

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Aug. 24, 2018 ~ Vol. 26 - No. 046 ~ 1 of 48



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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.

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SD37 Flashing Light Schedule

Monday-Friday during school: 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Flashing lights will not flash when there is no school, which are: Aug. 31, Sept. 3, Oct. 8, Nov. 21-23, Dec. 24-Jan. 2, Feb. 18, March 14-15, April 19-22

On P-T days when school dismisses at 1:30, lights will flash from 1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Oct. 11 and Feb. 7)

For early dismissal at 2 p.m. for Christmas vacation on Dec. 21, lights will flash from 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

TIMED ONLINE 9445 State Line Road, Frederick, SD 57441

AUCTION

OPENS: TUES., AUG. 21 / CLOSSES: TUES., AUG. 28 2018

<p>TRACTORS</p> <p>2003 Case STX440 4WD 2005 John Deere 8420 MFWD Allis Chalmers 7040 2WD</p>	<p>GRAIN CART & GRAVITY BOX</p> <p>Brent Avalanche 1084 grain cart Minnesota 260 gravity box</p>	
<p>COMBINE & HEADS</p> <p>2009 John Deere 9770 STS 2006 John Deere 635 flex head 2009 John Deere 612C chopping corn head</p>	<p>TRUCK</p> <p>2004 Freightliner Classic XL tri-axle flat top sleeper 60"</p>	
<p>DRILL</p> <p>Great Plains grain drill, 20', 6" spacing, 3 pt., mounted gauge, rubber press wheels</p>	<p>TRAILERS</p> <p>2013 Featherlite 8270 aluminum livestock trailer 2010 Timpfe hopper bottom trailer 1996 Timpfe hopper bottom trailer 1999 Doonan 502DB14 step deck trailer EZ-Trail 680 header trailer</p>	 
<p>FERTILIZER CADDY</p> <p>Pattison CB1600 fertilizer caddy w/pump</p>	<p>LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT</p> <p>1993 IHC 4900 truck (3) Vern's creep feeders 150 bu. Wheel loader livestock water tank</p>	
<p>DISCS</p> <p>John Deere 235 disc Sunflower disc John Deere 712 disc chisel</p>	<p>ATTACHMENTS</p> <p>MDS pallet forks for John Deere 840 loader Snow/silage bucket John Deere material bucket</p>	 
<p>OTHER TILLAGE EQUIPMENT</p> <p>Landoll 7430 VT-Plus vertical tillage John Deere 726 mulch finisher Rite Way landroller, 42'</p>		<p>PREVIEW: August 13-28 from 8AM-5PM LOADOUT: Thursday, August 30 from 8AM-5PM</p> <p>TIRES & PARTS</p> <p>(4) Skid steer loader tires Landoll disc blades & bearings John Deere grill guard (10) John Deere suitcase weights</p>

Complete terms, lot listings and photos at

SteffesGroup.com

Randy Kath MN47-007

COLE & HOLY HOKANA | 701.210.0548

or Dave Krostue at Steffes, 218.779.6865 or Randy Kath at Steffes, 701.429.8894

Steffes Group, Inc. | 24400 MN Hwy 22 South, Litchfield, MN 55355 | 320.693.9371

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Watertown Pavement Repairs on Highway 212

WATERTOWN, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation has begun pavement repair work on Highway 212 in Watertown from 19th Street going east to 43rd Street SE.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction and work is expected to be complete by Oct 1.

Motorists are asked to be aware of suddenly slowing and merging traffic, as well as construction workers and equipment adjacent to the driving lane.

BX Civil and Construction is the prime contractor on this \$1.8 million project that includes pavement repair and approach repair on various highways in the area.

For complete road construction information, visit www.safetravelusa.com or dial 511.

School Calendar

Friday

7:00 pm: Groton Area hosts Ellendale/Edgeley/Kulm in football action.

Pool Hours: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 25, 2018

9:00am: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Tournament vs. Milbank @ Milbank High School

1:00pm: Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Vermillion @ Groton Area High School

3:00pm: Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Vermillion @ Groton Area High School

Pool Hours: 1 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.

Monday, August 27, 2018

10:00am: Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Aberdeen Central @ Lee Park Golf Course

Pool Hours: 1 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Ellendale/Edgeley/
Kulm Thunder**

VS

Groton Area Tigers



Friday, Aug. 24, 2018
in Groton, 7:00 pm

Netters have clean sweep over Redfield-Doland

Groton Area's volleyball team started the season of with a 3-0 win over Redfield-Doland Thursday evening in a match played in Groton.

Groton won the first game, 25-17. The game was tied six times and there were three lead changes. After the game was tied at 13, Groton scored five straight points to take an 18-13 lead en route to the win.

Groton Area won the second game, 25-19. Nicole Marzahn had an ace serve to secure the win for the Tigers. That game was tied five times and there was just the one lead change. Redfield-Doland had the lead, including a six-point lead at 14-8. Groton tied the game at 15, 16, 17 and 18 before taking the lead for good.

Groton Area won the third game, 25-21. The game was tied once and Redfield-Doland never led in that game. Groton had a 17-10 lead before the Pheasants scored six straight to come back to within one,

17-16, but Groton Area never gave up the lead.

Groton Area Coach Chelsea Hanson said, "This year we only have one girl that was not a starter at some point in time last season so we return a lot of maturity and game experience. Everyone has improved since last season and we have 6 hitters who all can get kills and that is hard to defend which we will try and use as our advantage in every game. Defensively I think we are a really scrappy and relentless team so I look for us take away momentum swings on the other team by defending their big hits. We started behind in all 3 sets, I think we were down by as much as 6-7 points which is a lot when you're playing a talented team and we were able to overcome and win the games but what I'd like to see is to avoid those large point deficits moving forward. Overall I'm happy with what I saw tonight and we will keep working on things to improve."

The Tigers had a clean sweep over Redfield-Doland by winning all three matches. Groton won the C match, 25-21 and 25-17; the junior varsity match, 25-21, 20-25 and 15-7; and the varsity match, 25-17, 25-19 and 25-21.



Payton Colestock
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Miranda Hanson
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Nicole Marzahn
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Eliza Wanner
(Photo by Julianna Kosel)

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In serving, Groton Area was 67 of 73 with six ace serves. Eliza Wanner was 16 of 16 with two ace serves and Jennie Doeden was 15 of 17 with two ace serves. The Pheasants were 47 of 52 with four ace serves. Hannah Kuehn was 10 of 11 with three ace serves.

Groton Area was 91 of 108 in attacks with 36 kills. Nicole Marzahn was 20 of 21 with 11 kills, Jennie Doeden was 26 of 30 with 10 kills and Eliza Wanner was 23 of 29 with six kills. The Pheasants were 58 of 70 with 15 kills. Olive Shantz was 16 of 20 with six kills.

In sets, Groton Area was 106 of 108 with 26 assists. Kaylin Kucker was 51 of 51 with 14 assists and Miranda Hanson was 41 of 43 with 11 assists. Redfield-Doland was 91 of 94 with 14 assists. Hannah Kuehn was 47 of 50 with six assists and Eve Millar was 41 of 41 with eight assists.

Groton Area had 63 digs with Eliza Wanner having 16, Payton Maine 15 and Jennie Doeden 13. Redfield-Doland had 20 digs with Kailee Claussen having six.

In blocks, Groton Had had eight assists with Indigo Rogers having three assists and Nicole Marzahn having two assists. Redfield-Doland had six blocks with Addie Rozell having three solo and one assisted block.

Groton Area will be at the Milbank Tournament on Saturday and will host Ipswich on Tuesday.

The No. 9 Wolves Storm Past Western Oregon and Concordia Portland on Opening Day

Portland, Ore. – The No. 9 Northern State University volleyball team opened the 2018 season with two wins over Western Oregon and the host, Concordia Portland from the CUP Tournament.

The Wolves opened the day with a three set victory over Western Oregon, notching set scores of 25-21, 25-14, and 25-17. NSU hit .321 in the match with 40 kills, 39 digs, nine service aces, and five blocks. Defensively, they held WOU to a .033 attack percentage and just 23 kills. A total of three Wolves hit above .300 in the win, while two tallied double figure digs.

Hailey Busch led the team hitting .393 with 14 kills. The senior added five digs, and was one of three Wolves will multiple service aces. Sally Gaul made the first appearance of her Northern State career, recording a team second best seven kills. Morgan Baufield, Jenna Reiff, and Laura Snyder followed with six kills each, with Baufield and Reiff both hitting above .300.

Ashley Rozell paced the NSU offense with 34 assists, and added the team's final kill. The junior added a team high three aces, as well as two blocks and two digs. Jaiden Langlie led the Wolves defense with 19 digs, averaging 6.33 per set. Bry Goar also notched double figures with ten digs in the first appearance of her career.

The Wolves were out to a quick start in the second match of the day, with a 25-14 set one victory. Northern rattled off two more set wins, 25-16 and 25-17, completing their second sweep of the day. The Wolves only improved from the first match of the day, hitting .356 with 48 kills, while adding 55 digs, 11 aces, and four blocks.

NSU held the hometown team at bay, as the Cavaliers hit .125 with 27 kills and 14 attack errors. Five Wolves hit above .300 on the night, while two tallied double figure kills and two recorded double figure digs.

Reiff was the leader in the night cap, knocking down 13 kills and hitting an impressive .579 in 19 swings. Laura Snyder was also in double figures with 12 kills of her own, hitting at a .348 clip. Busch nearly tallied her second double figure match of the day with nine kills and a .320 attack percentage. The senior led the team with four service aces, and added three digs.

Morgan Baufield was second on the team hitting .417 with six kills, while Regan Dennis added four kills in her first appearance of the 2018 season. Gaul rounded out the offensive total with three, while Rozell tallied one. Rozell dished out 38 assists, averaging 12.67 assists per set. The junior also notched a team leading four aces, and sat second on the team with ten digs.

Langlie made herself known on defense with 25 total digs, averaging an impressive 8.33 per set. Goar and Lexi Boesl notched seven and five digs respectively, with Boesl knocking down a team second best two service aces. Reiff led the team at the net with three blocks, followed by Rozell with two.

Northern returns to action today for a pair of matches versus Colorado Christian and Tiffin at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. (CT) from Portland.

The Life of Wally Fischer

Memorial services for Wally Fischer, 78, of Aberdeen, SD and formerly of Groton, SD, will be 11:00am, Monday, August 27, 2018, at Aberdeen First Assembly of God Church, with Pastor Gary Wileman officiating. Military honors by Sidney L. Smith American Legion Post 24. Burial at Groton Union Cemetery, Groton, SD. Wally Fischer passed away peacefully Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at his home with his wife, Darlene by his side.

Visitation will be 3:00-7:00pm, Sunday, with family present from 5:00-7:00pm, followed by a prayer service at 7:00pm at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 South Main Street.

Waldemar "Wally" Fischer was born in Nati Donsik, Russia, on June 10, 1940, to Olga (Pollack) Fischer. Communist occupation forced Wally and his family to flee Russia and go to Germany to 1943. They lived in Germany until 1950, when they immigrated to the United States. Wally and his family lived and farmed in the Bowdle, SD area. Wally attended different area country schools, graduating from Hoven High School in 1960. Wally attended Moulter Barber College in Fargo, ND. After graduating, he began working for Stroh's Barber Shop in Groton, SD. He was drafted by the Army in 1963 and spent time in Germany. After being honorably discharged in 1965, Wally returned to Groton. Wally served in the Active Reserve in Aberdeen from 1965 to July 31, 1969.



Wally bought the barber shop from Gottlieb Stroh. Wally enjoyed his work and his customers. His favorite motto was, "I NEED YOUR HEAD TO GET AHEAD." Wally continually thanked the Lord that he was able to come to the United States. He always said, "It is still a land of opportunity. If a person wants to put in an honest day's work, you can get ahead."

Wally married Darlene Hein on August 18, 1973. With their union, Wally happily became a father to Darlene's two sons. As a family, they enjoyed many vacations and family events together.

Wally continued to run the barber shop until December 2011, serving the Groton area as their barber for 50 years. Wally and Darlene moved to Arbor Springs 55 Plus Community Apartments in Aberdeen, SD in June 2012.

Wally was proud and honored to be a member of the American Legion in Groton for over 50 years. He also enjoyed golfing, hunting and living life to the fullest.

Blessed to have shared Wally's life are his wife of 45 years, Darlene; daughter-in-law, Tammy Hein of Laredo, TX; five grandchildren: Kelle, Jr. (Colby) Hein of Cameron, NC, Kalen (Brandi) Hein of Shreveport, LA, Kyla Hein of Houston, TX, Kiery (Alejandro) Saldivar of Laredo, TX, Kesha Hein of Austin, TX; five great-grandchildren; brothers: Hal Fischer of Tolstoy, SD, Victor (Mary) Fischer of Bowdle, SD, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding Wally in death are his parents, John and Olga Fischer, sons Kelle Hein, and Kent Hein, an infant sister and brother.

Wally's family wishes to acknowledge and thank the wonderful staff of Prairie Heights (Manor Care), homecare and hospice staff for their kind and caring support.

West Nile Virus — South Dakota

August 22, 2018



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Human cases: 56 (Median age: 53; range 2-89)

Hospitalized: 17

Deaths: 2

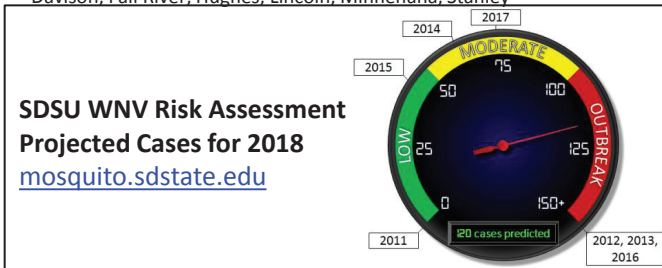
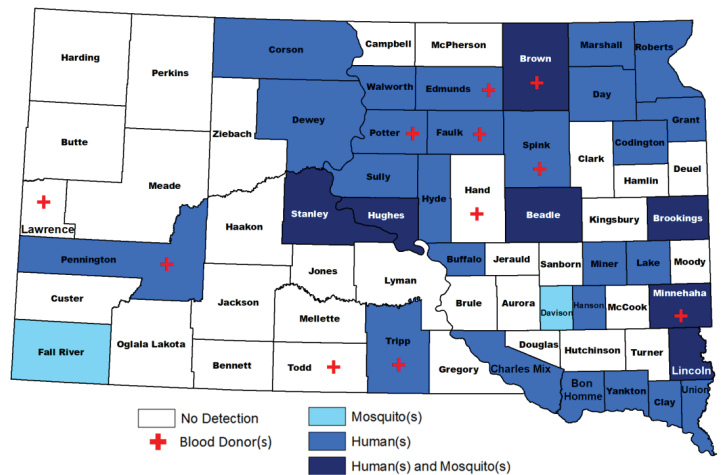
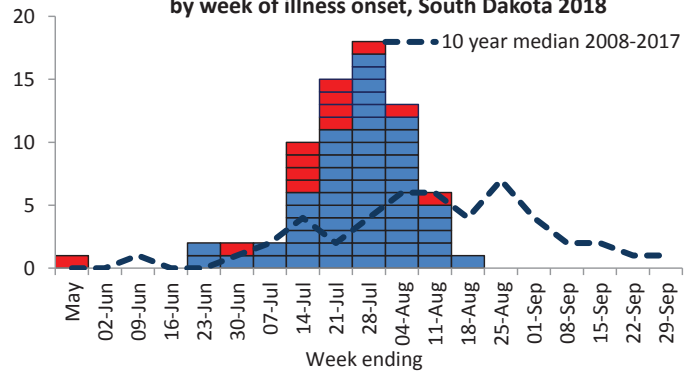
County Counts

Human cases: Beadle (1), Bon Homme (1), Brookings (2), Brown (6), Buffalo (1), Charles Mix (1), Clay (1), Codington (2), Corson (1), Day (2), Dewey (2), Edmunds (3), Faulk (1), Grant (1), Hanson (1), Hughes (2), Hyde (1) Lake (1), Lincoln (2), Marshall (2), Miner (1), Minnehaha (5), Pennington (3), Potter (1), Roberts (2), Spink (2), Stanley (1), Sully (1), Tripp (1), Union (1), Walworth (2), Yankton (2)

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

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

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



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

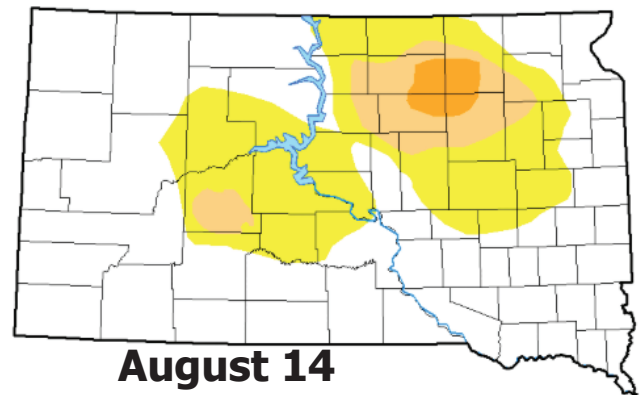
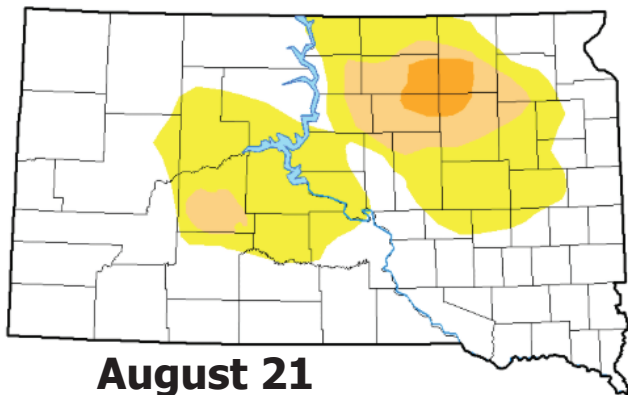
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Drought monitor

Drought Classification

None D0 (Abnormally Dry) D1 (Moderate Drought) D2 (Severe Drought) D3 (Extreme Drought) D4 (Exceptional Drought)



Similar to the Midwest, the northern tier of the High Plains saw conditions continue to dry out over this past week, exacerbated by high temperatures in some areas. Mercer County, North Dakota, for example, saw temperatures reach 104 degrees F on two days and 10 consecutive days of upper 90s. Crops have been impacted as soil moisture is depleted, with very dry topsoil and subsoil. There are reports of corn burning and severely stressed soybeans, among other impacts. As such, areas of abnormal dryness (D0), moderate drought (D1), and severe drought (D2) were expanded in various parts of the state. Eastern Montana saw an expansion of D0, including along the North Dakota border. Nebraska and Kansas, on the other hand, were the recipients of heavy rainfall events, which led to improvements across their drought regions. Although rainfall was 2-6 inches in several inches in places, long-term dryness persists across parts of the regions and thus was not adequate to erase all drought. However, two category improvements (D3 to D1) were made in southeastern Kansas, for example, as the rain did vastly improve conditions there. In Colorado, D1 was reduced in El Paso and Douglas Counties, which received 1 to 4 inches of rain over the past few weeks, improving conditions there.

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Today in Weather History

August 24, 1960: A man was injured when a barn was blown over by an F2 tornado that touched down near Hayes, in Stanley County. Hail, up to golf ball size accompanied the storm as well as about three inches of rain, causing some damage to crops and a farm house. The sky color in a westerly direction shortly before the tornado hit was described as a distinct shade of green. Evidence suggests that the tornado may have touched down again in northeast Sully County, destroying a barn, a chicken coop, and hay stacks on two farms. Also, precipitation more than 3 inches and locally 6 to 8 inches was accompanied by severe hail, causing damage to buildings and crops. Hail damage was most substantial in Stanley County. The wind carried away an estimated 400 tons of baled hay in Haakon County. A measured rainfall amount of 5.1 inches in less than six hours occurred in Onida, causing extensive flooding of basements, streets, and cropland. Additional rainfall amounts include 5.58 inches 4 NW of Onida, 4.50 inches 23 N of Highmore, 3.05 inches 2N of Onaka, 3.42 inches in Clear Lake, 3.11 inches in Miller, 3.02 inches in Eureka, 2.55 inches 1 NW of Faulkton, 2.40 inches in Gettysburg, 2.22 inches in Blunt, 2.20 inches at Oahe Dam, and 2.16 inches in Clark.

August 24, 1998: A line of severe thunderstorms raced southeast across Sully, Hyde, and Hand counties during the morning hours, producing destructive winds up to 100 mph and hail up to the size of baseballs. The winds and hail damaged or destroyed a wide swath of sunflowers and corn. Four power poles south of Highmore on Highway 47 were snapped off. The school in Highmore had twenty screens shredded by the hail and the winds. On a farm northeast of Onida, a grain bin was blown over a distance of 200 yards.

79: Stratovolcano, Mount Vesuvius erupted on this day, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1456: Machiavelli wrote, "On the 24th of August, about an hour before day-break there arose from the Adriatic near Ancona, a whirlwind, which crossing Italy from east to west, again reached the sea near Pisa, accompanied by thick clouds, and the most intense and impenetrable darkness." Click [HERE](#) to read this book.

1992: Hurricane Andrew made landfall in southern Florida at 4:30 AM on this day. The high winds caused catastrophic damage in Florida, with Miami-Dade County cities of Florida City, Homestead, and Cutler Ridge receiving the brunt of the storm. About 63,000 homes were destroyed, and over 101,000 others were damaged. This storm left roughly 175,000 people homeless. As many as 1.4 million people were left without electricity at the height of the storm. In the Everglades, 70,000 acres (280 km²) of trees were knocked down. Additionally, rainfall in Florida was substantial, peaking at 13.98 in (355 mm) in western Miami-Dade County. About \$25 billion in damage and 44 fatalities were reported in Florida. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the National Hurricane Center.

1906 - A cloudburst deluged Guinea, VA, with more than nine inches of rain in just forty minutes. (David Ludlum)

1968 - Lightning struck the Crawford County fairgrounds in northwest Pennsylvania killing two persons and injuring 72 others. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Autumn-like weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Seven cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Cloud MN with a low of 37 degrees. Temperatures in Florida soared to 98 degrees at Pensacola and 99 degrees at Jacksonville. Thunderstorms produced heavy rain in the Southern High Plains Region, with 5.40 inches at Union NM, and 7.25 inches reported west of Anthony NM. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms in the Delaware Valley of eastern Pennsylvania produced wind gusts to 95 mph around Philadelphia, and gusts to 100 mph at Warminster. A tropical depression drenched the Cabo Rojo area of southwestern Puerto Rico with up to ten inches of rain. San Juan received 5.35 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in eastern Montana and western sections of the Dakotas. Thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 76 mph at Jordan, and golf ball size hail at Rock Springs, which collected three to four feet deep in ditches. Lewiston ID reported a record 1.50 inches of rain for the date, and a record rainfall total for August of 2.63 inches. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Chance
T-storms

High: 79 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 88 °F

Saturday
Night



Slight Chance
T-storms

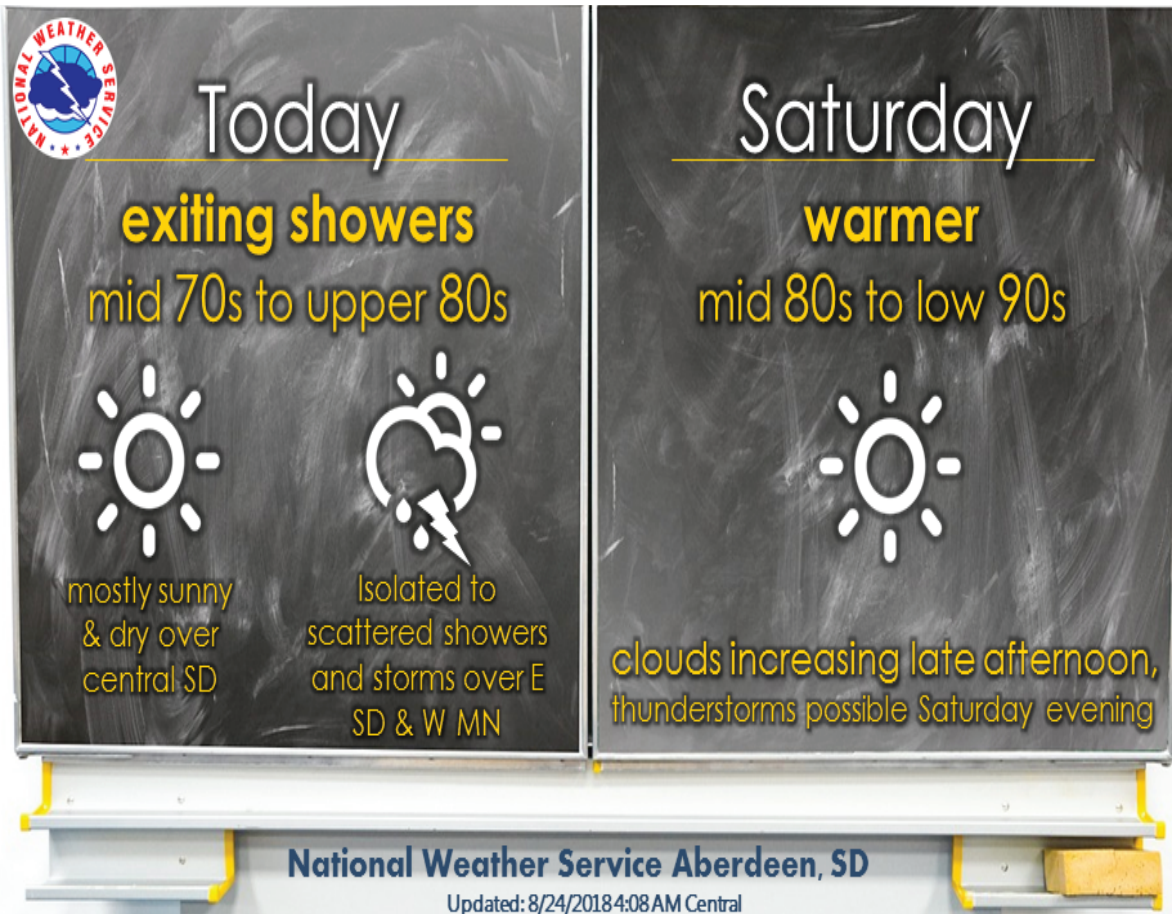
Low: 61 °F

Sunday



Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance
T-storms

High: 84 °F



Today
exiting showers
mid 70s to upper 80s

mostly sunny & dry over central SD

Isolated to scattered showers and storms over E SD & W MN

Saturday
warmer
mid 80s to low 90s

clouds increasing late afternoon, thunderstorms possible Saturday evening

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 8/24/2018 4:08 AM Central
Published on: 08/24/2018 at 4:13AM

Showers and a few thunderstorms will exit eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota today, followed by warmer and mostly dry day Saturday. However, do expect clouds to increase late Saturday afternoon, with thunderstorms possible Saturday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 75.6 F at 2:32 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 58.9 F at 5:46 AM

High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 9:20 PM

Precip: 0.76

Today's Info

Record High: 103° in 1929

Record Low: 38° in 1934

Average High: 81°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in Aug: 1.80

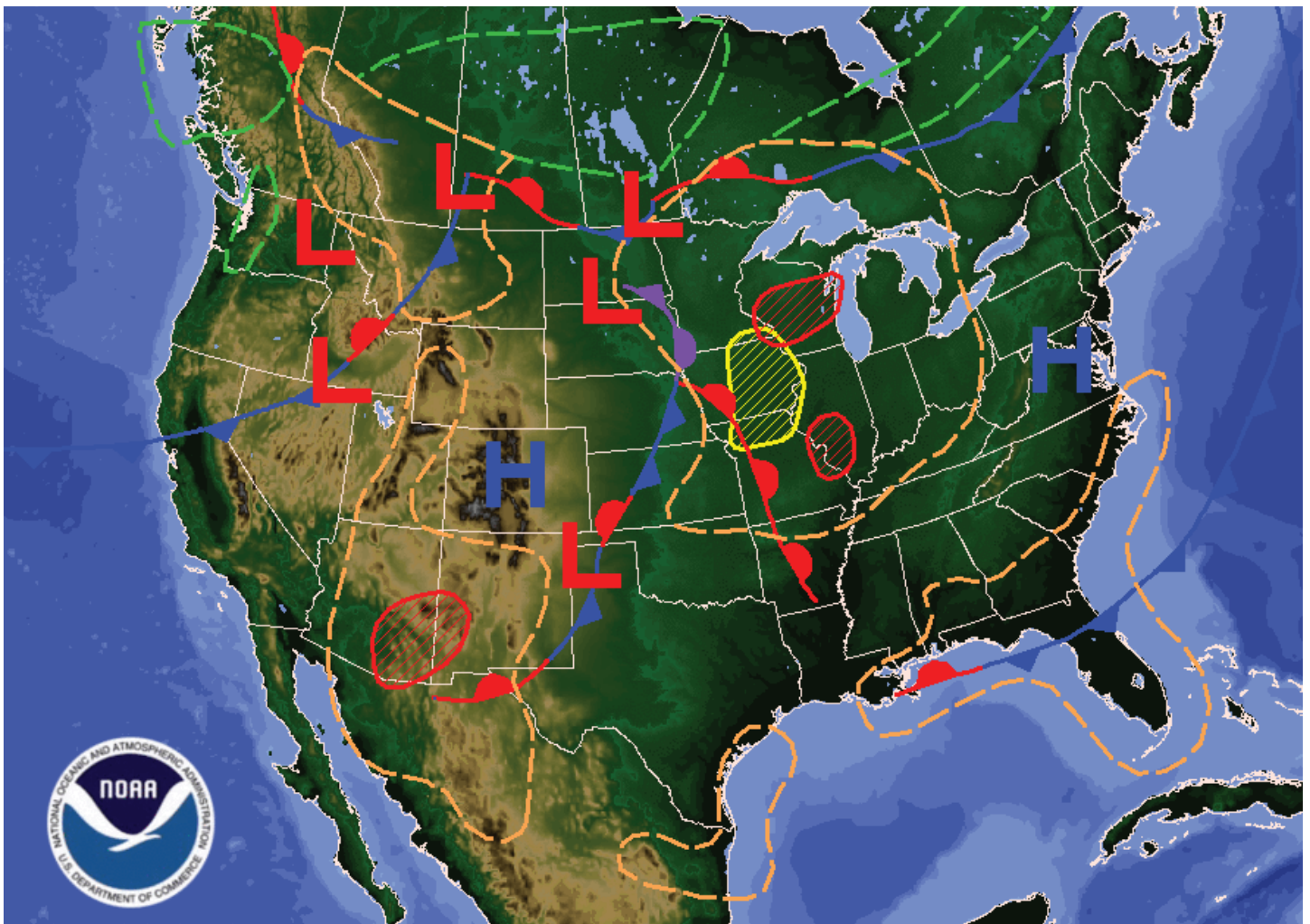
Precip to date in Aug: 1.33

Average Precip to date: 15.66

Precip Year to Date: 11.22

Sunset Tonight: 8:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:47 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, Aug 24, 2018, issued 4:49 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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WHY WORSHIP GOD?

Worship is as important to the believer as oxygen is to life. We know that without oxygen we could not live. In fact, if a person goes too long without oxygen, it causes serious damage. After one minute without oxygen, brain cells begin to die; after three minutes serious brain damage is likely, and after ten minutes brain cells have died. After fifteen minutes without oxygen, a persons recovery is virtually impossible.

If we use that information and compare it to believers worshiping God, we see an amazing similarity. It is possible for the believer to go without worshiping God for hours or days. Weve all done that. But the longer we refrain from worshiping God, the more likely we are to die spiritually.

Psalm 138 is a Psalm of Thanksgiving and Worship. In the seventh verse, David reminds us of the importance of worshiping God: Though I am surrounded in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the anger of my foes, with Your right hand You protect me.

What we pledge our lives to, or whom we deeply and reverently love, is what or whom we worship. It can be God or a person, place or thing. Whatever or whoever is at the center of our lives becomes that which we worship. Its logical to David that the one who protects and preserves us is the one we are to worship. So, the danger we face is that all too often we look at what God has given us as our god and replace Him with things, and then die spiritually.

Prayer: May we realize, Father, that we can easily become dependent on the gifts You give us instead of You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 138:7 Though I am surrounded in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the anger of my foes, with Your right hand You protect me.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
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News from the Associated Press

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Milbank Area, 25-20, 25-17, 25-22
Beresford def. Garretson, 25-15, 25-22, 25-20
Clark/Willow Lake def. Britton-Hecla, 23-25, 25-17, 25-20, 25-17
Colman-Egan def. Baltic, 25-23, 25-20, 25-19
Dell Rapids def. West Central, 25-20, 25-23, 15-25, 25-20
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-23, 16-25, 25-18, 25-18
Deubrook def. Webster, 25-18, 25-20, 25-21
Edmunds Central def. Leola/Frederick, 25-18, 25-22, 25-14
Estelline/Hendricks def. Wessington Springs, 25-18, 25-15, 22-25, 25-22
Faith def. Lemmon, 25-14, 25-12, 25-15
Faulkton def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-11, 25-9, 25-8
Great Plains Lutheran def. Florence/Henry, 25-16, 25-22, 25-23
Groton Area def. Redfield/Doland, 25-17, 25-19, 25-21
Harding County def. Timber Lake, 25-6, 23-25, 27-25, 25-14
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Potter County, 25-15, 16-25, 25-14, 25-15
Ipswich def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-22, 25-13, 19-25, 25-19
Irene-Wakonda def. Scotland, 25-12, 25-18, 25-19
Kadoka Area def. Little Wound, 25-10, 25-16, 25-14
Kimball/White Lake def. Gregory, 25-13, 25-17, 25-21
Lake Preston def. Iroquois, 25-16, 25-7, 25-12
Madison def. Flandreau, 25-23, 25-21, 25-14
Menno def. Centerville, 25-8, 25-6, 25-9
Northwestern def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-10, 25-7, 25-11
Parker def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-18, 25-21, 25-15
Parkston def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-15, 14-25, 25-14, 25-10
Sioux Falls Christian def. Tea Area, 25-14, 25-17, 25-18
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Dakota Valley, 23-25, 25-11, 25-16, 22-25, 15-9
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Harrisburg, 25-14, 25-22, 25-17
Sisseton def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-21, 25-20, 18-25, 25-21
Wagner def. Vermillion, 25-14, 25-17, 25-23
Waverly-South Shore def. Wilmot, 25-19, 25-13, 25-15
Winner def. Miller, 25-15, 26-24, 22-25, 25-21

Hanson Tournament

Consolation Semifinal

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Gayville-Volin, 25-22, 26-28, 27-25
Avon def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-23, 25-20

Seventh Place

Gayville-Volin def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-22, 25-19

Fifth Place

Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Avon, 26-24, 26-24

Third Place

Platte-Geddes def. Hanson, 16-25, 25-21, 25-14

Championship: Warner def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-10, 25-18

More states take interest in legal fight over coal terminal

LONGVIEW, Wash. (AP) — Six states have lined up in support of Washington state in a legal battle over its decision to block a proposed coal-export terminal on the Columbia River.

The Daily News reports attorneys general from California, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Oregon filed a “friend-of-the-court” brief this week arguing in support of Gov. Jay Inslee’s administration in its defense against the federal lawsuit brought by Utah-based Lighthouse Resources.

Lighthouse Resources claimed Washington state officials violated federal laws in denying approvals for the Millennium Bulk Terminals project — a proposed \$680 million facility in Longview, Washington, that would be the largest coal shipping terminal in North America.

Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Utah, Kansas, Nebraska and Washington’s Cowlitz County have previously filed amicus briefs in support of project backers.

Information from: The Daily News, <http://www.tdn.com>

Celtics’ Kyrie Irving honored by mother’s Sioux tribe

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

FORT YATES, N.D. (AP) — Standing on a bison pelt, Boston Celtics star Kyrie Irving was smudged with sacred grasses, presented with traditional quilts and eagle feathers and given a Lakota name that means “Little Mountain” as he was welcomed Thursday into his mother’s Standing Rock Sioux tribe.

The All-Star guard and his sister, model Asia Irving, visited the tribe’s reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border for a daylong celebration recognizing their tribal heritage and support for the tribe’s long battle against the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

In front of a packed auditorium, they were honored with Lakota names during a ritual that tribal spokeswoman Danielle Finn said “is a very special rite of passage for a Lakota person.”

Kyrie Irving’s Lakota name, Hela, is roughly pronounced (HAY’-law) and means “Little Mountain.” Asia Irving’s name, Tatanka Winyan, (tuh-TONG’-kuh WEE’-yun) means “Buffalo Woman.” Both are associated with their White Mountain family.

The Irvings’ late mother, Elizabeth Ann Larson, was a member of the tribe and lived on the reservation until her adoption at a young age. Their late grandmother and great-grandparents also have ties to the reservation.

The siblings were greeted by hordes of fans, many wearing green T-shirts with the Standing Rock Sioux seal, Kyrie Irving’s uniform number, 11, and the words “Welcome Home Kyrie Irving.”

“It truly is a good day for Standing Rock,” tribal Chairman Mike Faith said, turning to the Irvings. “For you two, welcome home.”

Many in the crowd, including Char White Mountain, consider the siblings to be part of their family.

“We want him to know who his relatives are,” she said. “We definitely don’t want him to think we’re people using him for his money. He’s family.”

Jewel Felix, who considers Kyrie Irving her nephew, said she became emotional when she heard he was coming.

“I started crying,” she said. “I can’t believe it’s happening.”

The feeling was apparently mutual.

“This is finally meeting my mom’s family in their home. ... This is family for me now,” Kyrie Irving said, calling it “a very special day.”

Todd Giroux, a 14-year-old high school junior and point guard for the Standing Rock basketball team, said Irving became his hero when the star gave him an autograph at a Celtics game against the Timberwolves in Minneapolis. Giroux came to Thursday’s event wearing an Irving jersey.

“It’s amazing,” he said, adding “it makes it even cooler” that Irving in late 2016 expressed support on Twitter for tribal efforts to lead the battle against the pipeline, which opponents believe threatens the tribe’s Missouri River water supply. Thousands of people traveled to the reservation area in 2016 and 2017

to protest, with hundreds being arrested. The pipeline began operating in June 2017, but the Standing Rock tribe is leading a court battle to try to shut it down.

Kyrie Irving discussed his Sioux heritage during a January 2017 interview with ESPN, saying "there's a home connection" with the tribe's pipeline struggles and that he wanted to have a legacy outside of basketball. Irving this year asked Nike to put Standing Rock's seal on a new sneaker. He also has a tattoo of the Standing Rock logo on his neck. Thursday's visit left him with an even greater appreciation of his roots.

"I had no idea how inclusive this group is and what it means to be part of Standing Rock, be part of the united Sioux nation," he said.

Irving, who won an NBA championship with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2016, was born in Australia and grew up in West Orange, New Jersey. He played one season at Duke University before joining the Cavaliers as the first overall pick in the 2011 NBA Draft.

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

Advocates criticize South Dakota ammonia release response

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials acted prematurely in reporting that human health wasn't at risk from high ammonia releases at a Sioux Falls plant, according to water quality advocates.

Ammonia was released into the Big Sioux River following a wastewater treatment system failure at the Smithfield Foods pork processing plant last week. The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued a statement Friday that there was no risk to humans, though fish could be threatened.

Ammonia is used in industrial processes and can treat water. But high doses in water can cause neurological and liver problems, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Advocates have said the statement was released before the ammonia violations stopped and before the source of the problem was identified, The Argus Leader reported. The statement was also made before ammonia release peaked, advocates said. The plant is permitted to release 102 pounds of ammonia per day, but it released 2,199 pounds Saturday.

"That's an inadequate response from the DENR, because they didn't have the data to make that statement one way or the other and should have erred on the side of human health," said Dana Loseke, a leader of the Friends of the Big Sioux River advocacy group. "The amount of ammonia that was released, and that they were allowed to continue to release that amount, was obscene."

Kelli Buscher, an administrator for the state's Surface Water Quality Program, said the state took immediate and appropriate action after Smithfield officials reported the ammonia discharges. The state worked with the plant to reduce discharges and sent inspectors to sample water several times at four different locations near the plant, she said.

Smithfield officials also said there was no risk to human health or wildlife.

"Smithfield takes environmental compliance very seriously and strives for 100 percent compliance, 100 percent of the time," the company said.

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

Victim of Yankton County crash identified

LESTERVILLE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified the man who was killed in a car crash in Yankton County over the weekend.

The state Department of Public Safety said Thursday 20-year-old Saul Renteria, of Yankton, was killed when the car in which he was riding veered into a ditch near Lesterville Saturday, hit a field approach, went airborne and caught fire upon landing.

The 29-year-old driver and the other passenger, a 25-year-old man, were seriously injured. All three men in the vehicle were ejected.

The Highway Patrol is investigating.

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Reward offered after 20 to 30 guns stolen in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives along with Rapid City police and a firearms trade group are offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information about 20 to 30 guns that were stolen from a sporting goods store.

Authorities say the guns were taken during a burglary at The Rooster in Rapid City early Wednesday.

ATF is offering a reward of up to \$5,000, which will be matched by the National Shooting Sports Foundation for a total reward of up to \$10,000. The reward is part of a larger national cooperative initiative between the NSSF and ATF involving the theft of firearms from federally licensed gun dealers.

South Dakota winter wheat harvest is complete

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's winter wheat harvest is complete, and the rest of the small grains harvest is wrapping up.

The federal Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 91 percent of the spring wheat is harvested, along with 96 percent of the oats.

Development of the corn and soybean crops in the state remains ahead of the average pace.

Soil moisture supplies continue on a downward trend. Topsoil moisture is rated 60 percent adequate to surplus, with 59 percent of subsoil moisture in those categories.

Pasture and range conditions statewide remain mostly rated fair or good.

Record enrollment creates logistical challenges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls Public Schools district is facing some unique challenges at the high school as classes begin.

School officials are doing some logistical planning to deal with a record enrollment of about 2,360 students at Roosevelt High. Principal Tim Hazlett tells KELO-TV every single classroom is filled every day. And while classroom sizes will stay relatively the same, passing in the hallways, parking, lunch time and events will be affected by record enrollment.

Hazlett says any kind of assembly takes more planning because the entire student body cannot fit in the gym or auditorium at one time.

A Sioux Falls school bonding referendum to create funding for new schools will be held Sept. 18.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

For-profit colleges have allies now, but complaints persist

By RICHARD LARDNER and COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lawsuit against Ashford University describes an admissions office with a cut-throat sales culture more akin to a used-car lot than a place of higher learning, peddling "false promises and faulty information" to lure students eligible for federal financial aid.

Sound familiar? The allegations in the lawsuit filed by California's attorney general are strikingly similar to past complaints against now-defunct for-profit chains that spurred sweeping regulation by the Obama administration. And they're being echoed today in other lawsuits, complaints and ongoing government scrutiny of for-profits even as Education Secretary Betsy DeVos engineers her own seismic shift in the regulatory landscape that stands to benefit the multibillion-dollar industry.

The changes, according to DeVos' critics, will weaken protections for students who claimed they were defrauded by their schools.

Education Department documents obtained by The Associated Press through an open-records records request show that students filed nearly 24,000 federal fraud complaints between President Donald Trump's Jan. 20, 2017, inauguration and April 30 this year, almost entirely against for-profit colleges. More than 3,600 were lodged against DeVry University, while the University of Phoenix drew 1,100.

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Separately, the Federal Trade Commission is investigating the University of Phoenix chain for possible deceptive or unfair business practices, a probe that began under the Obama administration.

And the Department of Veterans Affairs is in an extraordinary dispute with Ashford over the school's eligibility to receive federal GI Bill funding, which many military veterans use to pay tuition. The outcome could have major implications for Ashford if it's cut off from that funding.

But DeVos' about-face from Obama administration regulation could amount to a lifeline for many for-profit schools already wrestling with image problems, sliding enrollments and growing competition, even in online education.

Schools like the nonprofit Western Governors University, for example, have seen enrollment soar as they offer online programs with tuition as low as \$6,500 a year. Meanwhile, at DeVry, which charges more than twice as much, enrollment has fallen by nearly 20 percent in the last year, according to its federal Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

Among most four-year, for-profit colleges, enrollment fell this spring by nearly 7 percent from the year before, to about 925,500, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. It continued a downward slide that began in 2010 as the U.S. economy began to improve, steering adult students back to the workplace.

Most for-profit colleges opposed the Obama administration's industry crackdown but have eased up on lobbying since Trump brought his business-friendly approach to the White House. Steve Gunderson, president and CEO of Career Education Colleges and Universities, the industry's largest trade group, said for-profits have generally received a warm reception from Trump officials.

"That's been a very different attitude toward us," he said. "During the Obama administration, they declared war on our sector. We were fighting for survival."

The Education Department proposed earlier this month to revoke a 2014 regulation that sought to cut federal funding to for-profit college programs that left graduates with high ratios of debt compared to their incomes. Late last month, the department outlined a plan to weaken another Obama-era rule that would have made it easier for students defrauded by schools to get their loans erased.

Both rules were created after thousands of students brought complaints of fraud against the now-defunct Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute chains. The schools had been accused of lying about their job placement rates, using high-pressure recruiting tactics and other unethical behavior.

Although both chains collapsed under pressure from the Obama administration, the complaints haven't stopped under Trump. Roughly half the 23,970 federal fraud complaints made since Trump's inauguration were against Corinthian and ITT.

DeVos' department said its approach will better shield students from misconduct while protecting for-profit colleges from false accusations and from being targeted because of their tax status. Gunderson's group applauded the changes, but student advocacy organizations and a coalition of attorneys general from 16 states and the District of Columbia criticized DeVos for prioritizing schools over students.

"For-profit colleges are the big winners," said Debbie Cochrane, vice president of The Institute for College Access and Success. "The department is much more receptive to their message."

With allies instead of adversaries in the executive branch, lobbying by for-profit schools is expected to dip this year. The total — modest when compared to other industries — has averaged about \$5.6 million since 2015, according to the political-money website Open Secrets.

Apollo Education Group, the parent company of the University of Phoenix, shows no signs of backing off, however. Apollo Education led all organizations in lobbying spending, with \$1.2 million in 2017, and is on track to match that amount in 2018. Apollo Education also donated \$25,000 to Trump's inaugural committee, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Meanwhile, complaints against the schools continue.

In California, Attorney General Xavier Becerra's lawsuit alleges that Ashford "employed an army of sales representatives who worked in boiler-room conditions" to pursue prospective students and hit enrollment targets. The lawsuit also stresses how important federal financial aid is to Ashford's bottom line: From

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2009 to 2016, government-backed loans accounted for 80.9 to 86.8 percent of the school's revenue.

Admissions counselors also misinformed candidates about their ability to obtain financial aid, according to the lawsuit. In one repeated tactic, the lawsuit said, counselors told potential students they could use their financial aid money for noneducational expenses, "even though federal law prohibits this conduct."

Bridgepoint Education, Ashford's owner, declined to comment on the case. But attorneys for the company said in a January filing that Becerra's case is based almost entirely on "unattributed quotes regarding undated or stale misconduct." There also is no allegation of current wrongdoing by Ashford employees, they said.

The school's legal battle with the VA could jeopardize its funding from the department — a sum that topped \$30 million last year.

To be eligible for VA funding, schools have to get their states to vouch for the quality of their programs. Although Ashford has that approval in Arizona and Iowa, the VA ordered it last year to apply in California, where its headquarters are located, because the chain had moved most of its programs online. Officials in California say they received an application from Ashford early this year but determined it was incomplete.

A VA spokesman says Ashford is still out of compliance, but the chain is disputing that in federal court. According to Ashford's lawyers, the VA never formally adopted the rule it's trying to enforce. The case has yet to be decided.

The FTC has been investigating the University of Phoenix since at least 2015 for possible deceptive or unfair business practices. The commission's probes are nonpublic and can last years. Apollo Education said in an SEC filing in January 2016 that investigators had asked for information on a "broad spectrum" of matters, including marketing, enrollment, financial aid, tuition and military recruitment.

Apollo Education and the University of Phoenix did not respond to requests for comment. FTC spokesman Peter Kaplan said the commission had no comment on the investigation.

The University of Phoenix also has come under repeated scrutiny for its handling of U.S. military veterans.

Over the past decade, the University of Phoenix has received nearly \$830 million in GI Bill funding, more than any other school, according to data from the VA. It has also been the subject of 574 student complaints to the department, more than twice as many as the next school, DeVry. That figure includes only complaints that have been resolved.

The University of Phoenix's troubles came to a head in 2015 when the Defense Department briefly barred Apollo from enrolling new veteran students after finding that the company had sponsored events on military bases without proper approval. The company quickly told the department it had taken "corrective action," and the ban was lifted.

But a group that represents veterans said the problems persist.

"We continue to receive complaints from veterans that University of Phoenix recruiters lied to them about key elements of the college, including the true cost, the number of credits needed to graduate, whether the credits would be recognized by other colleges, and their job prospects," said Carrie Wofford, president of Veterans Education Success.

Adtalem Global Education late last year announced a deal to unload DeVry University by transferring ownership of the struggling school at no cost to a small for-profit education company in California. The move came a year after DeVry agreed to a \$100 million settlement to resolve an FTC lawsuit alleging the school misled students through deceptive ads.

The settlement opened the door for former DeVry students to sue the school. In Texas, nearly 100 DeVry graduates are party to two lawsuits filed in federal court this year that alleged they did not find jobs in their fields of study within six months of graduating as the chain had advertised.

The lawsuit also declared as false DeVry's representations that its graduates would earn more money than graduates with bachelor's degree from other schools.

Adtalem and DeVry did not respond to requests for comment. Attorneys for DeVry countered the lawsuits by saying the "threadbare recitals" of the former students fail to explain how their perceived damages were caused by any of the school's alleged representations.

___ Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rplardner> and Collin Binkley at <https://twitter.com/cbinkley>

Australia's 'accidental prime minister' promises stability

By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's new prime minister, Scott Morrison, on Friday promised a stable government at the end of a tumultuous week in which his predecessor was forced out of office, 13 ministers resigned and Parliament was shut down for an afternoon.

Disgruntled government lawmakers forced former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull from office on Friday, arguing that most had lost faith in his leadership. Turnbull became the fourth prime minister dumped by his or her own party since 2010 in an extraordinary period of political instability that frustrates most Australians.

Morrison distanced himself from the turmoil, saying he had not been part of the push led by fellow lawmaker Peter Dutton to oust Turnbull over four chaotic days that was inspired by a feud between hard-right conservatives and moderates.

"We will provide the stability and the unity and the direction and the purpose that the Australian people expect of us," Morrison told reporters.

"The work of government continues. I want to assure all Australians that those normal wheels are turning," he added.

The political civil war shocked business and industry that want crucial energy and tax policy reforms finalized. It's also an international embarrassment for a nation that prides itself on being a safe and stable democracy in which to invest.

It is not clear who if anyone will take Turnbull's place on an important trip he planned next week to regional neighbors Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, which was to end at an annual forum of 18 Pacific island nations on Nauru on Sept. 5.

China hopes the change of leader will thaw bilateral relations that have been chilled for months by Turnbull's crackdown on covert foreign interference in domestic politics and on industrial espionage.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang congratulated Morrison on his new role and said Beijing would work with him to develop China-Australia ties "along the right track."

Morrison has been dubbed the "accidental prime minister" because he had no plans to nominate until Thursday, when Turnbull declared he would not recontest his job. Morrison on Friday declined to detail any policy changes that he might make.

He played down speculation that he might call an election before it's due early next year.

"We intend to be governing ... so I don't think anybody should be making any plans for any elections any time soon," Morrison said.

Turnbull said he would quit politics "not before too long."

His resignation would force a by-election that could cost the government its single-seat majority. It could also provide an incentive to call an early general election.

Turnbull, a centrist leader who takes credit for Australia legalizing gay marriage, blamed his downfall on a campaign by hard-right lawmakers backed by "powerful voices" in the conservative media.

"There was a determined insurgency from a number of people," Turnbull said. "It was extraordinary. It was described as madness by many and I think it's difficult to describe it in any other way."

Turnbull said he was impressed by his party's decision not to reward Dutton and to elect Morrison, whom he descried as a "very loyal and effective treasurer." Morrison defeated Dutton 45 votes to 40.

Dutton's failure prevents Australian policy from shifting to the hard right, although there has been little policy discussion in the leadership struggle.

Dutton later suggested that the crisis was driven by personalities rather than policy differences.

"For me, I only ever nominated because I believed I was a better person and a person of greater strength and integrity to lead the Liberal Party," Dutton told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Morrison was officially sworn in as prime minister later Friday and his deputy leader, Josh Frydenberg, as treasurer, Morrison's old portfolio. Morrison said the rest of his Cabinet would be sworn in next week.

Dutton's and Turnbull's camps waged the most chaotic, frenetic and at times farcical leadership struggle that Australian politics has seen in years, closing down Parliament on Thursday so that the government

could focus on its rapidly escalating internal crisis.

Parliament does not sit again until Sept. 10.

Turnbull's leadership was vulnerable because his government was trailing in opinion polls. Analysts expect the polling to worsen due to the clumsy and bungled way the leadership was challenged.

5 tourists rescued from flooded home as storm hits Hawaii

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER and AUDREY McAVOY, Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Sirens wailed while workers piled sandbags in front of hotels and police blared warnings to tourists to leave the world-famous Waikiki Beach as Hurricane Lane barreled north after dumping nearly 2 feet of rain on Hawaii's mostly rural Big Island.

Emergency crews rescued five California tourists from a home they were renting in Hilo after a nearby gulch overflowed and it flooded Thursday.

Suzanne Demerais said a tiny waterfall and small stream flowed near the home when she first arrived with four of her friends from the Los Angeles area. But the stream turned into a torrent and the river rose rapidly over 24 hours. Hawaii County firefighters, who were in touch with the home's owner, decided to evacuate the group before the water rose further. They floated the five out on their backs, Demerais said.

"It was quite an experience because we weren't planning to have a hurricane during our vacation time," Demerais said.

Hurricane Lane, whose center was still offshore, lashed the Big Island with nearly 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain in about 24 hours. It had maximum sustained winds near 120 mph (193 kph), making it a Category 3 hurricane.

Forecasters say the center of the storm will move close to or over parts of Hawaii's main islands late Friday, bringing dangerous surf of 20 feet (6 meters).

About 200 miles (320 kilometers) north of Hilo, on the state's most populated island of Oahu, employees of the Sheraton Waikiki resort filled sandbags to protect the oceanfront hotel from surging surf.

Stores along Waikiki's glitzy Kalakaua Avenue stacked sandbags along the bottom of their glass windows to prepare for heavy rain and flash flooding.

Police on loudspeakers told surfers and swimmers to get out of the water, saying the beach would be closed until further notice.

The Marriott Resort Waikiki Beach in Honolulu designated a ballroom on the third floor as a shelter for guests and began removing lounge chairs from around the pool and bar area.

At the Hilton Hawaiian Village, guest Elisabeth Brinson said hotel staff left a notice that the rooms will still have water and phone service, and a backup generator would power one elevator per building in the event of a power outage.

Brinson, a native of the United Kingdom now living in Denver, said many shops were closed, and those still open were frantic with people buying food, beer and water to take back to their rooms.

"We knew it was coming, so I tried to just cram as much as I could into the last few days in anticipation so we could cross things off of our list," said Brinson, who is accustomed to hurricanes after living in Florida.

Lane was not projected to make a direct hit on the islands, but officials warned that even a lesser blow could do significant harm. Some areas could see up to 30 inches (about 80 centimeters) of rain.

United Airlines canceled its Friday flights to and from Maui. The airline added two additional flights from Honolulu to San Francisco on Thursday to help transport people off the islands.

Hawaiian Airlines canceled all Friday flights by its commuter carrier, Ohana by Hawaiian.

Hawaii's biggest hotels are confident they can keep their guests safe as long as they stay inside, said Mufi Hannemann, CEO of Hawaii Tourism and Lodging Association.

"The only concern is those that venture outside of the properties, that would like to hike on a day like this or who would like to still go into the ocean and see what it's like to take a swim or surf in these kind of waters," Hannemann said.

Honolulu shopping malls and office buildings closed early on Thursday and planned to shut their doors

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Friday.

Shelters were open throughout the islands, with 350 people in them in Oahu. Aid agencies were also working to help Hawaii's sizable homeless population, many of whom live near beaches and streams that could flood.

Because there's not enough shelter space statewide, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency Administrator Tom Travis urged people who were not in flood zones to stay home.

The National Weather Service downgraded the Big Island to a tropical storm warning, meaning it expects sustained winds of 39 mph (62 kph) to 73 mph (117 kph) on the island instead of stronger hurricane force winds.

But a hurricane warning remains in effect for Oahu and Maui County.

The central Pacific gets fewer hurricanes than other regions, with about only four or five named storms a year. Hawaii rarely gets hit. The last major storm to hit was Iniki in 1992. Others have come close in recent years.

Because people in Hawaii are confined to the islands, they have to make sure they have enough supplies to outlast power outages and other potential emergencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency moved several barges packed with food, water, generators and other supplies into the region ahead of Hurricane Hector, which skirted past the islands more than a week ago, FEMA Administrator Brock Long said.

Associated Press writers Brian Skoloff and Caleb Jones in Honolulu, Mark Thiessen and Dan Joling in Anchorage, Alaska, Seth Borenstein in Washington and Annika Wolters in Phoenix contributed to this report.

Trump rage brings sharp response from Sessions

By JILL COLVIN and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions punched back hard at President Donald Trump's latest criticism as their long-running rift exploded into a public smackdown.

Trump, concerned by the legal downfall of two former advisers, accused Sessions of failing to take control of the Justice Department, leading Sessions to declare Thursday that he and his department "will not be improperly influenced by political considerations."

Trump's anger with Sessions boiled over in an interview with Fox News in which the president also expressed frustration with the plea agreement his onetime legal "fixer" Michael Cohen cut with prosecutors, including implicating Trump in a crime that Cohen admitted. Trump said it might be better if "flipping" — cooperating with prosecutors in exchange for more favorable treatment — were illegal because people cooperating with the government "just make up lies" to get favorable treatment.

In the wide-ranging interview, Trump also defended himself against talk of impeachment — "the market would crash ... everybody would be very poor" — tried to distance himself from Cohen — "I would see him sometimes" — and said anew that he hadn't known in advance about Cohen's hush money payments to silence women alleging sexual relationships with the celebrity businessman.

Trump's latest shots against law enforcement came as he appeared increasingly vulnerable to long-running investigations after this week's one-two punch of Cohen's plea deal and the conviction of Trump's former campaign chair Paul Manafort.

Trump has spent more than a year publicly and privately venting over Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the federal Russia-collusion investigation because he'd worked on Trump's campaign. Trump, who blames that decision for the eventual appointment of special counsel Robert Mueller, told "Fox and Friends" host Ainsley Earhardt that Sessions "never took control of the Justice Department and it's a sort of an incredible thing."

"What kind of man is this?" Trump said.

"You know the only reason I gave him the job? Because I felt loyalty, he was an original supporter,"

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Trump said of Sessions, an Alabama Republican who was the first senator to endorse Trump's bid.

Sessions has made clear to associates that he has no intention of leaving his job voluntarily despite Trump's constant criticism. But his tone in his statement on Thursday made clear he is tired of the president's attacks.

"I took control of the Department of Justice the day I was sworn in, which is why we have had unprecedented success at effectuating the President's agenda." Then he declared, that while he's attorney general the actions of the department "will not be improperly influenced by political considerations. I demand the highest standards, and where they are not met, I take action."

In New York, meanwhile, it was reported that federal prosecutors have granted immunity to David Pecker, the publisher of National Enquirer, which bought and killed the stories of two women. And people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press that the publication kept a safe containing documents on hush money payments and other damaging stories it killed as part of its cozy relationship with Trump leading up to 2016 election.

In awkward schedule timing, Sessions met later Thursday with the president on prison and sentencing reform at the White House. But two people familiar with their meeting said the dispute was not discussed. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the private conversation.

Sessions has generally absorbed the Trump's blows without responding, though he has occasionally pushed back.

In February, after Trump complained that Sessions' response to Republican complaints about the FBI was "disgraceful," the attorney general said in statement he would "continue to discharge my duties with integrity and honor" and the department would "continue to do its work in a fair and impartial manner."

Allies, including Republican members of Congress have long advised Trump that firing Sessions — especially before the upcoming midterm elections — would be deeply damaging to the party.

But Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who in March said firing Sessions would "blow up" the Judiciary Committee, has been shifting his tone.

"I think there will come a time, sooner rather than later, where it will be time to have a new face and a fresh voice at the Department of Justice," he told reporters on Thursday. "Clearly, Attorney General Jeff Sessions doesn't have the confidence of the president."

Others stood by Sessions.

Republican Ben Sasse of Nebraska told Senate colleagues, "Everybody in this body knows that Jeff Sessions is doing his job honorably, and the attorney general of the United States should not be fired for acting honorably and for being faithful to the rule of law." He said it would be really difficult to confirm a successor "if he is fired because he is executing his job rather than choosing to act as a partisan hack."

People close to the president said they were not aware of any immediate plans to dismiss Sessions, at least before the November congressional elections.

Cohen's claims that Trump orchestrated a campaign cover-up to buy the silence of two women who claimed he had affairs with them has shaken the White House and the president, who has expressed worry and frustration behind closed doors that a man intimately familiar with his political, personal and business dealings for more than a decade had turned on him.

His anger was palpable overnight as he bellowed to the world in an all-caps tweet at 1:10 a.m.: "NO COLLUSION - RIGGED WITCH HUNT!"

In his interview with "Fox & Friends," which was taped at the White House on Wednesday and aired Thursday, Trump railed against Cohen for "flipping."

"I know all about flipping," Trump said. "For 30, 40 years I've been watching flippers. Everything's wonderful and then they get 10 years in jail and they — they flip on whoever the next highest one is, or as high as you can go."

That arrangement "almost ought to be outlawed. It's not fair," Trump said, adding that it creates an incentive to "say bad things about somebody ... just make up lies."

That drew immediate rebukes from the legal community.

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Neal Katyal, Supreme Court lawyer and former acting solicitor general, compared Trump's comments in a tweet to "what one expects from a mobster, not the President of the United States." He later said it was outrageous that Trump had "decided to condemn the entire practice of flipping nationwide, which is essential to law enforcement operations."

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker, Jonathan Lemire, Chad Day, Ken Thomas and Catherine Lucey contributed to this report.

A president who demands loyalty finds it fleeting in DC

By KEN THOMAS and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Et tu, Michael Cohen?

Loyalty has long been a core value for President Donald Trump. But he's learning the hard way that in politics, it doesn't always last.

Cohen, the president's former personal attorney, this week implicated the president in a stunning plea deal. Days later, word surfaced that David Pecker, a longtime Trump friend and media boss, also was cooperating with prosecutors.

Taking the Cohen news as a personal betrayal, Trump criticized his longtime fixer for "flipping," saying on "Fox and Friends" that such double-crossers "make up things" to get reduced prison time and become "a national hero."

The defection of Cohen, who had once grandly declared he would "take a bullet" for the president, was deeply troubling to Trump. And the lawyer is just one in a series of former Trump loyalists who have distanced themselves from the president, intent on saving themselves in a series of nasty legal and political battles. The growing list includes Pecker, former White House staffer Omarosa Manigault Newman and former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

Pecker, a Trump confidant and chief executive of the company that publishes the National Enquirer, was granted immunity by federal prosecutors in exchange for providing information in the criminal investigation into hush payments made by Cohen on Trump's behalf before the 2016 election, media outlets reported Thursday.

A senior White House official said the president was undoubtedly frustrated and surprised by the latest developments, particularly campaign finance-related charges against Cohen, as evidenced by Trump's tweets and public statements. But the official disputed the notion that the president was visibly upset over the news. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe internal discussions, said Trump carried out his normal complement of meetings Thursday and bantered as usual with staff and lawmakers who were at the White House.

The official said Trump and his aides have grown accustomed to being smacked with bad news when they look up at the television — and their reactions are more muted than when Trump first took office.

But Manigault Newman, a former contestant on "The Apprentice," outraged the president last week with the release of a tell-all book and series of secretly recorded audiotapes, as she accused Trump of being racist and suffering from a mental decline.

Trump is still stung by the decision of Flynn, his first national security adviser, to plead guilty to lying to the FBI last year about his contacts with a Russian official in exchange for cooperating with authorities in the probe led by special counsel Robert Mueller.

And he was irate when former strategist Steve Bannon was quoted in Michael Wolff's book, "Fire and Fury," as saying it was "treasonous" for Donald Trump Jr. and others to meet during the 2016 campaign with a Russian attorney who claimed to have incriminating information about Hillary Clinton.

Yet no other administration figure has caused Trump more agitation than Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who infuriated the president by recusing himself from the Mueller investigation. Trump re-ignited his feud with the former Alabama senator Thursday by complaining in the Fox interview that Sessions "never took control of the Justice Department."

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"He took the job and then he said I'm going to recuse myself. I said, 'What kind of a man is this?' And by the way, he was on the campaign. You know the only reason I gave him the job because I felt loyalty, he was an original supporter," Trump said.

Sessions responded that he and his department "will not be improperly influenced by political considerations," adding to tension over his decision to recuse himself. People close to the president said they were not aware of any immediate plans to dismiss Sessions, at least before the midterm elections.

Throughout his time in office, Trump has demanded dramatic shows of fealty.

When then-FBI Director James Comey met with Trump early in the administration, he said the president asked him if he wanted to stay in his role and declared: "I need loyalty. I expect loyalty." Trump fired Comey months later.

During an early Cabinet meeting, Trump's team appeared to compete to praise the president the most. Then-Chief of Staff Reince Priebus stated, "We thank you for the opportunity and blessing to serve your agenda."

Before entering politics, Trump ran his business with a close circle of advisers, including his children, and during his campaign he leaned heavily on a handful of aides. He has long viewed loyalty as paramount.

Trump has openly mused about the need for another Roy Cohn, the larger-than-life New York attorney who guided the future president in New York's media and real estate landscape during the 1970s. But for someone who insisted on ironclad loyalty, those types of friendships have only gone so far in Washington.

Trump has groused privately that his top attorney in the Mueller probe, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, was in Scotland for a golf vacation when the Cohen and Manafort news broke.

Trump told "Fox and Friends" that for "30, 40 years I've been watching flippers. Everything's wonderful and then they get 10 years in jail and they — they flip on whoever the next highest one is, or as high as you can go."

The president said the decision by those under legal scrutiny to cooperate with prosecutors "almost ought to be illegal."

"They go from 10 years to they're a national hero," he said. "They have a statue erected in their honor. It's not a fair thing."

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

A year later, fractured Rohingya community sees little hope

By JULHAS ALAM and RISHABH R. JAIN, Associated Press

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh (AP) — Forged over generations in villages in Myanmar, Rohingya communities are now held together in calls over crackling phone lines.

"Mummy! Mummy!" 15-year-old Abdullah Razzaq shouted to his mother earlier this week in their once-a-week call, nearly a year after he and his brother, along with more than 700,000 other Rohingya Muslims, fled waves of attacks by Myanmar security forces and crossed the border into Bangladesh. "Why don't you guys come here?"

"Here" is a ramshackle sprawl of refugee camps built amid low rolling hills and endless monsoon-season mud. First erected more than 20 years ago by earlier, smaller waves of Rohingya refugees, the camps exploded in size last year when Myanmar's army launched its attacks about Aug. 25, and hundreds of thousands of Rohingya began flooding across the border.

One year later, despite months of discussions among Myanmar, Bangladesh, the United Nations and a string of aid agencies, there are few signs that the Rohingya can go home anytime soon.

"I can't see my mother or my brother and am unable to receive a mother's love," said Abdullah. "I miss them a lot."

The family was broken apart in the chaos that began with a series of Aug. 24 attacks on Myanmar police posts by a small Rohingya militant group that left a dozen security personnel dead. Soon after, Myanmar security forces and Buddhist mobs responded with brutal indiscriminate attacks on Rohingya villages,

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burning many down and driving villagers away in what many rights activists see as a calculated attempt to drive the Rohingya from the country.

Abdullah and his 17-year-old brother thought their mother had also fled their village in Myanmar's Rakhine state, where most Rohingya had long lived. Only later did they realize she'd been left behind, and remains in their village with their eldest brother.

The brothers call once a week to check on her. But she tells them the separation has been hard.

"I miss you guys a lot. I can't eat or sleep properly. I am getting by somehow," she said.

The Rohingyas' woes can seem never-ending. They have long been treated as illegal migrants in Myanmar, denied such basic rights as the freedom of movement, even though some of their families have lived in the Buddhist-majority country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless.

Anti-Rohingya pogroms have been a part of life in the region for years, and violence against them began ratcheting up again in October 2016, as the Myanmar government started complaining about violence by Rohingya militants. In late August 2017, an influx of Rohingya refugees into Bangladesh became an unstoppable flood.

Now, separated families depend on mobile phones to remain together.

"My son can't call me whenever he wants. He has to call secretly" because he's being watched by his Buddhist neighbors, said 70-year-old Dildar Begum, who waited all day Wednesday for a call from her son on Eid al-Adha, a major Muslim holiday.

The call never came.

Her family was also divided by chaos.

She, her son and his family had fled to the Myanmar-Bangladesh border as the crackdown grew more brutal. She climbed onto a boat to cross the Naf River with a group of refugees, but when her son went back to shore to grab his children, he was surrounded by a Buddhist mob and hustled away.

So she came to Bangladesh alone.

One year later, she just wants to see her son.

"If Allah wants we will meet again. My son might die, or I might die. Whatever is Allah's will we have to accept."

Myanmar has promised to take back all the Rohingya refugees, and has built camps for them on its side of the border, while Bangladesh says it will temporarily shelter and feed them. The two countries agreed to begin repatriating them in January, but that was called off amid concerns among aid workers and the Rohingya that their safety wasn't guaranteed.

The U.N. refugee agency has said that "conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for returns to be safe, dignified, and sustainable."

Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Prize-winning leader of Myanmar, who has seen her image deeply tarnished by her government's reaction to the crisis, defended its actions again earlier this week, saying Rohingya militants remained a serious threat.

"We who are living through the transition in Myanmar view it differently than those who observe it from the outside and who will remain untouched by its outcome," she said in a speech in Singapore.

"The danger of terrorist activities, which was the initial cause of events leading to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, remains real and present today," she continued. "Unless this security challenge is addressed, the risk of intercommunal violence will remain."

Diplomats and aid workers say that while the Rohingya militants have launched some small-scale attacks, the counterstrikes by Myanmar have been overwhelmingly more destructive and deadly.

Myanmar, the international community says, now must create a situation where Rohingya feel safe to return home.

The Rohingya "need to have safety and security when they come back. They need to have freedom of movement. They need to also have a predictable and a clear pathway to a citizenship, to those who are eligible," Knut Ostby, the U.N. resident coordinator in Myanmar, told The Associated Press in an interview.

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"Basically, they need to be able to exist in society, as normal people when they come back."

A year after the flood of refugees, the camps have become functional towns, with shops, roadside restaurants and pharmacies. There are playgrounds for children and makeshift schools run by development agencies. More medical clinics are being built and many shanties have solar panels. Most people have at least some protection against monsoon landslides.

But people are still terrified and angry, facing a profoundly uncertain future. Many doubt they will ever go home.

Mohammad Arif ran a small grocery store in Myanmar and was comparatively well-off. Now, the only way he can see his old house is through video calls he makes to relatives and friends still living on the other side.

On Thursday, as he spoke to a cousin in Myanmar on a video call, he was told there was still a strong military presence in their village.

"I think there are anywhere between 100 to 700 (soldiers) here right now," his cousin told him.

"Ever since I came here, I have been suffering and have lots of tensions," he said. "But people who are still there are suffering even more than we are, because they are constantly thinking if they are going to survive or be killed."

Associated Press video journalist Min Kyi Thein in Yangon, Myanmar contributed to this report.

AP: National Enquirer had safe with damaging Trump stories

By JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Enquirer kept a safe containing documents on hush-money payments and other damaging stories it killed as part of its cozy relationship with Donald Trump leading up to 2016 presidential election, people familiar with the arrangement told The Associated Press.

The detail comes as several media outlets reported Thursday that federal prosecutors have granted immunity to National Enquirer chief David Pecker, potentially laying bare his efforts to protect his longtime friend Trump.

Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen pleaded guilty this week to campaign finance violations alleging he, Trump and the tabloid were involved in buying the silence of a porn actress and a Playboy model who alleged affairs.

Several people familiar with the Enquirer's parent, American Media Inc., who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they signed non-disclosure agreements, said the safe was a great source of power for Pecker, the company's CEO.

The Trump records were stored alongside similar documents pertaining to other celebrities' catch-and-kill deals, in which exclusive rights to people's stories were bought with no intention of publishing to keep them out of the news. By keeping celebrities' embarrassing secrets, the company was able to ingratiate itself with them and ask for favors in return.

But after The Wall Street Journal initially published the first details of Playboy model Karen McDougal's catch-and-kill deal shortly before the 2016 election, those assets became a liability. Fearful that the documents might be used against AMI, Pecker and the company's chief content officer, Dylan Howard, removed them from the safe in the weeks before Trump's inauguration, according to one person directly familiar with the events.

It was unclear whether the documents were destroyed or simply moved to a location known to fewer people.

AMI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Pecker's immunity deal was first reported Thursday by Vanity Fair and The Wall Street Journal, citing anonymous sources. Vanity Fair reported that Howard was also granted immunity.

Court papers in the Cohen case say Pecker "offered to help deal with negative stories about (Trump's) relationships with women by, among other things, assisting the campaign in identifying such stories so

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they could be purchased and their publication avoided.”

The Journal reported Pecker shared with prosecutors details about payments that Cohen says Trump directed in the weeks and months before the election to buy the silence of McDougal and another woman alleging an affair, porn star Stormy Daniels. Daniels was paid \$130,000. McDougal was paid \$150,000.

While Trump denies the affairs, his account of his knowledge of the payments has shifted. In April, Trump denied he knew anything about the Daniels payment. He told Fox News in an interview aired Thursday that he knew about payments “later on.”

In July, Cohen released an audio tape in which he and Trump discussed plans to buy McDougal’s story from the Enquirer. Such a purchase was necessary, they suggested, to prevent Trump from having to permanently rely on a tight relationship with the tabloid.

“You never know where that company — you never know what he’s gonna be —” Cohen says.

“David gets hit by a truck,” Trump says.

“Correct,” Cohen replies. “So, I’m all over that.”

While Pecker is cooperating with federal prosecutors now, AMI has previously declined to participate in Congressional inquiries.

Last March, in response to a letter from a group of House Democrats about the Daniels and McDougal payments, AMI General Counsel Cameron Stracher declined to provide any documents, writing that the company was “exempt” from U.S. campaign finance laws because it is a news publisher, and it was “confident” it had complied with all tax laws. He also rebuffed any suggestion that AMI had leverage over the president because of its catch-and-kill practices.

“AMI states unequivocally that any suggestion that it would seek to ‘extort’ the President of the United States through the exercise of its editorial discretion is outrageous, offensive, and wholly without merit,” Stracher wrote in a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

Former Enquirer employees who spoke to the AP said that negative stories about Trump were dead on arrival dating back more than a decade when he starred on NBC’s reality show “The Apprentice.”

In 2010, at Cohen’s urging, the National Enquirer began promoting a potential Trump presidential candidacy, referring readers to a pro-Trump website Cohen helped create. With Cohen’s involvement, the publication began questioning President Barack Obama’s birthplace and American citizenship in print, an effort that Trump promoted for several years, former staffers said.

The Enquirer endorsed Trump for president in 2016, the first time it had ever officially backed a candidate. In the news pages, Trump’s coverage was so favorable that the New Yorker magazine said the Enquirer embraced him “with sycophantic fervor.”

Positive headlines for Trump, a Republican, were matched by negative stories about his opponents, including Hillary Clinton, a Democrat: An Enquirer front page from 2015 said “Hillary: 6 Months to Live” and accompanied the headline with a picture of an unsmiling Clinton with bags under her eyes.

Former AP reporter Jake Pearson contributed to this report.

UN official: Palestinian refugee issue can’t be wished away

By JOSEF FEDERMAN, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The head of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees suggested that the United States slashed his budget early this year to punish the Palestinians for their criticism of the American recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, but he warned that the Palestinian refugee issue will not go away.

The comments by Pierre Kraehenbuehl came amid signs that the U.S., with Israeli support, is aiming to abolish UNRWA in an apparent attempt to remove one of the most contentious issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the negotiating agenda.

“One cannot simply wish 5 million people away,” Kraehenbuehl, commissioner of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

In January, the U.S., the largest donor to the agency, slashed some \$300 million from its annual contri-

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tribution to UNRWA, prompting what Kraehenbuehl called an unprecedented financial crisis.

Although he has made up some of the deficit by raising money from other countries, the agency still lacks over \$200 million. It recently laid off over 100 people in the Gaza Strip and cut back the hours of 500 other employees. The upcoming school year for hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children across the Middle East has been threatened.

Kraehenbuehl said he was caught off guard by the American decision, which came just weeks after he had held what he described as a successful meeting with Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and chief Mideast adviser.

He said he still has not gotten a straight answer from the Americans about why they made their decision.

But he said he believes it is connected to the uproar over the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December. The Palestinians, who seek east Jerusalem as their capital, condemned the decision and severed nearly all ties with the Americans.

"I can say with a great degree of confidence that the decision was not related to UNRWA's performance, because in November I had received very constructive and openly positive feedback on those issues," he said.

"A few weeks later, tensions increased around the question of Jerusalem," he added. "It appears that the humanitarian funding to UNRWA got caught up in the deep polarization around that question."

The State Department said it is reviewing funding to UNRWA and has not decided whether to restore support in the future. It repeated its position that the agency's repeated financial crises are "unsustainable" and called on it to find other countries to share the funding burden and to undertake "fundamental reforms."

But privately, there are signs that the American agenda runs deeper and that the Trump administration seeks to abolish UNRWA altogether.

In an internal email recently published by Foreign Policy magazine, Kushner called for a "sincere effort to disrupt UNRWA."

"This (agency) perpetuates a status quo, is corrupt, inefficient and doesn't help peace," he reportedly wrote.

The Palestinians fear the U.S. is putting pressure on host countries to absorb their refugee populations and eliminate the issue from future peace negotiations. The White House says it is working on a regional peace plan, though it has not said when it will be released.

UNRWA was established in the wake of the 1948 Mideast war surrounding Israel's creation. An estimated 700,000 Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes in the fighting.

In the absence of a solution, the U.N. General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate. The agency now provides education, health care and social services to more than 5 million refugees and their descendants. It serves populations in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Seen by the Palestinians and most of the international community as providing a valuable safety net, UNRWA is viewed far differently by Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accuses the agency of perpetuating the conflict by helping promote an unrealistic Palestinian demand that refugees have the "right of return" to long-lost homes in what is now Israel. He has said UNRWA should be abolished and its responsibilities taken over by the main U.N. refugee agency.

Some in Israel have even tougher criticism, accusing UNRWA of teaching hatred of Israel in its classrooms and tolerating or assisting Hamas militants in Gaza.

Kraehenbuehl said Israel has raised similar concerns for years, but that there has been a "strong intensification" of the criticism now that the Trump administration appears to be in agreement.

He rejected the Israeli claim that his agency is perpetuating the conflict, saying that it is carrying out a U.N.-mandated mission that reflects the will of the international community.

Kraehenbuehl said that Israeli claims that the Palestinians are the only people to pass down refugee status to their children also are unfounded, saying that Afghan refugees displaced decades ago have the same status.

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He also noted that UNRWA has a committee to monitor the content of its classrooms and has condemned attempts by Gaza militants to use UNRWA facilities for cover.

Kraehenbuehl said the best way to solve these matters is to find a "political solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that addresses the fate of the refugees.

In the meantime, he said UNRWA's focus is for its schools to open on schedule in early September. For now, he said there are enough funds to keep the schools running only until the end of the month. An aggressive fund-raising effort is under way to ensure the schools operate for the entire academic year.

"I see the courage displayed by our students in the face of so much adversity," he said. "I really find it very difficult to imagine that I have to go back to them and tell them that I have failed and we have failed to mobilize the needed resources, to keep the one thing that gives them a certain prospect in life ... which is their education. So we will knock on every door, we will leave no stone unturned until we have good news on this front."

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

Iowa slaying focuses attention on immigrants in agriculture

By DAVID PITT and SCOTT McFETRIDGE, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The arrest of a Mexican farmworker in the death of an Iowa college student renewed calls to change immigration laws, but it also focused attention on the immigrant workers whose labor is essential to the state's agricultural industry.

Hours after authorities found the body of Mollie Tibbetts and charged the suspect with murder, politicians including President Donald Trump, the Iowa governor and two senators expressed outrage that Cristhian Bahena Rivera had been able to live illegally in the U.S. for years. They urged a wider crackdown on illegal immigration.

The response from farming groups was more muted, reflecting the difficulty in hiring people for the physically demanding work at dairies, slaughterhouses and other agricultural operations.

The day after Rivera's arrest, Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley acknowledged that some of the most intense opposition has come from his own state's agriculture industry because of its need for workers.

"We're the No. 1 egg-producing state, and I can't talk to the egg producers without this being a problem," said Grassley, a Republican. "With big dairy farms — and they're getting bigger all the time in Iowa — but even in smaller dairy farms, you hear it. You hear it in the industrial hog production that we have, and then you also hear it from the processing of our agricultural products."

Fellow Republican Sen. Joni Ernst noted, "A lot of our agricultural industry does rely on many laborers, and we just don't have enough of that labor pool in the state of Iowa."

According to the Labor Department's most recent National Agriculture Workers Survey, about 47 percent of hired crop farm workers in the U.S. lack proper authorization to work here. The most recent data available was released in December 2016 based on surveys from 2013 to 2014. The survey showed that 68 percent of hired farmer workers were born in Mexico.

A spokeswoman for the Iowa Farm Bureau declined to comment, but the American Farm Bureau Federation said that it would support a mandatory electronic employee verification system only if the federal government also created an agriculture worker program, protected employers who may have inadvertently hired workers not in the country legally and allowed workers already hired to remain on the job under a new program.

In response to Trump's criticism of existing immigration laws, Craig Lang, a former farm bureau president whose dairy employed Rivera, said laws need to be changed to identify and track immigrant workers while also providing essential labor.

"That is the kind of immigration we need not only for agriculture but for many other industries," said Lang, who is the Republican candidate for Iowa agriculture secretary.

Lang's family said Wednesday that Rivera had provided false documents with a different identity when

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he was hired four years ago and that he had been a good employee.

The Iowa State Dairy Association took a similar stand, calling for a more effective way to verify that potential workers can legally be hired.

"In today's tight economy, labor is scarce, and finding employees for open positions can be difficult," the association said in a statement. "Legal immigrants fill a wide variety of jobs and often provide relief needed for employers."

State Sen. David Johnson, who worked on an Iowa dairy farm for 20 years, said Iowa's dairy and meat-packing industries could not survive without immigrant labor. He said improvements must be made in worker vetting to ensure that documents and identities are not faked or stolen.

"It's got to be a comprehensive approach that takes as much of these things in as possible," he said. "Set something up so everybody understands what the rules are because we have to maintain ourselves as a nation of laws."

He said he's known many hardworking Hispanic employees at dairies seeking only a better life for their families.

In Brooklyn, Iowa, where Tibbetts was last seen, residents seemed more focused on the loss of a beloved young woman who had grown up in the town of 1,500 than the citizenship of the man arrested in her death.

Brad Hohensee, school superintendent in the Brooklyn area, said the district's message to students is that the alleged kidnapping and murder of Tibbetts has nothing to do with "race or color."

"We are staying positive here and focusing on Mollie," Hohensee said. "Let's focus on what Mollie did for our school and community. She was very positive and we are staying positive."

Tibbetts' aunt took a similar approach, writing on her Facebook page: "Evil comes in EVERY color. Our family has been blessed to be surrounded by love, friendship and support throughout this entire ordeal by friends from all different nations and races."

Rusty Clayton, a City Council member and owner of the True Value hardware store in Brooklyn, Iowa, said Tibbetts' death "just put a big hole in everybody's heart."

Clayton hopes his town's tragedy will lead to changes that could enable employers to hire immigrant workers while also ensuring public safety.

"We've got trouble in the system somewhere," Clayton said. "We just have to decide how we're going to handle it all. Not as a community. The country has to decide. How do we handle this stuff? It can't keep going on."

Associated Press writer Ryan J. Foley also contributed from Brooklyn, Iowa.

AG looks to open probe into whether Cohen violated tax law

By DAVID KLEPPER and MICHAEL R. SISK, Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York's attorney general is looking to open a criminal investigation into whether Michael Cohen violated state tax law.

A person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Thursday that Attorney General Barbara Underwood recently requested a criminal referral from the state tax department to investigate and potentially file charges against Cohen, the former personal attorney for Donald Trump.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly.

A lawyer for Cohen declined to comment on the development, which was first reported by The New York Times.

Cohen owes at least \$1.4 million to the IRS after pleading guilty Tuesday to evading federal taxes. It's unclear if he also misstated his income on state returns.

The attorney general must get a referral to opening a criminal probe. Such requests are almost always granted.

Cohen personally called tax officials in New York on the same day he received a subpoena from state

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investigators looking into the Trump Foundation.

A state official confirmed the call from the former personal attorney and “fixer” for President Donald Trump, but would not divulge the details of the exchange, which came Wednesday just hours after Cohen received the subpoena. The official was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Associated Press first reported the existence of the subpoena on Wednesday. It was issued as part of the state’s ongoing investigation into Trump and the Trump Foundation to determine whether the Republican commander in chief or his charity broke state law or misstated their tax liabilities.

Cohen pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court Tuesday to campaign-finance violations and other charges, saying he and Trump arranged the payment of hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and a former Playboy model to influence the election.

The subpoena was issued after Cohen’s attorney, Lanny Davis, said on television that his client has information that would be of interest to investigators in Washington, as well as New York state.

If evidence of alleged crimes is found, the matter could be referred to state Attorney General Barbara Underwood, a Democrat, who could pursue criminal charges and seek the release of Trump’s tax returns. The state investigation is seen as a potential backstop to the federal probe by special counsel Robert Mueller, since state charges typically cannot be cleared by a presidential pardon.

A loophole in state law, however, could make it harder for state officials to pursue anyone pardoned by Trump. The state’s double jeopardy law, which protects people from repeat prosecutions for the same allegations, contains several exceptions allowing prosecutions to go ahead — but does not specifically list an exception allowing state prosecutors to move ahead with charges when a person has been pardoned for similar federal crimes.

Underwood and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo have called on lawmakers to close the loophole. The Legislature is not scheduled to be back in Albany until January.

Cuomo told reporters on Thursday that he believes “it would be an impeachable offense” if Trump used his pardon power to prevent someone like Cohen from implicating him in a crime. He said state law must be clarified to ensure that “even if the president pardons someone, they can still be prosecuted in the state of New York.”

A spokeswoman did not immediately respond to questions about whether Cuomo would call a special session.

The state’s investigation follows Underwood’s lawsuit alleging Trump illegally tapped his Trump Foundation to settle legal disputes, help his campaign for president and pay for personal and business expenses, which included spending \$10,000 on a portrait of himself.

The attorney general’s office is seeking \$2.8 million in restitution and other unspecified penalties in its civil suit. It said that it had referred its findings to the IRS and the Federal Election Commission for possible further action.

Besides his work for Trump, Cohen spent years amassing yellow cab medallions, the hard-to-get licenses adorned to the hoods of taxis in New York and Chicago that were once worth a fortune, but whose values have plummeted in recent years due to competition from ride-hailing services like Uber and Lyft.

Many medallion owners who used them as collateral to borrow money are now in deep financial trouble, unable to pay back creditors.

Once such taxi magnate, Evgeny Freidman, nicknamed the “Taxi King” by New York’s tabloid newspapers, managed Cohen’s medallions for years even after he was charged by state prosecutors last summer with pocketing more than \$5 million in taxes.

Freidman, who told a real estate publication last year the two men were so close that Cohen helped him name his eldest son, pleaded guilty in May to a single count of tax fraud. As part of the deal, Freidman agreed to cooperate in federal and state investigations, according to a person familiar with the matter.

AP reporter Michael Sisak in New York contributed to this report.

Anger over Ed Dept mulling federal money for guns in schools

By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Education Department said Thursday that it is weighing whether to allow states to use federal funds to purchase guns for schools, prompting a storm of criticism from Democratic lawmakers and educators.

If approved, the plan would likely generate a lot of controversy at a time when a string of especially deadly school shootings earlier this year led to the rise of a powerful student-led gun control movement.

A senior Trump administration official told The Associated Press on Thursday that the agency is reviewing legislation governing federal academic enrichment grants to see if the money can be used to procure firearms.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly, said the bipartisan Every Student Success Act, passed in 2015, does not expressly prohibit or allow the use of Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants for the purchase of firearms. The official said the agency received several letters asking it to clarify what those funds could be used for and began researching the issue.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, who chairs a federal commission on school safety, has previously said that schools should have the option to arm teachers. The commission, formed in the aftermath of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people, has been criticized for omitting the topic of gun control.

The plan, first reported by The New York Times, prompted swift condemnation from Democratic lawmakers and many educators on Thursday, who accused the Trump administration of wanting to deprive students of much-needed mental health support and other resources in the interests of the National Rifle Association.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called the idea "one of the most egregious, short-sighted and dangerous executive branch abuses of our education system in modern history."

"Secretary DeVos continues to lead an anti-student and anti-teacher campaign on behalf of special interests and the NRA that rejects proven and effective initiatives to ensure a safe, welcoming school climate for children," she added.

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, which was the site of the Sandy Hook school shooting, swiftly introduced an amendment that would block the Education Department from using the funds to arm schools.

"The Secretary of Education cares more about the firearms industry's bottom line than the safety of our kids, and that should scare parents to death," he said.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, accused DeVos of trying "to do the bidding of the National Rifle Association and gun manufacturers."

"Instead of after-school programs or counselors, programs that are critical for creating safe and welcoming schools and addressing the mental health needs of kids, DeVos wants to turn schools into armed fortresses and make kids and educators less safe," Weingarten said in a statement.

"She wants to turn the U.S. government into an arms dealer for schools. That's insane," she added.

Martin West, professor of education at Harvard University, expressed skepticism.

"It seems very hard to imagine that members of Congress drafting Title IV envisioned that the funds would be used to arm teachers," West said.

One of the requests for clarification came from Texas, where many school districts allow staff to carry weapons on campus. The Texas Education Agency said in a statement Thursday that it asked Washington for guidance in April after schools started asking whether they can use the grant money to cover the cost of guns. The problem took on even greater urgency in Texas after 10 people were killed in a school shooting outside Houston in May.

Associated Press writer Paul Weber in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

Govt acts to stop high-tax states from skirting \$10K cap

By MARCY GORDON and GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has laid down rules aimed at preventing residents in high-tax states from avoiding a new cap on widely popular state and local tax deductions. The action under the new Republican tax law pits the government against high-tax, heavily Democratic states in an election-year showdown.

The Treasury Department's rules released Thursday target moves by states like New York, New Jersey and California — where residents could see substantial increases in their federal tax bills next spring because of the \$10,000 cap on state and local deductions. The cap was put in as a compromise to eliminating the deductions completely, as part of the massive GOP tax package pushed by President Donald Trump and enacted late last year. Experts say the issue likely will have to be resolved by the federal courts.

But the new rules' "dollar-for-dollar" limit also applies to many other states that already have charitable funds offering tax breaks — and those programs too could be hurt by the rules. Those states include solidly Republican ones and others with relatively low taxes. In those programs, donors to schools, hospitals or land-conservation programs can get their state taxes reduced in return — plus a charitable deduction on their federal tax returns.

The limit means taxpayers only can deduct as a charitable contribution the portion of their donation for which they don't also get a state tax credit.

While the aim of the rules is to challenge the high-tax states' moves to skirt the cap, "these regulations sweep more broadly than that," said Daniel Rosen, a tax lawyer at Baker McKenzie who formerly was an IRS official.

A few programs may be protected because of an exception to the rules' "dollar-for-dollar" requirement, he said.

Steven Rosenthal, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, said he was surprised by the broad reach of the rules, affecting both high-tax states' "workaround" efforts and existing programs in Republican states to fund private-school tuition.

He also noted the prompt effective-date of the rules, Aug. 27 — which could spur a wave of donations to current programs before the deductions are limited. "I think this is going to cause an unbelievable opening of the pipeline," Rosenthal said.

Four high-tax states — Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey and New York — already have sued the federal government over the deduction cap, asserting it's aimed at hurting a group of Democratic states and tramples on their constitutional budget-making authority.

A dozen high-tax states have taken or are considering measures to get around the cap. Most of the workarounds take advantage of federal deductions for charitable contributions — which aren't capped — in place of the old deductions for paying state and local income taxes. So people's state and local taxes exceeding \$10,000, which can't be deducted, are turned into deductible charitable donations.

"The Republican tax law is an affront to middle-class Connecticut families and a massive giveaway to the wealthiest individuals and largest corporations, and the (rules) issued by the Trump administration today only make it worse," Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy, a Democrat, said in a statement Thursday.

Treasury said it expects that only about 1 percent of all U.S. taxpayers would see a reduction of their tax credits for donations to private-school voucher funds. Several states — Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Montana and South Carolina — allow taxpayers who donate to private-school funds to get a 100 percent credit against their state taxes, according to data compiled by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

HOW DO THE LIMITS WORK UNDER THE NEW RULES?

Dollar-for-dollar: When a taxpayer receives a benefit in return for donating to charity, the taxpayer should only be able to deduct the net value of the donation as a charitable contribution, Treasury says.

An example: You donate \$1,000 to a charity in a state that offers a 70 percent tax credit, so \$700 in this case. You would only be able to claim a \$300 charitable deduction on your federal return.

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There is an exception. If the state tax credits don't exceed 15 percent of the amount donated, so up to a \$150 state tax credit on a \$1,000 donation, the taxpayer could claim the full amount as a charitable deduction.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Taxpayers could have less incentive to donate without getting a deduction or if the deduction is reduced. All states rely on property and income taxes to fund an array of services such as education, health care and public safety. Advocates for restoring the full state and local deductions say the reduced property tax deduction brings a decrease in the value of taxpayers' homes, possibly spurring residents of high-tax states to move elsewhere and crimping funding for local programs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HIGH-TAX STATES?

Measures designed to work around the \$10,000 cap have been adopted in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Oregon, and introduced or explored publicly by officials in California, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, on Thursday called the new rules "politically motivated" and threatened to sue the federal government over them. New Jersey's Gov. Phil Murphy said the state also is weighing its options for legal action, while California State Sen. Kevin de Leon said he expects the state to sue. Murphy and de Leon also are Democrats.

In some key "blue" states:

—Connecticut has a new law establishing a state charitable fund; donors can get tax credits in exchange for giving.

—In New Jersey, where high local property taxes are the major issue, the state is allowing local schools and governments to use the charitable workaround. But so far, no towns have notified authorities that they've set up funds to receive contributions — because state regulators haven't issued the necessary rules, experts say.

—New York is offering three options: One like Connecticut's, one like New Jersey's and another to let employers pay payroll taxes for employees, who would receive credits to cancel out the income taxes they would have paid otherwise.

—In Maryland, about 500,000 residents — over 18 percent of state taxpayers — will together lose \$6.5 billion in state and local deductions, according to state estimates.

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Associated Press writer Michael Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

Ex-Michigan State gymnastics coach charged in Nassar case

By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A former head coach of Michigan State's gymnastics team was charged Thursday with lying to an investigator when she denied that witnesses told her years ago about being sexually assaulted by ex-sports doctor Larry Nassar.

A charging document does not specify how many witnesses allegedly reported Nassar to Kathie Ann Klages, or when they did so. But former gymnast Larissa Boyce has said she told Klages of Nassar's abuse in 1997, when Boyce was 16 — 19 years before he was first criminally charged with sexual abuse.

Klages, who resigned in 2017 after she was suspended for defending the now-imprisoned Nassar, is now the third person other than Nassar to face criminal charges related to his serial molestation of young female athletes under the guise of treatment. Numerous other people have lost their jobs or been sued.

If convicted of lying to a peace officer, the 63-year-old Klages could face up to four years in prison.

Boyce, who declined comment Thursday, had been training with the Spartan youth gymnastics team in 1997. She has said Klages dissuaded her from taking the issue further, even after another teen gymnast

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relayed similar allegations.

The warrant released Thursday alleges that in June, after being informed by special agent David Dwyre that he was conducting a criminal investigation, Klages knowingly and willfully made false and misleading statements to him. She faces two counts of lying to a peace officer, one a felony and the other a high court misdemeanor.

It was unclear whether Klages had a criminal defense attorney. A message seeking comment Thursday was left with lawyers defending her against lawsuits. She lives in Mason, Michigan, just outside Lansing. Her arraignment had not been scheduled.

Michigan State spokeswoman Emily Guerrant declined to comment on the charges, saying Klages is no longer an employee.

"MSU is committed to implementing changes for the fall semester that enhance prevention and education programming and establish new safety measures as well as increase resources and support for survivors of sexual assault," she said.

The charges were announced by special independent counsel Bill Forsyth, who was appointed by state Attorney General Bill Schuette to investigate Michigan State's handling of Nassar. He said witnesses have said they reported Nassar's sexual abuse to Klages dating back more than 20 years ago.

Hundreds of girls and women have said Nassar molested them when he was a physician, including while he worked at Michigan State and Indianapolis-based USA Gymnastics, which trains U.S. Olympians. Nassar, 55, last year pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting nine victims and possessing child pornography, and his sentences equate to life in prison.

Lindsey Lemke was a gymnast at Michigan State and previously has said Klages in 2016 discouraged her from speaking about how she was abused by Nassar after The Indianapolis Star exposed abuse by Nassar. She said in a statement Thursday that the charges "validate my truth and represent a huge step forward in my healing process. It is my hope that she will be held accountable for failing to protect me and other young athletes under her care."

Other officials subsequently charged amid investigations into Nassar include the former dean of the university's osteopathic medicine school, William Strampel, who had oversight of Nassar. He is accused of neglecting his duty to enforce examining-room restrictions imposed on Nassar after a patient accused him in 2014 of sexual contact.

Strampel — who retired this summer while the school tried to revoke his tenure — also has been charged with sexually harassing three women, including two current medical students, who alleged bawdy talk about sex and nude photos, and a groping incident.

In Texas, a grand jury indicted former sports medicine trainer Debra Van Horn on one count of second-degree sexual assault of a child. The local prosecutor said she was charged as "acting as a party" with Nassar but he did not elaborate. Van Horn had worked at USA Gymnastics for 30 years.

Investigators have said Nassar's crimes were mostly committed in Michigan at a campus clinic, area gyms and his Lansing-area home. Accusers also said he molested them at a gymnastics-training ranch in Texas, where Nassar also faces charges, and at national and international competitions.

Michigan State softball, volleyball, and track and field athletes have said they told an assistant coach and trainers about Nassar's inappropriate behavior. The university in May reached a \$500 million settlement with 332 women and girls who said they were assaulted by Nassar.

Separately, a Michigan sheriff is investigating unspecified complaints against former U.S. Olympic women's gymnastics team coach John Geddert, who owned and operated Twistars, a Lansing-area gym where Nassar offered treatments.

During Nassar's sentencings, some victims complained that Geddert was physically abusive and indifferent to injuries, and forced them to see Nassar. He has insisted that he had "zero knowledge" of Nassar's crimes.

Follow David Eggert on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DavidEggert00> . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/David%20Eggert> .

South Africa blasts Trump over racially divisive tweet

By KRISTA MAHR, Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's government lashed out at President Donald Trump on Thursday after he tweeted that his administration would be looking into alleged seizures of white-owned farms and the "large scale killing of farmers" in the country, an assertion it said was false and "only seeks to divide our nation and remind us of our colonial past."

South Africa is in the throes of a racially charged national debate over land reform, a lawful process that seeks to correct the legacy of decades of white minority rule that stripped blacks of their land. Today, nearly a quarter-century after the first democratic elections, black South Africans comprise 80 percent of the population but own just 4 percent of the country's land, according to the government.

Though the ruling African National Congress has pledged to close that gap, progress has been slow. In July, President Cyril Ramaphosa said his party would amend the constitution so the state could expropriate land without compensation to speed up the land reform process, but that has not yet happened and no land has been seized.

Trump's tweet followed a segment on Fox News on Wednesday in which host Tucker Carlson claimed Ramaphosa had already started "seizing land from his own citizens without compensation because they are the wrong skin color," calling the alleged seizures "immoral."

The government said Trump's tweet was based on "false information" and reflected a "narrow perception which only seeks to divide our nation and reminds us of our colonial past." It called a meeting with officials at the U.S. Embassy as it sought to clarify Trump's remarks.

Though no land seizures have occurred, the prospect has sent panic through some white farming communities who worry the policy will strip them of their land, cause land prices to plummet or make them the target of potentially violent land seizures.

For years, a small but vocal group of white South Africans have claimed white farmers are the target of violent, racially motivated farm attacks.

Experts say the attacks reflect the country's generally high crime rate and that there is no evidence connecting them to the victims' race.

Farm murders have been declining since their peak in 2001, according to research by Agri SA, an umbrella group of South African agricultural associations. In 2016-17, there were 74 murders during farm attacks, according to Africa Check, compared to 19,000 murders across the country in the same period.

"People are not being targeted because of their race, but because they are vulnerable and isolated on the farms," said Gareth Newham, head of the crime and justice program at the Institute for Security Studies in the capital, Pretoria.

"There is no white genocide in South Africa," Julius Malema, leader of the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters party, told reporters. "There is black genocide in the USA; black people are killed every day. There is a black genocide here in South Africa; just recently a farmer was convicted for the murder of a black farmer."

Trump's tweet did find some supporters.

AfriForum, a group that represents some white South African interests, welcomed his comments. In May, its leaders went to the U.S. to lobby officials and institutions about Ramaphosa's proposal to expropriate land and the alleged targeting of white farmers.

Earlier this month the group posted a list of farms it said were earmarked for expropriation, a list the government said is fake.

"Everyone in South Africa should ... hope that the pressure from the USA will lead to the (ruling party) reconsidering the disastrous route that they want to take South Africa on," AfriForum CEO Kallie Kriel said in a statement Thursday.

AfriForum and other critics say the government's proposal to expropriate land without compensation could lead to economic disaster, pointing to the collapse of the agricultural sector in neighboring Zimbabwe after the government of former President Robert Mugabe began seizing white-owned farms, sometimes violently, in 2000.

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"We are going to take back the land and we'll do it by any means necessary," said Lindsay Maasdorp, national spokesman for Black First Land First, a group that condones land seizures in South Africa.

Proponents of South Africa's policy, including Ramaphosa, say it is necessary to address historic injustices and can be done in a way that is lawful and will not compromise the beleaguered economy or food security.

"It is absolutely unbelievable that a head of state at that level can be so disrespectful to issues of dis-possession that South Africa is painfully trying to address in a democratic way," Vuyo Mahlati, president of the African Farmers' Association of South Africa, said of Trump.

Later on Thursday in Washington, the State Department toned down Trump's language suggesting that massive land seizures were underway. Spokeswoman Heather Nauert said expropriating land without compensation "would risk sending South Africa down the wrong path," but she did not repeat the president's suggestion that large numbers of white South African farmers had been killed.

In parliament on Wednesday, Ramaphosa said land expropriation could make more land available for cultivation, and that the process would begin by seizing state-owned land, not privately held land.

"This is our South Africa, this is our land, this is where we live," Rural Development and Land Reform Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane told South Africa's public broadcaster SABC. "Only solutions of land reform that are South African will work in South Africa."

Trump has never experienced apartheid and doesn't know its legacy of inequality in which the majority of South Africans own nothing, Zizi Kodwa, a member of the ruling party's national executive committee, told The Associated Press.

"He is part of the right-wing lynch mob using the fear factor in order for us to maintain the status quo," Kodwa said. "Donald Trump is a weapon of mass destruction."

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed.

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Manafort juror says 1 holdout prevented 18-count conviction

By ERIC TUCKER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A juror in Paul Manafort's financial fraud trial says a lone holdout prevented the jury from convicting the onetime Trump campaign chairman on all 18 counts.

Jurors repeatedly tried to persuade the holdout to "look at the paper trail" but she insisted there was reasonable doubt, juror Paula Duncan told Fox News.

"We didn't want it to be hung, so we tried for an extended period of time to convince her," Duncan said, adding that the four days of deliberations were so heated that there were "tears" among the 12 jurors. "But in the end, she held out and that's why we have 10 counts that did not get a verdict."

The federal jury on Tuesday found Manafort guilty on eight counts; the judge declared a mistrial on 10 counts the jury was deadlocked on. The jury verdict form, which was made public Thursday, confirmed Duncan's account.

The form also showed that jurors at one point appeared to have been unanimous on convicting Manafort of two additional charges of failing to report foreign bank accounts but scratched out the check marks over guilty. They then wrote in that it was 11-1, with "no consensus" on those counts.

Duncan, a self-described Trump supporter who was photographed for the Fox report in a red "Make America Great Again" hat, said she and 10 other jurors were prepared to find Manafort guilty of each count in the indictment. Duncan said she considered the charges brought by special counsel Robert Mueller's team to be legitimate and considered the evidence "overwhelming."

"I did not want Paul Manafort to be guilty, but he was," Duncan said. "And no one is above the law."

She said neither positive nor negative sentiments about Trump influenced the decision.

"I think we all went in there like we were supposed to and assumed that Mr. Manafort was innocent. We did due diligence," Duncan said. "We applied the evidence, our notes, the witnesses, and we came

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up with the guilty verdicts on the eight counts.”

She said the president’s administration did come up during deliberations because of testimony that Manafort had tried to secure a White House position for a banker who authorized millions of dollars in loans for him and had lobbied Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner.

“The charges were legitimate but the prosecution tried to make the case about the Russian collusion right from the beginning and, of course, the judge shut them down on that,” Duncan said. “We did waste a bit of time with that shenanigan.”

Duncan also said she would have liked to have heard more from Manafort’s defense. Manafort did not testify at trial and his lawyers conducted mostly limited questioning of the government’s witnesses.

She also said the jury “agreed to throw out the testimony” of Manafort protege Rick Gates, who pleaded guilty in Mueller’s investigation and agreed to cooperate with investigators, and focus instead on the documents.

Duncan’s comments in the interview Wednesday came the same day that the trial judge unsealed several transcripts of closed bench conferences. One transcript showed that the defense had privately sought a mistrial because of comments a juror was quoted as making about the weakness of Manafort’s defense.

The disclosure by one juror of another juror’s remarks on the ninth day of Manafort’s trial prompted U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III to question jurors about whether the comment would affect their ability to make a fair and impartial verdict. Juror names are blacked out in the transcripts.

Ellis denied Manafort’s motion, saying that after considering the circumstances carefully and questioning each juror about their ability to be impartial, a mistrial wasn’t warranted.

Defense lawyers did not press the issue in public, and after the jury’s verdict, Manafort lawyer Kevin Downing took care to praise Ellis for a fair trial and the jury “for their very long and hard-fought deliberations.”

Read the verdict form: <http://apne.ws/EfMm1yh>

Latino-Arab candidate hopes to unseat indicted Republican

By **JULIE WATSON** and **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Democratic congressional candidate Ammar Campa-Najjar was working on a TV advertisement to boost his exposure when news broke that his opponent, the heavily favored Republican U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, was indicted.

The 29-year-old former Obama administration Labor Department official whose father is a Palestinian Muslim and mother a Mexican-American Catholic has never held elected office. In Hunter, he’s taking on a widely known Iraq war veteran who coasted through the June primary in the most Republican district in Southern California with a 30-point, first-place finish after serving five terms.

With the indictment, Campa-Najjar suddenly found himself thrust in the spotlight — fielding calls throughout the night from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, supporters, even some local Republican elected officials. Within 24 hours, he received hundreds of emails and gave nearly two dozen interviews to local and national media outlets.

It was the attention, he said, his campaign deserved.

After months of knocking on doors, Campa-Najjar is seizing the opportunity to re-introduce himself to voters in the 50th District, many of whom are not familiar with his name.

“We’re excited,” Campa-Najjar said in an interview with The Associated Press. “I don’t crow over the misery of other people. I feel for him and his family, but I feel more for the people of our district who deserve some much-needed representation after many years of not having a real representative.”

The Hunter name is something of a political dynasty in the area. Hunter’s father was elected to the seat in 1980 and held it until his son won in 2008.

But the indictment of Hunter and his wife Margaret that alleges they illegally converted his campaign account into a household checkbook reorders his re-election contest, giving Democrats a suddenly stronger hand in a district that for decades has embraced Republican candidates. The Hunters pleaded not guilty

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Thursday.

Campa-Najjar said he was hopeful of breaking the Hunter family's nearly 40-year hold on the district that runs largely east of coastal San Diego, abutting Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base and stretching to a remote section of U.S.-Mexico border.

Campa-Najjar vows to reach people who had voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 and eight years later backed Donald Trump. He said "they are not ignorant. They are ignored, by my party, their party and the country."

He said he offers "sensible solutions" that cross party lines, including Medicare-for-all if it does not increase government debt and free college tuition based on merit and need.

He does not believe in abolishing the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency like some liberal candidates. Campa-Najjar, who lives in Jamul near the U.S.-Mexico border, says walls are not the answer when 40 percent of those entering the U.S. illegally come by plane and overstay their visas. He supports tougher fines for employers who break immigration laws and believes that immigrants who were brought to the United States as children should be given U.S. citizenship.

Campa-Najjar said his motivation for running is personal.

Born in San Diego County, his mother, who divorced his father when he was 8 and raised Campa-Najjar and his brother, did not have the support she should have from the government.

At 15, he worked as a janitor to help her pay the bills.

He spent part of his childhood in Gaza, before coming back to San Diego County, and is fluent in Spanish and Arabic.

Campa-Najjar said he is proud of his heritage but is American first. He has made clear that he has no personal connection to his grandfather, who was the member of a Palestinian terror group and orchestrated an attack in the early 1970s that killed 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

Campa-Najjar said he never met his grandfather, who was killed by Israeli commandos 16 years before Campa-Najjar was born.

"I'm happy to take responsibility for my own choices and my own decisions," he said. "I think other men are responsible for their own crimes, whether it's somebody who I share a lineage with and nothing else, or a sitting congressman whose being indicted and could be facing serious charges in the future."

About 35 percent of the district is Latino and 15 percent is of Middle Eastern descent. One of Campa-Najjar campaign offices is in the city of El Cajon east of San Diego, near a business district with falafel shops, taco stands and signs in Arabic, English and Spanish, reflecting the district's changing demographics as immigrants and refugees have settled there.

It is in a dilapidated home with yellow tape around the front porch. On a recent day on the door, a paper sign under Campa-Najjar's portrait on a red white and blue poster told visitors to knock on the back door.

Campa-Najjar's campaign has been a largely grassroots operation that until now has largely gone unnoticed as Democrats have concentrated on other districts believed to be more vulnerable for Republicans. The party holds a nearly 15-point registration edge over Democrats, and President Donald Trump won the district by the same margin while losing statewide by more than 4 million votes in 2016.

But that changed this week.

"I'm getting a lot of support as you can imagine," he said.

There is no doubt a win would be an upset even with the allegations against Hunter and his wife. The couple has been charged by a federal grand jury with using more than \$250,000 in campaign funds to finance family trips to Italy and Hawaii, golf outings, school tuition and theater tickets.

Voters in Hunter's rural hometown of Alpine were sharply divided on what it all means. Some are shocked, some outraged, and some are rising to defend Hunter and his claim of being pursued by politically motivated prosecutors eager to see one of Trump's early supporters in Congress fall.

Campa-Najjar said he feels "saddened a bit" that a combat veteran returned from the battlefield and lost his way, becoming the "poster child of corruption" for Washington. He added that voters, including Hunter's base, want honest politicians.

"If we are a nation of laws, then you cannot in good conscience vote for Duncan Hunter," he said.

Blood reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writers John Antczak, Christopher Weber, Robert Jablon and Michael Balsamo contributed from Los Angeles.

Leaker of secret report on Russian hacking gets 5 years

By MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — A former government contractor who pleaded guilty to mailing a classified U.S. report to a news organization was sentenced to more than five years in prison Thursday as part of a deal with prosecutors, who called it the longest sentence ever imposed for a federal crime involving leaks to the news media.

Reality Winner, 26, pleaded guilty in June to a single count of transmitting national security information. The former Air Force translator worked as a contractor at a National Security Agency's office in Augusta, Georgia, when she printed a classified report and left the building with it tucked into her pantyhose. Winner told the FBI she mailed the document to an online news outlet.

Wearing an orange jail uniform and shackles in court Thursday, Winner said she took responsibility for "an undeniable mistake that I made."

"I would like to apologize profusely for my actions," she told the judge. "... My actions were a cruel betrayal of my nation's trust in me."

Authorities never identified the news organization. But the Justice Department announced Winner's June 2017 arrest the same day The Intercept reported on a secret NSA document. It detailed Russian government efforts to penetrate a Florida-based supplier of voting software and the accounts of election officials ahead of the 2016 presidential election. The NSA report was dated May 5, the same as the document Winner had leaked.

U.S. intelligence agencies later confirmed Russian meddling.

The sentence imposed by U.S. District Court Judge J. Randal Hall was in line with a plea agreement between Winner's defense team and prosecutors, who recommended she serve five years and three months behind bars.

U.S. Attorney Bobby Christine told reporters Winner's punishment is the longest sentence ever given for a federal crime involving a leak of secret information to the news media. Winner will get credit for having spent more than a year in jail already, he said.

Christine said Winner's leak harmed national security by revealing "sources and methods" that impaired U.S. efforts to gather similar information.

"She was the quintessential example of an insider threat," said Christine, the top federal prosecutor for the Southern District of Georgia.

Among other leak cases cited by prosecutors in court documents, the stiffest prior sentence was three years and seven months in prison given to former FBI explosives expert Donald Sachtleben. Secret information he leaked included intelligence he gave to The Associated Press for a story about a U.S. operation in Yemen in 2012.

One famous leaker received a harsher sentence from a military court-martial for giving classified materials to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks. Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning was sentenced to 35 years in a military lockup, but served only seven years until President Barack Obama granted her clemency.

Winner's defense attorneys said they were grateful the judge agreed to the sentence recommended by prosecutors. The charge she pleaded guilty to carried a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison. Winner attorney John Bell noted she will be in her early 30s when she's released.

"It's a serious matter and she can now get on with her life," Bell said.

After her arrest, prosecutors used Winner's own words against her, including a Facebook chat in which Winner once wrote to her sister: "Look, I only say I hate America like 3 times a day."

Winner's social media postings also included some scathing opinions on President Donald Trump. Three

months before her arrest, Winner posted on Facebook that climate change was a more important issue than health care "since not poisoning an entire population seems to be more in line with 'health' care, and not the disease care system that people voted for a soulless ginger orangutan to 'fix.'"

Despite prosecutors' warnings that Winner may have stolen other U.S. secrets, she was never charged with any additional crimes.

Winner grew up in Kingsville, Texas, and enlisted in the Air Force after graduating from high school. Her parents have said she became a linguist, speaking Arabic and Farsi, and spent four years assigned to the NSA at Fort Mead, Maryland. During that time, Winner provided real-time translation to Americans conducting field missions.

After leaving the military, Winner moved to Augusta to become a civilian contractor for the NSA, which has operated a \$286 million complex in the Georgia city since 2012. Court records say Winner translated documents from Farsi to English for the agency.

Winner confessed to leaking the classified report when FBI agents questioned her at her home in June 2017. Winner said she was frustrated at work and had filed complaints "about them having Fox News on."

Prosecutors later made the 77-page transcript of Winner's FBI interview part of the court file in her case. Any details about the document she leaked and the organization she mailed it to were redacted. But the rest of her confession to FBI agents became public.

"Yeah, I screwed up royally," Winner told the agents before she was arrested.

Associated Press writer Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, contributed to this report.

Report: Trump administration needs to step up on 'Obamacare'

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A congressional watchdog said Thursday the Trump administration needs to step up its management of sign-up seasons under former President Barack Obama's health care law after mixed results last year in the throes of a failed GOP effort to repeal it.

The report from the Government Accountability Office is likely to add to Democrats' election-year narrative that the administration actively undermined "Obamacare" without regard for the consequences to consumers.

The nonpartisan GAO was more nuanced. On one hand, it found problems with consumer counseling and advertising and recommended such basic fixes as setting enrollment targets. On the other, it credited administration actions that did help people enroll, such as a more reliable HealthCare.gov website and reduced call center wait times.

Sign-ups for 2019 begin this November.

The report found that:

— The Health and Human Services Department under Trump broke with its own previous practice by failing to set enrollment targets for last year. The watchdog recommended that HHS resume setting goals, a standard management tool for government agencies. Without setting numeric goals, HHS won't be able to measure whether it is meeting "its current objective of improving Americans' access to health care," the report said. The administration responded that it does not believe such targets are relevant.

— HHS used "problematic" and "unreliable" data to justify a 40 percent cut in funding for enrollment counseling programs known as Navigators. HHS responded that it's making changes to how those counseling programs are evaluated. But it has cut funding again, by about 70 percent.

— When HHS slashed money for open-enrollment advertising by 90 percent overall, officials said they were doing away with wasteful spending. But an internal study by the department had actually found paid television ads were one of the most effective ways to enroll consumers. The budget for TV ads went from \$26.6 million in the Obama administration's final year to zero under President Donald Trump.

"This independent and nonpartisan GAO report confirms that the Trump administration's sabotage of our health care system is driving up costs for consumers and leaving more Americans without health insur-

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ance," said a statement from a group of Democratic lawmakers led by Rep. Frank Pallone of New Jersey. HHS said in a statement that the 2018 enrollment season was the "most cost-effective and successful experience" for consumers, citing a 90 percent customer satisfaction rate with the HealthCare.gov call center.

Republicans' drive to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act stalled in the Senate last year, and the Trump administration instead found itself having to run a program the president repeatedly branded a "disaster."

The watchdog found that sign-ups in the 39 states served by HHS through the federal HealthCare.gov website dipped by 5 percent last year, while states running their own enrollment effort maintained their sign-up levels. A total of 11.7 million people enrolled for 2018 coverage, with about 85 percent receiving subsidies to help pay their premiums.

The report validated a longtime Republican criticism that high premiums discourage consumers from signing up for coverage. But it also found that Trump contributed to premium increases for 2018 by canceling payments that reimburse insurers for lower deductibles and copays provided to low-income people. That forced the carriers to jack up rates.

"Substantial increases" in premiums triggered by Trump cut both ways, the watchdog found. People with modest incomes entitled to subsidies got more financial aid from the government, and their coverage became more affordable. But solid middle-class customers paying full premiums were priced out of the market.

Kroger to phase out plastic bags at all stores

CINCINNATI (AP) — The nation's largest grocery chain has begun to phase out the use of plastic bags as more Americans grow uncomfortable with their impact on the environment.

Kroger Co. will start Thursday at its QFC stores in and around Seattle, with the goal of using no plastic bags at those stores at some point next year. The company said it will be plastic-bag free at all of its nearly 2,800 stores by 2025.

Kroger Co. orders about 6 billion bags each year for its stores in 35 states and the District of Columbia, which cater to almost 9 million people daily through two dozen different grocery chains.

The grocer, based in Cincinnati, is seeking customer feedback and will be working with outside groups throughout the transition to reusable bags. Customers will be able to buy reusable bags at its stores for \$1 to \$2 a piece. While brown paper bags will also be available for free, Kroger says that its goal is to fully transition to reusable bags.

"We listen very closely to our customers and our communities, and we agree with their growing concerns," said Mike Donnelly, Kroger's chief operating officer. "That's why, starting today at QFC, we will begin the transition to more sustainable options. This decision aligns with our Restock Kroger commitment to live our purpose through social impact."

The U.S. each year generates more than 4 million tons of plastic bags, sacks and wraps, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Only about 13 percent of that plastic is recycled.

A number of cities are attempting to put into place new bans on single-use plastic bags, but there has been pushback from industry groups, saying that discarding plastic bags will hurt lower-income populations disproportionately.

There has been a pushback from lawmakers as well in a number of states when cities and towns attempt to put into place ordinances that prohibit the use of plastic bags, or charge fees if customers do not bring reusable bags.

According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, since 2015 state lawmakers in Arizona, Missouri, Idaho, Michigan, Wisconsin and last year, Minnesota, have prevented local ordinances that ban plastic bags. They followed similar state actions in Florida, Indiana and Iowa, according to Pew.

But companies are free to make their own choices on that front, and increasingly, they are doing so.

There is a broader shift under way at major U.S. corporations to reduce waste. Disney, Starbucks, Mar-

riott and McDonald's are getting rid of plastic straws. McDonald's said this year that it will use only recycled or other environmentally friendly materials for its soda cups, Happy Meal boxes and other packaging by 2025. Dunkin' Donuts is phasing out polystyrene foam cups by 2020. Ikea plans to eliminate single-use plastic products from its shelves by 2020.

David Pinsky of Greenpeace hailed the shift at Kroger, saying plastic pollution is killing sea life as well as impacting the health of humans.

"Kroger's decision to phase out single-use plastic bags is a testament to how consumers are demanding action on plastics from retailers nationwide," Pinsky said. "Kroger should build upon this effort by getting rid of additional types of single-use plastic. Plastic bags are important for retailers to eliminate, but so are plastic bottles, Styrofoam trays, and plastic-wrapped fruit and vegetables."

There's no meat, eggs or dairy -- but don't call them vegan

By CANDICE CHOI, AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not vegan, it's "plant-based." So will carnivores bite?

As companies try to cater to Americans' interest in lighter eating, the term "plant-based" is replacing "vegan" and "vegetarian" on some foods. The worry is that the v-words might have unappetizing or polarizing associations.

Impossible Foods, which makes a meatless patty that's supposed to taste like meat, even warns restaurants not to use those words when describing its burger on menus.

"For many people, their notion of a vegan is someone who's wagging a finger at them if they eat any animal products. I'm vegan. But for a lot of people that term — it's almost like a cult," says Pat Brown, CEO of Impossible Foods, whose burger is served in about 3,000 locations including White Castle.

The trendier sounding "plant-based" may appeal to a broader market, since "vegan" or "vegetarian" could alienate those who don't adhere strictly to those diets. "Plant-based" may also distance products from a perception of vegan and vegetarian food as bland.

Since "vegan" is used to convey what's not in a product, it can be associated with deprivation, says Michele Simon, executive director of the Plant Based Food Association, an industry group founded in 2016. "Plant-based," she says, has a more positive connotation because it explains what is in a food.

"I think there's room in the market for both terms," says Simon, who notes that some companies still proudly use "vegan."

The terms vegan, vegetarian and plant-based are not specifically regulated. But vegetarian typically means meatless, while vegan means no animal ingredients at all, including milk or eggs.

When referring to a specific food or product, "plant-based" usually means the stricter vegan definition, though that may not always be clear. When referring to broader eating habits, it usually means a diet focused on vegetables but may also include meat or fish. That lack of clarity is why the Plant-Based Foods Association plans to develop a definition for the term.

Beyond Meat, another meatless patty maker, also avoids the words vegan or vegetarian in hopes of winning over carnivores. It pushes to have its products sold in the meat sections of supermarkets, rather than in what the company calls the "penalty box" of the frozen vegetarian foods section.

And in the coming weeks, a new liquid egg substitute will arrive in grocery stores with the bottle saying it is "made from plants." Just Egg, which will be sold alongside cartons of eggs, will not have the word "vegan" on it.

"(Plant-based) has become more associated with foods that actually taste good," says Josh Tetrick, CEO of Just.

MorningStar Farms, a more established vegetarian brand, continues to use "veggie" and "vegan" because those terms are understood by most people and help prevent confusion about whether ingredients such as eggs are used, says Dick Podiak, a marketing executive at Kellogg, which owns the brand.

But MorningStar Farms is also increasingly incorporating the term "plant-based" into its marketing. Podiak says the company wants to communicate that its products fit into the "plant-based" lifestyles people may

read about in magazines or hear about from dietitians.

Nik Contis of the branding agency PS212 says the term "plant-based" might be more broadly appealing, but that some may see it as just a new term for an old concept.

"If there's a person who is never going to eat a 'veggie' burger and you put a 'plant-based' burger in front of them, I don't think they're all of a sudden going to say, 'Oh I'm going to eat that,'" he said.

Follow Candice Choi at www.twitter.com/candicechoi

Democrats' attempted hacker? A test from Michigan Democrats

By **BILL BARROW**, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A would-be hacking attempt into the national Democratic Party's massive voter file wasn't that at all. It turns out to be the work of a technology company hired by Michigan Democrats, all in the name of testing how secure the party can keep information on tens of millions of Americans.

"This was an unauthorized test, not an attack," Bob Lord, the Democratic National Committee's chief security officer, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday.

That finding, discovered after national party officials already had contacted federal law enforcement fearing a malicious hacking attempt, marks an odd and potentially embarrassing twist to the party's data security efforts two years after Russians penetrated DNC computers and released internal communications that upended the 2016 presidential election.

The chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, Brandon Dillon, did not respond to a request for comment.

Lord, who is attending the party's summer meetings this week in Chicago, said the episode shows "we could do a better job." But he also framed the whiplash storyline as evidence the party has improved its overall cybersecurity since 2016, even as it depended on outsiders this time to flag what looked like a threat.

"This is a demonstration that the DNC is plugged into the security community in a way we weren't before," Lord said.

Lord says he was notified by two companies — the web security firm Lookout and the web cloud hosting service DigitalOcean — in the wee hours Tuesday morning about a live website that appeared to mimic logins for the DNC's web-based VoteBuilder program that houses information on voters across the country. The DNC grants state parties access to various portions of the database so the parties and Democratic candidates can use it — and enhance — as part of campaigns.

Lookout is a firm that scours the internet identifying potential threats. DigitalOcean hosted the account of the suspected hacker.

Working with NPG VAN, the DNC's contractor for VoteBuilder, Lord said the group agreed collectively that what it was seeing was a nearly complete phishing attempt that would be used to lure email Democratic officials with access to VoteBuilder to give up their passwords.

It's a common phishing exercise, similar to what Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, John Podesta, fell for, ultimately leading to Wikileaks unveiling his emails in the months leading up to Clinton's loss to Donald Trump.

"The website was live, obviously, but the phishing attempt was not yet operational," Lord told the AP.

DigitalOcean suspended the account. DNC contacted authorities. The FBI has declined comment.

Further investigation identified the account holder as a web contractor that had been hired by the Michigan Democrats. Lord did not identify the firm.

An influential Michigan DNC member, Barry Goodman, said Thursday that he and other prominent Democrats in the state were unaware of the scheme. "I'd like to think I would have known," Goodman said.

Lord said conversations among DNC executives and Michigan Party officials and employees are ongoing.

He estimated that "thousands" of Democratic Party officials and volunteers around the country have VoteBuilder logins, with various levels of data access. Someone in Lord's position, for example, would have few restrictions. A state party data director might have access only to voters in his or her state. A low-level staffer knocking on doors or making phone calls for a particular campaign might be restricted

only to the list of voters they are trying to contact on a given day.

"We want to encourage phishing tests" like what was being designed, Lord said, noting such "fire drills" are part of any large organization teaching individuals how to protect data.

But cybersecurity protocols, Lord said, require that an entity conducting phishing tests notify other relevant parties so they don't see red flags. As for whatever programmer designed the would-be hacking attempt, Lord said, "They did good work. I will imagine that the person who worked on this will be able to get a very good job."

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/BillBarrowAP> .

Asian shares track Wall St weakness as eyes on Fed comment

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

BANGKOK (AP) — Asian shares were mixed Friday following a listless session on Wall Street, where a slide in banks and industrial companies offset solid gains for the technology sector. A lack of progress in trade talks between the U.S. and China was weighing on sentiment.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index jumped 0.6 percent to 22,554.19 and Australia's S&P ASX 200 gained 0.3 percent to 6,260.00 with a change of its prime minister. The Kospi in South Korea was flat at 2,283.22 while the Shanghai Composite index shed 0.4 percent to 2,714.98. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.7 percent to 27,599.46. Shares were lower in Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

WALL STREET: Stocks spent much of the day hovering just below their prior day closing levels. The S&P 500 fell 0.2 percent to 2,856.98. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 0.3 percent to 25,656.98 and the Nasdaq composite lost 0.1 percent to 7,878.46. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks gave up 0.3 percent, to 1,717.05. Banks and other financial stocks took some of the biggest losses. Charles Schwab declined 1.5 percent to \$50.17. Industrial stocks also fell. Caterpillar lost 2 percent to \$136.79.

TRADE: Investors had their eye on the latest developments in the U.S.-China trade dispute as both nations ended their first high-level talks in two months with no sign of progress in breaking their deadlock. Markets showed little reaction to the latest round of dueling tariffs between the U.S. and China. The countries imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$16 billion of each other's goods Thursday, including automobiles and factory equipment. The increases were announced previously.

AUSSIE SHAKEUP: Shares rose marginally after Australia's ruling party chose Treasurer Scott Morrison to become the next prime minister. Morrison is replacing Malcolm Turnbull, who resigned. Friday's ballot among Liberal Party lawmakers means Australia's sixth change of prime minister in 11 years, prolonging an era of extraordinary political instability. Morrison was regarded as the best economic manager among the candidates to replace Turnbull.

FED TALK: Traders were looking ahead to Friday's gathering of central bankers, including Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, an annual symposium that has often generated market-moving news. "It's been a fairly quiet day," said Paul Springmeyer, head of investments at U.S. Bank Wealth Management. "There's obviously some reservation about what's going to come out from Jackson Hole, from Chairman Powell."

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 43 cents to \$68.26 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 3 cents to \$68.83 on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 37 cents to \$75.10 per barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 111.46 yen from 111.26 yen late Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1553 from \$1.1539.

AP Business Writer Alex Veiga contributed to this report.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, Aug. 24, the 236th day of 2018. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 24, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

On this date:

In A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died.

In A.D. 410, Rome was overrun by the Visigoths, a major event in the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., setting fire to the Capitol (which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory. Congress approved legislation establishing Parcel Post delivery by the U.S. Post Office Department, slated to begin on January 1, 1913.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States.

In 1959, three days after Hawaiian statehood, Hiram L. Fong was sworn in as the first Chinese-American U.S. Senator while Daniel K. Inouye (in-OH'-way) was sworn in as the first Japanese-American U.S. Representative.

In 1968, France became the world's fifth thermonuclear power as it exploded a hydrogen bomb in the South Pacific.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon. (Chapman remains imprisoned.)

In 1989, the Voyager 2 space probe flew by Neptune, sending back striking photographs.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing \$30 billion in damage; 43 U.S. deaths were blamed on the storm.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a full-fledged planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet."

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber struck a welcome-home celebration on Baghdad's outskirts for an Iraqi detainee released from U.S. custody, killing at least 25 people. An Iran-bound passenger jet carrying 90 people crashed in Kyrgyzstan, killing some 70 people. On the final day of the Beijing Games, Kobe Bryant hit two 3-pointers in a big fourth quarter to help the United States defeat Spain 118-107 and win the men's basketball gold medal for the first time since 2000. Waipahu, Hawaii, defeated Matamoros, Mexico, in the Little League World Series, 12-3.

Five years ago: Tens of thousands of people marched to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and down the National Mall, commemorating the 50th anniversary of King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech (delivered on August 28, 1963). Julie Harris, 87, one of Broadway's most honored performers, died in West Chatham, Massachusetts.

One year ago: Presidential adviser Jared Kushner met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to try to jumpstart peace talks. Former Carter administration Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, who engineered the conservation of millions of acres of Alaska land, died at the age of 85. Mavis Wanczyk, a hospital worker from the western Massachusetts town of Chicopee, was announced as the winner of the biggest undivided lottery jackpot in U.S. history, a \$758.7 million Powerball prize; lottery officials said she chose to take a lump sum payment of \$480 million, or \$336 million after taxes. Florida put a convicted killer, Mark Asay, to death using an anesthetic (etomidate) that had never before been used in a U.S. lethal injection.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-musician Mason Williams is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-Lites) is 76. Rock musician Ken Hensley is 73. Actress Anne Archer is 71. Actor Joe Regalbutto is

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69. Actor Kevin Dunn is 63. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is 63. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 61. Actor Steve Guttenberg is 60. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 58. Actor Jared Harris is 57. Talk show host Craig Kilborn is 56. CBS News correspondent Major Garrett is 56. Rock singer John Bush is 55. Actress Marlee Matlin is 53. Basketball Hall of Famer Reggie Miller is 53. Broadcast journalist David Gregory is 48. Country singer Kristyn Osborn (SHeDaisy) is 48. Movie director Ava DuVernay is 46. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 45. Actor James D'Arcy is 45. Actor Carmine Giovinazzo is 45. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 42. Actress Beth Riesgraf is 40. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 37. Christian rock musician Jeffrey Gilbert (Kutless) is 35. Singer Mika is 35. Actor Blake Berris is 34. Actor Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter" films) is 30.

Thought for Today: "Of the twenty or so civilizations known to modern Western historians, all except our own appear to be dead or moribund, and, when we diagnose each case... we invariably find that the cause of death has been either War or Class or some combination of the two." — Arnold J. Toynbee, English historian (1889-1975).