat to the embattled socialist leader may be his detractors in uniform standing quietly behind him.

Julio Borges, who once led Venezuela’s opposition-controlled National Assembly, said Tuesday that the arrests of two high-ranking military officers in connection with the attack using drones loaded with plastic explosives is yet another signal that fractures within the nation’s armed forces are growing.

“The conflict today is within the government — not just at the political level, but more importantly within the armed forces,” Borges said in an interview with The Associated Press in Colombia’s capital.

His comments came hours after Venezuela’s chief prosecutor announced the arrest of Gen. Alejandro Perez and Col. Pedro Zambrano from Venezuela’s National Guard as part of the investigation into the Aug. 4 attack. Their alleged roles were not described.

Authorities said they have arrested 14 people so far while Borges and other alleged conspirators are being sought. Maduro has accused Borges of plotting with others to train anti-government saboteurs in Colombia and transport the drones and explosives used in the attack across the border into Venezuela.

Borges, who fled to Colombia with his family following the breakdown of negotiations with the government this year, said he had no prior knowledge of the plot.

“Not at all,” he said in his simple, bare office in a drab building in Bogota.

Almost from the moment the attack took place, Venezuela’s opposition has warned that Maduro would use the incident to intensify a crackdown on his opponents as the government seeks to tamp down discontent over the country’s imploding economy. In the past week, the number of suspects and detainees has nearly doubled.

Among those in custody is another opposition lawmaker, Juan Requesens, who was charged with treason and attempted homicide.

Officials released videotaped testimony of Requesens that they say shows an admission of involvement in the alleged plot, but he never mentions the attack itself. In the video, Requesens is heard telling investigators that he helped Borges ferry one of the alleged ringleaders into Venezuela from Colombia.

Relatives of Requesens deny he participated in any plot. They say he is being unjustly jailed for being an outspoken critic of Maduro’s government and policies that the opposition blames for Venezuela’s severe shortages of food and medicine as well as hyperinflation that the International Monetary Fund has said could reach 1 million percent by year’s end.

The drone attack came as Maduro was delivering a speech at a military ceremony in Caracas. Video footage of the event being aired live on state television shows Maduro, his wife and several other high-ranking officials suddenly looking up to the sky. The video then pans to hundreds of uniformed soldiers scrambling out of their formation in panic.

Authorities say two drones were aimed at the stage where Maduro was speaking but the military succeeded in knocking one off its path electronically while the other crashed into a nearby apartment building. Seven soldiers were injured but Maduro was not harmed.

Since taking over Venezuela’s presidency in 2013 following the death of Hugo Chavez, Maduro has sought to maintain the loyalty of the armed forces by awarding troops outsized bonuses and bestowing officers with top government posts. With Venezuela reeling economically, and its oil production collapsed to levels unseen since the 1940s, that support has become even more important.

Maduro and top military commanders dispute the idea that dissention is growing in the armed forces, but analysts say discontent has been brewing among rank-and-file soldiers, many of whom now need to find second jobs in order to put food on their families’ tables.

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"Maduro is facing a divorce with the armed forces, which is apparent in the various rebellions that have taken place in recent months," Borges said. "That's opened a road which is irreversible."

The drone incident was not the first attack targeting Maduro's government. Rogue police officer Oscar Perez stole a helicopter and flew it over the capital in June 2017, launching grenades at the Supreme Court building. He and several comrades died in a gunbattle with police after months on the lam. A year ago, a small band of armed men assaulted an important military base.

Attorney Alonso Medina Roa said 154 members of the military have been detained in recent months as discontent and instability escalates within the armed forces.

Borges, the founder of the Justice First party, served as the opposition's top negotiator in the failed dialogue with the government and is one of the beleaguered anti-government movement's most visible leaders.

Maduro has called him the mastermind behind the drone attack and Venezuelan officials have requested his extradition from Colombia.

"Borges you are an assassin," Maduro said on state television. "Life gave you the chance to conduct politics freely in Venezuela but you've turned into a killer in Colombia."

Borges brushed off Maduro's allegation, describing it as one more baseless charge by a government that regularly claims to have stymied opposition attacks.

"Fear is the government's last resort left," Borges said. "They want to appear like a strong government. And they're not."

Associated Press writer Joshua Goodman contributed to this report.

Kansas governor concedes GOP primary to secretary of state

By ROXANA HEGEMAN, Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer conceded Tuesday evening in the state's Republican gubernatorial primary, saying he will endorse Secretary of State Kris Kobach a week after their neck-and-neck finish threatened to send the race to a recount.

Colyer accepted defeat in a surprise announcement after a review of some provisional ballots from most Kansas counties failed to find enough votes for him to overcome a deficit of 110 votes at the time of poll closing in the Aug. 7 primary, out of more than 311,000 votes initially counted. Kobach, who was endorsed by President Donald Trump, has seen his lead widen as the counting of provisional ballots continues into next week across the state.

"I've just had a conversation with the secretary of state and congratulated him on his success and repeated my determination to keep this seat in Republican hands," Colyer said. "This election may be the closest in America. But the numbers are not there."

Kobach, 52, has a national conservative following thanks to his strong stance against illegal immigration and his fervent defense of voter ID laws. He was vice chairman of the Trump administration's election-fraud commission, though the commission eventually found no evidence to support Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 presidential election. Kobach's voter fraud efforts also took a hit in June when a federal judge found the proof-of-citizenship voter registration law he championed was unconstitutional.

Colyer, by contrast, is far more low-key. The 58-year-old plastic surgeon from suburban Kansas City served as lieutenant governor for seven years and took over as governor in January when Sam Brownback resigned to become ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.

Kobach has been a lightning rod for controversy, and some Democrats believe their party has a better chance to capture the governor's seat with him as their Republican opponent instead of Colyer.

"Never in modern Kansas history has any major party's nominee for governor been viewed as poorly by everyday Kansans than Kris Kobach," said Ethan Corson, the executive director of the Kansas Democratic Party. "As the drawn-out Republican primary shows, even a significant number of Republican primary voters had and likely still have deep misgivings about the person now at the top of the GOP ticket."

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Kobach will face Democrat Laura Kelly, and is likely to face independent candidate Greg Orman, in the November general election in the decidedly conservative state. The bid from Orman, a Kansas City-area businessman who has launched what could become the most serious independent candidacy for governor since the 1930s, complicates Democrats' efforts to recapture the governor's office.

In a statement after Colyer's announcement, Kelly said Kansas families already suffered enough under former Gov. Brownback and that the state doesn't need someone like Kobach who has pledged to bring back the same policies.

"With Kris Kobach as Governor, Kansans get all the failed policies of Sam Brownback plus Kobach's unique brand of hyper-partisanship and self-promotion," Kelly said. "Quite simply, Kris Kobach is Sam Brownback on steroids, and that's the last thing that Kansans need right now."

Before becoming governor, Colyer was a loyal No. 2 to Brownback, even when budget problems that followed Brownback's aggressive income tax cuts caused his approval levels to plummet. Lawmakers in 2017 rolled back most of those cuts.

The disputed race between Colyer and Kobach was intense and prompted a lengthy county-by-county review of provisional ballots. The aftermath of the primary included both candidates challenging each other's legal interpretations, sending observers to monitor the vote count and raising the specter of lawsuits.

But in the end, Colyer and Lt. Gov. Tracey Mann said they were committed to supporting Republican nominee Kobach and helping him win in November.

"We will make sure the next governor is fully prepared and has our total cooperation in the peaceful transition of power," Colyer told reporters in Topeka. He left without taking questions.

Kobach said in a statement that he received a call from Colyer before Colyer's news conference where he conceded.

"He was incredibly gracious, and that meant a lot after such a hard-fought campaign," Kobach said. "I want to thank Gov. Jeff Colyer for a race well run. He was a worthy opponent, and I thank him sincerely for his service to the state of Kansas. I will work hard to advance our shared values, and I look forward to working with Gov. Colyer and all Republicans to keep Kansas red in November."

Colyer was trying to avoid becoming the first Kansas governor to lose a primary since 1956, and the first nationally since Hawaii's Neil Abercrombie lost a Democratic primary in 2014.

Bob Beatty, a political scientist at Washburn University in Topeka, said there was still a small chance that a recount could have revealed something to change Colyer's chances, but the odds were very much against him. By conceding, Colyer has made it possible for him to run for another office in the future, Beatty said.

Both Kelly and Orman want to face Kobach in the fall, Beatty said, noting several polls showing Kobach weaker in the field than Colyer.

"Now that doesn't mean Kobach can't win," Beatty said. "Let's just say there might have been three parties tonight — Kobach, Orman and Kelly."

Judge may acquit women or call defense in Kim Jong Nam trial

By EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Two Southeast Asian women on trial in Malaysia for the brazen assassination of the North Korean leader's half-brother could be acquitted Thursday or called to enter their defense in a case that has gripped the world.

Indonesia's Siti Aisyah, 25, and Vietnam's Doan Thi Huong, 29, are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. The women have said they thought they were taking part in a prank for a hidden-camera show.

They are the only two suspects in custody and face the death penalty if convicted. If the defense is called, the trial could take several more months.

If the women are acquitted, they may not be freed right away as prosecutors could still appeal the decision as well as push forward with separate charges for overstaying their visas.

Here's a look at arguments that were raised during the trial:

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THE PROSECUTION

Over the course of the six-month trial featuring testimony from 34 people, prosecutors laid out a bizarre murder plot they likened to something from a James Bond film.

They accused four North Koreans, suspected government agents with code names such as "Mr. Y" and "Grandpa" and later identified by police, of being the masterminds who recruited the women, trained them and provided them with VX. All four fled the country the same morning Kim was killed and none are in custody.

Airport security footage shown in court captured the moment of the attack and prosecutors said linked the women to the other suspects. Shortly after Kim arrived at the airport, Huong was seen approaching him, clasping her hands on his face from behind and then fleeing. Another blurred figure was also seen running away from Kim and a police investigator testified that it was Aisyah.

Investigators said the women were seen rushing to separate washrooms, each with their hands outstretched, before they fled the airport. Kim died within two hours of the attack.

A government chemist testified that the VX concentration found on Kim's skin was 1.4 times greater than the lethal dosage. He said VX was found in Kim's eyes, face, blood, urine and clothing, as well as on both women's clothes and on Huong's fingernail clippings.

In his closing arguments in June, prosecutor Wah Shaharuddin Wan Ladin said the women must have been trained to use VX, a rare nerve agent developed as a chemical weapon. He said they had to know the best route for VX to enter the victim's body and know that they must wash the nerve agent off themselves within 15 minutes to avoid being contaminated.

With Kim a tall and heavy man, the prosecutor said the women had "used their bodily power" to deliberately target the poison on his eyes and face for faster penetration. Despite their claim about a prank, he said their facial expressions and conduct during the attack didn't reflect any humor.

"We expect that the defense will be called for a simple reason: They need to explain why VX was found on them," Wan Shaharuddin told The Associated Press.

THE DEFENSE

Lawyers for the two women say their clients were simply pawns in a politically motivated killing with clear links to the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

They say the prosecution's case was too simplistic, handicapped by a sloppy investigation and failed to show any intention on the part of their clients to kill — key to establishing the women's guilt.

The defense said evidence has shown the women's conduct before and after the killing was inconsistent with that of assassins, pointing out that they didn't wear gloves when applying VX, didn't dispose of their tainted clothing and didn't flee the country.

The real culprits, the defense argues, are the four North Korean suspects. The four were captured by airport security cameras discarding their belongings and changing their clothing after the attack.

The North Korean Embassy has also been implicated with an embassy official helping get flights out for the four men and using the name of one of its citizens to buy a car that was used to take the suspects to the airport.

Nevertheless, Pyongyang has denied accusations by South Korean and US officials that it was behind the killing. Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized.

"The prosecution's evidence is purely circumstantial," Aisyah's lawyer Gooi Soon Seng said, noting that there was no proof that his client applied VX on Kim. He said his client's DNA was not found on a shirt recovered by police.

Huong's lawyer Hisyam Teh Poh Teik said they have given prosecution "a good fight."

"We are confident that justice will be served on Thursday and (Huong) will be acquitted," he said.

Bus crash in Ecuador kills 24 people, injures 22

By CARLOS NORIEGA, Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A bus apparently lost its brakes, then hit another vehicle at high speed and rolled over four times, killing at least 24 people and injuring 22 while smashing into several houses along a highway near Ecuador's capital early Tuesday, officials said.

The Colombian-registered bus was traveling to Quito when it hit a smaller vehicle in an area known as dead man's curve at about 3 a.m., Ecuadorean authorities said.

Residents described hearing a thundering noise like the world crashing down on them as the bus struck their homes in Pifo, a community 30 kilometers (18 miles) from Quito.

Michelle Manay said she woke up and ran outside to see the carnage. "There were some people alive and others who weren't," she said.

Col. Wilson Pavon, head of Ecuador's transit police, said the majority of the passengers aboard were Colombians, but some Venezuelans were also among the dead. Three people, including two minors, traveling in the smaller vehicle also died.

A small fleet of ambulances and first responders rushed to the crash site about two hours from Quito before dawn. They found the severely wrecked bus overturned and several homes adjacent to the highway damaged and strewn with metal debris.

Gen. Patricio Carillo of the Ecuadorean police told local reporters that it appeared the bus's brakes failed, causing the driver to lose control and hit an oncoming car before crashing into poles and houses as it rolled.

The investigation was continuing and the driver is hospitalized among the injured, Carillo said.

Officials spent the early morning combing through the bus and removing the victims.

"Among the tasks is identifying the bodies of the dead and coordinating with authorities in Colombia and Venezuela for their return," Carillo said.

It was the second bus tragedy in less than three days in Ecuador.

On Sunday, 12 people were killed and 30 more were injured when a bus carrying fans of an Ecuadorean soccer team overturned on a highway after a game.

Late Monday, relatives of the victims bid farewell to their loved ones at a collective wake held at the Barcelona club's stadium in Guayaquil.

Police were still investigating the cause of that crash, but some witnesses told local media the bus carrying members of the Sur Oscura fan club that accompanies Barcelona to all its away games was seen trying to overtake other vehicles shortly before the crash.

On average, 13 people die each day on Ecuador's roads, according to the highway safety organization Road Justice. It says roughly 95 percent are due to human error.

Yosemite reopens to visitors with smoky air, limited lodging

By JOCELYN GECKER and MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

Hikers and nature lovers returned to Yosemite National Park's scenic valley Tuesday after a rare 20-day closure because of smoke from wildfires. Some said they didn't mind the hazy air that obscured scenic vistas; others came prepared with eye drops and face masks.

Park officials also advised visitors to expect limited lodging and food services at Yosemite, one of the busiest national parks in the U.S., as it gets back to full speed following the longest closure in decades.

In Montana, hundreds of people were hastily evacuated from Glacier National Park where a wildfire destroyed at least nine homes and cabins in one of the park's historic districts.

The hit to national parks comes as wildfires continue to rage across parts of the West. California, like several other states, has faced a longer and more destructive wildfire season because of drought, warmer weather attributed to climate change and homes built deeper into forests.

Yosemite's closure came at the height of tourist season, costing the park and nearby communities millions of dollars. The park draws more than 600,000 visitors during a typical August, according to the National Park Service.

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Undeterred by lingering haze, cars packed with visitors lined Yosemite's entrance gates.

"It's smoky, but you can see most of the mountains — just not the tops," said Dutch tourist Gert Lammers, who entered a gate on the western side of the park near the town of El Portal, driving past fire crews and burned out cars and structures.

"We feel lucky that it's open today," said Lammers, 48, who heads back to Holland on Friday after a three-week tour of California with his wife and two children.

Others packed special gear.

"I brought face masks for breathing, and I brought eye drops because the smoke will irritate your eyes," said Michael Aitken, 57, who has a permit to climb Half Dome later this week.

Standing at the usually scenic Tunnel View, Aitken listed what he could not see.

"Normally, I'd see mountains. On the left side you would see Half Dome from here, and you'd see Glacier Point," he said. "But you can't see any of it. You can just see outlines."

Tens of thousands of visitors from across the globe had to cancel trips to Yosemite, which closed its valley and other areas on July 25 because of smoke from a nearby wildfire that has burned 150 square miles (389 square kilometers) and killed two firefighters since it started July 13. Though the blaze didn't reach the heart of Yosemite Valley, it burned in remote areas of the park and choked popular areas with smoke.

Some fires still burned on hillsides near the park's borders, several miles from the scenic valley.

As of Tuesday, all of the park was reopened except a major road from the south, Highway 41, and a popular park attraction known as Glacier Point that is expected to remain closed for at least another week, park officials said.

The fire in Montana's Glacier National Park, meanwhile, raged through the park's busiest area, prompting evacuations of an area with hundreds of summer homes, cabins and a lakefront lodge.

The lost buildings include the so-called Big House at Kelly's Camp, a resort developed early last century serving auto travelers along Glacier's famous Going-to-the-Sun Road, park officials said Tuesday. Also destroyed were a second cabin at the camp, seven private summer residences and other structures under park ownership.

Firefighters managed to save several historic structures that caught fire. Among them were the Lake McDonald Ranger station and the Wheeler Cabin, built by the family of former Montana U.S. Sen. Burton Wheeler. But the Wheeler boat house, several outbuildings on the property and a boathouse at the nearby Lake McDonald Ranger Station were lost, the park said.

Kristy Pancoast, a visitor to the park, took a photo showing the flames engulfing a cabin Sunday night.

"It was insane I never have seen anything like that up close," said Pancoast of Big Fork, Montana. Pancoast said she watched the flames for an hour across the lake before she was evacuated. "When we realized there were a bunch of other structures over there, it makes your heart drop," she said.

Glacier National Park Conservancy Executive Director Doug Mitchell said it was devastating to lose some of the park's historic structures.

"Wheeler is such an iconic name," Mitchell said. "It's always such a gut punch when something so iconic, so much a part of the parks' cultural fabric is taken away and lost in this way."

Yosemite spokeswoman Jamie Richards said Yosemite was still calculating the financial impacts, noting not all campsites were reopening immediately and visitors should check the park's website to see what services were still closed.

"We are working to get campgrounds back up and running," Richards said, adding that food services were also not yet running at full capacity.

Air quality in the park will vary depending on the time of day and location.

"You are going to smell and see smoke," Richards said, adding, however, that from her office in Yosemite Valley she was looking out at clear, blue skies Tuesday morning.

While hotel owners and other businesses are relieved about the reopening, they say it will likely be weeks before bookings return to normal.

Neal Misener, the owner of Cozy Bear Cottages, a small lodge in Yosemite, said the closure has brought business to a painful halt.

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"It basically put us out of business," he said, estimating lost revenue up to \$35,000. Even though Yosemite Valley is back open, people are still canceling reservations.

"The problem is the air quality in the valley," said Misener, 78. "That's what people are afraid of. People are still canceling because of the smoke."

Officials are trying to get the word out that the park is back open. They have posted pictures of themselves and visitors at attractions holding red paddleboards reading #YosemiteNOW, and they're encouraging visitors to do the same.

Visitors' bureaus in the area and the park are estimating roughly \$50 million in combined tourism losses, said Steve Montalto, creative director at Visit Yosemite Madera County.

As for the park, the dent in visitor fees will affect improvements, such as fixing roads and updating facilities, Yosemite spokesman Scott Gediman said.

Because those projects are planned years in advance, all improvements for 2018 will be covered, but future projects will be affected, Gediman said, though it was too soon to know which ones.

The fire near Yosemite is one of several devastating blazes in California that have killed at least a dozen people — the latest being a firefighter from Utah who died Monday while battling the largest fire in recorded state history north of San Francisco.

Gecker and Associated Press reporter Lorin Eleni Gill contributed reporting from San Francisco, and Brown reported from Billings, Montana. Associated Press Writer Amanda Lee Myers contributed from Los Angeles.

Nebraska executes inmate using powerful opioid fentanyl

By GRANT SCHULTE, Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska carried out its first execution in more than two decades on Tuesday with a drug combination never tried before, including the first use of the powerful opioid fentanyl in a lethal injection.

Carey Dean Moore, 60, was pronounced dead at 10:47 a.m. Moore had been sentenced to death for killing two cab drivers in Omaha in 1979. He was the first inmate to be lethally injected in Nebraska, which last carried out an execution in 1997, using the electric chair.

Witnesses said there appeared to be no complications in the execution process, which also was the first time a state used four drugs in combination. Moore remained mostly still throughout the execution but breathed heavily and gradually turned red and then purple as the drugs were administered.

Media witnesses including The Associated Press saw Moore take short, gasping breaths that became deeper and more labored. His chest heaved several times before it went still. His eyelids briefly cracked open.

At one point while on the gurney, Moore turned his head and mouthed several words to his family, including "I love you." No members of the victims' families witnessed the execution.

The Department of Correctional Services said the first lethal injection drug was administered at 10:24 a.m. The prison warden lowered a curtain over the media's viewing window at 10:39 a.m. and raised it again about 14 minutes later.

Dawn-Renee Smith, the department's chief of staff, said the curtain was lowered after the execution team notified Department Director Scott Frakes that the last drug had been injected. Smith said Frakes and Acting Warden Robert Madsen waited in the execution room for five minutes to ensure the drugs had taken effect before summoning the county coroner from another part of the prison to confirm Moore's death.

Moore was declared dead at 10:47 a.m. The viewing curtain was lifted again about six minutes later to reveal Moore's body and remained open for 40 seconds.

In his final written statement, Moore admitted: "I am guilty." But he said there are others on Nebraska's death row who he believes are innocent and he said they should be released.

"How might you feel if your loved one was innocent and on death row?" Moore asked.

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The execution drew only about a dozen death penalty supporters and protesters who stood in the rain outside the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln. More than 150 people gathered outside the Nebraska Capitol later in the day to protest the execution.

The light turnout stood in contrast to the 1994 execution of Harold Lamont Otey, when more than 1,000 people created a raucous, party-like atmosphere. Otey was executed shortly after midnight in the electric chair, and some in the crowd sang the song "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye" after it was announced. Following Otey's punishment, executions were changed to a morning schedule.

Moore's execution comes a little more than three years after Nebraska lawmakers abolished the death penalty, only to have it reinstated the following year through a citizen ballot drive partially financed by Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts. The governor, a wealthy former businessman, has said he was fulfilling the wishes of voters in the conservative state.

The Nebraska drug protocol called for an initial IV dose of diazepam, commonly known as Valium, to render the inmate unconscious, followed by the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl, then cisatracurium besylate to induce paralysis and stop the inmate from breathing and potassium chloride to stop the heart.

Diazepam and cisatracurium also had never been used in executions before.

According to prosecutors, Moore was 21 when he fatally shot Reuel Van Ness during a robbery with his younger brother, and used the money to buy drugs and pornography. Moore fatally shot Maynard Helgeland by himself five days later, saying he wanted to prove he could take a man's life by himself. Moore was arrested a week later. He was charged and convicted of first-degree murder, while his 14-year-old brother was convicted of second-degree murder.

In his statement, Moore also apologized to his brother for dragging him into the robbery and murder.

"I should (have) led him in the right way to go instead of bringing him down, way down," Moore said.

Moore had faced execution dates set by the Nebraska Supreme Court seven times since he was convicted, but each was delayed because of legal challenges and questions over whether previous lethal injection drugs were purchased legally. For some relatives of Moore's victims, that was far too long — and they hope his name and crimes will finally vanish from headlines.

"We're sick of hearing about Carey Dean Moore," Steve Helgeland, one of Maynard Helgeland's three children, said ahead of the execution.

Helgeland said the numerous delays in executing Moore had left him ambivalent.

"There was a point in my life when I probably would have pulled the switch myself, but 39 years has a way of dissipating your anger," he said.

A Germany-based drugmaker tried to halt the execution last week, filing a lawsuit that alleged the state had illegally procured at least one of the company's drugs. The company, Fresenius Kabi, argued that allowing the execution to go forward would harm its reputation and business relationships.

But a federal judge sided with state attorneys, who argued that the public's interest in carrying out a lawful execution outweighed the company's concerns. The judge also noted that Moore had stopped fighting the state's efforts to execute him.

A federal appeals court upheld that ruling Monday, and Fresenius Kabi decided not to appeal.

Read Moore's final statement: <http://apne.ws/uVVrC82>

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

EPA challenged safety of administration mileage freeze

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency privately challenged the Trump administration's rationale for freezing Obama-era mileage standards, saying the proposal would actually increase U.S. highway deaths.

In announcing the mileage proposal earlier this month, officials with the EPA and Department of Trans-

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portation contended the mileage freeze would save about 1,000 lives a year. But in a June email, senior EPA staffers told the Office of Management and Budget — the White House office charged with evaluating regulatory changes — that it would slightly increase highway deaths, by 17 annually.

The “proposed standards are detrimental to safety, rather than beneficial,” William Charmley, director of the assessments and standards division of the EPA’s office of transportation and air quality, said in a June 18 interagency email, released Tuesday.

While the Trump administration has said it wants to freeze mileage standards after 2020, agencies are still seeking public comment on that and other options, EPA spokesman John Konkus said Tuesday. “These emails are but a fraction of the robust dialogue that occurred during interagency deliberations for the proposed rule,” he said.

The Obama-era rules, which lay out years of increasingly toughened mileage standards, were one of the former administration’s biggest efforts against climate-changing tailpipe emissions and were also meant to lessen Americans’ overall dependence on the gas pump.

The Trump administration’s own public report on the mileage freeze proposal projected that it would cut tens of thousands of auto-industry jobs. EPA acting administrator Andrew Wheeler had emphasized the safety projections as one of the strongest arguments for the mileage freeze.

Essentially, the Trump administration argues in part that the mileage freeze would make vehicles cheaper, because automakers would not have to spend as much on fuel efficiency. As a result, the Department of Transportation argued, safer, newer vehicles would get on the road more quickly.

The June EPA email says the administration’s proposal miscalculates the amount of vehicle turnover as a result of any mileage freeze.

A former EPA senior staffer, Jeff Alson, said Tuesday that the documents released Tuesday showing the interagency discussions on the freeze made clear that “EPA career staff were totally ignored, despite DOT trying to deceive the public into thinking that EPA supports the analysis.”

Department of Transportation spokeswoman Karen Aldana defended the decision-making process. “As is typical for any joint rulemaking, the agencies provided feedback to each other as they developed their policy and analysis for the proposal,” she said.

Sen. Tom Carper, a Delaware Democrat and opponent of the mileage freeze, said Tuesday that the documents give the public “even more evidence that it’s based on bogus science and fundamentally flawed assumptions.”

He said the proposed rule “almost certainly will be struck down in court.” California and 16 other states already have filed suit to block any change in the fuel efficiency rules.

ACLU: Federal agencies setting ‘trap’ to deport immigrants

By PHILIP MARCELO, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Federal immigration agencies have launched a coordinated campaign to arrest and deport immigrants seeking to become legal U.S. residents through marriage, according to documents released this week in a class-action lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The documents, which include depositions and correspondence from federal officials, show the extent to which officials for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have been coordinating with their counterparts at Immigration and Customs Enforcement to facilitate arrests at citizenship offices in New England.

The ACLU, in its arguments, criticizes the efforts as a deportation “trap” that violates the constitutional rights of immigrants otherwise following the rules to become legal residents.

“The government created this path for them to seek a green card,” Matthew Segal, legal director for the ACLU of Massachusetts, said in an interview Tuesday. “The government can’t create that path and then arrest folks for following that path.”

ICE spokesman John Mohan responded that allegations of “inappropriate coordination” between the two agencies are “unfounded” and that coordination between the two Department of Homeland Security agencies is “lawful and legitimate.” He declined to elaborate, citing the pending litigation.

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USCIS spokesman Michael Bars declined to comment on the legal filing, but said his agency, in general, notifies law enforcement of individuals with an outstanding warrant or removal order and leaves it to them to decide if an arrest is necessary.

The ACLU lawsuit argues that Homeland Security regulations created under former President Barack Obama allow immigrants with U.S.-citizen spouses to stay in the country while they seek a green card — even if they're already subject to deportation.

"That regulation is still the law of the land," Segal said Tuesday. "So arresting these folks is not about law and order. These are people with a path to legalization and the government is trying to block that."

The federal government, in seeking to dismiss the lawsuit, argues in part that federal District Court has no jurisdiction in the matter.

The ACLU's more than 250-page legal brief includes emails between ICE officials outlining how it coordinates arrests with USCIS in New England.

Andrew Graham, a Boston-based ICE officer, said the agency generally receives from USCIS lists of immigrants seeking legal residency who have already been ordered for deportation, had re-entered the country illegally or were considered "an egregious criminal alien."

Graham said ICE then works with USCIS to schedule interviews so that ICE agents can be present to make an arrest. He noted ICE prefers to spread out the interviews to ease the workload on its agents and to prevent generating "negative media interest" from the arrests.

"At the end of the day we are in the removal business and it's our job to locate and arrest them," Graham wrote in part.

The ACLU's legal brief is the latest in the class-action suit filed earlier this year on behalf of immigrants who have been or fear being separated from their U.S.-citizen spouses.

The case will be argued Aug. 20 in Boston federal court and names five couples, including lead plaintiffs Lilian Calderon and Luis Gordillo, of Rhode Island.

Gordillo is a U.S. citizen, but Calderon is a native of Guatemala who came to the country with her family at the age of 3. She was ordered to leave in 2002 after her father was denied asylum.

The 30-year-old mother of two was detained by ICE in January after she and her husband attended an interview at the USCIS office in Johnston, Rhode Island, to confirm their marriage.

Calderon was released in February after the ACLU challenged the detention.

Lavish court spending in poor West Virginia triggers scandal

By JOHN RABY, Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A \$42,000 antique desk. A \$32,000 blue suede sectional sofa. A \$7,500 inlaid wooden floor map of West Virginia's 55 counties.

A scandal involving lavish office renovations and other financial abuses by the highest court in one of the poorest states in America has triggered an extraordinary move by one branch of government to essentially fire another.

The West Virginia House of Delegates on Monday impeached four justices of the state Supreme Court on charges of extravagant spending and other misconduct, setting the stage for a Senate trial that could lead to their removal.

One of those impeached retired on Tuesday, averting the prospect of sitting through a proceeding that is sure to explore the justices' fancy tastes in embarrassing detail. And the court's fifth member retired under pressure last month.

Some Democrats have decried the impeachment drive against the elected justices as a power grab by the Republican-controlled House and Senate, strategically timed to allow GOP Gov. Jim Justice to name their temporary replacements.

Republican Delegate John Shott, who oversaw the House Judiciary Committee hearings that drew up the articles of impeachment, said the court's spending of more than \$3 million in office renovations earlier this decade came at a time when the state was struggling so hard it made tens of millions of dollars in

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budget cuts.

Justice Robin Davis, who has identified herself as a Democrat even though justices are elected in non-partisan races, spent \$500,000 in upgrades to her office alone — the kind of money it would take most West Virginians a decade or more to earn.

"Like the vast majority of you and many West Virginians, I find many of these purchases offensive," Delegate Chad Lovejoy, a Democrat, said during the House debate. "I find them to be outrageous, and I find them to be out of touch with our citizens."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 17.9 percent of West Virginians live in poverty, the fifth-worst rate in the nation. The state's median household income is near the bottom at \$43,385, or about \$14,000 below the national figure.

But some Democratic lawmakers worry that their GOP colleagues might be exploiting the opportunity to take control of a branch of government that is supposed to be chosen by the voters.

"We're taking away from the people," said Democratic Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer.

Tuesday was an important deadline: Any justice who left or was removed by that date would be replaced by way of a special election in November. After that, any vacancies on the court would be filled by the governor.

Davis announced her retirement Tuesday rather than face a Senate trial. Most of the money spent in her office went for construction costs. There also was \$28,000 spent for rugs, \$23,000 in design services, an \$8,100 desk chair and \$1,600 on painting.

Justice Allen Loughry rang up \$363,000 in office renovations, including the blue suede sofa; the floor map of West Virginia with a different colored piece of wood for each county; \$16,000 for eight chairs; \$6,400 for window treatments; a \$2,500 coffee table, and \$1,700 for throw pillows.

He also had the state-owned antique desk moved into his home and drove a state car to book signings. Loughry, who wrote a 2006 book chronicling West Virginia political corruption, was suspended earlier in the year and has been indicted in federal court on 25 counts, including two fraud charges added Tuesday over the personal use of a state vehicle and credit card.

The Senate trial of Loughry, Chief Justice Margaret Workman and Justice Beth Walker has yet to be scheduled.

Supreme Court officials have said there will be no interruption in the handling of cases. The court is in summer recess and is not scheduled to begin hearing cases again until September.

The retired fifth justice, Menis Ketchum, has agreed to plead guilty in federal court to a charge related to the personal use of state cars and fuel cards.

Workman and Walker announced separately Tuesday afternoon that they won't resign.

"There is no basis for my impeachment," Workman said in a statement. Walker said she looks forward to explaining herself before the Senate.

Even if the justices escape conviction, lawmakers have questioned whether they have the public confidence necessary to continue serving.

Under the West Virginia Constitution, the Supreme Court essentially sets and controls its own budget. A proposed amendment on November's ballot would give the legislature more control.

Shott said the impeachment articles overall accused the justices of a "culture of entitlement."

Impeachments in state government are rare in the U.S., especially among Supreme Court justices. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Judge Rolf Larsen was removed by impeachment in 1994 for voting on whether to hear cases based on input from an attorney who was also a political supporter. But impeaching an entire slate appears to be unheard of.

"The state of West Virginia has lost confidence in the court — the whole court," said Republican Delegate Mike Folk. "They think they're better than everybody in this state that works a blue-collar job."

Manafort chooses not to testify as defense rests its case

By CHAD DAY, MATTHEW BARAKAT and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Paul Manafort's defense rested its case Tuesday without calling any witnesses in the former Trump campaign chairman's tax evasion and bank fraud trial. Manafort himself chose not to testify.

The decision not to call witnesses clears the way for the jury to hear closing arguments in the first trial to emerge from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. Those arguments are scheduled for Wednesday morning.

Manafort is accused of hiding millions of dollars in income he received advising Ukrainian politicians. The defense has tried to blame Manafort's financial mistakes on his former deputy, Rick Gates. Defense attorneys have called Gates a liar, philanderer and embezzler as they've sought to undermine his testimony.

Manafort's decision not to testify and not to call witnesses was announced by his attorney, Kevin Downing, before the jury on Tuesday afternoon. Asked by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III whether he wished to testify in his defense, Manafort responded: "No, sir."

The announcement came after a more than two-hour hearing that was closed to the public. The judge has not given any explanation for the sealed proceeding, only noting that a transcript of it would become public after Manafort's case concludes.

After announcing that they were resting their case, Downing told reporters outside the courthouse that they did so because they believe "the government has not met its burden of proof."

Also Tuesday, Ellis rejected a defense motion that the case should be dismissed on those same grounds. Manafort's lawyers asked the judge to toss out all the charges, but they focused in particular on four bank-fraud charges.

The government says Manafort hid at least \$16 million in income from the IRS between 2010 and 2014 by disguising the money he earned advising politicians in Ukraine as loans and hiding it in foreign banks. Then, after his money in Ukraine dried up, they allege he defrauded banks by lying about his income on loan applications and concealing other financial information, such as mortgages.

Manafort's lawyers argued there is no way that one of the banks, Federal Savings Bank, could have been defrauded because its chairman, Stephen Calk, knew full well that Manafort's finances were in disarray but approved the loan to Manafort anyway. Witnesses testified that Calk pushed the loans through because he wanted a post in the Trump administration.

Ellis, in making his ruling, said the defense made a "significant" argument, but he ultimately ruled the question "is an issue for the jury."

Prosecutors rested their case on Monday, closing two weeks of a testimony in which they introduced a trove of documentary evidence as they sought to prove Manafort's guilt on 18 separate criminal counts. The prosecution depicted Manafort as using the millions of dollars hidden in offshore accounts to fund a luxurious lifestyle.

The case against Manafort does not relate to any allegations of Russian election interference or possible coordination with the Trump campaign, the main thrust of Mueller's investigation.

Still, the proceedings have drawn President Donald Trump's attention — and prompted tweets — as the president has worked to undermine the standing of the Mueller investigation in the public square.

Trump has distanced himself from Manafort, who led the campaign from May to August 2016 with Gates at his side. Gates struck a plea deal with prosecutors and has provided much of the drama of the trial so far.

Gates testified that he helped Manafort commit crimes in an effort to lower his tax bill and fund his lavish lifestyle. During testimony, Gates was also forced to admit embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from Manafort and conducting an extramarital affair.

After jurors were excused on Tuesday, lawyers for both sides conferred with the judge in open court on the language Ellis will use to instruct the jurors in their deliberations.

The only dispute was about what jurors should be told about how to interpret questions and comments interjected by the judge during the course of the trial.

Prosecutors, who have been frustrated by Ellis' tendency to interrupt and chide prosecutors in front of

the jury, sought stronger language to make clear that jurors do not need to adopt any opinions expressed by the judge.

At one point in the discussion, Ellis asked prosecutors whether they thought he had ever interjected his own opinions. Prosecutor Greg Andres, who has had the strongest confrontations with Ellis, said "yes."

Ellis eventually came up with compromise language that was agreeable to both sides.

US retailers small companies rally as Turkey fears ease

By MARLEY JAY, AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks rallied Tuesday as banks, retailers, and smaller companies jumped. That helped the market recover most of its losses from the previous two days.

The Turkish lira steadied as officials from Turkey and the U.S. said the countries are in talks to ease diplomatic tensions, which have resulted in high tariffs on Turkish steel and aluminum. Stocks in emerging markets like Argentina, Russia and Brazil jumped.

In the U.S., the biggest gains went to small and mid-size companies, which do more business domestically compared to the large multinational firms on indexes like the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial average. Retailers rose, thanks in part to strong quarterly reports.

The reduced tensions with Turkey also stopped a rally in bond prices and sent yields and interest rates higher. That helped banks. Industrial and basic materials companies also rose Tuesday, but compared to other parts of the market, they didn't recover as much of their losses.

Invesco Chief Global Market Strategist Kristina Hooper said investors are shifting money into more U.S.-focused companies in response to the Trump administration's aggressive handling of its dispute with Turkey, a longtime member of NATO.

"This is a reminder that the U.S. is a very different country than it was just a few years ago," she said.

The S&P 500 index climbed 18.03 points, or 0.6 percent, to 2,839.96. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 112.22 points, or 0.4 percent, to 25,299.92. The Nasdaq composite added 51.19 points, or 0.7 percent, to 7,870.89. The Russell 2000 index advanced 17.26 points, or 1 percent, to 1,692.58.

The S&P 500 fell a combined 1.1 percent Friday and Monday as investors worried that Turkey's financial woes would affect other countries.

Many retailers will report their quarterly results this week, a potential hint about how much money consumers are spending. Tapestry, the parent company of Coach and Kate Spade, jumped after its fourth-quarter results surpassed analysts' estimates. The stock surged 12 percent to \$53.16.

Auto parts retailer Advance Auto Parts jumped 7.8 percent to \$156.13 after it did better than expected in the second quarter. Competitors AutoZone and O'Reilly Automotive climbed as well.

Smaller companies made outsized gains. Footwear maker Wolverine World Wide gained 2.4 percent to \$38.39 and watchmaker Fossil rose 4.8 percent to \$25.68.

Among midsize companies, Boston Beer picked up 3.9 percent to \$291.30 and RV maker Thor Industries rose 2.6 percent to \$97.06.

Global markets fell Friday and Monday on concern that Turkey's currency turmoil could spread to banks in other countries and affect the world economy. The Argentine peso and India's rupee hit record lows against the dollar. Those jitters eased later Tuesday.

Economists say Turkey's central bank still needs to raise interest rates significantly to strengthen its currency. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ruled out that step.

Hooper, of Invesco, said it's common for stocks to fall across emerging markets when one country is in trouble, but that reaction isn't necessarily justified.

"What we're seeing in emerging markets today is a repeat of what we've seen crisis after crisis for the last few decades," Hooper said. "We can't treat all emerging markets the same way."

She said Argentina, like Turkey, is dealing with a plunging currency and political turmoil. But most of Turkey's problems are specific to that country and other emerging markets like Mexico are likely to recover.

Bond prices moved lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.90 percent from 2.88 percent.

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Cigna and Express Scripts both rose after billionaire investor Carl Icahn said he's ending his campaign to block the deal. He had urged Cigna shareholders to vote against the \$52 billion acquisition of Express Scripts and said the price was far too high.

Health insurer Cigna added 1.9 percent to \$185.30 and Express Scripts, a pharmacy benefits manager, picked up 2.4 percent to \$86.

Consumer credit company Synchrony Financial rose 2.8 percent to \$30.01 after it said it extended a contract to manage credit card programs for home improvement retailer Lowe's. Lowe's gained 1.3 percent to \$98.40.

Benchmark U.S. crude slipped 0.2 percent to \$67.04 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dipped 0.2 percent to \$72.46 per barrel in London.

Gold added 0.2 percent to \$1,200.70 an ounce. Silver rose 0.5 percent to \$15.05 an ounce. Copper fell 1.8 percent to \$2.68 a pound following weak economic reports from China. Growth in factory output, consumer spending and retail sales in July were slower than expected.

Wholesale gasoline picked up 1 percent to \$2.03 a gallon. Heating oil lost 0.4 percent to \$2.13 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1 percent to \$2.96 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The dollar rose to 111.22 yen from 110.69 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1339 from \$1.1394.

Germany's DAX rose less than 0.1 percent. The CAC 40 in France fell 0.2 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 lost 0.4 percent.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 added 2.3 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 0.7 percent while the Kospi in Seoul advanced 0.5 percent.

AP Markets Writer Marley Jay can be reached at <http://twitter.com/MarleyJayAP> His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/marley%20jay>

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 15, the 227th day of 2018. There are 138 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 15, 1945, in a pre-recorded radio address, Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced that his country had accepted terms of surrender for ending World War II.

On this date:

In 1483, the Sistine Chapel was consecrated by Pope Sixtus IV.

In 1812, the Battle of Fort Dearborn took place as Potawatomi warriors attacked a U.S. military garrison of about 100 people. (Most of the garrison was killed, while those who remained were taken prisoner.)

In 1914, the Panama Canal officially opened as the SS Ancon crossed the just-completed waterway between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

In 1935, humorist Will Rogers and aviator Wiley Post were killed when their airplane crashed near Point Barrow in the Alaska Territory.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces landed in southern France in Operation Dragoon.

In 1947, India became independent after some 200 years of British rule.

In 1961, as workers began constructing a Berlin Wall made of concrete, East German soldier Conrad Schumann leapt to freedom over a tangle of barbed wire in a scene captured in a famous photograph.

In 1965, the Beatles played to a crowd of more than 55,000 at New York's Shea Stadium.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair opened in upstate New York.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon announced a 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents.

In 1974, a gunman attempted to shoot South Korean President Park Chung-hee during a speech; although Park was unhurt, his wife, Yuk Young-soo, was struck and killed, along with a teenage girl. (The gunman was later executed.)

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In 1989, F.W. de Klerk was sworn in as acting president of South Africa, one day after P.W. Botha resigned as the result of a power struggle within the National Party.

Ten years ago: Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili grudgingly signed a U.S.-backed truce with Russia, even as he denounced the Russians as invading barbarians and accused the West of all but encouraging them to overrun his country. Michael Phelps won his sixth gold medal with his sixth world record, in the 200-meter individual medley at the Summer Olympics. American Nastia Liukin won the gold in women's individual all-around gymnastics; friend and teammate Shawn Johnson was second. Record producer Jerry Wexler, who coined the term "rhythm and blues," died in Sarasota, Fla. at age 91.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama scrapped plans for joint military exercises with Egypt, where spiraling violence in and around Cairo were claiming hundreds of lives. A powerful car bomb ripped through a crowded southern Beirut stronghold of Hezbollah, killing at least 27 people.

One year ago: President Donald Trump, who'd faced harsh criticism for initially blaming the deadly weekend violence in Charlottesville, Virginia on "many sides," told reporters that there were "very fine people on both sides" of the confrontation and that groups protesting against the white supremacists were "also very violent." (In between those statements, at the urging of aides, Trump had offered a more direct condemnation of white supremacists.) An Army Black Hawk helicopter with five soldiers aboard crashed during offshore training in Hawaii; all five were declared dead after a lengthy search. Sen. Luther Strange and former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore advanced to a Republican primary runoff to fill the U.S. Senate seat previously held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. (Moore won the September runoff, but was defeated in the December special election by Democrat Doug Jones.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Abby Dalton is 86. Actress Lori Nelson is 85. Civil rights activist Vernon Jordan is 83. Actor Jim Dale is 83. Actress Pat Priest is 82. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is 80. U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., is 80. Musician Pete York (Spencer Davis Group) is 76. Author-journalist Linda Ellerbee is 74. Songwriter Jimmy Webb is 72. Rock singer-musician Tom Johnston (The Doobie Brothers) is 70. Actress Phyllis Smith is 69. Britain's Princess Anne is 68. Actress Tess Harper is 68. Actor Larry Mathews is 63. Actor Zeljko Ivanek (ZEHL'-koh eh-VON'-ehk) is 61. Actor-comedian Rondell Sheridan is 60. Rock singer-musician Matt Johnson (The The) is 57. Movie director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (ih-NYAH'-ee-tu) is 55. Philanthropist Melinda Gates is 54. Country singer Angela Rae (Wild Horses) is 52. Actor Peter Hermann is 51. Actress Debra Messing is 50. Actor Anthony Anderson is 48. Actor Ben Affleck is 46. Singer Mikey Graham (Boyzone) is 46. Actress Natasha Henstridge is 44. Actress Nicole Paggi is 41. Christian rock musician Tim Foreman (Switchfoot) is 40. Actress Emily Kinney is 34. Figure skater Jennifer Kirk is 34. Latin pop singer Belinda (cq) is 29. Actress Courtney Hope is 29. Rock singer Joe Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 29. Actor-singer Carlos PenaVega is 29. Actress Jennifer Lawrence is 28. Rap DJ Smoove da General (Cali Swag District) is 28.

Thought for Today: "Forgiveness is the key to action and freedom." — Hannah Arendt, American author and philosopher (1906-1975).